

Security still flawed at Saidpur Airport

Damaged barbed wire fence needs urgent repair, strict vigilance required to check trespassers

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Although security has been beefed up in Saidpur Airport recently, passengers and locals claimed that it was only noticeable at the time of landing and departure of aircrafts but remained lax in other times.

Like the other airports in the country, security arrangement in Saidpur Airport has come under scrutiny following a recent unsuccessful hijacking bid of a Bangladesh Biman aircraft.

Bangladesh Biman aircraft 'Maiurpankhi' had an emergency landing at Shah Amanat International Airport in Chattogram on February 23 when a youth reportedly carrying a toy gun created a hostage situation. He was later neutralized and killed in a swift commando action. But question remained how the young man boarded the plane with a gun dodging all the security scanners?

"The authorities should be more serious regarding airport security which still seems not up to the mark," said industrialist Siddikul Alam, who frequently travels to Saidpur.

Saidpur is one of the six domestic airports and a busy one with nine commercial flights operating to and from there every day.

Nilphamari's Mizanur Rahman, another regular passenger of Dhaka-Saidpur-Dhaka route, said that it was not long ago the airport experienced security situation.

"Panic still haunts me as I recall the incident of August 27 last year when four youths in the guise of air travellers tried to board an aircraft with sharp knives. They were detected by passengers before being detained by law enforcers," said Rahman.

Airport Manager Shahin Ahmed acknowledged that incident but said, "Round the clock security arrangements in Saidpur Airport has been intensified with additional police force and Ansar while civil aviation's security personnel have been deployed to keep watchful eyes by turn."

He also said that only passengers carrying boarding passes are allowed to enter the airport terminal through series of



Unscrupulous people have dug holes and removed a portion of the barbed wire fence on the western boundary wall of Saidpur Airport in Nilphamari, posing the threat of intrusion by unwanted people.

PHOTO: EAM ASADUZZAMAN

checking and people who come to receive or say goodbye to near and dear ones are made to stop at least 100 metres away from the entrance.

During a visit on March 3, this correspondent saw people working at the fast food shops inside the airport terminal and a few visitors were entering through the open gate taking advantages of lax security.

Construction work was going on in full swing as part of the government's plan to make it a regional international airport.

But a good number of workers engaged by the contractor concerned were seen

entering inside through the north gate without checking, raising concern about possible trespassing.

Asked about the matter, Shahin Ahmed refuted the allegation and said that each worker is thoroughly checked before entering and an officer is posted there for monitoring.

The airport's boundary is also not fool-proof and it lacks constant vigilance.

During the visit, this correspondent noticed metallic coil of barbed wire fencing on the wall was cut and removed at some places while concrete

wall was dug to make holes.

Unscrupulous people use those holes to climb and cross through the fencing gap inside the airport and this situation may pose serious threat anytime, said locals.

The airport manager, however, said they are vigilant to address problems whenever detected.

Contacted, Mohibul Haque, secretary of Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry, said they have sent written instructions to all airport authorities to ensure foolproof security for the passengers and all concerned.

Justice a must to ensure human rights

Advocate Sultana Kamal tells Pabna seminar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Justice is a must to save the society from extremism, terrorism, extrajudicial killing and other inhuman activities, renowned human rights activist advocate Sultana Kamal said at a programme here yesterday.

She was speaking at a discussion titled 'Role of women in reforming the society,' organised by non-governmental organisation Pabna Protishruti at Annoda Gobinda Public Library auditorium in the district town.

While attending the seminar as the chief guest, advocate Sultana Kamal, founder of Manobadhikar Shangshkriti Foundation (MSF), said, "When people are deprived of proper justice, when people do not get proper action from the authorities concerned they may become aggrieved and sometimes take the law in their hand."

Criticising the poor state of human rights in the country, she said not only a section of public, sometimes the law enforcers get involved in inhuman activities like extrajudicial killings.



Sultana Kamal speaks at a discussion at Annoda Gobinda Public Library auditorium in Pabna town yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

"Bangladesh is set to be a role model for development, but it will only be possible after establishing proper human rights for the people of the country. But till then we are far from it," she said, adding that, "If we want to establish human rights in our society we all will have to work together to remove the obstacles."

