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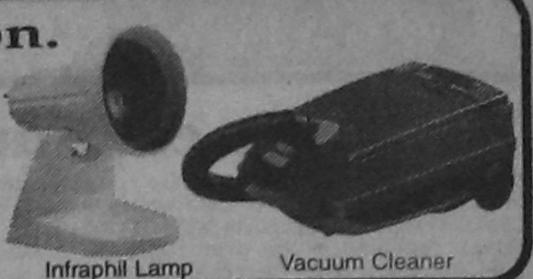
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Cold wave claims 13 lives in 5 dists

Cold wave sweeping the country for last three days claimed lives of 13 people in Manikganj, Thakurgaon, Barguna, Bagerhat and Chittagong

districts yesterday reports UNB.

The dead were identified as 'Aleya Begum, 45, wife of Abdul Barek of Railway Colony in Bagerhat town, Abdul Hamid. 55, a vendor of Thakurgaon Road, Boldunnesa, 60, wife of Mofizuddin at Moheshpur village in Sadar thana of Thakurgaon, Kamla Bibi of Shatghar village in Shibalay thana of Manikganj district, Arshad Ali, 80, and Arman Mollah, 85, of Barguna Sadar thana, Mahmuda, 55. Shafiqul Islam, 60. and Firoza, 55, of Sitakunda thana and Delwar, 55, Nurunabi, 45, and Shahidul Haq, 50. of Mirersarai thana of Chittagong district.

The cold wave continued to disrupt movement of all modes of vehicles in land, air and water routes yesterday causing severe trouble to the homebound Biman sources said foggy

skies disrupted arrival of at

DU expels

tim and her companion. Statements of the two were essential to ascertain innocence of the three persons who claimed to have rescued the victim on that night, police said.

Police also sent out teams to arrest Russel, sources said. Russel's appearance is similar to that of a man trying to grab the

victim. Mamun, Mukhtar and Taher claimed that they went to police yoluntarily to help them. SB officials, however, said police are verifying their activi-

ties on that night UNB adds: As per the Home Minister's directive, the investigators also examined the role of police during the incident. Sources said some police personnel already gave verbal statements to the higher authorities.

"We are trying to verify what was the role of police there," a top police official said last

night. Plainclothes police yesterday moved around Dhaka University area and talked with students and vendors in TSC

The two wings of plainclothes p e - Special Branch arately investigating the case.

business to do. About 100,000

schools, colleges and universi-

ties. I have seen it for years,"

said one angry parent, who

came with his helpless daughter

dents across the country were

caught off guard. "Once more

they have been left to suffer this

year because of the authorities'

indifference," said the parent,

speaking on condition of

January 18, only six days be-

fore the examination starts.

"Our nerves will be tested till

then. But who cares," fumed a

examinees went through a simi-

scrambling for their admit

cards in city colleges even the

day before they were to sit for

privately admit their misman-

agement, nothing has changed.

"It was the same story when

Dhaka and other universities

used to administer the exami-

nations. The National Univer-

sity, the very purpose of which

was to straighten out the messy

affair, hasn't changed any-

able, would not say anything.

After repeated attempts, the

vice-chancellor and the con-

counseling doesn't simply exist

"There aren't many teachers

around to ask for assistance."

said a frustrated examinee from

the Eden College to The Daily

"Those of us going to a NU-

affiliated college are faced with

peculiar circumstances. We are

taught mostly by guest teachers

from either Dhaka or Ja-

hangirnagar University who

wouldn't care if the courses are

done in time or not," said a

are far worse in colleges outside

the capital. "In most cases, the

whole process is just a farce.

You're a good teacher if you al-

low the students to resort to

whatever means needed to pass

the examinations. Whether a

teacher is regular in his/her

classes is immaterial," said a

government college teacher

from Comilla. "I have seen it

One can imagine that things

Lalmatia College student.

Star.

not be reached for comment.

troller of examinations could

In most colleges, student

Senior NU officials, avail-

thing," said one NU official.

While university officials

lar trial. Students were seen

Very recently, the BA (pass)

The NU would not open until

Indeed, thousands of stu-

to the NU campus in Gazipur.

admit cards as yet.

anonymity.

student yesterday.

their examinations.

students haven't received their

least seven flights, including one Biman Bangladesh Airlines

Dhaka that had to be diverted to Yangon in Myanmar. Another Biman flight in Dhaka-Dubai-London route that couldn't take off on schedule at 3:45PM on Tuesday because of fog clouds left

aircraft from Abudhabi to

Dhaka at 8:45am yesterday. Most river transport reached their destinations 3-6 hours behind schedules and many ran aground on shoals, according to

A met office source said temperature fell significantly with the mercury hurtling down to 6.9 degree Celsius at the lowest at Ishwardi.

