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Fog, cold hold country

All communications, life disrupted; Met forecasts cold wave

STAR REPORT

A blanket of fog covering the country yesterday caused disruptions to movement of all modes of transport and brought misery to thousands of passengers.

The situation was the worst on Mawa-Kaorakandi and Paturia-Doulatdia ferry routes, with 12 ferries carrying around 200 vehicles were forced to halt for about 10 hours in the river due to dense fog.

About 1,500 vehicles including buses, trucks, cars and minibuses remained stranded at Paturia, Doulatdia and Mawa ferry terminals for the whole night as ferry services were suspended due to poor visibility.

Besides, about 50 vessels including launches with as many as 10,000 passengers were stuck at different points of Meghna and Padma rivers Wednesday night.

Dense fog also disrupted flights at Zia International Airport in Dhaka and Shah Amanat Airport in Chittagong on Wednesday and yesterday. As a result, flight schedules of at least 11 aircraft to and from both the airports were deferred for two to 11 hours, Biman Bangladesh Airlines sources said.

"One hajj flight of the national flag carrier had to be diverted to Kolkata on its way to Zia International Airport due to poor visibility this morning (yesterday)," an official of flight operations, Biman, told The Daily Star.

A meteorologist of Dhaka Met Office told The Daily Star that the weather started deteriorating from Wednesday night when dense fog hung over most places of the country.

"It was a mild to medium type dense fog that restricted visibility to less than 1,000 meters," said the meteorologist. The situation worsened

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Homeless people freezing in cold take refuge under a shed outside the compound of Kamalapur railway station in the capital. The photo was taken around 2:00am yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

4 killed in Assam blast

AFP, Guwahati

A bomb at a crowded market-place killed four people yesterday in India's insurgency-racked north-eastern state of Assam, police said.

The blast ripped through the market near a police station and army base camp in the town of Misamari, around 220 km north of Assam's main city Guwahati.

Witnesses and police

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Ulfa leader bins Indian reports

STAR REPORT

Paresh Barua, head of the United Liberation Front of Asom (Ulfa), yesterday said his organisation has no plan of carrying out any attack in Bangladesh.

In an interview with the BBC Bangla service last night,

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Prayer Timing		
December 11		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	6-15	6-50
Juma	1-30	2-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-19	6-22
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Workers end up in thick soup in Libya

Manpower touts push job prospects of Bangladeshis into peril; govt yet to act

PORIMOL PALMA

Crooked Libyan labour suppliers in connivance with Bangladeshi manpower mafias are trading on unskilled Bangladeshi workers and those who are hired on tourist visas under dubious arrangements turning Bangladesh's prospective labour market into jeopardy.

Around five to six thousand

Bangladeshi workers are confined to the underground rooms in various parts of Libya, said a few Bangladeshis who have returned home from Libya recently.

Even the brokers take away their passports as soon as they arrive there and the workers are forced to pay them the money they demand in the name of providing jobs.

Bangladesh's labour counsellor in

Libya Akber Hossain acknowledged the fact but he could not say for sure how many such workers are there in trouble.

Experts said if this situation continues, Libya would be "another Malaysia" where manpower brokers used to put thousands of workers in confinement, which eventually led to the halt of labour migration.

The government, however, has not

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Organisations asked not to hold sports

Limited company writes to DCC, cricket and football bodies about Dhanmondi Club playground; HC halts any alteration of it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A limited company of powerful businessmen has asked different organisations not to arrange any sports events in the Dhanmondi Club playground in its bid to take over it without any legal authorisation of officials concerned.

The company, Lieutenant Sheikh Jamal

Dhanmondi Club, formerly known as Dhanmondi Club, has requested Bangladesh Cricket Board, Bangladesh Football Federation and Dhaka City Corporation not to set any dates for any sports events this season.

The club in a recent move has planned to build a mini stadium with exclusive sports facilities in the playground, which was ear

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Govt wishes to appoint woman speaker

PM says
STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the present government has the desire to appoint a woman as the speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad.

Hasina said this while addressing the Rokeya Padak 2009 distribution ceremony at Osmani Memorial Auditorium

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Zillur's speech to highlight AL's successes

Cabinet discusses its draft for next JS session

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Zillur Rahman will describe the successes achieved in various sectors during the one-year rule of Awami League government in his address on the first day at the first parliamentary session in the coming year.

The successes to be mentioned in the presidential speech include tackling prices of essentials, reduction of

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Bangladesh-India face-off today

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh will be looking for a repeat of their 2003 success when they take on India in the second semifinal of the Bangabandhu Sixth SAFF Championship at the Bangabandhu National Stadium tonight.

The battle of the neighbours will kick off at 7:30 pm after holders Maldives fight it out against Sri Lanka in the first semifinal that commences at 4:00 pm. Both the matches will be telecast live on Bangladesh Television and satellite channel ESPN.

The big bowl, in all probabilities, with its capacity home-crowd on a weekend is set to create an atmosphere that was last witnessed in a memorable match six years ago when Bangladesh defeated India 2-1 and went on to lift the trophy beating Maldives in the final.

Two more editions have passed since then, but Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

3 robbers beaten to death in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Three alleged robbers were killed and another injured in mob beating at Peshkarhat Bazar in Hathazari upazila early yesterday.

Identity of the deceased could not be known immediately. Sources said a gang of armed robbers numbering eight to ten stormed into the bazar around 2:30am and beat up its night guard Abu Ahmed when he tried to resist them from robbery.

Hearing his screaming for help, the villagers encircled the gang and caught four of them.

The angry mob beat them up mercilessly, leaving three bandits spot dead and another critically injured. The rest of the gang managed to flee, sources said.

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DU's 45th convocation tomorrow

DU CORRESPONDENT

President Zillur Rahman, also chancellor of Dhaka University, is expected to inaugurate its 45th convocation tomorrow.

In terms of graduates' and guests' participation, the convocation would be the biggest in the 88-year history of DU.

A total of 9,058 graduates --

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The Daily Star

11th 'O' & 'A' Level Award Presentation Ceremony, 2008-2009

Announcement for 'O' & 'A' Level Private Candidates and Schools

Private Candidates
Private candidates who fulfil the criteria described below are requested to register their names at The Daily Star office for inclusion as awardees. The criteria to be fulfilled are as follows:

Criteria for 'O' Level
Minimum 6 (six) 'A' grades in two consecutive sittings within May/June 2008 to May/June 2009

Criteria for 'A' Level
Minimum 3 (three) 'A' grades within 1 academic year (May/June 2008 to May/June 2009)

Eligible candidates are requested to contact Mr. Khairul Islam at The Daily Star office with their original Results Certificates along with a photocopy and 2 (two) passport-size photographs in person on 12, 13, 14 or 15 December 2009, between 11:00am to 3:30 pm.

Schools
Any school that has students meeting the criteria above but has not been contacted by The Daily Star (i.e. has not been informed of the first scheduled meeting through regular post, email or phone) is requested to contact Mr. Khairul Islam at The Daily Star office at the aforementioned dates and times or email him at khairulbd@gmail.com by December 17, 2009 with:

- The name of the school, phone number of a responsible representative (who will attend the meetings) and a valid email address that is checked regularly.

The schools are also requested to promptly prepare a list of the candidates meeting the above criteria, the number of 'A' grades achieved by each candidate, and photocopies of results certificates for each candidate.

NOTE: If you know of any private candidate(s) or school(s) that may be unaware of this, please communicate the above information to them so that we may include them in this ceremony as well.

OnlinePoll

Do you think BNP's 5th national council reflects any qualitative changes in the party?

☐ Yes (33.9%)
 ☐ No (64.4%)
 ☐ No Comments (1.7%)

Total votes: 983

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus's call to create visa-free South Asian Union?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Piles, Constipation, Dysentery, Cancer

To know about most modern treatment of diseases involving Colon, Rectum and Anus like, Piles (bleeding in toilet), Longo operation (Piles opn. without cutting anus), Cause of failure of operation around anus, pain after passing stool (Fissure), Swelling, Discharge around anus (Fistula), Constipation, Chronic dysentery (IBS), Blood dysentery (Ulcerative colitis), Colonoscopy, excess gas in stomach, Bowel (Colon & Rectum) Cancer, most modern stapling rectum cancer operation without artificial stool collecting bag (Colostomy), Childrens bleeding in toilet (Polyp), you may read the book written by:

Pioneer Colorectal Surgeon of Bangladesh & the Sub-Continent
Prof. Dr. AKM Fazlul Haque
International Scholar (USA); Fellow, Colorectal Surgery (Singapore)
Founder Chairman (Retd.), Dept. of Colorectal Surgery
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Dhaka

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Junior 2 : 32/3-D, Shahjahan Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka

Middle Section : 2/15 Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka

Dhanmondi Section : House- 10, Road- 6, Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Tel : 9114794, 9146482 & 9665074

E-mail : info@summerfield-school.com