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# Biman curtails flights on five int’l routes

Rising losses, dearth of passengers to blame

RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has reduced flights on five international routes due to financial losses and a decline in passengers.

The national flag carrier has cut flights to Manchester and Narita, citing financial losses on these routes. Meanwhile, flight frequency to Delhi, Kolkata, and Chennai has been reduced due to a shortage of passengers since India tightened its visa issuance in August.

According to a Biman official, wishing to remain unnamed, weekly flights to Manchester have been reduced from three to two, effective late October. Similarly, the frequency of flights to Narita has also been decreased from three to two per week.

The airline's decision to curtail operations on these routes is aimed at minimising financial losses and remaining competitive in the market, said the official.

After 17 years, Biman resumed flights to Narita in September 2023 with high hopes of commercial viability.

The then state minister for civil aviation, M Mahbub Ali, had expressed high hopes that Biman's direct connectivity to Japan would open new doors of trade, tourism, and cultural exchanges between Bangladesh and

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A destroyed building at the site of Israeli air strike in Beirut's southern suburbs in Lebanon yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## HC seeks list of S Alam's immovable properties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to submit a list of all immovable properties owned by S Alam Group, its shareholder directors and their family members before the court.

The law secretary and inspector general of registration have asked to execute the order.

The HC bench of Justice Md Kamrul Hossain Mollah and Justice Kazi Zinat Hoque issued the order following a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Md Rukunuzzaman.

The writ petition sought the HC order on the authorities concerned to attach all immovable properties owned by S Alam Group, its shareholder directors and their family members and to impose restrictions on the transfer or sale of those properties.

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## Shakib will have security just like another cricketer

Adviser Asif says the allrounder has to clarify his political stance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Youth and Sports Adviser Asif Mahmud yesterday said cricket superstar and former MP Shakib Al Hasan must clarify where he stands politically.



Shakib, being a cricketer, will get as much security as any player receives, said Asif.

"Bangladesh Cricket Board addressed the issue and the state is bound to provide security to each and every citizen. We will do this," he told reporters at the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Shakib has demanded security from the BCB in order to be able to return to the country in mid-October and participate in the South Africa series.

Regarding this, Asif said, "In this case, you have to remember that Shakib Al Hasan has two identities: the cricketer and the politician. He took part in the general election representing the Awami League. People have mixed reactions regarding his identities. Now, we will give Shakib, the cricketer, enough security,

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# Israel bombs 'dozens of targets' in Lebanon

Another top Hezbollah figure killed; Iran-backed group continues to fire rockets at Israel

REUTERS, Beirut

Israel struck multiple targets in Lebanon yesterday, pressing Hezbollah with more attacks and saying it had killed yet another senior figure after it struck a huge blow by killing the Iran-backed group's leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah.

The Israeli military said the air force had "struck dozens of Hezbollah terror targets in Lebanon, including launchers that were aimed toward Israeli territory, structures in which weapons were stored and additional Hezbollah terrorist infrastructure".

The air strikes had killed Nabil Kaouk, a prominent Hezbollah leader, the latest in a string of Israeli strikes that have targeted many of the group's most senior figures. Hezbollah has not yet commented on Kaouk's fate but its supporters have been posting mourning messages for him since Saturday.

Israel's military also conducted a 'precise strike' in Beirut's Dahiyeh area, as a loud blast was heard and a plume of smoke rose from the city's southern suburbs.

Separately, Israeli air force launched attacks on several Houthi rebel targets

- » Diplomatic efforts for a truce still underway: Lebanon
- » Israel launches attacks on Houthi targets in Yemen
- » Over 1,000 people killed in Lebanon in past two weeks

in Yemen using dozens of aircraft. The Israeli navy earlier said it had intercepted a projectile approaching Israel from the area of the Red Sea and another eight projectiles coming from Lebanon had fallen in open areas.

Hezbollah said it would keep fighting Israel and has continued to fire new fusillades of rockets into Israel yesterday.