"Without women's empowerment we cannot get proper development of

the country, she said, adding that though many urban women are advancing towards it, most of the village women are still in the dark.

"Keeping our women in the dark we will never get proper development," advocate Kamal added.

Chairman of Pabna Protishruti Abdul Matin Khan conducted the seminar with its Executive Director Momota Chakladar in the chair.

Ethiopian plane crash kills 157

FROM PAGE 1

Weeping relatives begged for information at airports in Nairobi and Addis Ababa.

"We're just waiting for my mum. We're just hoping she took a different flight or was delayed. She's not picking up her phone," said Wendy Otieno, clutching her phone and weeping.

The crash came on the eve of a major, annual assembly in Nairobi of the UN Environment Programme, which learnt of the crash with "deep regret" but did not say whether any delegates were on the plane, reported AFP.

The aircraft, a 737 MAX 8, is the same model that crashed into the Java Sea shortly after take-off from Jakarta on October 29, killing all 189 people on board the Lion Air flight.

The cause of that crash is still under investigation.

Ethiopian's new aircraft had no recorded technical problems and the pilot had an "excellent" flying record, Tewolde said in a news conference.

"We received the airplane on November 15, 2018. It has flown more than 1,200 hours. It had flown from Johannesburg earlier this morning," he said. "The pilot mentioned that he had difficulties and that he wanted to return."

'UNSTABLE SPEED'

Flight ET 302, registration number ET-AVJ, crashed near the town of Bishoftu, 62 km (38 miles) southeast of the capital Addis Ababa, with 149 passengers and eight crew aboard, the airline said.

The flight had unstable vertical speed after take-off, the flight tracking website Flightradar24 tweeted.

The aircraft had shattered into many pieces and was severely burnt, a Reuters reporter at the scene of the crash said. Clothing and personal effects were scattered widely over the field where the plane came down.

It was not clear what had caused the crash. Boeing sent condolences to the families and said it was ready to help investigate.

This is the second recent crash of the latest version of Boeing's workhorse narrow-body jet that first entered service in 2017. The 737 is the world's best selling modern passenger aircraft and one of the industry's most reliable.

A preliminary report into the October Lion Air crash, focused on airline maintenance and training and the response of a Boeing anti-stall system to a recently replaced sensor, but did not give a reason for the crash. Since then, the cockpit voice recorder was recovered and a final report is due

later this year.

ANGUISHED RELATIVES

At Nairobi airport, many relatives were left waiting at the gate for hours, with no information from airport authorities. Some learned of the crash from journalists.

Robert Mutanda, 46, was waiting for his brother-in-law, a Canadian citizen.

"No, we haven't seen anyone from the airline or the airport," he told Reuters at 1:00pm, more than three hours after the flight was lost. "Nobody has told us anything, we are just standing here hoping for the best."

Kenyan officials did not arrive at the airport until 1:30 pm, five hours after the plane went down.

James Macharia, the cabinet secretary for transport, said he heard about the crash via Twitter.

Families were taken to Nairobi's Sheraton Hotel, but said they were still waiting to hear from airline staff eight hours after the accident.

ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES

Under international rules, responsibility for leading the crash investigation lies with Ethiopia but the US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) will also participate because the plane was designed and built in the United States.



Students of Singair Girls' High School and Singair Pilot High School join a bicycle procession in Singair upazila town of Manikganj yesterday marking International Women's Day. Bangladesh Resource Centre for Indigenous Knowledge cooperated with the two schools as part of an awareness campaign to prevent child marriage and repression against women.

AL-backed candidate faces wife in UZ polls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A local Awami League leader and his wife in Baufal upazila under the district are facing each other in the upcoming upazila parishad election while a man and his sister-in-law in Sadar upazila are contesting as independent candidates.

Elections to seven upazila parishads under the district will be held on March 31, said District Election Officer Ziaur Rahman Khalifa.

In Baufal upazila, Motaleb Hawlader, party's upazila unit secretary, is AL nominated aspirant while his wife Rehana Motaleb is an independent candidate.

In Sadar upazila, independent candidate advocate Sawkat Mridha is facing his sister-in-law Rojina Khanom, another independent candidate.

