DHAKA

DHAKA TUESDAY MARCH 12, 2024 FALGUN 28, 1430 BS The Daily Star





Devote more time to medical research

PM urges doctors

UNB, Dhaka

Minister Sheikh Prime Hasina vesterday called upon the country's doctors to devote more time to medical research and shun the mentality of earning money through private practice.

"We are lagging behind in one sector and that is the research in medical science. Doctors are engaged in private practices and earning money; they are not interested in research," she said.

The premier made the remarks while addressing an event on distributing cheques of "Bangabandhu SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

Hit films stuck in misogynistic representations

Say speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Films depicting women in a derogatory and demeaning manner frequently achieve greater commercial success and popularity, underscoring the prevailing misogyny in society, said speakers at an

event yesterday. While some



A black wasp gracefully hovers around, sipping nectar from the sunflower. Emulating the sun's journey, the flower unfolds its petals. Positioned along the roadside and despite lacking a fragrance, the sun-shaped yellow blossom flowers at the Abu Naser Hospital intersection in Khulna effortlessly seize the attention of all who pass by. The picture was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

US SANCTIONS ON IRAN Biman facing problems resuming Dhaka-Rome flight

RASHIDUL HASAN

The national flag carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines is facing problems regarding resuming its Dhaka-Rome-Dhaka flight due to the US sanctions on Iran.

According to Biman sources, the flight on this route will require flying over Iran and thereby

Iran's sky, which will extend the overfly charges to three countries flight duration by around one and half hour, alongside raising the cost of operating the flight."

The flight on this route will require flying over Iran. US is not allowing

instead of one.

As such, passengers will eventually suffer as the air ticket will be pricier.

"The US should understand that we are flying commercial passenger planes and we are not going to any country which us to pay Iran anyway for is banned for travelling," said a "We have already informed the US through the foreign ministry in this regard, but we are yet to get any response," the official added. The flight is originally planned to overfly the skies of Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, Bulgaria, Serbia and Bosnia to reach Rome. Aiming to resume the flight on Dhaka-Rome-Dhaka route from March 26 marking the Independence Day, Biman had the flight with special discounts. SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

THIRD TERMINAL Biman ready for ground handling STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman is fully equipped and ready to provide ground handling service at the third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Biman Managing Director and CEO Shafiul Azim said yesterday.

He made the remark vhile speaking to reporters

End extortion to curb Ramadan price hikes

Traders at discussion

SUKANTA HALDER and RAFIUL ISLAM

Traders have urged the government to put an end to extortion during the transportation and sales of essential goods for the greater interest of consumers during Ramadan.

They said ending extortion would ultimately help in keeping prices of essential goods in check.

The traders shared their views in a coordination meeting -- on control of price hikes, security, and traffic arrangements -- attended by various stakeholders at the DMP headquarters yesterday.

Talking to The Daily Star, Lokman Hossain, secretary of Karwan Bazar Kitchen Market Business Association, said guidance was provided in the meeting to ensure that no one can destabilise the market by creating artificial shortages of commodities.

Besides, the issue of extortion during transportation and sale of goods in the market came up, he said.

"One of the main reasons behind the increase in the price of goods is extortion during transportation. It was discussed in the meeting," said Helal Uddin, president of Bangladesh Dokan Malik Samity, an association of shop owners.

"There is enough importation of products to meet the demand during Ramadan. Traders have been instructed by the government not to increase prices unreasonably,' he told this newspaper.

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Five expelled over rape on JU campus Certificates of two revoked

UNB, Dhaka

The Jahangirnagar University authorities on Sunday night expelled five students and cancelled the academic certificates of two accused, including Chhatra League leader Mostafizur Rahman, in connection with the gang-rape of a woman after holding her husband captive on the campus last month.

The decision was taken in a syndicate meeting held with the university's vice-chancellor Md Nurul Alam in the chair.

attempt to portray women positively by depicting them in empowering roles, such endeavours are not wellreceived, as audiences tend to prefer seeing women confined to traditional roles, they added.

