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# MIRSARAI TRAGEDY

## Trucker to stay 5 years behind bars

DWAIPAYAN BARUA and KAILASH SARKAR

A Chittagong court yesterday awarded five years' imprisonment to the trucker responsible for the July 11 road crash in Mirsarai upazila that killed 44 people, most of whom were students.

Truck driver Mofizur Rahman was handed three years' jail term and fined Tk 10,000, and in default, to suffer six more months in jail for the deaths.

The court sentenced him to two years' imprisonment and penalised Tk 10,000, in default, to suffer three more months



Mofizur Rahman

behind bars for causing injuries.

Farida Yasmin of Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court delivered the verdict in a teeming courtroom.

As per section 304 (B) of the Penal Code, the death of a person due to reckless driving is an offence bailable and the highest punishment for this is three years' jail or fine or both.

The district Public Prosecutor (PP) Abul Hashem said the convict would have to serve five years in prison as the court had directed to that his punishment be

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Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hold a joint press briefing at the Bali Conference Centre yesterday. Hasina is on an official visit to Indonesia.

PHOTO: PID

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## 7 initiatives for true democracy

### PM proposes at Bali meet

UNB, Bali

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina proposed a seven-point initiative at the Bali Democracy Forum yesterday to establish an equitable society through true democracy.

"Attaining true democracy, which has so far proved to be the best way of establishing an equitable society, is, however, a lengthy process requiring undivided and committed attention from the leaders of the nation," she told the forum.

## BDR MUTINY TRIAL

### 10th witness names 4 more jawans who shot officers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another officer of the erstwhile BDR yesterday named four more jawans who shot their officers at the Darbar Hall minutes after the mutiny broke out in the Pikhana headquarters in 2009.

While testifying at the Dhaka Metropolitan

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# Jordan jobs made tough

## Restriction on recruitment of Bangladeshis after reports of labour strike, sexual abuse

PORIMOL PALMA

Only after one year of lifting the ban, Jordan has tightened up on recruitment of Bangladeshi workers following reports of sexual abuse of female workers and labour strike.

"Jordan's labour ministry is following strict rules regarding fresh recruitment of Bangladeshi workers. But we are trying hard to melt the ice," Lubna Yasmine, first secretary (labour) of Bangladesh embassy in

Amman, told The Daily Star over the phone recently.

On an average 700-800 workers went to Jordan a month in the first nine months of this year, but the number came down to less than 100 in October and also in November, said Mohammad Abdullah, managing director of Bangladesh Overseas Employment Services Limited (BOESL), the state-owned recruiting agency.

Jordan considers the reports on sexual abuse of female workers and labour strikes a threat to free trade agreement between it and the US that allows duty-free access of Jordanian garments to US market. That is why Jordan is not allowing fresh recruitments from Bangladesh, said the officials.

This followed a number of events. Over 400 Bangladeshi female

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# Telecoms to go under ICT

ABDULLAH MAMUN

The Telecommunications Division of the posts and telecommunications ministry (MoPT) is likely to be merged with the newly formed Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), amid objections from the former.

Recently, the issue has been taken into consideration by government high-ups, according to different ministry officials. It will soon be placed at the cabinet meeting for approval.

If implemented, the ICT ministry, led by Syed Abul Hossain, the former communications minister, will have the organisations under the Telecommunications Division, including Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.

A proposal on the matter from the Prime Minister's Office has already reached the two ministries concerned.

An ICT ministry official said that they have already sent positive remarks on the proposal.

On the other hand, the MoPT differs over the matter and will give its response on Sunday, said a senior official of the ministry.

Yeafesh Osman, state minister for the newly formed science and technology ministry, told The Daily Star

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## PBCP leader killed in Rab 'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A leader of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML) was killed in a "shootout" between a Rapid Action Battalion team and his cohorts in Alamdanga upazila of Chuadanga early yesterday.

The deceased, Mokaddes Moka, 40, of Bhadua village in the upazila, was the regional commander of the party.

While patrolling Jamjami village, a team of Rab-6 chased some PBCP members around 2:00am, Rab sources said.

The outlaws took refuge at a villager's house from where they opened fire on the elite force

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## Sehwag slams record score

AFP, Indore

India opener Virender Sehwag smashed the highest score in one-day international cricket on Thursday as he made 219 off 149 balls in the fourth match against the West Indies.

The 33-year-old joined compatriot Sachin Tendulkar as the only batsmen to hit double-centuries in the 50-over format when he passed 200 in the 44th over of India's innings at the Holkar Stadium here.

Tendulkar, the world's leading

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



PHOTO: AFP

India's Virender Sehwag celebrates on reaching the double century in the fourth ODI against West Indies in Indore yesterday.

# CRACKDOWN ON PROTESTERS

## US sent arms to Egypt

Says Amnesty

AFP, Washington

The United States continued to send crowd control weapons to Egypt, even as security forces pressed their violent crackdown on protesters there, Amnesty International said Wednesday.

The rights group said one recent shipment arriving in Egypt last month carried at least seven tonnes of chemical irritants and riot management agents such as tear gas, and was destined for the country's Interior Ministry.

It strongly criticised the US government's decision to

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## BNP to hold rally in city this month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday decided to hold a rally in the capital this month protesting the splitting of the Dhaka City Corporation.

The decision came at a late-night meeting at the Gulshan office of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Presided over by Khaleda, the meeting also

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2012 - 2013 Session

# Admission for Playgroup

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir that the reshuffle in the cabinet proved that the allegation of corruption against ministers was correct?

Yes (83.5%)  
No (14.1%)  
No Comments (2.4%)

TOTAL VOTES: 340

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think Communications Minister Obaidul Quader will be able to begin the construction of the Padma Bridge which has been stalled due to graft allegation?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)  
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

PRAYER TIMING December 9

Asan	Jamaat
Fajr 5-05	5-40
Juma 12-30	1-15
Asr 3-45	4-00
Maghrib 5-21	5-24
Esha 7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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## December 9 - 31

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