বাংলাদেশ সড়ক পরিবহন কর্পোরেশন			
২১, রাজউক এডিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০			
বিআরটিসি'র অযোগ্য ঘোষিত ১৮টি গাড়ি নিলামে বিক্রয়ের পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি			
১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	৪।	সড়ক পরিবহন ও সেতু মন্ত্রণালয়, সড়ক পরিবহন ও মহাসড়ক বিভাগ।
২।	বিক্রয় সত্তার নাম	৫।	চেয়ারম্যান, বিআরটিসি।
৩।	বিক্রয় পদ্ধতি	৬।	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
৪।	পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং	৭।	১২/০৩/২০১৯ইং হতে ০২/০৪/২০১৯ইং এবং বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
৫।	দরপত্র সিডিউল পাওয়ার স্থান	৮।	০৩/০৪/২০১৯ইং দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ক্রয় বিভাগ (৯ম তলা), বিআরটিসি, পরিবহন ভবন, ২১, রাজউক এডিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০।
৬।	ডাউনলোডকৃত দরপত্র সিডিউল গ্রহণের তারিখ ও শেষ সময়	৯।	০৩/০৪/২০১৯ইং দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ক্রয় বিভাগ (৯ম তলা), পরিবহন ভবন, ২১, রাজউক এডিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০ (দরদাতাগণ অথবা তাদের একজন প্রতিনিধি দরপত্র খোলার সময় উপস্থিত থাকতে পারবেন)।
৭।	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	১০।	মোট উক্ত লটারির ন্যূনতম ১০% জামানত (আনেষ্টিম্যান) 'চেয়ারম্যান বিআরটিসি'র অনুমতিতে যে কোন ব্যক্তি/ব্যক্তি/সিডিউল বাবকে হতে প্রদত্ত পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট এর মাধ্যমে ডাউনলোডকৃত দরপত্র সিডিউলের সাথে জমা করতে হবে।
৮।	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	১১।	০৩/০৪/২০১৯ইং দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ক্রয় বিভাগ (৯ম তলা), বিআরটিসি, পরিবহন ভবন, ২১, রাজউক এডিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০।
৯।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	১২।	০৩/০৪/২০১৯ইং দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ক্রয় বিভাগ (৯ম তলা), বিআরটিসি, পরিবহন ভবন, ২১, রাজউক এডিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০।
১০।	দরপত্রের সাথে জামানত (আনেষ্টিম্যান)	১৩।	০৩/০৪/২০১৯ইং দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ক্রয় বিভাগ (৯ম তলা), বিআরটিসি, পরিবহন ভবন, ২১, রাজউক এডিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০।
১১।	সিডিউলের সাথে যে সমস্ত ডকুমেন্টস সংযুক্ত করতে হবে	১৪।	০৩/০৪/২০১৯ইং দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ক্রয় বিভাগ (৯ম তলা), বিআরটিসি, পরিবহন ভবন, ২১, রাজউক এডিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০।
১২।	বিক্রয়স্থান মালামালের সংরক্ষণ বিবরণ	১৫।	০৩/০৪/২০১৯ইং দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ক্রয় বিভাগ (৯ম তলা), বিআরটিসি, পরিবহন ভবন, ২১, রাজউক এডিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০।
১৩।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম	১৬।	০৩/০৪/২০১৯ইং দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ক্রয় বিভাগ (৯ম তলা), বিআরটিসি, পরিবহন ভবন, ২১, রাজউক এডিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০।
১৪।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবি	১৭।	০৩/০৪/২০১৯ইং দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ক্রয় বিভাগ (৯ম তলা), বিআরটিসি, পরিবহন ভবন, ২১, রাজউক এডিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০।
১৫।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর অফিসের ঠিকানা	১৮।	০৩/০৪/২০১৯ইং দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ক্রয় বিভাগ (৯ম তলা), বিআরটিসি, পরিবহন ভবন, ২১, রাজউক এডিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০।
১৬।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর অফিস টেলিফোন নং		
১৭।	কর্তৃপক্ষের ক্ষমতা		
১৮।	নির্দেশনা		
৮৫০			
মোঃ গোলাম ফারুক ম্যানেজার (ক্রয়) বিআরটিসি			