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in Short

Woman kills herself for stalking

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A housewife committed suicide on Thursday night to save herself from a stalker at Pabna.

Ayesha Khanam, 38, widow of Eusuf Ali of Hidashkhole village in Atghoria upazila, took poison, police and locals said.

Ayesha was immediately rushed to

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Stalker jailed in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A mobile court sentenced a stalker to six months imprisonment for stalking a class-five student at village Sharafpur in Assassuni upazila yesterday evening.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Gias Uddin, also the executive magistrate, delivered the judgment after hearing both sides.

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PRAYER TIMING February 12

Asan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-25 6-00
Zohr	12-45 1-15
Asr	4-30 4-45
Maghrib	5-57 6-01
Esha	7-15 7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Biman's hiked fare re-fixed

Fearing losses, the national carrier backtracks from its recent decision

SHARIFUL ISLAM

As fare hike on international routes proved to be a mistake for Biman Bangladesh Airlines, it backtracked within a couple of weeks slashing the increased fare on 15 of the 19 routes by almost 60 percent.

Biman's tickets to different international destinations will cost less, but it will still be higher than it was charging a few weeks ago.

Biman had increased one-way fares between approximately Tk 712 and Tk 4,976 depending on the distance of travel.

The fare hike cost Biman almost 50 percent passenger loss in some routes causing a huge loss to the national flag carrier, Biman sources said.

Biman officials said they decided to slash 60 percent of

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Two kids play on the pile of tanned animal skins at Hazaribagh in the city yesterday. The tanneries in the locality are putting public health at great risk and polluting environment.

PHOTO: STAR

Rab arrests 2 JMB men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion arrested two members of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from a rented house in Alokdia of Sirajganj early yesterday.

The arrestees, Mohtasim Billah, 25, was the treasurer of JMB central unit and Al-Amin Hossain, 20, was an ehshar (fulltime) member, said Rab.

The crime busters produced the two before journalists at Rab headquarters yesterday.

A team of Rab-12 raided the house in Alokdia village under Salonga Police Station and arrested them around

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

Khaleda's planned dist tours delayed

Party faces lack of logistic support, security problem

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Lack of logistic support and adequate security has delayed the proposed countrywide visit of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, party insiders said.

The main opposition is also facing uncertainty over organising a long march to Sylhet region as its top ranks are less interested in the move, they added.

Though several leaders noted both the programmes will be observed after the World Cup Cricket as the country is going to co-host the mega event for the first time.

"Besides municipality elections and parliamentary by-elections, we had to face a number of political issues causing the delay," said party standing committee member Lt Gen (ret'd) Mahbubur Rahman.

The party will take up tougher anti-government move

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Human ancestor walked upright 3.2m years ago

AFP, Washington

An arched fossilised foot bone found in Ethiopia shows that human ancestors walked upright 3.2 million years ago and were no longer tree dwellers, said a study Thursday in the journal Science.

The bone belongs to a cohort of the famed hominid Lucy, whose species Australopithecus afarensis roamed eastern Africa, and is the first evidence to address the question of how they got around.

"This fourth metatarsal is the only one known of A. afarensis and is a key piece of evidence for the early evolution of the uniquely human way of

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

No trace of 3 youths

Police have no photo record; families believe they were killed and buried secretly during Rupganj violence in Oct last year

PINAKI ROY and RAKIB AHAMMED

The Detective Branch of police and Anjuman Mufidul Islam have no photo record of the three youths, who went missing from Rupganj on October 23 after getting shot during protests against army officials' housing project.

The family members of all three youths--Shamsher Ali of Kamtasair, Saidul Islam and Abdus Salam Masud of Bariasoni--searched for them at all possible places including hospitals, clinics and police stations since the day they went missing.

It has been over 100 days since they, breadwinners for their families, went missing. Rupganj locals, including family members, assume they are dead and buried secretly by law enforcers who took them after the shooting.

While looking into the matter, The Daily Star found it impossible to identify their graves if they were buried as unclaimed bodies. The Detective Branch do not keep photo records of bodies that go to Anjuman Mufidul Islam, the charity organisation that buries unclaimed bodies.

The Daily Star correspondents checked the photo records of unclaimed bodies at DB headquarters in Dhaka and the record book of Anjuman Mufidul Islam from October 23 to November 30, 2010 but the records of these two organisations did not match.

The number of photos was less than the number of deceased buried by Anjuman Mufidul Islam even though the DB is supposed keep photo records of all unclaimed bodies.

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ONLINE POLL

Do you think blaming only government for price hike of the essentials is justified?

Yes (46.0%)
No (51.5%)
No Comments (2.5%)

TOTAL VOTES : 593

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with the prime minister that a vested quarter is conspiring against her government?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

In remembrance on the 2ND DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF Rebecca Mahmud (Nilu)



At the ordain of Almighty Allah you left us to eternity on this day the 12th February, 2009. We still remember you and feel deeply shocked at your early departure. Your act and deeds as a Director of First Lease Finance & Investment Limited gave us the source of inspiration in discharging our responsibilities.

We pray to Almighty Allah for your eternal peace.

Members, Board of Directors and Employees

of



9 car thieves arrested

8 stolen cars recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of police yesterday arrested nine members of car-lifting gangs and recovered eight cars from their possession in and outside the capital.

The arrestees are Sariful Islam, 24, Rifat Hasan Rigan, 25, Maruf Hossain, 25, Nayeem, 22, Noman, 24, Aftab Hossain Akash, 45, Shamim Ahmed, 42, Rafique, 48, and Mofiz, 45. Police made the arrests during drives at the capital's Dhanmondi, Badda, city's outskirts Ashulia and

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Dipu Moni flies today for Canada

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni leaves for Canada on a five-day state visit today to prepare the ground for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to the country likely in March.

During the visit, Dipu Moni will hold talks with Canadian officials on various bilateral issues including repatriation of Bangabandhu's condemned killer Noor Chowdhury, who is

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

Good Early morning, Chittagong!

For over a month now, *The Daily Star* has been coming out from Chittagong, our beloved Port City "to speak for you and of you".

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