

DEATH OF PASSENGER ON FLIGHT What action taken against Biman captain?

Aviation ministry asks CAAB

RASHIDUL HASAN

Fariduzzaman, a flight operation inspector of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB), had violated the rules and sat in the captain's seat on flight BG 336 of Biman that departed from Jeddah for Dhaka on January 15.

At that time, the pilot in command Captain Dildar Ahmed Tufail was resting in the bunk, leaving the cockpit of a Boeing 777-300ER technically unmanned. He had Irfan Ul Haq beside him who was under training and not qualified to fly the aircraft. It was Irfan's test flight.

Meanwhile, a passenger had a heart attack.

No medical emergency was declared and the plane landed in Dhaka four hours after the incident. The passenger, Kabir Ahmed, a migrant from Noakhali, was pronounced dead on arrival. Kabir's death certificate, issued by Kuwait Bangladesh Friendship Government Hospital, shows that he was brought in dead.

Interestingly, CAAB recently proposed to send Fariduzzaman to inspect the simulator training facilities of Airbus in Singapore to pave the way for Bangladeshi pilots to receive training in the Asian

country.

However, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism has recently rejected the CAAB proposal and asked the regulatory authority to inform the ministry of what actions have been taken against Fariduzzaman for the alleged violation of rules and asked whether an investigation has been carried out in this regard.

CAAB recently proposed to send Fariduzzaman to inspect the simulator training facilities of Airbus in Singapore. However, the ministry has recently rejected the CAAB proposal.

In reply, CAAB told the ministry that Fariduzzaman is the only resourceful person in CAAB having experience of flying Airbus.

Airbus has recently offered to sell 10 aircraft to Biman. Two Airbus 330s with 436 seats each will soon join the fleet of US Bangla Airlines, a private airline in the country.

Captain Fariduzzaman, a veteran pilot,

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina waves at people at Dhaka airport after a flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, carrying the premier and her entourage members, landed yesterday morning. The premier returned home after wrapping up her three-day official visit to Qatar to attend the Qatar Economic Forum at the invitation of Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani.

PHOTO: P10

4 including two Nigerians held on fraud charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four members of an international fraud gang including two Nigerian nationals have been arrested on charge of defrauding a Bangladeshi woman in name of sending her a costly parcel.

A team of Rab-10 arrested the four -- Charles Ifennade Udezue, his associate Frank Coco Obierks, both Nigerian citizens, and Shafi Mollah and Moushomi Khatun -- raiding the city's Badda, Kadmtoli and Bashundhara residential areas on May 24 after the victim lodged a complaint, said Rab at a press briefing yesterday.

A member of the gang told the victim, a 26-year-old woman from Munshiganj, that he had sent a precious parcel for her and asked her to collect it from Dhaka airport.

Pretending to be a custom official, Moushumi then called the victim on May 18 and asked her to collect the parcel after paying customs charges.

Moushumi also gave her a bank and mobile banking accounts.

The victim sent over Tk 65,000 in three phases to the accounts. Eventually, the victim realised that she fell victim to fraud, said Rab-10 commanding officer Mohammad Farid Uddin.

Rab said Charles, who came to Bangladesh on a visit visa in 2019, is accused in a case filed under the Narcotics Control Act. He is the mastermind of the fraud gang, he added.

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Inclusive education, still a far cry

Speakers discuss opportunities, challenges at roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should implement a flexible education curriculum, develop infrastructure and create more job opportunities to implement inclusive education for children with disabilities, speakers said during a roundtable.

The roundtable, titled "Opportunities and Challenges to Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities in Bangladesh", was organised by The Daily Star in association with Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) and Liliane Foundation at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

While presenting the keynote, CDD Thematic Expert Jahangir Alam said more than half of children with disabilities are not enrolled in any formal education.

"Among the persons with disabilities aged 5-24 years, 40.90 percent have no formal education, which increases further with the increase in age," he said, quoting National Survey on Persons with Disabilities 2021.

Tahmina Khan Mojlish, project manager of Save the Children International, said, "The curriculum for disabled children is still going through experiments. Their assessment process is also the same as other children, which is not helpful at all."

Besides, there is no proper infrastructure for children with disabilities. Teachers also need more training to teach children with disabilities," she added.

Alodia Santos, development adviser at Liliane Foundation, said, "We see different efforts of the government. But their efforts will



PHOTO: STAR

Speakers at the roundtable at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

only bear fruit if there is proper data on children with disabilities. There is a lot more to be done in this regard."

Saeeda Anis Pew of USAID project Shobai Miley Shikhi, said, "Inclusive education is not the only answer to every type of challenge that children with disabilities face. We are focusing on a universal design for learning for both classroom and community levels."

Nasrin Jahan, founder of Disabled Child Foundation, said only children with mild disabilities get included in mainstream education.

