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BIMAN CARGO HANDLING

ACC sues 16 for graft

They let through 14 crore kg of cargo without due charge; 2 held

RASHIDUL HASAN and MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The top authorities of Biman Bangladesh Airlines had clearly instructed its officials to realise an additional charge for handling each kilogram of incoming and outgoing cargo carried by non-scheduled freighters.

But 16 Biman officials, including its former and incumbent general managers of the cargo department, didn't realise the additional charge against 13.99 crore kg goods. The items were carried on 4,115 non-scheduled freighters in five years since 2012.

Instead of realising the additional charge, the officials in connivance with each other and through misuse of power embezzled over Tk 118 crore, according to the FIR of a

case, filed yesterday by the Anti-Corruption Commission against the officials.

A non-scheduled freighter flies without a prior announcement, Biman officials said.

The graft watchdog yesterday arrested two accused, Mohammad Ali Ahsan, former general manager (cargo), and Iftekhar Hossain Chowdhury, former manager (export) of the cargo department, from the city's Segunbagicha.

Arif Ullah, acting GM (cargo), and Fazlul Haq, assistant manager (commercial) of the cargo department, are the two accused still working Biman.

The other accused are former assistant managers (commercial) Shahidul Islam, Aminul Haq Bhuiyan, Lutfe Jamal,



A water tanker sprinkles water on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue to keep dust under control near the capital's Sonargaon intersection yesterday. The authorities are implementing a metro rail project in the area. Dhaka ranks among the worst cities in the world in terms of air quality.

PHOTO: STAR

Buet fixes explosion as punishment for ragging

All students' demands met; classes, tests to resume

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Buet authorities will expel students if he or she is found involved in ragging that leads to death, serious "bodily harm", any form of disability, permanent mental imbalance or trauma, and disruption of academic life of any fellow student.

The university law officer will also file a case in such a situation following due procedures, says a notice issued by Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology early yesterday.

The notice added that the authorities could impose fine, suspend or expel any student if his or her involvement in political activities was found.

Also, any student who holds political posts or involved in political activities, including

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2



Rowshon Ara no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

She was among the women who had fought shoulder to shoulder with their male counterparts for establishing the right to speak in the mother tongue -- Bangla.

Rowshon Ara Bachchu, who was at the forefront during the 1952 Language Movement, passed away yesterday at the age of 87.

On February 21, 1952, her group was among the first to defy the section 144 of the then Pakistan government and gather under the historic Amtala on the Dhaka University campus.

They broke the police barricade to march towards the assembly at Jagannath Hall.

Police swung into action firing teargas shells and beating up the protesters. The battle between the protesters and the police spilled out on to the streets. As they kept marching, shooting began, killing Salam, Barkat, Rafique, Jabbar, Shafiur and others.

Rowshon had been suffering from old-age complications for the last few months. She was admitted to Apollo Hospitals on Sunday evening with breathing

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2

2010s the hottest decade in history

UN warns in a report launched at COP25 summit as carbon emissions rise again

AFP, Madrid

This decade is set to be the hottest in history, the United Nations said yesterday in an annual assessment outlining the ways in which climate change is outpacing humanity's ability to adapt to it.

The World Meteorological Organization said global temperatures so far this year were 1.1 degrees Celsius (two degrees Fahrenheit) above the pre-industrial average between 1850-1900.

That puts 2019 on course to be in the

top three warmest years ever recorded, and possibly the hottest non-El Nino year yet.

Man-made emissions from burning fossil fuels, building infrastructure, growing crops and transporting goods mean 2019 is set to break the record for atmospheric carbon concentrations, locking in further warming, the WMO said in its report launched at the climate summit in Spain.

Oceans, which absorb 90 percent of the excess heat produced by greenhouse gases, are now at their highest recorded

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

No one except Bangladeshis to be let in

Says home boss on people 'trespassing' into the country

STAR REPORT

No one except Bangladeshis would be allowed to enter the country, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said about recent "trespassing" of people from India.

"We'll consider if we can confirm their identities," he said while replying to journalists' queries at his

SEE PAGE 13 CON 2

Nine jute mills grind to a halt

Workers observe strike over arrears, implementation of wage board award

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Production at nine state-owned jute mills in Khulna-Jashore industrial belt came to a halt as workers started a 24-hour work abstinence yesterday morning to press home their 11-point demand.

Setting tyres on fire in front of the mills, workers started demonstration around 6:00am. The agitating workers chanted slogans demanding full payment of arrears, implementation of wage board, regularisation of weekly wages and others.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

New dinosaur species found in Lebanon



MAIL ONLINE

Researchers have classified a new kind of flying dinosaur after analysing fossils collected from a limestone quarry in Lebanon.

The fossils are believed to be more than 95 million years old and come from a pterosaur, the most common form of which is the pterodactyl.

The newly identified pterosaur, called Mimodactylus libanensis, is believed to have inhabited the Tethys Seaway, an enormous and shallow body of water that stood between what would become Europe, North Africa, and southeast Asia.

They subsisted mostly on crustaceans from the large network of reefs and lagoons in the expansive

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6

Woman, maid found dead in Mirpur flat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman and her housemaid were found murdered in a flat in the city's Mirpur area yesterday afternoon.

The deceased were identified as Rahima, alias Shahida Begum, 65, and Sumi, 18. Rahima was a tenant of the flat and Sumi had just been hired as her maid on Monday.

Police detained Rahima's adopted son, Sohel, a pick-up van driver, for questioning.

The incident comes a month after a woman and her house help were murdered in their Dhanmondi residence in the capital.

Kamal Hossain, additional deputy commissioner of Mirpur

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

'Robber' killed in 'gunfight'

UNB, Jamalpur

A suspected robber was killed in a "gunfight" with police in Islampur upazila of Jamalpur early yesterday.

The dead -- Mohammad Ali alias Ali dacoit, 40, son of Najjar Pramanik of Prajapati Char in the upazila -- was wanted in 12 criminal cases, said police.

Mohammad Basiruddin, additional superintendent of Jamalpur police, said one of their teams conducted raid in Prajapati Char and arrested Ali from a boat on Monday.

Yesterday, police, along with Ali, conducted a raid at Kutilarchar to recover arms around 3:00am yesterday, he claimed.

Sensing police presence, Ali's cohorts opened fire, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate. Ali was caught in the line of fire and suffered

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