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Flying into a new chapter

Poor homework leads Biman to debut long-haul Dreamliner on a medium-haul route

ROBIN GAZI

Bangladesh Biman turns over to a new chapter with its brand new Dreamliner taking off for Malaysia today.

But whether the new chapter would be one of success or failure would depend on the performance of state flag carrier's management, not on the Dreamliner, say aviation experts.

The Dreamliner comes with state-of-the-art technology that only some top airlines could add to their fleets as yet.

But for Biman, it is a case of the cart before the horse. It did not do proper homework on how to best use this long-haul aircraft, even though the plane was ordered 10 years ago. It failed to open up new routes or revive discontinued ones like New York.

As a result, the plane which can fly to London from Perth nonstop, a distance of around 14,500km, is being used for Singapore and Malaysia, which is 2,500km at most.

Biman intends to keep the Boeing 787 Dreamliner on Dhaka-Kuala Lumpur and Dhaka-Singapore routes for the foreseeable future and may add Guangzhou.

Usually a flight needs to be above six hours to be considered long haul and Singapore and Malaysia are about four

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Even though the law enforcers have been booking traffic rules violators in the city, some of them seem to be above the law. In this picture taken in the capital's Farmgate area yesterday, a cop is seen driving his motorbike against the traffic on a road while another biker is following him. Inset, a pedestrian is jay-walking in the area, putting herself in harm's way.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

66% support Sheikh Hasina Finds US-based IRI survey on Bangladesh

BSS, Dhaka

Around 66 percent of the respondents support Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as the PM, according to a survey by the International Republican Institute (IRI).



It also found that 64 percent of them have favourable opinions for the Awami League-led government.

The Washington-based organisation conducted the survey between April 10 and May 21 this year. BSS received a copy of the survey on Monday.

IRI collected data using a multi-stage stratified probability sample through in-person, in-home interviews. The sample was stratified by division, by district, and by urban and rural locations.

Majority people of the country have said the country is marching ahead in the right direction under the leadership of PM Hasina, while a sense of high optimism is vindicated over the current economic situation, said IRI, a non-profit and non-partisan organisation, which is committed to advancing freedom and democracy worldwide.

IRI working area covers Asia, Europe, Africa, Eurasia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa.

The 33-page survey titled "National Survey of Bangladesh Public Opinion" said a staggering 62 percent people believe the

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Spycam scare

Seoul to check public toilets daily for hidden cameras

REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur

Amid anger over 'spycam porn', authorities in Seoul have pledged to conduct daily checks in public toilets, but campaigners on Monday called for stronger regulations on hidden cameras commonly used to target women.

The Seoul city government announced that the number of workers tasked to uncover hidden cameras at the city's 20,554 public

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GEARING UP FOR MOVEMENT, POLLS

BNP moves to form 40,000 committees

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The BNP is going to form 40,000 polling centre-based committees across the country as part of its preparations for the upcoming national elections and a movement demanding a non-partisan polls-time government.

Party insiders said the BNP's top brass had already asked the grassroots leaders to complete formation of the bodies by this month.

Each committee will be comprised of 200-250 members from the BNP and its front and associate organisations Chhatra Dal, Jubo Dal, Mohila Dal, Swachhasebak Dal, Krishak Dal and Sramik Dal.

BNP senior leaders said the party's prospective MP candidates were forming the committees as per directives of the central leaders. The committees will start working soon after the announcement of the polls schedule, likely late next month.

Although the bodies would initially work for the release of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia from jail, those would also be tasked with guarding the polling stations to check vote-rigging, the leaders added.

The grassroots leaders have also been asked to form the committees of BNP and its front and associate bodies at the union, ward and thana levels.

BNP Organising Secretary Ruhul Quddus Talukdar Dulu said, "We have instructed the district leaders to form 40,000 committees across the country. The committees can be called Sangram Committee or Election Preparation Committee."

The size of the committees would depend on the population of the

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3-WHEELER BAN FIASCO

Quader admits to political pressure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday admitted that the government could not fully implement the ban on the movement of locally-made three-wheelers' on highways due to opposition from many politicians, including public representatives.

"Many politicians of the country are behind it. We give order [banning these three-wheelers] ... on the other hand, many public representatives encourage the plying of such vehicles," he said, without naming anyone.

"For this reason, I often say all problems will be

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ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড (ডিপিডিসি) নিৰ্ভরযোগ্য বিদ্যুৎ - উৎকৃষ্ট গ্রাহক

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MALAYSIAN CRACKDOWN '7,000 Bangladeshis' held since January

STAR REPORT

Malaysian immigration department has detained more than 30,000 undocumented migrants, including an estimated 7,000 Bangladeshis, since January this year.

Datuk Seri Mustafar Ali, director general of the department, said 30,000 illegal migrants were detained until yesterday, but he did not mention the nationalities of the migrants, who mostly come from Indonesia, Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Philippines, Cambodia and Myanmar.

Mustafar had earlier told the media that 5,959 Bangladeshis were detained between January 1 and August 29 this year. A number of Bangladeshi migrants told The Daily Star over the phone that those detained since August 30 include another 1,000 Bangladeshis.

Following a raid in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Mustafar Ali yesterday said over 1,000 employers were also detained during the period for employing or harbouring the undocumented migrants, reported Bernama, the state news agency of Malaysia.

"The detentions are the result of more than 10,000 operations carried out nationwide with over 100,000 foreigners examined," he told reporters.

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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 5

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SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

HEARTIEST FELICITATIONS

In recognition of special contributions to the Export and Trade Sector of Bangladesh, Mr. Salahuddin Alamgir, Honourable Chairman, Labib Group & Honourable Director of FBCCI and Mrs. Sultana Jahan, Honourable Vice-Chairman, Labib Group have been awarded with 'Commercially Important Person (CIP)' statuses again by the Government of Bangladesh. We are elated and proud of it. At the same time, we convey our heartiest felicitations to Mr. Salahuddin Alamgir & Mrs. Sultana Jahan. Here it is mentioned that both the personnel have been awarded with this National Recognition since 2009 & 2011 respectively.

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