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# Touts cash in on ferry mess

STAR REPORT

Frequent suspension of ferry service on Paturia-Daulatdia and Mawa-Kawrakandi routes has been disrupting communication between Dhaka and 21 south-western districts for the last few days and some unscrupulous people are taking full advantage of the situation.

Ferry service on both the routes was suspended for several hours yesterday since several ferries ran aground in the Padma.

The Paturia-Daulatdia service halted around midday yesterday after ferry Khan Jahan Ali got stuck in a char hidden beneath the surface of the water. It, however, got loose after 10 minutes of frantic manoeuvring of the vessel. Ferry Shah Ali also got stuck around 5:30pm halting the service until 7:30 in the evening, reports our Manikganj correspondent.

The disruption stranded almost 2,000 buses and trucks at the ferry terminals of Daulatdia and Paturia where some people were selling truckers ferry tickets for almost twice the fare and allowing them to cut the queue.

A number of officials and employees of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation, the police and scalpers were allegedly taking Tk 600-1,000 on top of the ferry tickets and allowing truckers to cut the queue.

Truck driver Abul Bashar of Satkhira said he reached

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A tailback builds on the road to Mawa terminal at around 3:30pm yesterday for disruption in ferry movement on Mawa-Kawrakandi route. Inset, efforts were on to salvage a ferry stuck in a shoal of the Padma near Daulatdia terminal Saturday afternoon. In the last few days, many vessels ran aground in the Padma disrupting ferry services on Mawa-Kawrakandi and Paturia-Daulatdia routes.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN AND ZAHANGIR SHAH



## Cox's Bazar quicksand kills boy

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Yet another youth died sinking into a quicksand in Cox's Bazar sea beach yesterday.

The dead is Md Ibrahim, 16, a Class-VIII student of Jatrabari City Corporation Adarsha High School in the capital.

On September 3, Md Sun, 17, similarly died at Laboni point of the beach. Earlier on July 29, Close Up-1 singer Abid Shahriar and one of his friends drowned in the sea in Cox's Bazar. At least four other tourists died being caught in quicksand in July.

Police and witnesses said Ibrahim and his two friends were drawn into a hidden eddy while

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## 52 drug companies in 'dreadful' state

Show-cause notice to be served on recommendations of JS committee

RASHIDUL HASAN

The Directorate of Drug Administration will serve show-cause notices on more than 52 drug companies since their condition is "dreadful" and medicines manufactured by them pose a "serious threat" to public health.

It took the decision yesterday following recommendations by the parliamentary standing committee on health and family welfare ministry.

The House body had formed a sub-committee consisting of experts and pharmacists from Dhaka, Jahangirnagar and Rajshahi universities to give a report on all drug manufacturing companies in the country. The death of over 26 children after taking Rid Pharma's toxic syrup in July and August 2009 prompted formation of it.

The sub-committee headed by ruling Awami League lawmaker Nazmul Hasan

submitted its voluminous report to the House watchdog last month.

The report said the condition and product quality of 52 drug manufacturing companies are "dreadful".

"We wonder how those companies had got licence and how their licences are still remaining valid," the committee said in its report.

These companies cannot be termed drug manufacturing ones since it is impossible for them to manufacture safe drugs, it said. "Their [52 companies] entire activities are nothing but fraud, and the medicines they manufacture pose a serious threat to public health."

Of the country's 151 drug companies, 22 are of very high standard, and they are capable of manufacturing world standard medicines, the report mentioned.

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## PM may go to Tripura to receive doctorate

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina may visit Tripura this year to receive an honorary doctorate from Tripura University, official sources said yesterday.

"The prime minister is expected to visit Tripura to receive an honorary doctorate later this year, but the programme is yet to be finalised," said Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad.

Tripura University has also invited Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to attend its ninth convocation when the honorary degree will be conferred on Hasina, said the sources. It was not

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KIDNEY, LIVER TRADE

## 10 hospitals involved

Organ trader makes confession

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Tareque Azam, the key suspect of a network of organ trade in the country, gave his confessional statement before a Joypurhat magistrate court yesterday.

In his confession, he named some hospitals, clinics and doctors involved in the illicit business, said F Karim, officer-in-charge of Kalai Police Station in Joypurhat.

Tareque, also known as Babul Chowdhury, named a private hospital in the capital that keeps a list of potential organ sellers and has links with hospitals across the world.

He also named four people of Joypurhat and three people of the city who act as middlemen, and 10 other hospitals of the capital involved with the network, Karim added.

The OC, however, would not disclose the names. Tareque, who was arrested by detective police in the capital on Thursday, was produced before the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court of Jahangir Alam to give his confessional statement.

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

How will the WikiLeaks revelation of Tarique Zia's corruption and violent politics have an effect on BNP's popularity?

Won't have any effect: (50.2%)  
Negative: (49.8%)  
TOTAL VOTES: 448

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think BNP Standing Committee's decision to wage a tough anti-government movement to press home their demand for holding the next general election under a caretaker government is justified?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING September 12

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-14	6-17
Esha	7-45	8-15

Sources: Islamic Foundation



A family member cries over the name of a loved one inscribed in the memorial wall during tenth anniversary ceremonies at the site of the World Trade Centre in New York yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## 10 yrs on, US still mourns

REUTERS, New York

Americans yesterday remembered the horror of September 11, 2001, and the nearly 3,000 people who died in the hijacked plane attacks as authorities worked to ensure the emotional

10th anniversary was peaceful.

Law enforcement authorities in New York and Washington were on high alert against what was described as a "credible but unconfirmed" threat of an al-Qaeda plot to attack the United States again a

decade after the toppling of the World Trade Centre's twin towers by hijacked airliners.

Security was especially tight in Manhattan, where police set up vehicle checks on city streets as well

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