

## Lower court judges continue token protest

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Judges of the lower courts across the country continued to wear black badges for the second day yesterday during court proceedings protesting government inaction to meet all of their 11-point demand.

The Bangladesh Judicial Service Association (BJSa) took the three-day token protest programme on December 21 at its 55th annual conference in case their demands are not fulfilled within January 10 this year. The protest programme, started on Sunday, will end today.

BJSa's 11-point demand include -- providing personal gunmen, tax-free vehicles and firearms for all the judges across the country, guards at judges' residences and payment of Tk 50 lakh each as compensation to the families of the slain judges in Jhalakathi bomb attack on November 14.

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## Kuwait emir buried

Crown prince assumes throne

AP, Kuwait City

Sheik Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, the emir of Kuwait and one of the United States' closest Middle East allies, was buried in an unmarked grave Sunday in a ceremony attended by thousands of weeping citizens who mourned the death of an admired ruler.

The crown prince, Sheik Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah in his mid-70s and ailing himself assumed the throne. But he was expected to leave control of day-to-day government

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# Road mishaps kill 14

STAR REPORT

At least 14 people were killed and over 170 people injured in road mishaps across the country yesterday.

At least six people including a mother and daughter were killed and 50 others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway in Brahmanpara in Osmaninagar yesterday, reports our staff correspondent in Sylhet.

The accident occurred as a Comilla-bound passenger coach from Sylhet collided head on with a minibus from Sherpur around 10:30am.

Three people were killed on the spot. They are Fatema Begum, 30, wife of Jashim Uddin of Nabinagar upazila in Comilla, her two-year-old daughter Fahmida Begum and an unidentified man in his 40s.

Lokman, 11, son of Aku Miah of Sylhet, Sumi Rahman, 19, of Tilagarh in Sylhet city and an unidentified man of about 30 died on way to hospital.

As many as 27 of the injured

were committed to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College and Hospital. The rest were sent to Balaganj Upazila Health Complex and other hospitals, police said.

**MEHERPUR, JHENIDAH**

Three people including a woman were killed and at least 40 were injured in two road accidents in Meherpur and Jhenidah yesterday, writes our Kushtia correspondent.

Police said a Meherpur-bound bus from Khalisahkundi in Kushtia collided with a truck on Kushtia-Meherpur Road in Akabpur and fell into a ditch around 7:00am.

Johora Khatun, 40, and an unidentified youth in his 20s was killed on the spot. The injured were rushed to a local hospital.

In Jhenidah, a Khulna-bound bus of Diganta Paribahan from Dhaka hit a bus of Keya Paribahan in Hatgopalpur in the morning.

Moksed Ali, 60, who was standing at the door of Diganta Paribahan bus, fell on the road and died on the spot.

**SIRAJGANJ**

Two people were killed and 17 others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Bogra Highway on Jamuna Bridge in the district yesterday, reports our Sirajganj correspondent.

Police and witnesses said the mishap occurred around 8:00am when a passenger bus rammed another bus from behind, killing one person on the spot and injuring 18 others.

Of the injured, one person died on way to hospital. The identities of the dead could not be known immediately.

The injured were admitted to Sirajganj and Tangail hospitals.

**GAZIPUR**

At least two people were killed and 25 injured as two buses collided head on near Bhawal National Garden in Joydevpur. The identities of the dead were not available immediately, reports BDNEWS.

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## Thousands stuck for thick fog

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Stranding of thousands of passengers returning from Eid vacation continued yesterday on the roads, rivers and at the airports.

Some passengers who were travelling by road were stranded for two days at ferry terminals while the authorities struggled to maintain order as many angry passengers attacked bus drivers and ferry authorities for inadequate services.

Flight inquiry sources at Zia

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## Pakistan likely to stay away from Safta

PTI, Islamabad

Pakistan is unlikely to ratify the Safta treaty as it would compromise its stand that talks with India on trade could go ahead only in tandem with progress on the Kashmir issue, sources said.

Ratification of the agreement by Islamabad would mean Pakistan

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# Cold claims 14 more lives in 5 districts

STAR REPORT

Fourteen more people died of cold and cold related diseases in Thakurgaon, Sirajganj, Patuakhali, Chuadanga and Dinajpur districts yesterday.

Five people died from shivering cold in Thakurgaon district, raising the death toll in the ongoing cold wave in the district to 27, reports BDNEWS.

The dead are Abdul Rashid, 45, of Patgaon village under Ranishankail upazila, Soleman Ali, 62, of Dangipara, Khadem Ali, 75, of Birhali, Pashiron Beowa, 107, of Bilpara and Nurul Haque, 46, of Mitrabati village under Peerganj upazila.

In Sirajganj district, Aram Hossain of Aria Mohon village in sadar upazila, Moynal Fakir of Jugnidaho, and Amina Parvin of Parkola village under Shahzadpur upazila, and Anowara Parvin of Moitro Borohor village in Ullapara

upazila, reports our Sirajganj correspondent.

Poverty stricken people are suffering from the cold related diseases. Boro farming is also being hampered due to the intense cold and dense fog.

Azim Uddin, 72, of Sontoshdi village and Aleya Begum, 75, wife of Fazar Ali of North Muradia village under Dumki upazila of Patuakhali district died as the cold wave continues, our Patuakhali correspondent reports.

Our Chuadanga correspondent adds: Physically challenged Badal, 45, of village Narayanpur under Jiban Nagar upazila of the district died yesterday apparently from the severe cold that has been prevailing throughout the district for a week.

In Dinajpur, a one month-old boy, Zahid, son of Jahangir of Chirirbandar, and 40-year-old daughter of Azizur of Mission Road in the town died of respiratory problems, according to the UNB.

## CTG ARMS HAUL CASE

### Hearing not held for illness of accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Hearing of the smuggling case, lodged after the haul of 10 truck-loads of arms and ammunition in Chittagong, could not proceed yesterday following the absence of an accused owing to his illness.

Metropolitan Sessions Judge AKM Anwar Hossain set today as the fresh date for the hearing and ordered the investigation officer (IO) to produce the accused Abul Kashem Madhu before the court.

The court also asked for all the evidence of the smuggling case to be produced before the court today. The pieces of evidence, mostly sophisticated arms and

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Prayer Timing		
January 17		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-40	5-44
Esha	7-00	7-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		

## Ministry in dark when new upazila is formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to form new upazila, Titas, under Comilla district keeping the Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) ministry in complete darkness about it.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will

inaugurate the new upazila by laying the foundation of the upazila complex tomorrow.

No invitation cards informing the inauguration were sent to the LGRD ministry and the minister, state minister, and the secretary concerned knew nothing about the

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PHOTO: AFP

New Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Saad al-Abdullah al-Salem al-Sabah, left, and Kuwaiti women, right, wail and brandish pictures of their late Emir Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah during his funeral in Kuwait City.