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FERRY SERVICES

Disrupted by dense fog

STAR REPORT

Ferry services on Paturia-Daulatdia and Mawa-Kawrakandi routes resumed yesterday morning after 10-hour-long disruption due to dense fog.

Huge traffic congestion on both sides of the routes of the Padma river kept thousands of people stranded until ferry operations resumed around 10:15am, report our Manikganj and Munshiganj correspondents.

Eight ferries had been stranded at Paturia ghat while two others in the river.

Meanwhile, the authorities at 10:00pm last night again suspended the ferry services on Mawa-Kawrakandi route due to bad visibility from the foggy weather, reports our correspondent.

Ten ferries got stuck at different points of the river causing immense sufferings to hundreds of people. State Minister for Labour and Employment Begum Monnujan Sufian also got stranded.

The suspension will continue till the situation is improved, said Asiquzzaman, assistant general manager at Mawa office of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA).

Daulatdia and Paturia office sources of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) said two Ro-Ro (roll-on/roll-off) ferries -- Keramat Ali and Amanat Shah -- had to stop in the middle of the river while Bir Shrestha Hamidur Rahman, Shah Ali, Shah Paran, Shah Jalal, Bir Shrestha Jahangir, Bir Srestha

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Dense fog suspended ferry service between Paturia and Daulatdia late Friday night resulting in long queues of vehicles on both ends. This photo taken at 9:00am yesterday shows vehicles waiting to get across at Daulatdia. The service resumed two hours later.

PHOTO: STAR

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

Do you think the telecommunications division should be under Ministry of Information and Communication Technology which now has Syed Abul Hossain as minister?

Yes

(11.9%)

No

(83.8%)

No Comments

(4.3%)

TOTAL VOTES: 394

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir's allegation that government is filing cases against Khaleda Zia to implement a plot to keep her away from the next general polls is justified?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

PRAYER TIMING December 11

Azan

Jamaat

Fajr

5-15

5-50

Zohr

12-45

1-15

Asr

3-45

4-00

Maghrib

5-19

5-22

Esha

7-00

7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

KOLKATA FIRE

Bangladeshi victim's body brought home

STAR REPORT

The body of Gauranga Mondol, killed in the Kolkata AMRI Hospital fire Friday, was brought to Bangladesh yesterday.

Officials of the foreign ministry received the body, flown in by a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight, in Dhaka around 7:00pm and handed it over to the victim's family members around 8:00pm, reports our correspondent in Munshiganj.

The family, including his son Biddyasagar, took the body to their village home at Kanainagar under Chitratkot union of Sirajdikhan upazila, where it was expected to be cremated.

Meanwhile,

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Rab to get 2 copters

M RAHMAN

The government has procured two copters for Rapid Action Battalion so the force can perform better in fighting crime and militancy.

This is the first time a Bangladeshi law enforcement agency is getting choppers of its own.

Commander M Sohail, director of Rab's legal and media wing, said the police authorities signed a contract with Bell Helicopter Asia (Pvt) Ltd on June 23 for pur

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Bell-407 helicopter.

IMAGE: COURTESY

Unifying DCCs to be first task if BNP returns to power

Says Mosharraf

UNB, Dhaka

If BNP comes to power, its first task will be unifying the divided Dhaka City Corporation, party's standing committee member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said yesterday.

He was addressing a rally at Badda in the capital, organised as part of BNP's five-day programme to protest the attack on immediate past DCC mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka and to press for unifying the two city corporations.

Mosharraf alleged the government has split up the DCC at the instructions of the prime

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4 credit card cheats held

Postal staff help gang steal mail, mint money

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives have arrested four persons, including a postman of the capital, for credit card fraud.

The arrested are Kamal Ahmed alias Nurul Amin, 52, the gang leader; Abdur Rauf, 42, a postman of Gulshan Post Office, Mohammad Russell, 34, a former student of Jahangirnagar University, and Anwar Hossain, 32.

Kamal and Russell were picked up from the capital's Malibagh early yesterday while Anwar from Chittagong and Rauf from his village home in Barisal on Friday, said Senior Assistant Commissioner Mashiur Rahman of Detective Branch of police.

Kamal has been involved in fraudulence since 1996 while Anwar is an accused in a credit card fraud case filed with New Market Police Station in 2006, said police.

All of the four were taken on a two-day remand following a court order yesterday.

The group stole credit cards with the help of employees of Gulshan Post Office, the DB official said.

Using the cards, they purchased goods from different shopping malls and sold the items at a discount, he added.

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One killed in bike accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth was killed and another injured in a road accident in the city yesterday when a garbage van of the city corporation hit their motorcycle from behind, police said.

The deceased was identified as Abu Sayeed, 28, owner of a video games shop at Dhalkanagar, Gandaria in the capital.

Md Arif, 28, who was driving the motorcycle, was badly injured. He lives in the same area.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Mizanur Rahman of Shahbagh Police Station told this correspondent that the duo was going to High Court area at around 2:30pm to buy medicine for Sayeed's ailing mother.

The van hit their motorcycle on Abdul Gani Road near the secretariat.

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The Daily Star

13th 'O' & 'A' Level Award Presentation Ceremony, 2010-2011

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 2010 to May/June 2011

Criteria for 'A' Level

Minimum 3 (three) 'A' grades within 1 academic year (May/June 2010 to May/June 2011)

Eligible candidates are requested to contact Mr. Khairul Islam at The Daily Star office, 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka - 1215 with their original Results/ Certificates along with a photocopy and 2 (two) passport-size photographs in person on 12, 13, 14 or 15 December 2011 between 11:30 am and 3:30 pm.

Schools

Any school that has students meeting the above criteria 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 (64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215) at the aforementioned dates and times or email him at abeer@thedailystar.net by December 22, 2011 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.

Rajuk has to be reformed

Seminar asks it to focus on Dhaka's planned growth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State-owned Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) must give up operating as a housing agency and concentrate on regulatory issues to ensure planned growth of Dhaka city, speakers told a seminar yesterday.

Asiatic Society of Bangladesh organised the day-long international seminar on urbanisation at the Cirdap auditorium which was attended by high officials and noted experts.

"Rajuk has ever been busy with plot development as if it were a housing development agency," said Suhel Ahmed Choudhury, former secretary to housing and public works.

Widespread corruption, inefficiency and incompetence have made Rajuk a non-functional body compared to the role of erstwhile Dhaka Improvement Trust, he said, adding "it should be restructured".

Responding to the allegation, Rajuk Member Sheikh Abdul Mannan said that the organisation cannot play the desired role as "it has to appease the influential quarters including politicians and high government officials", who own lucrative plots in Gulshan and Banani areas.

Prof Sarwar Jahan, president of Bangladesh Institute of Planners, suggested that instead of splitting the corporation area, there be a supreme authority to control the development works of different agencies in the city.

Vijay Risbud, former commissioner of Delhi

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Congratulations

Mr. A.S.M. Rafiqul Islam (Noman), Managing Director of Zaber & Zubair Fabrics Ltd. is receiving National Export Trophy (Gold) from the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for being the highest exporter in all categories of the country for the year 2009-2010.

We would like to convey our heartiest felicitations to Hon. Chairman, MD, DMD & Directors of "Zaber & Zubair Fabrics Ltd." concern of Noman Group for achievement of National Export Trophy (Gold) for being the highest exporter in all categories and another National Export Trophy (Gold) in Home & Specialized Textile sector for the year 2009-2010.

Officials and employees of Noman Group of Industries

Head Office: Adamjee Court , 115-120 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka..