

Biman plane
damaged after
hitting bird

Manages to land safely

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft of Biman Bangladesh Airlines was damaged when a bird hit the plane's engine of the plane during landing at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday.

The pilot, however, managed to safely land the plane around 12 noon, with about 87 passengers on board, Tahera Khondoker, general manager of Biman, told The Daily Star.

The flight was on its way to Dhaka from London via Sylhet Osmani International Airport, she added.

The incident took place between 11:00am and 11:30am, said the Biman spokesperson.

The Dreamliner aircraft is now under the supervision of Biman's engineering team.

Meanwhile, several domestic and foreign airlines have put blame on the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) for frequent incidents of bird strikes.

A Dreamliner aircraft was damaged when a bird hit the engine of the plane during landing at Sylhet Airport on August 14.

Bird strikes are a common phenomenon at airports around the world.

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‘Hizb ut-Tahrir’
man held in
Kamrangirchar

UNB, Dhaka

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) claimed to have arrested a member of banned militant outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir from Kamrangirchar area of the capital.

The arrestee is Nafiz Salam Uday, 45, a resident of city's Adabor area. He is an active member of “Dawat” and finance department of the outfit, said Rab.

Tipped off, a special team of the Anti-Terrorism Cell of Rab-2 conducted a drive at Kamrangirchar on Sunday noon and arrested Nafiz, said Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police Md Fazlul Haque, senior additional director (Media) of Rab-2, yesterday.

There are three cases against him filed with Mohammadpur and Adabar police stations and a police assault case at Mohammadpur Police Station, the official said.

An arrest warrant was also issued by the Anti-Terrorism Tribunal against the arrestee, who remained fugitive for eight years, he added.

Uday used to distribute anti-state leaflets and invite people to various

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CCTV CAMERAS IN 100 CITY BUSES

A good initiative, but
still a long way to go



NILIMA JAHAN and ARAFAT RAHAMAN

The instalment of CCTV cameras in city buses by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs has generated a positive response among female commuters as well as bus staffers, as they believe the initiative has brought a change in the behavioural pattern of the overall commuters.

However, they also said the pilot initiative -- under which CCTV cameras have been installed in 100 buses of Projapoti Paribahan Ltd (Mohammadpur to Abdullahpur), Rajdhani Super Services Ltd (Chandra to Demra Staff Quarter), Basumoti Transport Ltd (Gabtoli to Gazipur) and Poristhan Paribahan Ltd (Ghatarchar to Abdullahpur) -- on mid-October this year is just a drop in the ocean.

Shammi Akhter, a second-year college student, who usually travels to Abdullahpur from Mirpur-10 on a Projapoti Paribahan bus, said, “The initiative significantly changed the environment inside the bus.”

“Whenever anyone notices the camera, they act differently compared to how they used to previously. It seems that male passengers are now more aware of giving space to women,” she said.

“Getting inappropriately touched by the helper while boarding or getting off was somewhat common a few months ago. Now, they also refrain from doing this,” she added.

Rakhi Yasmin, a private university student, who commutes regularly on Rajdhani buses, said, “Earlier, perpetrators thought they would not face any consequence if they do anything with ill intention. Thanks to the cameras, they would not be able to hide.”

“This initiative would be more impactful if the authorities could increase the coverage by installing CCTV cameras in every bus,” she added.

Sania Afroza, another regular commuter of Basumoti Transport,

however, claimed that she is aware of the CCTV cameras installed in her bus. However, the problem lies elsewhere as she said she could not avail of a single such bus in the past three weeks.

“I think the number of buses with CCTV cameras is way fewer for anyone to avail regularly,” she said.

This newspaper also failed to trace a single bus with a camera during a two-hour visit to Gabtoli.

Drivers and conductors said they have not yet received any single complaint of any kind of harassment after the installation of the cameras. It has also made their job of ensuring the safety of female commuters easy.

Rakib Hasan, a helper of Rajdhani

public buses. But our regular female commuters can only afford to board those very buses for their day-to-day travel,” she said.

“We have also been overwhelmed with the acceptability of the bus owners, as they want to bring more buses of their companies under surveillance,” added Zakia.

Visited, Saiful Hasan, deputy manager of Genex Infosys Ltd, who has been looking after the central monitoring system (CMS), said a three-member team has been regularly monitoring the footage in two shifts. So far, they have not noticed a single incident of sexual harassment.

“Rather, we have noticed an incident,

Whenever anyone notices the camera, they act differently compared to how they used to previously. It seems that male passengers are now more aware of giving space to women.

SHAMMI AKHTER
College student

People were criticising us for installing the cameras in dilapidated public buses. But our regular female commuters can only afford to board those very buses for their day-to-day travel.

ZAKIA K HASAN
Executive director, Dipto Foundation

Super Services Ltd, said the number of snatching and pickpocketing has also reduced recently.

“It's a good sign,” he said.

Sumon Islam, a Projapoti Paribahan passenger, said it was a wise decision to install the cameras to catch the real perpetrators, as male passengers often had to face false accusations.

