

Biman to become a 'smart airline'

Says its CEO Shafiul Azim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman has formulated a plan to transform the carrier into a "smart airline" aligning with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's vision of "smart Bangladesh", said Managing Director and CEO of Biman Shafiul Azim yesterday.

"We have made a pledge to make Biman a 'smart airline' in the forthcoming era of 'smart Bangladesh'," he told reporters at a briefing on the eve of 51st anniversary of the national flag carrier at Dhaka airport.

The Biman chief said they have taken up a plan to make Biman one of the top ten Asian airlines and gradually make it one of the top three in Asia.

Azim said he already made some working plan, including expansion of routes using its new generation fleet, and building skilled human resources at all levels of the airline's administration and operational fronts, including pilots.

The main focus of the programme is to ensure good governance, accountability, and transparency from the



BRAJO NIKETAN

Finally free from the clutches of influentials

Local admin now planning to make it a heritage site

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Dhaka district administration is planning to make the historic Brajo Niketan, located in Dhaka's Nawabganj, a heritage site, as authorities recently retrieved it from three decades of illegal occupation.

The government recovered the century-old British era palace, which stands on 1.55 acres of land in Kalakopa area, from the clutches of a former district judge and his relatives on December 31.

"We have already initiated the process to declare Brajo Niketan as a heritage site through the cultural affairs ministry. Moreover, we have a plan to develop this place as a tourist attraction," Mohammad Mominur Rahman, Dhaka district deputy commissioner, told The Daily Star.

"Some vested quarters had unlawfully occupied this property. We decided to recover this establishment to uphold and preserve the history and culture of

our country," he said.

Local influentials had been occupying the palace, originally belonging to a zamindar, for around three decades, locals told The Daily Star.

The grabbers then named it



"Judge Bari", they said.

The locals are delighted with the recovery but couldn't express their feelings in public, as the illegal occupants are extremely influential, said a lawyer who lives near Brajo Niketan.

The palace should be declared as a heritage site or be made into a

museum, he added.

Wishing anonymity, a local school teacher said the grabbers renovated the palace after occupying it.

Nawabganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Matiur Rahman told The Daily Star, "Due to their power and political influence, Dhaka district BNP president Khandaker Abu Ashfaq, his brothers Abul Hossain, who is a retired district judge, and Abul Kalam Khandaker, as well as other relatives had illegally occupied the palace for a long time."

The occupants made fake documents to grab this historic palace and its adjacent land, he said. "A case filed by the occupiers is now pending with the Vested Property Return Tribunal. Until the case is disposed, they cannot claim ownership of the property."

"Owners of the latest land record and their heirs all migrated to India during partition. It is now enlisted as the government's vested

The north shivers in cold

STAR REPORT

Bone-chilling cold coupled with thick fog have been disrupting normal life in northern and north-eastern districts.

Sunlight could hardly be visible all day long due to dense fog, causing a sharp decline in public and vehicular movement.

Many were compelled to burn straw to keep themselves warm.

A weather bulletin of Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) yesterday said, "Night and day temperature may fall slightly over the country."

"Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country," said the 24-hour bulletin published at 6:00pm.

"Moderate to thick fog may occur at places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna and Mymensingh divisions during midnight till noon, and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country during midnight to morning," it added.

Lower-income people are facing the double blow as they don't have enough warm clothes to combat the cold.

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Will United Airways fly again?

New board members committed to revive the airline; all pending AGMs held yesterday

RASHIDUL HASAN

Authorities of the now-defunct United Airways yesterday reiterated their commitment to revive the airline.

The private airline made the commitment at its 17th annual general meeting for the year 2021-22.

Besides, six other AGMs pending since 2016 were also held to meet the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission and Joint Stock Company regulations.

"It's a new and major development. In the AGM, we have decided to revive the airline and holding AGM was part of this initiative," said Kazi Wahidul Alam, chairman of the new board of independent directors of United Airways.

"We have completed all compliances. Now we need the government's assistance as the airline owes huge amount of money to Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB). It would not be possible to revive the airline without waiving of the debt," he added.

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BCL's 75th founding anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The 75th founding anniversary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) will be observed across the country through various programmes today.

The student body -- formerly East Pakistan Student League -- was formed in 1948 under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, then a student leader and law student of Dhaka University.

Since its inception, the organisation has made significant contributions to national events including the Language Movement in 1952, Mass Uprising in 1969, Liberation War in 1971, and Anti-Autocracy Movement in 1990.

To mark the day, national and party flags will be hoisted at all organisation offices including its central office at 6:30am on Wednesday and tributes will be paid at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in front

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বিমান বাংলাদেশ এয়ারলাইন্স বিগত ৫১ বছর ধরে বিশ্বব্যাপী গৌরবের সাথে জাতীয় পতাকা বহন করছে।




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For the second category & the month of February, we are inviting the applicable nominees from the Tech Sector who are:

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