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HIGHWAY TAILBACK Passengers suffer for over 24 hrs

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Several thousand people suffered for more than 24 hours till yesterday night because of a 45-kilometre tailback on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Comilla.

A cold snap and lack of food and water added to pains of the passengers, specially women and children, caught in the huge congestion between Eliotganj and Meghna Bridge.

It all started as a Dhaka-bound oil tanker collided head-on with a Chittagong-bound goods-laden truck on the bridge Friday around 4:00pm.

Traffic was flowing slowly after Daudkandi highway Police with two wreckers removed both the vehicles yesterday around 8:00pm.

Deepa, Shimu, Shamim and Asif, all passengers of a Sohag Paribahan bus, said they had left the capital around 1:00am and till 9:00am had reached only Gouripur of Daudkandi. They were supposed to be in Chittagong by 6:00am yesterday.

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Children decorate a Christmas tree on Christmas Eve at their home in Patharghata of Chittagong yesterday.

BSF building wall violating border rules

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Indian Border Security Force is constructing a wall close to the border line in Senarbadi village of the district's Akhaura to protect a road they built there illegally.

About a year ago, BSF started constructing the 1,060 metre road from pillar 2305/S to 2401/S, according to Sarail 12 Battalion of Border Guard Bangladesh.

Now the Indian paramilitary force is building the wall in clear violation of the international law that allows no structure within 150 yards of the zero line.

Earlier, as BGB protested the wall construction, the Indian side said they would stop piling of earth. But the work

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

NORTH KOREA Jong-Un 'made' military chief

AFP, Seoul

North Korea's ruling party yesterday hailed the son of late leader Kim Jong-Il as "supreme commander" of the military, in the latest sign that the untested successor is tightening his grip on power.

Experts said the move

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Get rid of politicisation in judges' appointment

Eminent jurists voice concern

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent jurists and citizens yesterday demanded an end to politicisation of the process of appointing judges.

At a discussion meeting at CIRDAP auditorium in the capital, they also suggested enacting a law to be followed in appointing judges at every tier of the judiciary.

Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILLA) organised the discussion on "Appointment of

Judges" with its Chairman Dr Kamal Hossain in the chair.

Eminent jurist Kamal Hossain said multiparty politics would of course remain in the country, but appointment and promotion of judges should not be politicised.

There is no scope for a dispute over the need for independence of the judiciary, he said adding judges had to be appointed and promoted in a fair manner.

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SUST STUDENT KILLING 2 more held Boatman, 8 others admit involvement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Local people have handed over two more suspects to the police for their alleged involvement in the killing of two students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) on December 16.

After preliminary interrogation, police produced Selim Miah and Abdullah before the judicial

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Massive rally for an end to Putin's rule

REUTERS, Moscow

Tens of thousands of flag-waving and chanting protesters called yesterday for a disputed parliamentary election to be rerun and an end to Vladimir Putin's rule, increasing pressure on the Russian leader as he tries to win back the presidency.

The protesters shouted "Russia without Putin" and "New elections, New elections" as one speaker after another called for an end to Putin's 12-year domination of the country at the second big opposition rally in two weeks in central Moscow.

"Do you want Putin to return to the presidency?" novelist Boris Akunin asked from a large stage. Whistling and jeering, protesters chanted: "No!"

Witnesses said at least as many people turned out as at the last big Moscow rally on December 10 to protest against alleged vote-rigging in the December 4 election won by Putin's United Russia.

Police said at least 28,000 attended the rally on Prospekt Sakharova (Sakharov Avenue), named after Soviet-era dissident Andrei Sakharov. But one of the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Encroachers fill up a section of Uttara Lake near Road-20 in Sector-3 in the capital way beyond the walkway, which marks off the lake territory. Even the firm engaged in fish farming there, inset, has joined the bandwagon of gobbling up the lake.

Uttara Lake encroached

Encroachers push beyond legal limit

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

At least four "plot owners" have been filling in a stretch of Uttara Lake in Sector 3 in dead of night, claiming they have Rajuk allotment and Supreme Court verdict in their favour.

