

Biman to resume online ticket sales from Sunday

Service remained halted for six months due to dispute with previous provider

RASHIDUL HASAN

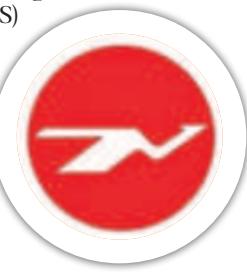
In the latest development, Biman Bangladesh Airlines yesterday said its online ticketing system will be re-launched on February 27 to modernise and facilitate passenger services.

The airline is going to re-launch online ticketing, booking, check-in, web services, etc through the new Passenger Service Solution (PSS) "Sabre", said Biman's top officials.

Biman's online ticketing system remained paused for the last six months due to a dispute with Travelshop Limited - Biman's exclusive service provider for selling tickets online -- over arrears, said sources in Biman.

Sabre Corporation, a software and technology provider that powers the global travel industry, announced a new strategic partnership with Biman in September.

The national flag carrier will leverage Sabre's Passenger Service System (PSS) and Global Distribution System (GDS) as well as a broad range of additional Sabre technology solutions to support recovery and future growth in a competitive market, said a Sabre press release.



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No vaccine, no service from March 1
Says DNCC mayor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DNCC Mayor Md Atiqul Islam yesterday said those who have not taken at least one dose of Covid vaccine will be deprived from services of the city corporation from March 1.

The DNCC mayor made the comment while inaugurating the vaccination programme in front of DNCC Market at Gulshan 2.

"Those who do not have any birth certificate or NID card will also be able to take Covid-19 vaccine from the vaccination booths in 54 wards under DNCC," he said.

Gold worth Tk 7cr seized at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs intelligence officials yesterday seized 90 gold bars weighing 10.5kg at Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

The gold was smuggled on an aircraft of Biman that landed at the airport from Dubai around 8:15am, CIID Director General Md Abdur Rouf told a press conference.

The bars were wrapped in scotch tapes, hidden inside pipes under eight seats, he said. The gold is worth around Tk 7.3 crore, he said, adding that none was arrested in this regard.

An effort to honour the innovators

Ispahani, Star sign MoU for 'OTT & Digital Content Awards'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To further develop the entertainment industry and recognise creators on over-the-top (OTT) and other digital platforms, Ispahani Tea Limited and The Daily Star will organise "Blender's Choice The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2021".

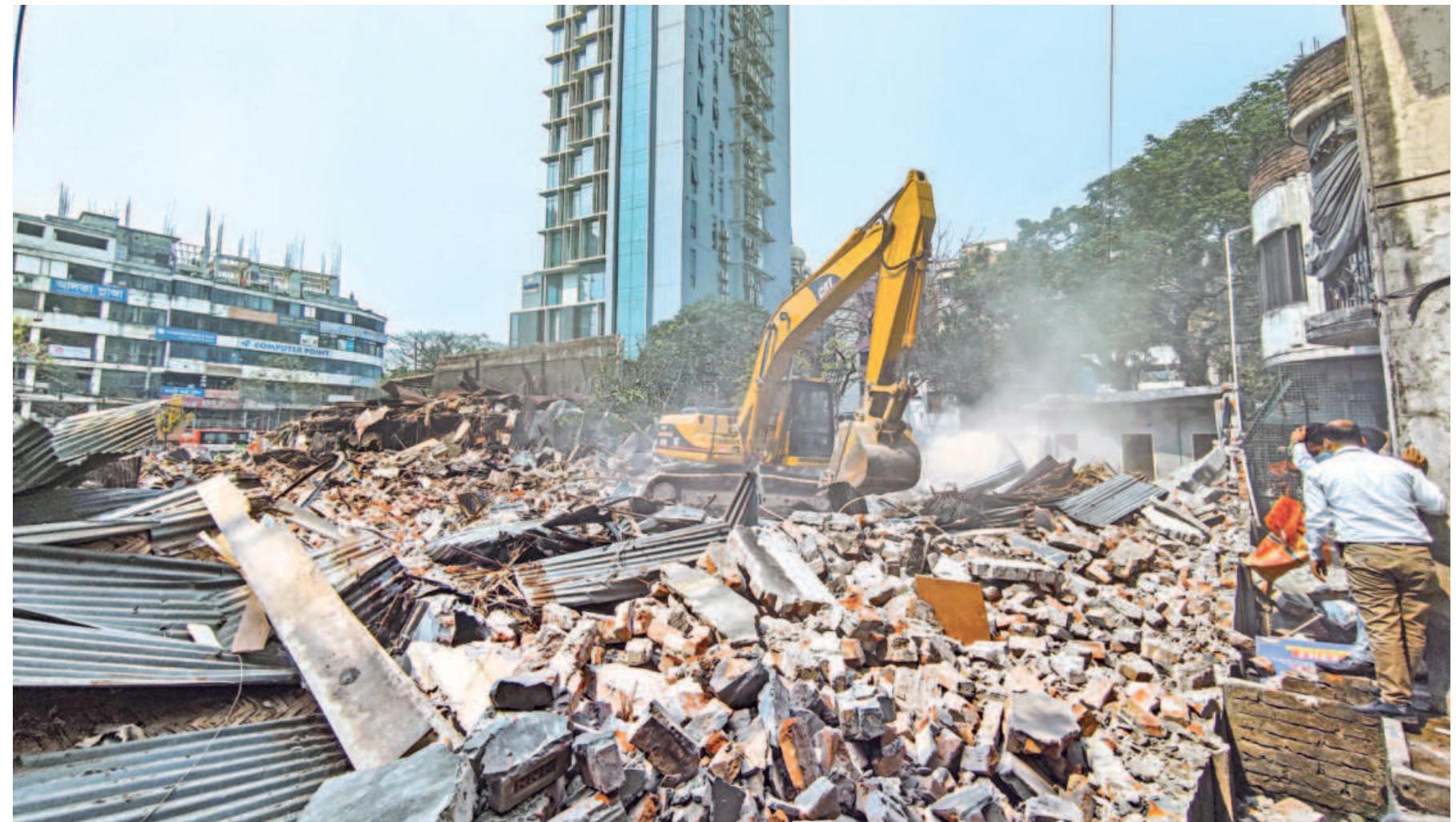
The awards aim to honour artists, content creators, and people who are contributing to the entertainment industry. Awards in 37 categories have been arranged.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, and Mirza Salman Ispahani, chairperson of MM Ispahani Limited, signed an MoU in this regard on behalf of their organisations yesterday at The Daily Star Centre.

The event was held in presence of Omar Hannan,



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On this disputed land on Mirpur Road stood a structure. The court has recently declared the establishment illegal and passed a verdict against its owner. In accordance with the directive, some government agencies demolished it yesterday. The photo was taken at Kalabagan.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

When land costs more than just money

Violence centring land on the rise, finds study

MOSTAFA YOUSUF

On an unfortunate morning in April 2009, Kabir Ahmed and his wife were working in the backyard of their home in Patenga of port city. All of a sudden, an altercation over land broke out in front of them. At one point, some people swooped on a youth and hacked him with machetes.

Later, the youngster died in the hospital.

A lone witness of the killing, Kabir had to testify in court. The murderers did not appreciate this.

When the killers got out of prison in December 2020, they were hell-bent on ending the lives of Kabir and his wife. On January 1, 2021, they attacked Kabir's family, killing his wife.

"I wasn't even a part of this feud, but it ruined my whole family. Our only fault was that we witnessed the killing," a devastated Kabir, now 65, told The Daily Star.

A country already in need of free land, Bangladesh is facing huge challenges because of land degradation due to climate change and loss of agricultural land, says a report of United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Land feuds like this have not only destroyed Kabir's family, but millions of other ones. A similar number of land-related cases are piled up in courts, unresolved.

Clashes centring land are rising, with Mymensingh had the highest number of deaths caused by land-related violence.

This scenario was mentioned in a study recently revealed by Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO). The study analysed land-related data of all districts for six and a half years, from 2014 to mid 2021, and came up with the figures.

A total of 109 deaths were reported in Mymensingh during this period, while Habiganj came second, with 64 deaths.

The study found that 637 clashes, the highest number, occurred in 2020, and 344 clashes took place from January to June of 2021. The number

STUDY AT A GLANCE

- 109 deaths in M'singh, 64 deaths in Habiganj from 2014 to mid 2021
- 637 clashes in 2020, 344 from Jan to Jun of 2021, 498 in 2019, 344 in 2018
- 5 million households directly affected by land disputes
- 6.6pc of households fear possible disputes in future
- Loss of land due to coastal erosion, constant salinity intrusion factors behind violence

of clashes was 498 in 2019, and 344 in 2018.

Shah Mohammad Salahuddin, a BPO researcher who was involved with the study, told The Daily Star that growing demand for land increases chances of disputes and violence.

"Studies found that issues regarding legacy, counterfeit documentation, misinformation, selling without consent of actual owner, selling the same piece of land to multiple people, unavailability of documents, and exchanging land orally are responsible for the clashes," he said.

Five million households are directly affected by land disputes in Bangladesh, and around 6.6 percent of households fear possible disputes for their land in the future, the study said.

Loss of land due to coastal erosion and constant salinity intrusion are causing climate change-vulnerable districts to experience increasing land-related violence.

Rifat Islam Rupok, a researcher of the study, said, "Clashes in coastal areas are higher than that in non-coastal areas, as climate change and other factors are contributing to degradation of land. On top of this, demand for land is rising, leading to clashes."

None can occupy land without documents

SAYS LAND MINISTER

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Land Minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury yesterday said the ministry is emphasising establishment of sustainable land management by introducing digital services and amending laws and regulations.

In a sustainable land system, no one can occupy land without proper documents.

As a result, illegal occupants will not get a chance to grab land, said a press release.

He was speaking as chief guest at the inaugural function of "Barta (Message), Institutional Memory System and Online Jalmahal Lease Application Process", held at Bhumi Bhaban in Tejgaon.

Land Secretary Md Mustafizur Rahman was present as chair, and Director General of the Department of Fisheries Khandaker Mahbubul Haque was a special guest at the event.

Saifuzzaman said land asset management of all "Sairat Mahals" of the government will gradually come under digitalisation.

In the meantime, 78 percent of government land assets, Khas lands, and Sairat Mahal schedule have been uploaded to the land information bank, the minister added.

Youths, soldiers of Vision 2041 Says PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said youths will take the country to a greater height as they are the soldiers of Vision 2041.

"The new generation, imbued with the spirit of patriotism and the ideology of the Father of the Nation will steer Bangladesh towards prosperity."

Hasina said this while unveiling the covers of 11 books published marking "Mujib Year" at an event at the auditorium of International Mother Language Institute in the capital. She joined it virtually from Gono Bhaban.

The premier also awarded the "Bangabandhu Scholar" scholarship and distributed prizes among the final winners of the "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Quiz" competition.

Maintaining momentum in bilateral ties Foreign secretary meets Indian counterpart

STAR REPORT

Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen and Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla have stressed the need for regular engagement to maintain the momentum in growing bilateral relations between the neighbouring countries.

Masud met his Indian counterpart yesterday in New Delhi after he visited Chennai on Wednesday. He also visited the newly-opened Bangladeshi Deputy High Commission in the capital city of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

The two foreign secretaries discussed a wide range of issues of mutual interest and emphasised regular engagement.

Tk 34.35cr graft case filed against PK Halder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ACC yesterday filed a case against former managing director of NRB Global Bank PK Halder and 20 others for embezzling about Tk 34.35 crore from FAS Finance and Investment.

With this, the total number of graft cases against PK Halder stood at 28.

Other accused include Nature Enterprise director Momtaz Begum, International Leasing and Financial Service director Nowsherul Islam and FAS Finance chairman Siddiqur Rahman.

According to the case statement, the accused in association with others took a loan of about Tk 45 crore for "Nature Enterprise Limited" from FAS Finance and Investment. ACC found that Nature Enterprise is a fictitious organisation. Of Tk 45 crore, about Tk 34.35 crore was withdrawn.



Representatives of Ispahani Tea Limited and The Daily Star at the MoU signing ceremony of "Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2021", held at Azimur Rahman Conference Hall, The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

PRAYER TIMING FEB 25

	Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrab	Esha
Azan	5-15	12-30	4-30	6-05	7-30
Jamaat	5-50	1-15	4-45	6-10	8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION