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**7 killed in Meherpur road crash**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

At least seven persons were killed and 14 others injured when a truck fell into a roadside ditch at Terail of Gangni upazila in Meherpur last night.

Five of the deceased were identified as Harun-or Rashid, 30, Saban Ali, 25, Tofazzal Hossain, 25, Nagraj, 30, and Ziyad, 25. All of them hailed from Meherpur Sadar upazila.

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DIST COUNCIL ADMINISTRATORS

**AL's reward for devoted leaders**

HASAN JAHI TUSHER

The government has appointed administrators to 61 district councils to reward ruling Awami League (AL) leaders and minimise conflicts within the party, keeping the next parliamentary election in mind.

According to the ruling party high command, Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina had pledged her leaders rewards if they worked for the party nomi-

nated candidates in the December 2008 general elections.

"So these appointments have been given to reward the party district leaders," said a senior AL leader wishing anonymity.

The leader, who is also a minister, said senior leaders of the party have been chosen for the posts so that they can coordinate development activities with deputy commissioners (DCs) and party

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

*Mind reading machines on their way*

AFP, San Francisco

Century-old technology colossus IBM on Monday depicted a near future in which machines read minds and recognise who they are dealing with.

The "IBM 5 in 5" predictions were based on societal trends and research which the New York State-based company expected to begin bearing fruit by the year 2017.

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**Stop intelligence bodies' meddling in politics**

*Suggests JS body probe report on 2007 DU violence*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary probe body has recommended trial of the persons responsible for the violence on Dhaka University campus in 2007 and an end to interference by military intelligence in politics.

It also suggested punishing the then caretaker government chief adviser

Fakhruddin Ahmed, then army chief Moeen U Ahmed and some others for the violence, chief of the probe body Rashed Khan Menon said yesterday.

The probe report containing 13 recommendations and 11 observations will be placed in parliament

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Passengers hang about as no buses come by during transport strike imposed on 19 routes of Chittagong yesterday. The photo was taken at Moijjar Tek on the southern side of the Karnaphuli Bridge. PHOTO: STAR

**Cold claims 10 more lives**

STAR REPORT

Siddiqui Islam, who had come to the port city from Kushtia, used to sell peanuts. But what he earned was not enough to manage accommodation even in the slums.

He lived under a shed at Chittagong Parade Ground. With his shabby clothes, a dilapidated blanket and makeshift bed, he has drawn attention of local youths.

"He told me that he couldn't sleep for a moment as the night [Monday] was bitterly cold," said one of the youngsters who went to play football in the field yesterday morning. "He was shivering violently."

The 58-year-old was found dead in the afternoon.

From Monday night to yesterday, extreme cold weather claimed nine other lives -- four at Jibannagar upazila in Chuadanga, two at Pirgachha in Rangpur, one in Bagerhat. Two workers passed away while sleeping on a launch at Mawa river port.

The Jibannagar victims are Tahrur Nesa, 70, Sabbir Ahmad, 12, of Goyeshwarpur village, Arji Banu, 90, of Koya village and Sharifan Nesa, 105, of Medinipur village, reports UNB.

The Met office sources said cold spell had been lashing the district for the last several days till 6:00am yesterday.

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**Transport strikes in Ctg, Barisal withdrawn**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of commuters suffered for hours yesterday after transport owners and workers enforced strikes on different routes of Chittagong and Barisal districts demanding repair of roads and highways.

The strikes were halted later in the day following talks with local officials.

Demonstrators under the banner of Chittagong-Cox's Bazar South Region Transport Owners and Workers' Coordination

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

**Improve governance to maintain growth**

*Economists warn against failure*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The economic growth of the country may falter in the coming days for the failure to improve governance, economists have warned.

The caution comes after Bangladesh's economy has grown by more than five percent per year in the last two decades, drawing attention of many thinkers as to how a country with a relatively poor governance can maintain growth in GDP and in per capita income.

Unveiling a joint study at a discussion, economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud yesterday said rise in small entrepreneurship, garment exports, remittance earnings and increase in farm production has contributed much to the country's past economic expansion.

An improvement in governance during the 1990s after transition to democracy from military rule also supported the growth.

But the country's governance score has been dropping almost constantly since 2004, with its rank falling near the bottom quartile of the developing countries, said the study citing World Governance Indicators Index.

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**WAR CRIMES TRIAL**

**PW tells of torture by Sayedee**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prosecution witness Mizanur Rahman Talukder yesterday at the International Crimes Tribunal demanded exemplary punishment of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee.

On Monday, he narrated how Sayedee and other collaborators brutally tortured his elder brother during the Liberation War in 1971.

Mizanur said the Jamaat leader and other collaborators picked up his brother Abdul Mannan Talukder on his way home from work in Pirojpur either on May 21 or May 22, and "mentally and physically" tortured him the whole night.

The collaborators tried to coerce Mannan into bringing freedom fighter Mizanur to the camp. And he was let go on condition that Mizanur would be brought to the camp, third prosecution witness Mizanur said in his statement.

"As a proud freedom fighter, I demand exemplary punishment of Delwar Hossain, also known as Sayedee, for physically and mentally torturing my brother and the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

Do you think it was a smart plan by the BNP-led opposition to paralyse the capital with a huge gathering of opposition activists at the heart of the city?

Yes (39.0%)

No (56.6%)

No Comments (4.4%)

TOTAL VOTES: 684

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government decision to extend the retirement age of civil servants by 2 years is justified?

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

PRAYER TIMING December 21

Asan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-25 6-00
Zohr	12-45 1-15
Asr	3-45 4-00
Maghrib	5-24 5-27
Esha	7-00 7-30

Sources: Islamic Foundation

শুভ উদ্বোধন করবেন  
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