"The low temperature is expected to prevail over the country in next 24 hours and thick fog may occur over Rajshahi division and the river basins elsewhere over the country,' said Met office.

Slight fall in night temperature is expected over Rajshahi, Khulna and Dhaka divisions during the period, it said in its regular report.

Village doctor beaten to death

From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH, Jan 5: A village quack was beaten to death allegedly by the husband of a patient here today.

The dead was identified as Dr Ashraful Islam, 50, of village Mallikpur under Kaliganj thana. Dr Ashraf was beaten allegedly by one Nausher and his brother at a local bazar. He died on his way to hospital, police

The doctor came under the wrath of Nausher as he failed to cure the latter's wife from prolonged illness. Further details could not be known immedi-

5 alleged muggers beaten up in city

By Staff Correspondent Five alleged muggers were beaten up by a section of local people in the city's Moghbazar area last night, according to local people

Two knives were recovered from their possession, local people said adding, the five had been mugging innocent people and Detective Branch — are sep- near the Wireless crossing for the last few days.

By Special Correspondent The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has served a notice upon the lessee of the landing ghat (pier) on the south bank of the Turag river, asking him to explain why he had expanded the jetty upon the river bed. DCC

Daily Star report on December 31, 1999 on the encroachment on the river by the lessee, changing the river's course and

Since he had taken lease to facilitate the unloading of construction materials, he had expanded his landing ghat, encroaching upon the river bed, DCC officials confirmed The Daily Star report after conduct-

"We conducted an investigation and found that the lessee had violated the agreement. The investigation was ordered in the wake of the report and subsequently the lessee was served with a notice on Sunday. He has been given seven days to reply," a DCC official said.

The lessee was not available for comment. His lease is due to expire in June this year, the DCC official said.

worker allegedly commits suicide

By Staff Correspondent Husband of the NGO worker, found dead in her Hazaribagh residence Tuesday morning, died at the Dhaka Medical Col lege Hospital (DMCH) in the early hours of yesterday.

The dead, identified as Bachchu Mian, 30, a resident of Bhagalpur under Hazaribagh thana in the city, allegedly* committed suicide by taking acid after death of her sevenmonth pregnant wife, police and hospital sources said.

both Bachchu Mian and his wife Sweety Mustari, committed suicide over a family feud. Meanwhile, hospital sources said that Sweety was tortured to death over dowry.

Bachchu took acid on Tuesday evening. He was rushed to DMCH in a critical condition. He succumbed at about 3 am vesterday.

Police picked up Bachchu's

The body was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Adulterated

detect adulterated food," said a trader, who requested anonymity. "How can we say it is adulterated unless we open each package or container? It's really beyond our control. Adulteration originates at the supplier."

Butter, powder milk, sugar are also adulterated.

Testing Institution seal also contained adulterated items. Unregistered containers use the

team inspecting markets for adulterated food, but the problem is out of control. "It is not carried out by one

similar sums if she has to get re-admitted for some reason, often for the authorities' mismanagement

hit the top position in the first Bangladesh, was ironically placed in the third class.

shares her trauma.

Another, who made second all through, is in the dark if she has passed at all.

Guljar Begum, is in the dark too. Reached by phone last night, she said she had no knowledge of such irregularities nor did she receive any complaints. "I am new to this college," said the head of English at Eden College who took

over in January last year. the norm, one only looks back at the story behind the NU's birth. 'The NU itself was born in haste," recalls an education ministry official, referring to its ways of doing its sole business -- administration of examinations.

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Sad stories from NU everywhere outside Dhaka." This may have spared the non-Dhaka college students of the nerve tests, but those from Nothing goes right in our the capital pay the price.

> Even in better-known government colleges such as Eden College, younger teachers speak of a pathetic lack of coordination between the NU and the affiliated institutions.

"NU never bothers to know how things are going in colleges. Colleges do not care to finish the courses on time since there's no pressure on them," adds the Eden teacher.

Then again, the students are paying more in fees, often for non-academic purposes. A Lalmatia College student alleged that each had to pay nearly Tk 14000 for the Part-III Honours course, which included only Taka 650 for examination fees. The "college fund" gobbles up the rest.

