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BIMAN BANGLADESH

Gaining strength, yet losing market

Corruption, inefficient management, poor planning blamed; experts for implementing the 2007 plan for a turnaround

BIMAN'S MARKET SHARE FALLING

YEAR	TOTAL PASSENGERS	BIMAN PASSENGERS	BIMAN'S MARKET SHARE
2002-03	23.9 lakh	10.71 lakh	44.85%
2006-07	33.1 lakh	10.75 lakh	32.49%
2018-19	70.13 lakh	18.53 lakh	26.42%

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Even with its aging fleet, Biman carried over 32 percent of all international passengers to and from Bangladesh in 2006-07. But now, despite having modern aircraft, its share has come down to about 27 percent.

According to aviation experts and Biman insiders, the national flag carrier is losing international passengers mostly due to mismanagement, flight delays, suspension on some routes and a lack of smart business strategies.

Biman's grip on the market loosened also because of stiff competition with other local and international airlines,

though it now carries almost twice the passengers it used to get a decade ago.

Mohammed Salahuddin, general manager (marketing and sales) of Biman, mentioned that amid growing number of passengers, the airline has increased the frequency of flights.

But since Biman could not increase its routes due to aircraft shortages, the share of passengers fell. Besides, there has been a rise in the number of airlines operating from Bangladesh.

He, however, said Biman's share of international passengers, which is around 27 percent, is highest among all the

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Once a lolling lush hillock alive with songs of birds, this knoll in Cox's Bazar's Balukhali is now anything but, thanks to its destruction for a Rohingya camp. This photo taken a couple of days ago shows thousands of concrete blocks and bamboos have been placed there to prevent landslide.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

No entomologist in city corporations

Their research vital in controlling mosquito population

HELEMUL ALAM

There is no entomologist at any of the 12 city corporations in the country although their job of carrying out research and preparing action plan is vital for controlling mosquito population.

On papers, the two Dhaka city corporations have two posts for entomologists, but they have been vacant for months.

But the city corporations in other cities do not even have the posts.

This is making the city corporations' job of keeping mosquitoes at bay very difficult, officials said.

Amid the countrywide outbreak of the mosquito-borne dengue, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) is studying and surveying different species of the insect, especially the Aedes.

But the department does not have adequate experts to do the job either.

The department's posts for entomologist, assistant entomologist and entomological technician have been vacant for three months to 25 years.

Entomologists study the characteristics of insects, their interactions with other species and their environment, the nature of their reproduction, population dynamics and the diseases they spread.

While a record number of people are suffering from dengue across the country, the entomologists, through their research could have made recommendations to control the Aedes mosquito, which carries the virus causing the disease, said Prof Kabirul Bashar of entomology at Jahangirnagar University.

At the DGHS offices in the capital and elsewhere, 13

MORE ON PAGE 3

ROHINGYA REPATRIATION

Global leaders must act swiftly

Foreign minister says; Myanmar blames the delay on Bangladesh

AGENCIES

Bangladesh will take a tougher position over Rohingya issue and global leaders must resolve it quickly to ensure peace and stability in the region, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said yesterday, reports UNB.

"We tried our best, we worked as per your suggestions, but finally it [repatriation] didn't happen. We'll make our position stronger," he said.

The minister was talking to reporters after a discussion titled "15 August and Its Impact on Bangladesh" at Bangabandhu Memorial Trust auditorium organised by Awami League's international affairs sub-committee.

Bangladesh gave Rohingyas shelter on humanitarian grounds. But they are not Bangladesh's headache; rather it is the headache of the whole world, Momen said.

He said Myanmar "must be accommodative" and it must "convince" their nationals to go back to their place of origin in Rakhine State. "We did whatever we can from our part."

Meanwhile, Myanmar has blamed Rohingya repatriation failure on Bangladesh, reports AFP.

Bangladesh is now hosting over 1.1

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Jubo League leader killed by 'Rohingyas'

Killing sparks violent protests; locals block Cox's Bazar-Teknaf highway for hours; vandalise shops, shanties in Rohingya camp

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A Jubo League leader has been shot dead allegedly by a group of Rohingya miscreants in Hnila union of Cox's Bazar's Teknaf upazila.

Police recovered the bullet-hit body of Omar Faruk, 30, president of Hnila Union Parishad Jubo League, from Jadimura area around 12:30am yesterday, said ABMS Doha, inspector (investigation) of Teknaf Police Station.

The murder sparked a massive demonstration in the area as locals blocked the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf highway for three hours from 10:00am yesterday protesting the murder. They also vandalised a couple of shops and houses inside a Rohingya camp in Jadimura.

They demanded immediate arrest of the killers.

Victim's brother Amir Hamza said a group of Rohingya miscreants led by Md Selim and Nur Mohammad picked up Faruk from in front of his house around 10:30pm on Thursday.

They then dragged him to a nearby hill and shot him dead, Amir said.

The miscreants also confined him and one of his brothers Osman Gani as they went to the hill following the abduction of Faruk, he added.

However, ABM Masud Hossain, superintendent of police in Cox's Bazar, told The Daily Star that Faruk went to Jadimura Rohingya camp on Thursday night and had an altercation with the leader of a Rohingya gang.

Following the altercation, the miscreants killed Faruk by shooting him in the head, the SP said.

Police arrested two Rohingya refugees -- Abdur Rahman, 32, and Mohammad Hossain, 34 -- in connection with the murder, he said, adding that they were investigating the murder.

The body was sent to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy while filing of a case over the murder was underway, police said.

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Omar Faruk

Myanmar govt obstructing int'l probe

HRW says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human Rights Watch yesterday alleged that Myanmar government was obstructing international efforts to investigate the crimes committed against the Rohingyas.

The New York-based rights organisation also urged donors and governments concerned to press Myanmar to ensure justice to the Rohingyas.

The remarks came two days before the second anniversary of the military crackdown on the Rohingyas in Myanmar's Rakhine State.

On August 25, 2017, Myanmar military began a campaign of ethnic cleansing against Rohingyas.

HRW also suggested in its statement that the Security Council and other governments should impose or expand targeted sanctions on Myanmar's military leaders and key military-owned enterprises.

The sanctions should include travel bans, asset seizures, and restrictions on access to financial institutions, as well as a

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1922-2019

Prof Muzaffar passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of the political luminaries of the country Professor Muzaffar Ahmed, also the last surviving member of the advisory council of the Mujibnagar government that led Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971, died yesterday due to age-related complications.

Muzaffar, who was the president of Bangladesh National Awami Party (Pro-Moscow NAP) for over five decades, breathed his last around 8:00pm at the capital's Apollo Hospitals, party joint general secretary Ismail Hossain told The Daily Star.

"We will decide about the final religious rituals of Muzaffar later" Ismail added.

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A woman attends to her son lying on a mattress outside the dengue ward of Sir Salimullah Medical College and Hospital yesterday. Many like this man are not getting a bed at the ward due an increased number of dengue patients. Inset, a boy feeds his mother some juice at the ward.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Pollution threatens Meghna

ADB study finds its water may become too polluted for treatment in 5yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Water of the Meghna river may become too polluted to be treated in the next five years if immediate actions are not taken to save it from pollution, says an Asian Development Bank report.

Pollution from industries and other sources, connected to the Meghna through canals, becomes severe in the pre-monsoon season.

Concentration of dissolved oxygen, necessary for the survival of fish,

invertebrates, bacteria and underwater plants, has decreased significantly over time at some points of the river, according to the report published on August 20.

"The level of chromium exceeded drinking water standards at a number of locations in the Bishnandi canal, just upstream of a drinking water intake point, and should be treated as a potential risk," it noted.

Chromium is a heavy metal harmful to human health.

Talking to this newspaper, an official of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (DWASA) said that if pollution in the Meghna is not checked, it may hinder the two projects they have taken to provide over 40 percent of drinking water for the capital's 20 million residents.

DWASA has been setting up two water treatment plants -- Gandhobpur and Sayedabad phase-III, which will treat water from the Meghna.

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