

PHOTO OF THE DAY

COURTESY: MURAD HASHAN / PBSB



TOUCHDOWN ON HOME SOIL... The Boeing Dreamliner, 'Rajhangsha' ready to land at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday afternoon, to join predecessors 'Akash Beena', 'Hangsa Balaka' and 'Gangchil'.

'Rajhangsha' lands in Dhaka

BSS, Dhaka

Water cannons spouted as the wheels of Rajhangsha -- Biman Bangladesh Airlines' fourth brand new Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner -- touched the taxiway of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday afternoon.

"The fourth Dreamliner, last in the row, landed at the airport directly from USA's Seattle's Boeing Factory at 4:39 pm," Biman's Manager (PR) Tasmin Akhtar told BSS.

Capt Farhat Hasan Jamil, the acting managing director and CEO of the country's flag carrier, along with other high officials received the Dreamliner at the airport as the 16th aircraft to the national flag carrier, she said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina -- who named all the Dreamliners -- is scheduled to inaugurate Rajhangsha at 4pm on Tuesday, Akhtar said.

A Bangladesh delegation, comprising officials of Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry, Civil Aviation Authority,

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Tk 10,000cr in unpaid utility bills

Says Nasrul Hamid; defaulters to face tough action

UNB, Dhaka

Mentioning that consumers owe the government Tk 10,000 crore as utility bills, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid yesterday said action will be taken against the defaulters.

"We have a total of Tk 10,000 crore in arrears to different consumers. Of them, Tk 4,000 crores are due as gas bill while Tk 2,000 crore as oil bill. We have Tk 3,000 crore in dues to Biman Bangladesh Airlines alone," he said while briefing reporters after a workshop at Bidyut Bhavan in the city.

The state minister also said they will go for stern action against illegal gas connections to households and factories.

"We will disconnect the lines very soon," he said. Nasrul Hamid added that they listened to allegations raised by various business bodies, including Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA), Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA).

He said they will ensure gas supply round the clock to factories, and will form a committee with representatives from the government and private sector within two weeks to identify different problems and put forward suggestions.

Asked whether the government is thinking about hiking electricity tariff, the state minister said they were looking into the matter.

"We know the prices of almost all products somewhat depend on our sector. So, we are thinking whether the electricity tariff will be hiked or not."

Prime Minister's Energy Adviser Dr Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury also spoke at the event with Subir Kishore Choudhury, chairman (Secretary) of Bangladesh Energy and Power Research Council (BEPRC), in the chair.

'It's time to move forward'

GM Quader urges party members

UNB, Dhaka

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman GM Quader yesterday urged leaders and activists of the party to come together, putting aside all the divisions among them, to play an important role in pro-people politics.

"Jatiya Party is a party with potentials, and it can play an important role in politics in the days to come," he said while addressing a programme of JP's Dhaka divisional unit at the party chairman's Banani office.

GM Quader said their party will remain active in politics to protect people's interests. "So, all of our leaders and activists must put in united efforts to strengthen the party. It's a time to move forward, forgetting all the differences and divisions."

He said many people had thought Jatiya Party would face a split after the death of its founding chairman HM Ershad, but it did not happen. "We could remove the misunderstanding among us."

The JP chairman hoped that their party will be revitalised by holding its council in

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Ensure alternate livelihood for fishermen during bans

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday urged the government to ensure alternative livelihood for fishermen while imposing bans on fishing, to help them lead a normal life along with their family members during those days.

There is no doubt that the bans have a positive impact on increasing the country's fish production. But during the ban, most fishermen remain jobless and pass a miserable life because of financial hardships, they said.

Coastal Association for Social Transformation (COAST) Trust, a non-government organisation, in association with Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and Bangladesh Fish Workers' Alliance organised the seminar on the impacts of fishing ban at Cirdap auditorium.

The government imposes a number of bans on catching, transporting and selling fish from natural waterbodies -- like river and sea -- at different times every year to ensure safe breeding and spawning of fish and protect their fries.

Among them, a 65-day ban on fishing from the Bay of Bengal [May to July] and another 22-day ban on fishing hilsa [October] are the major ones.

Speaking at the event, Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, said Bangladesh has made significant progress in fish production in the recent years, and the fishing bans have a significant contribution to it.

But at the same time, the bans make a particular group of people [fishermen] suffer, which is also not expected, she added.

"We need a long-term plan to solve the issues... Ensuring alternative livelihood for the fishermen and providing them sufficient allowance can help in this regard," said Shaheen Anam.

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Battered road makes life miserable

Gandaria's Dinanath Sen Road unusable for five months

HELEMIJ ALAM

For the last five months, Arabiya Afifa, a preschool student in Gandaria, has to walk for around 40 minutes on Dinanath Sen Road every day to go to and return from her institution.

Often times, the little girl struggles to walk such a long distance holding her schoolbag, but she has no other option as her grandmother, who accompanies her, has to carry Afifa's younger sister in her arms while walking.

Though a rickshaw ride would have been more suitable for Afifa and her grandmother, that option is also not viable as Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) has been setting up storm-water drainage line on the road.

The work, stretching from Gandaria school crossing to Dhupkhola old bus stop, was completed around four months back, but the authorities concerned did not re-carpet the road after digging it, said locals.

As a result, commuting on the road has become a nightmare for hundreds of residents, they added. Locals said



Even a little rain leaves the road in a deplorable state.

PHOTO: STAR

the authorities used brick chips twice to temporarily make the road usable but to no avail.

"I get tired of walking for such a long time," Afifa told this correspondent yesterday. "But grandma cannot get a rickshaw. They don't want to go our way because of the road's condition," she added.

This correspondent met her while she and her grandmother, carrying her

younger sister, were returning home. They looked exhausted.

The road's condition becomes worse when it rains. Rickshaws often hit potholes and trip over.

Mohammad Sejan Uddin, a tenth grader of Gandaria High School, said, "Rickshaws mostly skip the road. Even if a puller agrees to ply it, he charges double."

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Russian traveler Vladislav Sherengovskiy recently arrived in Bangladesh -- on the third leg of his seven-part world tour with his Hummer H2 SUV, affectionately nicknamed "Yellow". So far, Vladislav and the Hummer has visited 45 countries, and he plans to enter India and take a ferry to Sri Lanka after his trip here. Read an in-depth interview with him on this week's Shift, The Daily Star's automobile supplement out on Wednesdays. PHOTO: SHADMAN AL SAMEE

More water buses on Dhaka lakes, canals soon: Tajul

UNB, Dhaka

LGRD Minister Md Tajul Islam yesterday said the government will introduce more water transports on canals and lakes of the capital, to rescue them from illegal encroachment and pollution, and at the same time ease the pressure on the congested roads.

He made the promise while speaking as chief guest at a programme to award the highest bill collectors on behalf of Dhaka Wasa.

"Many canals and lakes of Dhaka have been polluted and invaded. Illegal establishments will be evicted and soil will be extracted from the filled lakes to introduce water transports, like in the Hatirjheel project," he said.

Implementation of such system would save both money and time for people and also reduce traffic pressure, he said.

Ten of the 33 banks authorised to collect bills on behalf of Dhaka Wasa were awarded at the programme, chaired by Dhaka Wasa managing Director Taqsem A Khan.

JCD COUNCIL POSTPONEMENT

It's due to leadership crisis of BNP: Quader

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said the council of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was postponed due to crisis in leadership in BNP.

He came up with the remarks while talking to reporters at a discussion and doa mahfil programme organised by Dhaka south Jubo League, marking the birthday of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

When asked about allegations by BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir that the JCD council was postponed due to government interference, he said, "The council has been suspended due to a case filed by some JCD leaders. The government or Awami League is not responsible for it."

Fakhrul on Friday termed "unprecedented" the court injunction on holding the council of JCD, their party's student body. "The current government has introduced a new political culture of regulating politics through court. It's a very dangerous culture, I think," he had said, adding that it is regrettable that the government has been "using" the court for the last 10 years for political gains. "They annulled the caretaker government system by using the court, putting the nation and country into an uncertainty," he added.

Talking about corruption, Quader said the government has taken a strong stance against the corrupt within their party. During the tenure of Awami League government, he said, its ministers have been appearing before the Anti-Corruption Commission, while many leaders and activists are serving jail terms due to the strong stance of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina against graft.

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DHAKA TODAY

- LECTURE**
Populism, Identity and Illiberal Behaviour
Organiser: Centre for Peace and Justice, Brac University
Venue: Brac University, Mohakhali
Time: 3pm
- DISCUSSION**
Remembering M.N. Larma
Organiser: Dhaka University Jum Literature and Cultural Society
Venue: TSC, University of Dhaka
Time: 6pm
- TRAINING**
Income Tax Management and Focusing on Budget
Venue: IPDP Training, Banani
Time: 6:30pm
- ENGLISH PRACTICE**
Organiser: US Embassy
Venue: American Centre, Baridhara
Time: 2pm
- WORKSHOP**
Learning Irish tin whistle
Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani
Time: 3pm
- GRAPHICS DESIGN TRAINING**
Organiser: Datavision Training BD
Venue: Global Graphics Point
Time: 12pm
- WORKSHOP**
3D Animation and Film Making
Organiser: Mars Solution Limited
Venue: BDBL, Karwan Bazar
Time: 6pm

Grant selection grade to 3 asstt teachers: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has directed the government to grant the selection grade and time scale to three assistant teachers of separate government secondary schools as per the relevant provisions of the Services (Pay and Allowances) Order 2009.

The three teachers are Md Abdus Salam, Ayesha Ferdous Taher, and Babul Akter -- whose selection grade and time scale were excluded by a provision of the Services (Pay and Allowances) Order 2015.

Following three separate writ petitions filed by the aggrieved teachers, the HC ordered the authorities concerned of the government to grant the selection grade and time scale to them within three months after receiving copy of the verdict.

The HC bench of Justice Md Ashfaque Islam and Justice Mohammad Ali announced the verdict on May 2 this year, and its full text was released on August 21.

"We are of the view that since the petitioners were appointed before the Services (Pay and Allowances) Order 2015 came into play. The terms and conditions of their service are regulated and controlled under the Services

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