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Labourers and fish vendors go out for work early morning yesterday in dense fog and cold along the rail-tracks near Karwan Bazar in the capital.

Dense fog disrupts road, river traffic

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A blanket of dense fog disrupted road and river transport in many parts of the country yesterday.

Ferry services at Paturia-Daulatdia and Nagarbari-Paturia remained suspended from 1am to 9am in the morning and hundreds of passenger coaches, trucks loaded with perishable goods, and private vehicles remained stranded on either sides of the ferry ghats.

All passenger vessels leaving Sadarghat launch terminal reached a few hours late to their destinations, said an official of Bangladesh Launch Malik Samity.

Most of around 70 passenger vessels starting from Sadarghat in the capital for some 40 destinations

had to anchor in Chandpur at midnight, the official said.

Many passenger coaches bound for southern districts from Gabtali bus terminal had to start late due to the fog. Earlier, all passenger coaches from Barisal, Khulna, Jessore and Gopalganj arrived at least four hours behind schedule for the same reason.

Sources at Sayedabad and Mohakhali bus terminal offices also told about similar problems.

The sun remained almost invisible in the capital throughout the day.

Meanwhile, 21 people travelling on a truck loaded with fertiliser were killed in a road accident at Ashekpur in Tangail Sadar early morning yesterday as the truck driver lost

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PHOTO: STAR

Welcoming the guest birds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bird lovers yesterday welcomed a variety of migratory waterfowls through a festival amid a huge turnout at Ceramic Lake in Mirpur in the capital.

Four-year-old Barsha joined the festival along with her mother and elder brother to express her love for the species.

"I love birds. I've seen so many of them here today," she rejoiced.

"This is obviously an uncom-

mon but wonderful programme. I've brought my children here so that they can learn about nature," said Tahmina Begum, her mother.

Like Tahmina, about 100 mothers took their kids to the lake to show them the winter waterfowls.

The festival aimed to welcome the birds was arranged by Bangladesh Waterfowl Census Committee (BWCC), a non-government organisation.

Green campaigner Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury opened the festival. Describing it as a 'social festival', he said human-bird relation should be friendlier.

"Those who kill birds can also kill human," he said, urging all to take steps to save the species for the sake of human being, as they are part of nature.

"Eight species of migratory and resident waterfowls have landed on the lake this year," said

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Musharraf ready to show flexibility on Kashmir

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf said his country was prepared to show flexibility in the lingering dispute over Kashmir if nuclear rival India does the same, according to a report Friday.

The military leader's comments late Thursday came days after New Delhi ruled out redrawing the borders of the Himalayan territory,

which is carved up between the South Asian neighbours but claimed in full by both.

"We will be flexible when the other side also shows flexibility," Musharraf told a dinner audience including local politicians and the US ambassador, the state-run Associated Press of Pakistan reported.

India and Pakistan have fought

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Anti-Ahmadiyya zealots threaten tough agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islamist extremists yesterday threatened to go for a tough agitation if all kinds of supports given to the Ahmadiyya community (Kadianis) are not stopped immediately.

They also demanded the government's resignation on the grounds that so far it has not taken any step to declare the Ahmadiyyas non-Muslim.

Anti-Ahmadiyya campaigners termed Dr Kamal Hossain an enemy of the Muslims as he is conducting a

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Unite to end misrule 14-party calls to make Dec 30 human wall a success

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The leaders of 14-Party alliance yesterday asked the people to make the December 30 human wall programme from Sunamganj to the Sundarbans a success.

They also asked them to observe countrywide shutdown Sunday in protest against rocketing price of essentials.

Abdul Jalil, general secretary of the main opposition Awami League, told a rally on the Mongla heliport

premises that the four-party government has established politics of terrorism in the country. He was speaking as the chief guest at a public rally presided over by Ali Ijaradar, president of AL Mongla upazila unit.

The 14-party alliance has launched an intensified movement to free the country from corruption and terrorism, Jalil added.

AL central leaders Obaidul Kader and Abdul Mannan condemned the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

On road to prosperity Development of a road changes lifestyle of 3.5 lakh villagers

AKBAR HOSSAIN, back from Mymensingh

It is not long ago when the people of 17 villages under Dhobaura and Phulpur upazila could not even imagine travelling to the Mymensingh district headquarters by motor vehicles.

It used to take three to four tiring hours and different modes of transport from rickshaw-van to boat to reach Mymensingh town from these

two neighbouring upazilas. The very thought of the muddy rural road would discourage the locals from journeying outside.

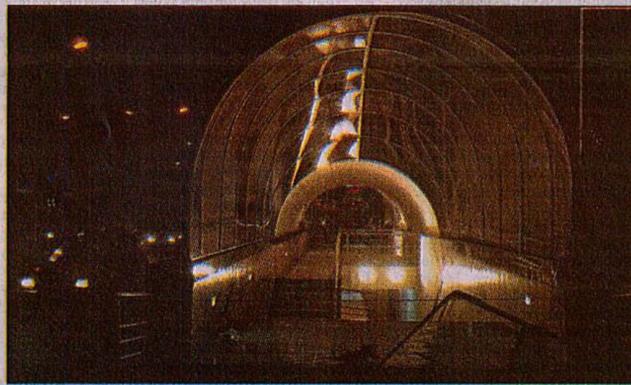
Now the people of Phulpur and Dhobaura can make the same journey in around 45 minutes. The construction of two bridges over Tarail and Sutia rivers and Tarakanda-Goatola-Dhobaura Road have made it possible much to the relief of about 3.5 lakh people

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

UNDERPASS OPENS

Dhaka City Corporation opened the renovated underpass on the Airport Road at Karwan Bazar to pedestrians yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



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OBITUARY

Mrs. Roquaiya Khan
wife of the Late Dr. Abdul Majed Khan
died peacefully at home on 23 December 2004

Abdur Rahman Khan Sabiha Rahman Maliha Chaudhury, Abdur Rahim Khan Abdur Razzaq Khan

Meherunnessa Najmul Akhter Matin Chaudhury Mei Selima

Renata Ernest Arneeb Farhana Naim Amin Akeeb Ayman Kimmee Aquib Adel Adiba Eren

Qui Khwani: Ba'ad-Magreb Sunday 26 December 2004
Concord Heights, NW(H) 4 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka.

4 US military personnel killed in Iraq

AFP, Baghdad

Three US marines and a soldier were killed in two attacks in Iraq as the US military investigated how a suicide bomber managed to penetrate an army base in a strike that killed 22 people.

The marines were killed while conducting security operations in the restive western Al-Anbar province, home to the former insurgency stronghold of Fallujah, where a few hundred residents entered the war-battered city for the first time since a massive US-led offensive against rebels in November.

In Baghdad, a roadside bomb claimed the life of a US soldier and wounded two others, while mortar attacks killed three civilians and one policeman.

South of the capital the slain body of a man dressed in Iraqi national guard uniform was found on a backroad between the towns of Latifiyah and Haswa, said an AFP correspondent.

The fresh US military casualties came amid a major review of base security operations following Tuesday's attack on an army dining hall in the northern city of Mosul.

The US military's second-in-command in Iraq, Lieutenant General Thomas Metz, ordered a special investigation of how an infiltrator managed to penetrate the heavily-guarded US military base.

"What's going to happen in there will now be an... investigation. Full force protection will be one of many areas looked at," said spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Steve Boylan.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

President returns to Bangabhaban

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed returned to Bangabhaban yesterday after a medical check-up at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH), Dhaka.

The president was admitted to the CMH on Tuesday, a Bangabhaban press release said.

Prayer Timing

December 25

	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-25	6-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-24	5-27
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

ইঞ্জিনিয়ার্স ইনস্টিটিউশন, বাংলাদেশ
মহিলা কমিটি
সদর দফতর, রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০
ফোন: ৯৫৯৪৮৫, ৯৫৬৩৩৩, ৯৫৬৩১১২, ফ্যাক্স: ৮৮-০২-৯৫৬২৪৪৭

কৃতি ছাত্র/ছাত্রীদের সংবর্ধনা প্রদানে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান

আইইবি মহিলা কমিটির পক্ষ হতে আইইবি'র সদস্য প্রকৌশলীদের সম্মানকে শিক্ষা ক্ষেত্রে কৃতিত্বপূর্ণ কলাকর্ম অর্জনে সংবর্ধনা প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে। আবেদনকারীকে নিম্নলিখিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে আগামী ৩১ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৪ তারিখের মধ্যে আইইবি সদর দফতরে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী বরাবরে আবেদনপত্র প্রেরণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

শর্তাবলী:

- ১। এস.এস.সি.তে বিজ্ঞান ও বাণিজ্য বিভাগে উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীর চতুর্থ বিষয় বাদে GPA 5 (সেকন্ড বিষয়ে A+) পেতে হবে। মানবিক বিভাগে উত্তীর্ণদের ক্ষেত্রে চতুর্থ বিষয় বাদে ন্যূনতম GPA 4.75 পেতে হবে।
- ২। এইচ.এস.সি.তে বিজ্ঞান ও বাণিজ্য বিভাগে উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীর চতুর্থ বিষয় বাদে GPA 5 (সেকন্ড বিষয়ে A+) পেতে হবে। মানবিক বিভাগে উত্তীর্ণদের ক্ষেত্রে চতুর্থ বিষয় বাদে ন্যূনতম GPA 4.75 পেতে হবে।
- ৩। "O" Level পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণদের ক্ষেত্রে এক সিটিং-এ (পাঁচ) বিষয়ে A গ্রেড পেতে হবে।
- ৪। "A" Level পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণদের ক্ষেত্রে চার বিষয়ে গ্রেড A গ্রেড পেতে হবে।
- ৫। অনার্স ও মাস্টার্স পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণদের ক্ষেত্রে প্রথম শ্রেণী থাকতে হবে।
- ৬। আবেদনপত্রের সাথে অবশ্যই নম্বরপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি জমা দিতে হবে।

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