“Now, the camera itself will act as the evidence of such acts,” he added.

Zakia K Hasan, executive director of the project's implementing agency Dipto Foundation, said, “Our specialised team has been routinely monitoring the overall performance and progress of the initiative,”

“People were criticising us for installing the cameras in dilapidated

where a middle-aged man stopped eyeing up young women while they were getting in, after noticing the camera. Recently, a quarrel over the bus helper and a commuter also stopped after they saw the camera,” he added.

Zakia also reported the CMS has already identified a few challenges and reported those to the ministry project director.

Such as, after the e-ticketing service was introduced, the owners reduced the number of buses plying on the roads. Currently, only around 70 out of 100 buses ply Dhaka roads regularly.

A visit to the CMS in mid-December also revealed that only 64 buses were under surveillance on that very day.

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‘Reduce metro
rail fare by 30pc’

Institute For Planning and
Development suggests
government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Institute For Planning and Development (IPD) yesterday advised the government to reduce the fare of the metro rail by 30 percent to make the service more people-oriented and effective.

IPD suggested this at a virtual programme. “Every day, around 3.5 to 4 crore trips are generated. The metro rail is a remarkable step to make these trips quicker,” said executive director of IPD Adil Mohammad Khan.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will formally inaugurate the section of Mass Rapid Transit (MRT Line)-6 that will run from the capital's Diabari to Agargaon at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center on December 28.

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‘Time running
out for AL govt’

Says Khandaker
Mosharraf; BNP forms
liaison committee for
simultaneous movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday alleged that the Awami League government is on the verge of collapsing.

“People of the country have been saying that the autocratic government will not be in office anymore. We believe that time is running out for the government. People of the country will oust the government through a mass upsurge and will restore democracy in the country,” said Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, standing committee member of the party.

He came up with the remark at a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club organised by pro-BNP physicians' organisations -- Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) -- demanding the release of the detained leaders and activists of the party.

He urged the professionals to take to the street to oust the government from office. “People are fed up with the misrules of the government and they have started taking to the street,” he said.

Meanwhile, at another programme, the party's

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Tk 100cr to ease
traffic congestion

PHQ takes project to build multi-level car parking



PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To address traffic congestion and car-parking issues, the Police Headquarters (PHQ) has taken a project of around Tk 100 crore to build modern, multi-level car parking infrastructure.

Under the project, a 16-storey parking facility has already been constructed at the PHQ premises in the capital. A total of 150 cars can be parked there.

Three other such facilities will be built at Rajarbagh Police Line, Armed Police Battalion (APBn) Headquarters in Uttara, and Special Branch (SB) headquarters

in Malibagh.

Shoeb Reaz Alam, additional deputy inspector general (development) of PHQ, disclosed the project details while talking with The Daily Star.

The parking system at PHQ cost around Tk 34 crore, while those in Rajarbagh and APBn will cost around Tk 20 crore each. Meanwhile, the system in the SB office will cost around Tk 25 crore, said Shoeb.

According to officials, the parking systems in Rajarbagh and APBn will have the capacity to park around 90 vehicles each.

During a visit to PHQ yesterday,

the car parking system was found operational. Inspector General of Police (IGP) Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun inaugurated it on December 22.

Construction work of the system started on October 21, 2021.

While explaining details of the system at PHQ, Shoeb said a driver just needs to put the car in an elevator and exit it.

The lift will automatically take the car to a vacant spot in the 16-storey building, following which, a machine will provide a card to the driver.

For bringing the vehicle out of

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DENGUE FEVER
2 dead, 106
hospitalised
in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



At least two dengue patients died while 106 were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

The total number of deaths rose to 278 while the total number of dengue cases rose to 62,127, of which, 23,028, are from outside Dhaka, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Among the death cases, 171 are in Dhaka, 26 in Cox's Bazar, 40 in Chattogram, 11 in Barishal, eight in Khulna, six in Mymensingh, five in Rajshahi, two Narail and one each in Narsingdi, Kushtia, Pabna, Bagerhat, Khagrachhari, Bogura, Madaripur and Feni.

A total of 61,402 patients have already been released from hospitals while some 447 dengue patients are still undergoing treatment.

Experts have repeatedly urged the authorities concerned to conduct extensive drives, identifying clusters of Aedes mosquitoes immediately.

A monsoon survey of the DGHS, conducted between August 11 and 23, found the presence of Aedes mosquitoes in 13.4 percent of houses under Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) and 11.75 percent of

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Advertisement for RFL Houseware. It features a large yellow pyramid with the text "BEST BRAND AWARD Bangladesh 2022" and "RFL HOUSEWARE NO. 1 PLASTIC GOODS BRAND 2022". Below the pyramid is a crowd of people. The text "In the heart of Bangladesh" is prominently displayed. At the bottom, it says "On your journey to make life easy and beautiful we find ourselves in every home from Teknaf to Tetulia. The amazing achievement of being the best nationwide brand for an era is a reflection of love and trust that reside in the heart of Bangladesh." The RFL Houseware logo is also present.