A student pays again the

Sad stories abound. One English Literature student, who two years of her Honours course among all students in

She cannot run the risk of going through the process of correction as the results came barely two weeks ago. She is confident of getting it all corrected if a proper review is done, but does not have the confidence in the system. "If for some reason I don't get it right, I miss another year!" said the hapless girl, sobbing as her family

If both have to sit again, they face a new syllabus. But their teacher, Professor

Dhaka and halted at Chandpur As mismanagement becomes before leaving for Barisal, they added.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

rassment.



An under-construction building collapsed at Rayer Bazar in the city injuring five people - Star photo yesterday.

Cross-country tour

From page 1 meetings, public rallies and participate in mass contact programmes. The team leaders have been assigned to cover the

areas, other than their own. ule. AL Presidium member Syeda Zohra Tajuddin will lead the team No. 1, which will visit Bandarban, Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Cox's Bazar.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad will head team No. 2 to visit Noakhali, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur and Comilla (north and south).

Team No. 3, headed by Presidium member Abdul Mannan, MP, will go to Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Sherpur and Netrakona. Forest and Environment

Minister Syeda Sajeda Choudhury will lead team No. 4, scheduled to visit Meherpur, Chuadanga, Kushtia and Ra-Team No. 5 will be headed by

Presidium member Abdul Momin, MP, and it will visit Tangail, Kishoregani, Gazipur and Dhaka. Food Minister Amir Hossain Amu will lead team No. 6, to

Chittagong (north and south), the Chittagong city, Feni and Laxmipur. Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak's team will visit Khulna city and district

Bagerhat and Satkhira. Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed will lead his team to Bhola, Barisal and Jhalakathi. Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil will head the team that will visit Jessore, Narail, Magura and Jhenidah.

PM's Parliamentary Affaira Adviser Suranjit Sengupta *** lead his team to Shariatpur, palganj.

Madaripur, Faridpur and Go-The team to visit Manikganj, Munshiganj, Narayanganj and Narsingdi will be led by Presidium member Dr

Mohammad Selim, MP.

Team No. 12 will visit Rang-Rahman Khan Shahjahan. Another joint secretary

head a team for Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur and Nilphamari Aziur Rahman, also a joint

visit Bogra, Sirajganj, Pabna. Natore and Joypurhat. Home Minister Mohammad Nasim will lead his team to

Pirojpur, Patuakhali and orguna. Agriculture Minister Matia Choudhury will go with her

trict, Chapainawabganj and Naogaon. Mayor of Dhaka city Mohammad Hanif will lead his team to Sunamganj, Sylhet,

22 of a family massacred in Peru

LIMA. Jan 5: Unknown assailants wielding pistols and rifles shot dead 22 members of a Peruvian family, most of them children, after a possible family feud over land in a remote village in the central Andes, au thorities said today, reports

spokesman in the region, said, "it could be about vengeance over land rights.

Police on Tuesday discovered the bodies of the Caqui family, including seven adults and 15 children, many shot in the head, in a village in Huanuco region, a centre for drug traffickers and where some Marxist Shining Path rebels operate.

Tk 7.95 lakh snatched in Ctg From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 5: Armed miscreants snatched Tk 7.95 According to the tour sched- Mozaffar Hossain Paltu will lakh from three officials of a Korean company at Customs House crossing under Bandar thana yesterday. The officials of Pacific Zip-

per Company in CEPZ came under attack when they were returning to the company by an autorickshaw after drawing the amount of money from Agrabad branch of Grindlays Bank at around 3.15 pm. A gang of about five miscre-

ants riding on motorcycles in tercepted the autorickshaw when it reached Customs House crossing and snatched the money from the officials at gunpoint.

A case was filed with Bandar thana in this connection, but none was arrested till filing of this report at 7-30 pm today.

Autorickshaw passenger robbed in city

An autorickshaw passenger was robbed of Tk 55,000 in the city's Malibagh area last night. The victim, Yusuf Jamal Kajal, a contractor of Noakhali Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) told UNB that three muggers got into his taxi from in front of Ayesha Shopping Complex on his way

about 8.30 pm. Kajal, who was going to BTV Bhaban to see his relative, a BTV News producer, hired the autorickshaw from Purana Pal-

to Rampura BTV Bhaban at

The miscreants forced the driver to move the vehicle towards Rampura and finally got off near Malibagh rail crossing after snatching away the money and a gold ring.