"However, those who have severe issues remain out of mainstream education. A new curriculum should be introduced which would be friendly to children with disabilities."

Mohua Pal, chairperson of Access Bangladesh Foundation, emphasised arranging more caregivers for children at educational institutions. She also stressed the importance of ensuring job opportunities for children with disabilities who complete their education.

Roos Sprangersm, inclusive education expert at Liliane Foundation, said it is been difficult to cater to the needs of children with disabilities in education systems all around the world.

"We should not compromise on the quality of education. We also want to focus on the needs of all children with mild or severe disabilities," she added.

Nazmul Bari, director of CDD, said, "We have to work together with persons with disabilities, their families, groups, and organisations. All of them will need to play the key role in ensuring an inclusive education system for children with disabilities."

CDD Executive Director AHM Noman Khan gave the welcome speech at the programme.

SM Ali Has Nain, project manager of CDD, Ahmed Towfiqur Rahman, deputy director of inclusive citizenship of Friendship NGO, and Amrita Rejina Rozario, country director of Sightsavers, also spoke at the roundtable, moderated by Tanjim Ferdous of The Daily Star.

16 BNP leaders get HC bail in violence cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted six weeks' anticipatory bail to 16 BNP leaders, including its standing committee member Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, in two violence cases.

The cases were filed with New Market and Dhanmondi police stations on May 24 on charges of attacking law enforcers, preventing them from discharging duties, and vandalism and violence during the road march enforced by BNP in Science Lab area in the capital on May 23.

Yesterday, the HC also ordered the accused BNP leaders to surrender before the lower court concerned in six weeks in connection with the cases.

The HC bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice Md Aminul Islam passed the orders following two separate petitions filed by the accused BNP men seeking bail in the cases.

Earlier in the day, they appeared before the HC bench for bail.

Other 15 accused BNP leaders, who secured anticipatory bail, include its international affairs secretary Nasir Uddin Ahmed Ashim, Dhaka north city BNP convener Abdu Salam, Gazipur district president Fazlul Haque Milan and Jubo Dal president Sultan Salauddin Tuku. Lawyers AJ Mohammad Ali, Kayser Kamal and Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal appeared for the accused BNP men during hearing of their bail petitions.

Constable dies of gunshot wound from own firearm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A police constable died after suffering a gunshot wound from his own firearm at a checkpoint in Dhaka's Banani area yesterday morning.

Ashrafuzzaman Roni, 22, was a constable posted to Public Order Management Division.

Sub-inspector Muntaharul Islam of Banani Police Station said the constable used to live in Mirpur police lines and was on duty around 6:00am at the Banani Road II checkpoint.

Minutes later, a gunshot was heard after Roni went to the toilet of the police box. His colleagues went inside and found him with a bullet wound in his chest, he said.

Roni was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead around 8:00am, the SI said.

"We are suspecting he shot himself," the police officer said, adding that they are investigating the incident.

Hailing from Dhamrai, Roni joined the police force in 2020.

GRAFT CASE AGAINST TARIQUE, ZUBAIDA Two prosecution witnesses testify

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday recorded the testimonies of two more witnesses in a graft case filed against BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman and his wife Zubaida Rahman.

Judge Md Asaduzzaman of Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court recorded the statements of Emraj Ali Shikder and Syed Azad Iqbal, both accountants of now defunct Daily Dinkal.

Tarique and Zubaida were shown as fugitives in the charge sheet and no lawyer defended them in court yesterday.

The court fixed May 28 for the next hearing. Previously on September 26, 2007, ACC filed the case with Kafrul Police Station against the two and Zubaida's mother for amassing assets worth Tk 4.82 crore through illegal means and concealing information of Tk 2.16 crore in their wealth statements.

RELIEF SCAM CASE SC upholds acquittal of BNP leader Falu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday affirmed its earlier verdict that upheld the High Court judgement which cleared BNP leader Mosaddek Ali Falu from trial proceedings of a relief scam case filed during the regime of army-backed caretaker government in 2007.

A full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique dismissed a review petition filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), challenging the June 2, 2021 verdict that upheld the HC judgement.

Lawyer Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal appeared for Falu, while lawyer AKM Fazlul Haque represented the ACC.

The ACC filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station against Falu and few others on charge of misappropriating the government's relief materials in 2007.

52 more get hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 52 dengue patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday.

With the new ones, the total number of dengue cases this year rose to 1,620, of which 578 are from outside Dhaka, according to the DGHS.

Some 178 dengue patients are still undergoing treatment across the country while 13 dengue patients have died so far this year.



Amid rods protruding precariously and no safety harnesses in sight, workers continue demolition work of a bridge in the Magrakanda area of Savar-Keraniganj road yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

**PRAYER
TIMING**
MAY 26

Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-05	12-30	5-00	6-40	8-00
JAMAAT 4-40	1-15	5-15	6-45	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION