

QUESTION LEAK

Biman sacks five arrested staffers

Another employee held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has sacked five of its staffers for their alleged involvement in leaking questions for the airline's recruitment examination.

A letter, signed by Biman Managing Director and CEO Zahid Hossain, was issued in this regard on Saturday, saying the order will be effective immediately.

In the order, the national airline said it has sacked motor transport operators Jahangir Alam, Mahfuz Alam Bhuiyan and Enamul Haque, and office assistants Awlad Hossain and Harun-ur-Rashid for "breaching clause 12" of their employment contract.

Meanwhile, police yesterday arrested another Biman employee over his alleged involvement in the leak.

Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) arrested Md Zahid, whose designation could not be confirmed immediately.

Earlier on Friday, DB arrested the five sacked junior staffers of the national flag carrier over the leak.

DB also seized soft and hard copies of the questions, bank cheques, stamped documents, four diaries, admit cards of examinees, mobile phones and cash during the drive.

The written examination for 10 posts at Biman was postponed on Friday due to the leak. The exam was scheduled to take place from 3:00pm to 4:00pm on that day.

Authorities postponed the exam an hour before it was scheduled to start.

Biman formed an enquiry committee on Friday to investigate the incident

Led by Chief Financial Officer Md Naoshad, the committee was asked to submit its report within five days.

Meanwhile, DMP officials said they are trying to identify the masterminds behind the leak.

DB on Saturday said a syndicate of Biman involved in leak took around Tk 2 to 7 lakh from the examinees in exchange for the questions.

The members of this syndicate were also involved in leaking questions of different recruitment examinations of the national flag carrier earlier.

DB came to know this information by interrogating the five arrested Biman employees.

The DB officials said as per the plan, the arrested staffers of Biman leaked the questions the day before the recruitment exam.



A scrap dealer throws in a basket full of plastic labels into the fire in a low-lying area filled with garbage. After collecting used plastic bottles to recycle them, these dealers separate the labels and burn them. In their effort to recycle bottles, the traders are in turn polluting the environment. This photo was taken recently in Old Dhaka's Hazaribagh.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

‘Will oust Quader, Chunnu from JP’

Says lawmaker Ranga; GM Quader claims Ranga is not in JP

RASHIDUL HASAN

The rift between Jatiya Party chief patron Raushan Ershad and chairman GM Quader took a new turn yesterday.

The two sides observed the party's "Upazila Day" separately. During a discussion organised by the pro-Raushan group on the occasion, opposition chief whip and lawmaker Mashiur Rahman Ranga vowed to oust Quader and JP Secretary General Mujibul Haque Chunnu from the party for going against Raushan.

Ranga also announced to take over the party chairman's Banani office and the party headquarters

in the capital's Kakrail.

Many recently-sacked JP leaders and activists -- who are loyal to Raushan -- were present at the programme held at the Jatiya Press Club, chanting anti-Quader slogans.

On September 14, JP Chairman GM Quader ousted Ranga from all positions, including the post of presidium member of JP, for siding with Raushan Ershad, also the leader of the opposition in parliament.

Three days later, on September 17, Quader also relived Ziaul Haque Mridha from all positions of JP on the same grounds.

Quader took the decision

unilaterally, exercising his special power bestowed upon him as per the party's charter.

Ranga yesterday came down heavily on Quader, saying he abused the special power to sack the members.

"I've been involved with Jatiya Party for the last 28 years. I gave half of my life to the party. Yet, I was sacked all of a sudden," said Ranga.

Ranga claimed that GM Quader is seeking money from the party's leaders in exchange for nominations in the next election. "It seems Jatiya Party has now become a Jatiyatabadi Business Party."

The opposition chief whip also

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‘Nothing to do’

Says Quader on bus strikes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said he has nothing to do if private bus operators call a sudden strike and cause public sufferings.

Quader, also general secretary of Awami League, was replying to a reporter's query, referring to the recent bus strike in Khulna.

He was addressing a press conference after joining a programme at Bangabandhu International Conference Center.

Khulna District Bus Minibus Owners' Association announced the suspension of bus

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Dhaka-New York flights very soon

Hope CAAB boss, US envoy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman and US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas yesterday expressed hope to resume Dhaka-New York flights very soon.

The two sides expressed the hope while the US ambassador paid a courtesy visit to the CAAB chairman's office at Dhaka's Kurmitola.

During the meeting, flight operations between the two countries, especially the Dhaka-New York flight, was discussed.

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Bilateral agreements the way to go

Say speakers at event on migrant women's rights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government needs to sign bilateral agreements with host countries to ensure better protection of Bangladeshi female migrant workers.

It needs to make sure that no female migrant faces exploitation or abuse in host countries.

Speakers made these comments at a discussion yesterday on "Media Advocacy for the Rights of Women Migrants" at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

The event was organised by Centre for Women and Children Studies (CWCS), supported by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF).

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Even though wild birds are illegal to sell, a man was spotted in Dhanmondi area yesterday selling parakeets for Tk 2,500. Many of these birds are captured from hilly areas in the country by setting different types of bird traps.

Rafique-Ul Huq's 2nd death anniv

STAR REPORT

Today is the second death anniversary of Barrister Rafique-Ul Huq, an eminent lawyer and philanthropist.

A former attorney general, Huq dealt with cases on behalf of several politicians, including Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, when they were detained during the caretaker government.

He was a member of the National Commission on Money, Banking and Credit, and chairman of the sub-committee on banking laws under the commission.

Huq was actively

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Legal income Tk 52 lakh, flat worth Tk 3.09cr

DIG of prisons sentenced to five years in jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

As a government servant, the suspended deputy inspector general (DIG) of prisons -- Bazlur Rashid -- earned only Tk 52 lakh legally during his service between 1993 and 2018.

He had no inherited property.

However, he purchased a flat worth Tk 3.09 crore and gave the payment in cash within just two months. The money was beyond his known income sources.

Judge Md Iqbal Hossain of the Special Judge's Court-5 of Dhaka made the observations yesterday while sentencing Bazlur to five years in jail in a graft case.

He was also fined Tk 5 lakh, in default of which he will have to serve six months more in jail.

Bazlur, who would withdraw a fixed salary, acquired huge assets worth Tk 3.14 crore, which is quite inconsistent with his known sources of income, the judge observed.

The court also asked to confiscate

his illegal assets.

According to the judgement, Bazlur joined the government service in 1993. And till 2018, he legally earned Tk 52.35 lakh and spent Tk 22.05 lakh as family expense and other purposes.

After delivering the verdict, the court cancelled his bail and sent him to jail. ACC arrested Bazlur in the case filed with ACC's Integrated District Office-1

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of Dhaka and showed him arrested in the case on October 20 of 2019.

The following day, the home ministry suspended him from the service.

Earlier, Partha Gopal Banik, a suspended deputy inspector general (prisons) of Sylhet division, was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment in a graft case.



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