More than 1,000 people in Lebanon have been killed and more than 6,000 wounded as a result of the Israeli attacks in the past two weeks. Fourteen medics have been killed over the course of two

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## 12,000 bhoiri gold go missing from Samabaya Bank

Says LGRD adviser

UNB, Cumilla

Adviser to the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) AF Hassan Arif has said that 12,000 bhoiri of gold is missing from the Samabaya Bank.

"An investigative committee has been formed, and legal actions are being initiated in this regard."

He further disclosed that a significant portion of the assets belonging to the Samabaya Bank have been illegally taken over by those who were once associated with the bank.

He made these remarks as the chief guest at the 57th Annual Planning Conference of the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) in Cumilla yesterday. During a briefing with journalists, the adviser provided further details.

During his speech, the adviser emphasised that the cooperative sector has been unable to thrive due to a lack of genuine cooperative spirit among its members.

"Many cooperators are only interested in joining committees, but they pay little attention to the actual development of



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## FLOOD IN NORTH Over 60,000 stranded in two districts

Heavy rains, onrush of water from upstream inundate low-lying areas

STAR REPORT

Over 60,000 people in Lalmonirhat and Kurigram have been marooned by floodwater as vast tracks of low-lying areas in northern districts have been inundated due to heavy rainfall and onrushing water from upstream.

Many of the flood-hit people have left their homes and taken shelter on roads and embankments with their cattle and poultry.

Farmers are facing a double blow as their vegetables are at the risk of being destroyed by the flood.

All five upazilas of Lalmonirhat, and Rajarhat, Ulipur, and Chilmaria upazilas of Kurigram are affected, said local administrations of the districts, adding that over 60,000 people remain stranded there.

However, the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre in a bulletin yesterday forecast the flood situation may improve in next two days.

The Teesta was flowing 33cm above the danger level at Kaunia in Rangpur yesterday, according to the officials of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB).

"Water level of the Teesta has raised due to heavy rainfall and onrush of water from upstream," said Shunil Kumar, executive engineer of BWDB in Lalmonirhat.

"Water started to get into my home on Saturday night. My yard has gone under three to four feet deep water by this [Sunday] morning," said Tahera Bewa of Gatiashyam village in Kurigram's Rajarhat upazila.

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## LANDSLIDES, FLOODS Death toll in Nepal hits 151

56 people missing

REUTERS, Kathmandu

Nepal has shut schools for three days after landslides and floods triggered by two days of heavy rain across the Himalayan nation killed 151 people, with 56 missing, officials said yesterday.

The floods brought traffic and normal activity to a standstill in the Kathmandu valley, where 37 deaths were recorded in a region home to 4 million people and the capital.

Authorities said students and their parents faced difficulties as university and school buildings damaged by the rains needed repair.

"We have urged the authorities concerned to close schools in the affected areas for three days," Lakshmi Bhattarai, a spokesperson for the education ministry, told Reuters.

Some parts of the capital reported rain of up to 322.2 mm (12.7 inches), pushing

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With different gear, locals catching fish in Kinai Beel in Sylhet's Gowainghat upazila yesterday. This fishing festival, locally known as Polo Bawa Utshob, resumed this year after a pause of over 20 years due to various reasons.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## FREAK ROAD CRASH 4 schoolchildren die on their way home



Maria

Mim

Tanzila

Bithi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Four children, aged between 11 and 12, were killed and another injured when they were hit by a microbus on the Kushtia-Rajbari regional highway in Kushtia's Khoksha upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as Mim, 12, Tanzila, 11, Bithi, 12, and Maria, 12, said Kushtia Highway Police Station Sub-Inspector Harunur Rashid.

The accident occurred in the Shimulia area around 7:00am when the children were returning home after taking a lesson on Quran recitation at Shimulia Kuthipara Jame Mosque.

A Kushtia-bound microbus from Dhaka overturned on the road after hitting the children, who were crossing the regional highway, said the SI quoting eyewitnesses and locals.

Mim died on the spot, while Tanzila, Bithi, and Maria were declared dead after they were taken to Khoksha Upazila Health Complex, the SI said, adding that another Fatema was seriously injured and is currently receiving treatment at the hospital.

Following the incident, locals blocked the highway around 10:00am in protest, causing significant traffic congestion.