Incidents of mugging on rise in city

By Staff Correspondent

Incidents of mugging on the roads leading to different city markets in broad daylight were on the rise for the last few days, with snatchers taking advantage of brisk Eid shopping, said victims and witnesses.

A gang of young men

snatched a handbag from a couple, containing about Tk 10,000 in cash, and ran away near the entrance of Dhaka New Market at about 11:30 am yesterday, alleged a neighbour of the vic-Incidents of mugging near

Science Laboratory crossing, Elephant Road, Malibagh, Mouchak, Naya Paltan and other shopping centres of the city were also reported from over the last few days. According to a resident of

Elephant Road, the muggers were operating along the roads surrounding the markets for snatching as additional policemen have been deployed in

Nepal expels Pak diplomat

KATHMANDU, Jan 5: The Nepalese government has or dered the expulsion of a junior diplomat of the Pakistani embassy in Kathmandu for his alleged involvement in counterfeit currency dealing, officials said today, reports AFP.

Wassim Saboor was allegedly caught with fake Indian banknotes worth 1,170 US dollars Sunday while trying to sell them to a Nepalese government He was arrested by police

Monday morning and his residence was searched as he told the agent he had access to a large supply of the banknotes. Nothing was found in the search, which was also attended

by a senior Pakistani embassy diplomat, police said. Police claimed Saboor had destroyed the counterfeit banknotes and other illegal mate-

rials by setting fire to them and flushing them from the bath-The Nepal foreign ministry wrote to Pakistan's embassy advising it no longer recognised Saboor's diplomatic immunity. A foreign ministry source said

no response was received and it was decided to expel Saboor from Nepal within 72 hours. An official press note issued by the foreign ministry said Wassim Saboor was involved in action incompatible to his official status. Therefore he was

ordered to leave Kathmandu

within 72 hours." The Pakistani embassy issued a press statement Monday denying any involvement by Saboor in counterfeit currency dealing. The search of his resi dence found nothing illegal, it

Shawal moon

From page 1

the Islamic Foundation tomorrow after Maghrib prayers. The Foundation has already asked all its district offices to check whether the moon is sighted and, if so, inform them immediately. "It takes time to confirm the

news of a moon sighting because we have to confirm the authenticity of the information with the local authorities," said Moulana Abdul Awal, director general of the Islamic Founda-

Awal said the moon sighting confusion happens in every Muslim country before the Eid. According to the Hadith, holy Ramadan begins after the sighting of moon and it ends the same way. 'We cannot fully rely on the information provided by Meteorological Department or any other source," said Awal. Bangladesh Astronomical

Society sources said that the Shawal moon would appear on January 6, at 18:14 GMT (12:14 am local time on January 7). The moon will be too low to be visible on that day. Therefore it will be visible on Saturday. January 8

"At that time, the moon will lie in the constellation of Capricornus; so the moon will be seen at a bit of a south-west angle in the western sky," said a Society press release.

Prices double

From page 1 a week ago," said an employee

with SR Paribahan. Many people who go to the ticket counters at Kamlapur Railway Station also walk away empty handed. However. tickets are widely available from touts hanging around the station.

A Bangladesh Railway offi-cial said over 40,000 people travel by train during Eid. double the usual number of passen-

"We are doing our best to ac-

commodate more passenger," said the official. "BR officials have been doing special duty to ensure proper ticketing." Bangladesh Railway started a special train service yesterday

to ease the surge of passengers before the festival GMG Airlines, a private firm, have also scheduled special flights to passengers make It home for the festival. Seats are still available on flights to Chittagong.

front of the city markets. Jalal Khan, a peon of The Daily Star, was mugged on a road in front of the shopping

centre at city's Sobhanbagh

area Sunday afternoon. The in-cident took place when Jalal

was returning to his Bijli Ma-

halla residence by a tricycle

rickshaw after drawing nearly

Tk. 9,000 package of his salary and Eid bonus from The Daily Star office. A senior official of DMP Southern Zone told The Daily Star last night that there was no noteworthy incident of mugging in his 'zone' within the last few days and a minimum num-

ber of complaints had been filed

with police in this regard. When asked why they did not inform police of the incidents, a number of victims said, pointing out that they knew that it would not make any difference! " I know I am not going to get my money back, anyway" - said one of victims echoing the sentiment of most of his compa-

An additional force of about one hundred policemen have been deployed at New Market, Gausia and Elephant Road areas in view of the brisk Eid shopping. They are preventing crimes and controlling traffic movement at those areas, the official said, on condition of anonymity.

The DMP Commissioner, however, was not available for comment last night.

Policeman hurt in bomb attack at Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Jan 5: A policeman came under bomb attack in front of gymnasium at Chittagong stadium last night.

Constables Abdul Hannan was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital with bomb injuries in his head. Police said miscreants

hurled bomb on the policeman at around 10 pm last night while he was on-duty there. Security has been tightened at all key installations here

fearing bomb attack. 10 sued

From page 1 The accused bank officials actively helped Amjad draw Tk 5.12.42.460 from the Rupsha Branch of Agrani Bank violating all rules and regulations as re-

quired for taking loan. The MD of the fish processing plant paid Tk one crore back to the bank, but embezzled the remaining amount in phases in connivance with all the nine officials of the bank who are now serving in different positions in different branches

The winner of trophy from the Prime Minister as one of the best exporters of frozen foods. Amjad did never keep a single carton of shrimp meant for export against which he had taken the loan.

of the bank.

He managed to suppress the financial scandal by bribing the alleged bank officials in 1994. This amount of money was drawn from the bank from October 4 to December 31, 1994. according to FIR.

Sri Lanka

From page 1 minister's office. No senior officials were

killed. The explosion damaged the outer walls of the building housing the office of Bandaranaike, mother of president Kumaratunga. Earlier police said the blast occurred outside

the house, which is nearby. A dismembered leg lay 30 feet away from the blast site. Four bodies were found at one place, covered with sheet brought from the prime minister's office. Two other bodies were about 40 feet away from

the other bodies. Pieces of human flesh and blood were found all over the

"I saw the police people trying to search her," said Nimal Sirisena, a security guard at the Russian embassy, said of the suspected bomber. "She was resisting it and moments later, I heard a big bang," said Sirisena, wiping drops of blood that fell on him.

Sri Lanka's junior defence minister Anuruddha Ratwatte. who is believed to a prime target for Tamil Tiger rebels, also has a state bungalow at the top of Flower Road. Local residents earlier expressed fears that his presence in the area could attract Tiger bombings.

Ratwatte is the hands-on director of the government's military campaign against the Tigers in the island's north-President Kumaratunga her-

self escaped an assassination attempt last month during the presidential race. A suicide bomber set off explosives strapped to her body as Kumaratunga was getting into her car. She was injured in the right eye and doctors reportedly have said she may lose sight. That blast, at an election rally in downtown Colombo last month also left 26 people dead and more than 100 wounded,

Encroachment on Turag: DCC serves notice

The DCC notice followed a threatening the Mirpur bridge.

ing their own probe.

Husband of NGO

Police were suspecting that

mother in connection with the death of Sweety on Tuesday. Later she was released, police

From page 1 "We don't have a method to

and flour and atta, especially in containers or polythene bags, Some packages exhibiting the Bangladesh Standard and

seal to gain the public's confidence. "It is a major problem we are trying to address," said a BSTI official. "We have a monitoring

thousands are involved. Playing with From page 1 Sagor- 7. In a desperate bid to avoid collision, the huge passenger launch swerved left just to hit the three-decker Supersonic on its rear. This sent the vessel on the path of Sagor-4.

or two groups but hundreds and

With full throttle, Sagor-4 hit the belly of Supersonic with a loud bang. Sources concerned at Barisal said Supersonic was badly damaged and four members of its crew were injured, two of them seriously. The two were

admitted to Barisal Medical College Hospital. "Had there been the eid rush on board Supersonic, casualties would be much higher," said a BIWTA official in Barisal quoting eyewitnesses.

Sadarghat launch terminal in

the city said they had no infor-

BIWTA officials at

mation about the accident. Neither Sagor-4 nor Sagor-7 of Howladar Navigation Co Ltd reported it to the authorities on arrival at Sadarghat. River port officials at Chandpur also said they did not know anything about the accident. Supersonic came from

Officials concerned in Dhaka, Barisal and Chandpur admitted that they were regularly getting complaints from passengers about violation of navigational laws by water transport owners. No vessel has any life buoy on board .The owners charge higher fares from passengers at will and subject many of them to ha-

"We have repeatedly written to Dhaka office to take action against these owners but nothing has been done as yet," said an official at Barisal river port.

pur, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat and Kurigram under the leadership of joint secretary Shamsur

secretary, will head the team to

team to Rajshahi city and dis-

Moulvibazar and Habigani

Javier Fonseca, a municipal



Preparations are on for the main Eid congregation at the National Eidgah in the city. - Star photo