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# Oil spill seen in the Bay

## Environment dept unaware of the source

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

A 10-kilometre oil slick was reported in the Bay off the district's Sitakunda upazila yesterday.

Boatmen and passengers crossing the area in the morning said they had noticed the strip which was around 50 feet wide and spreading to Kadam Rasul from Kumira coast.

Both the reason and the severity of the spillage so far remained unconfirmed.

Mohammad Ilias, supervisor of Banglar Alo, an engine-run ferryboat that operates on the sea route, told The Daily Star over mobile phone that he had noticed black burnt oil floating around 11:00am.

"The tide has just begun. With water rushing towards the beach, the floating oil would spread to Kadam Rasul through Baro Aulia coast," he said, adding the slick could be around 10km long.

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A 10-kilometre-long oil spill, inset, is seen in the Bay off Sitakunda upazila in Chittagong yesterday. The photo was taken around 11:20am.

PHOTO: MORSHED ALI KHAN



# WAR CRIMINALS Govt must act tough

Say sector commanders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Sector Commanders Forum (SCF) yesterday demanded the government brings to book the persons opposing the ongoing trial of war criminals.

Leaders of the organisation also called upon the government to immediately arrest former Jamaat-e-Islami ameer Ghulam Azam and try him on charges of committing

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# WAR CRIMES CHARGES Order on Ghulam Azam Dec 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal will decide on December 26 whether it will accept the charges filed against former Jamaat-e-Islami chief Ghulam Azam.

Deputy registrar of the tribunal Mesbahuddin Ahmed disclosed the tribunal's decision to the media yesterday. The ex-Jamaat ameer has been charged with 52 counts of crimes against humanity, which include leading mass murder of intellectuals on December 14, 1971 and the killing of 38 prisoners of Brahmanbaria jail.

The charges pressed by the prosecution Monday also held Ghulam Azam responsible for all atrocities committed across the country between March 25 and December 16, 1971.

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# Media asked to run true reports

UNB, Dhaka

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday once again called upon the journalists to publish and air accurate reports on trial proceedings.

Referring to Monday's trial proceedings, some newspapers published and some radio and TV channels aired news item quoting a defence lawyer that the tribunal had allowed the investigation officer to remain in the

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# FOOD INSECURITY

## 60pc households suffered last year

Finds survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 60 percent households of the country, including at least 10 million children, suffered from food insecurity last year, says a survey.

"The problem is widespread and a matter of growing concern in the light of rising food prices that affected mostly the poorer section of people," observed the survey report titled State of Food Security and Nutrition in Bangladesh: 2010.

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The National Food Security and Nutrition Surveillance Project (FNSNP) unveiled the report at a stakeholders' meeting in Radisson hotel in the capital yesterday.

Food Minister Abdur Razzaque, Statistics Division Secretary Riti Ibrahim, Health Secretary Humayun Kabir, HKI Vice President Nancy Haselow and Brac Vice-Chancellor Ainun Nishat, among others, were present in the meeting.

# Suu Kyi's party wins legal status

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar authorities yesterday gave Aung San Suu Kyi's opposition party the green light to rejoin mainstream politics, paving the way for the Nobel laureate to run for a seat

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The Dhaka City Corporation signboard prohibits heavy vehicles on Mohakhali flyover in the capital but this photo of a cement mixer and the two buses ahead of it clearly says the rule is not enforced. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

# Rights violation still rampant

Report expresses concern over custodial death, torture, mysterious disappearances

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Incidents of extra-judicial killing and torture of innocent people by law enforcers are rampant in the country although Bangladesh has committed to the United Nations to stop such violation of human rights, a report says.

"Concern over continued disappearance and torture in custody, especially of young innocent victims, has been compounded by a new type of human rights violation in the form of police-instigated mob beating and 'mistaken identity'," said the report of Human Rights Forum on Universal Periodic Review (HRF-UPR) Bangladesh.

Withdrawal of thousands of graft cases on political consideration has seriously undermined the prospect of strengthening institutional capacity of the Anti-Corruption Commission to fight corruption, it added.

HRF-UPR, a forum of 17 local rights and development organisations, at a press conference yesterday published the report on the overall human rights conditions in the country between July 2009 and July 2011.

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# RUMANA'S EX-HUSBAND Cops refuse to accept case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family members of Hasan Sayeed Sumon, who was found dead in the prison cell of BSMMU on December 12,

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# BDR leaflets taken lightly

Defence claims this led to carnage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Had the then BDR officials acted on the rebels' leaflet distribution in Palkhona, the February 25-26, 2009, mutiny would not have taken place, suggested a defence counsel during cross-examination yesterday.

Maj Munshi Mahbubur Rahman, the 13th witness of the Palkhona carnage case, however, refuted the suggestion by defence counsel Faruk Ahammad.

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# Durban not total failure

Says Hasan Mahmud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Durban climate conference is not a total failure as it extended the Kyoto protocol to a second phase, said Environment and Forests Minister Hasan Mahmud.

"We are not happy, but not frustrated either as it saved the Kyoto protocol," the minister said, adding that Bangladesh expected much more from the

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# Canada ditches Kyoto Protocol

AFP, Ottawa

Canada on Monday became the first country to formally withdraw from the Kyoto Protocol, saying the pact on cutting carbon emissions was preventing the world from effectively tackling climate change.

"We are invoking Canada's legal right to formally withdraw from Kyoto," Environment Minister Peter Kent said following a marathon UN climate conference in South Africa, at which nations agreed to a new roadmap for worldwide action.

Canada agreed under the Kyoto Protocol to reduce CO2 emissions to 6.0 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, but its emissions of the gases blamed for damaging

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PRAYER TIMING December 14

	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

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia that all the cases filed against her son Tarique Rahman are false?

Yes (32.4%)

No (65.1%)

No Comments (2.5%)

TOTAL VOTES: 839

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Khandker Ibrahim Khaled that the government is trying to hide something about the stockmarket scam like it did in 1996?

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