The event, titled "Portrayal of Women in Literature, Culture, and Media: A Dialogue Between Younger Older and Feminists", was organised by Pragroshor, a feminist training and resource centre, at Chhayanaut Auditorium in the capital's Dhanmondi.

Filmmaker Aporajita Sangita said when it comes SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Pran RFL Group official dies in Dhaka road accident STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An official of Pran RFL Group died after being hit by a truck in Dhaka's 300-Feet area yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Kafil Uddin, 47, a general manager (operations) of RFL Group, Mehedi said Ripon, human manager of resources at the company.

The accident took place around 8:00am when Kafil Uddin was crossing the road, Ripon said. His critical injuries were first treated at Kurmitola General Hospital after being hit by the truck. According to Inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of the DMCH police outpost, he died around 10:00am after being taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The body was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy. making payment to the Middle East country for overflying charges as per international rules.

"However, the US is not allowing us to pay Iran anyway for overflying charges on grounds of its sanctions on the country. If we cannot pay overflying charges to Iran, it will not allow us to overfly," said a top Biman official wishing anonymity.

"We have already paid some money to Iran and the US is creating problems due to it," said the official.

"We will have to change the flight path using the sky of three will be more costly as more fuel more countries if we cannot use

overflying charges on Biman official. ground of its sanctions on the country. If we cannot pay overflying

charges to Iran, it will not allow us to overfly.

A BIMAN OFFICIAL

It would take around nine hours for the Biman flight to reach Rome from Dhaka using Iran's sky.

Biman insiders said using skies of three countries instead of Iran already started selling tickets for will be needed as well as paying

before a programme on commissioning of new ground support equipment and vehicle exhibition at the Motor Transport department.

The Biman boss said the national flag carrier purchased large has supply of equipment and recruited around 1,000 manpower to increase its ground handling capacity at HSIA.

Executive Director, HSIA Group Captain Mohammad Kamrul Islam, Biman SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

According to the decision of the syndicate meeting, the academic certificates of Mostafizur Rahman, the main accused and a student of the 45th batch of international relations department; and his cohort, Murad Hussain; were cancelled, said Abu Hasan, the university's registrar.

The expelled students are 46th batch student of international relations department Mustafa Manowar Siddiqui Sagar, 44th batch student Shah Paran, 45th batch student Md Hasanuzzaman, and 46th batch student of botany department Sabbir Hasan Sagar.

The name of another expelled student could not be known.

In an earlier syndicate meeting on February 4, a four-member investigation committee was formed to identify the culprits and recommend punishment. SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Firefighters, with help of locals, trying to douse a fire that broke out at a shoe factory in Old Dhaka's Chawkbazar around 1:00pm yesterday. The blaze was brought under control in 40 minutes. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

'Invest in women for progress' MJF holds discussion in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sexual and gender-based violence are still significant obstacles to women's empowerment, both in private and public spheres, stressed speakers at a discussion yesterday.

They emphasised the need to invest in women's wellbeing comprehensively, beyond just financial sectors, to address all their needs.

The discussion titled "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress" was organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), marking International Women's Day 2024.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, said economic empowerment is considered necessary for ensuring the advancement of women by increasing their acceptance at public and private levels.

"However, investing in women's empowerment should not be judged only from a financial perspective. Investments should be increased to improve quality of life, health, education, and skills of women. It is also very important to ensure the socio-psychological wellbeing of women."

Addressing the systemic challenges that undermine the entirety of women's life cycle is imperative. This includes fostering positive changes in women's roles within their own families to ensure the best outcomes for all," she added.

Shima Moslem, joint general secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said investment should focus on preventing violence against women.

Prof Sharmind Neelormi of economics department of Jahangirnagar University and Dr Sakia Haque, medical officer of DGHS also spoke among others.