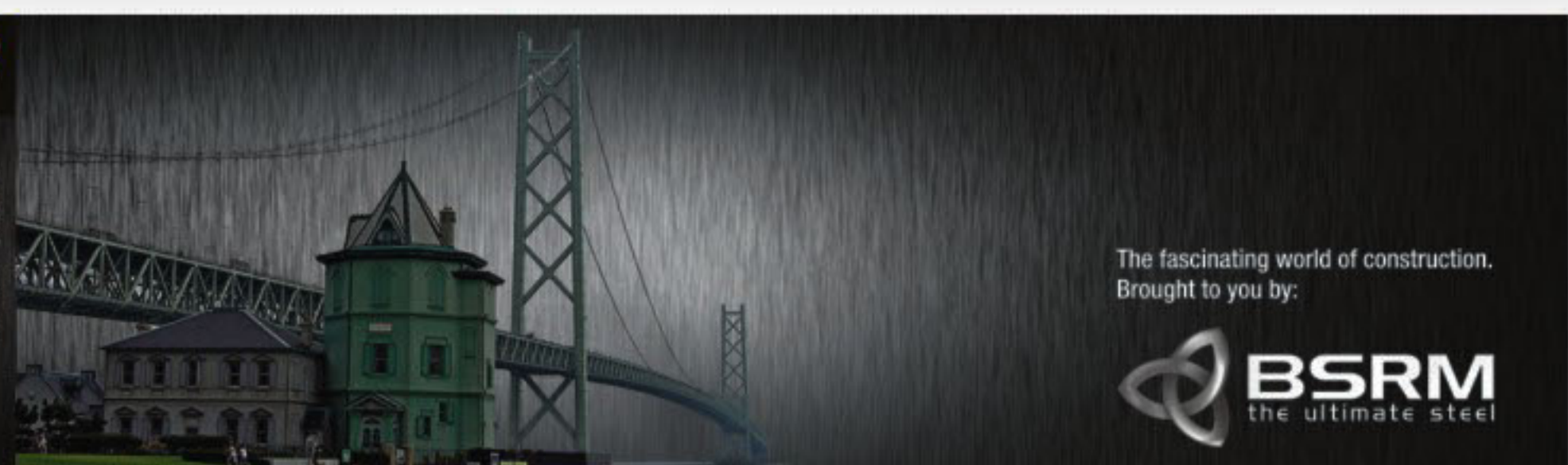


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PURCHASE OF 2 BOEING PLANES Banks to offer Biman \$114m

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

A syndicate of nine local banks has finalised a proposal to give Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd a loan of \$114.75 million for procuring two aircraft from Boeing.

This is the first time after the country's independence that local banks are giving such a big loan to a government agency in foreign currency.

Biman is taking the \$114.75 million loan from the local banks' syndicate led by Eastern Bank Ltd at a low interest rate of 4.57 percent.

The civil aviation and tourism ministry

yesterday sought approval of the cabinet committee on economic affairs for waiving the conditions of Public Procurement Act for the pre-delivery payment to Boeing.

It also sought waiver of the suppliers' credit rules for taking commercial loans in foreign currency.

Biman signed an agreement with Boeing in 2008 during the caretaker government's rule to purchase 10 aircraft for \$1.31 billion to strengthen the fleet of the national flag carrier.

As per the agreement, Biman has already paid Boeing \$11.96 million for buying the planes.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Mutiny probe requires more time

Says home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday said the investigation into the killings on February 25 and 26 last year at the BDR headquarters will take more time but she did not specify any deadline.

"The investigation will take more time. I can't give you any specific date as the investigators could not submit the charge sheet within the time frame set earlier," the home minister told newsmen.

The home minister was talking to the reporters after

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Police want 3-star rank badge back

Urge govt to revive status enjoyed 27 years ago

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

Twenty-seven years ago, the then military government of the country degraded the police force by ranking down its chief from three-star general to two-star, which is long forgotten by the people.

But the police force still faces the humiliation and the issue again came under spotlight as the force recently sent a proposal to the government to retrieve the three-star general rank badge for the inspector general of police.

"Reducing a star from the rank badge is not only disgraceful to the force but humiliating when the IGP of our country meets police chiefs of other countries who bear four-star general rank badges," said a top-level police officer.

The IGP bearing two-star general rank badge, which is used by provincial IGPs of Southeast Asia, causes frustration and grievance among the police personnel, sources at police headquarters said.

Besides, the additional IGPs and the IGP bear the same two-star badges that often create confusion among the foreign authorities while inviting IGP and additional IGPs in the same programme.

"Such incidents put our IGP in an embarrassing situation as well as tarnish the image of the country," said a source.

Against the longstanding backdrop, the Bangladesh Police sent a proposal to the home ministry on December 24 to retrieve

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Cops now to sue traffic offenders

Many traffic sergeants wary of DMP decision

KAILASH SARKAR

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police authorities have empowered all their officers-in-charge and sub-inspectors of 42 police stations to file cases against traffic rule violators under the motor vehicle act.

The DMP came up with the decision last week in a bid to control the huge number of vehicles, which have gone beyond the capacity of the existing traffic sergeants to manage.

The authorities also decided to deploy plain-clothes vigilance teams with video cameras in all the eight zones under DMP. The teams would shoot footage of traffic rules violation to file cases against the violators.

"The decision to deploy plain-clothes teams has been taken as the city motorists are not yet accustomed to the traffic rules. In most of the cases they attempt to speed away ignoring the traffic police," said a senior DMP official.

According to sources, there are 2,300 members in DMP traffic department with around 300 sergeants who are not adequate to deal with over 12 lakh motorised vehicles plying the city roads.

Talking to The Daily Star DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque yesterday said, "As the traffic department lacks sufficient men, we have decided to include police personnel while they also discharge their regular duties."

Each of the vigilance teams will consist of one sub-inspector, one assistant sub-inspector and three constables. They would shoot the registration number of a rule-breaker's vehicle and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni puts his luggage in the carrier of the team bus at the Zia International Airport yesterday. Team India arrived here yesterday afternoon to participate in the tri-nation cricket tournament, which runs through January 4-13, involving Sri Lanka and the hosts. Dhoni's men will stay back to play two test matches against the Tigers.

PHOTO: STAR

GET GAVASKAR

The New Year starts well for cricket-readers of The Daily Star. Indian legend Sunil Gavaskar will provide his views and reviews for the upcoming tri-series involving India and Sri Lanka followed by the two Test series between India and Bangladesh. Catch him exclusively at Star Sport.

Aila victims brace for more miseries

Breaches in embankments call for immediate repair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A new disaster might befall the Aila hit area in the coastal belt if breaches in the embankments at six major points in Satkhira and Khulna are not repaired immediately, warned the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) yesterday.

About seven lakh people in Padmapukur, Gabura and Pratapnagar unions in Satkhira and all the unions of Koyra upazila in Khulna are under threat posed by the damaged

embankments, said Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairman of PPRC.

He was addressing the newsmen at a press briefing to share experiences of a recent visit to Aila affected areas.

Zillur, who is also a former adviser to a caretaker government, pointed out that repairs should be completed before the monsoon, otherwise fresh areas would be submerged with saline water affecting more people.

About 597km of embankment in Khulna and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

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Do you think majority of the incidents of torture of journalists were the results of false news?

Yes (28.6%) No (67.7%)
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Total votes: 807

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support induction of Salam Pintu who is accused in August 21 grenade attack case, in BNP's central executive committee?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

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