Protesting the move, Uttara Association along with some other local organisations formed

a human chain around 11:00am yesterday on a bridge near Gausul Azam Avenue.

Later they also held a rally protesting the pollution of the lake flowing through Uttara Sectors 3, 5, 7, 9 and 10-14.

Prof Asad Ullah Khan, convener of Uttara Association's lake protection movement, said Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha

(Rajuk) has allotted the plots in the lake, but its filling in was stalled following filing of a writ petition by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association.

Around one month ago, the Appellate Division of the SC disposed of the matter. Since then, the "plot owners" started filling in the part of the lake, though the

certified copy of the judgment is yet to be received, he added.

Contacted, counsel of the petitioner M Iqbal Kabir said the court did not allow anyone to destroy the existing greenery and fill in the lake further beyond the walkway, which itself is a boundary demarcation.

But surprisingly enough,

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

2 young women killed for dowry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two housewives in city's Badda area were allegedly killed by their husbands in two separate incidents in the early hours yesterday.

Preliminary reports suggest both women lost their lives for failing to fulfil dowry demands from their husbands.

Housewife Aklima Begum, 30, was burnt alive by her husband Sheikh Farid, 38, a cosmetics trader, at their Merul Badda residence while Sabina Khatun, 26 - also a housewife was beaten or strangled to death by her bus-driver husband Abdul Halim at their Dakkhin Badda house.

Police arrested Farid but Halim has been absconding. Both women were mother of two young children each.


Aklima's nephew Alauddin Sarkar of Daudkandi in Comilla told The Daily Star that Farid called him at

Sheikh Farid

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



The Daily Star



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ONLINE POLL

Do you think the president's dialogue with political parties on formation of a new acceptable Election Commission will bring a positive result?

☒ Yes (16.22%)

☒ No (82.54%)

☐ No Comments (1.25%)

TOTAL VOTES: 481

TODAY'S POLL

Do you believe it will be possible to start construction of Padma Bridge within a year, as promised by the new communications minister?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

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

PRAYER TIMING December 25

	Azan	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

Source: Islamic Foundation

গণ-বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিষয়ঃ ঢাকা-চট্টগ্রাম মহাসড়কে চলাচলকারী ট্রেইলর, ট্রাক, কভার্ডভ্যান ইত্যাদি মালবাহী গাড়ির এক্সেল ওজন (Axle weight) নিয়ন্ত্রণ প্রসঙ্গে

গাড়িতে ওভারলোড বা অতিরিক্ত মালামাল বহন সড়ক দুর্ঘটনার অন্যতম প্রধান কারণ। অতিরিক্ত মালামাল বহন একদিকে যেমন সড়ক দুর্ঘটনা বৃদ্ধি করে, অন্যদিকে রাস্তা, সেতু ও কালভার্ট ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত করছে। জীবন ও সম্পদ রক্ষার্থে এবং পরিবহন সেক্টরে শৃংখলা ফিরিয়ে আনার লক্ষ্যে সরকার সারাদেশে ওভারলোড তথা এক্সেল ওজন (গাড়ি ও মালামালের যে ওজন প্রতিটি এক্সেলে পরিবাহিত হয়) নিয়ন্ত্রণের কর্মসূচি গ্রহণ করেছে। এ কর্মসূচির অংশ হিসেবে প্রাথমিকভাবে ঢাকা-চট্টগ্রাম মহাসড়কে দাউদকান্দির মেঘনা সেতুর পূর্ব পাড়ে গুয়ে মেশিন বা ওজন পরিমাপক যন্ত্র স্থাপনপূর্বক ট্রেইলর, ট্রাক, কভার্ডভ্যান ইত্যাদি মালবাহী গাড়ির এক্সেল ওজন পরিমাপের কাজ ইতোমধ্যে পরীক্ষামূলকভাবে শুরু করা হয়েছে। এই গুয়েয়িং স্টেশনে আগামী ৩১-১২-২০১১ তারিখ পর্যন্ত মালিক, চালক ও সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের মধ্যে সচেতনতা সৃষ্টির লক্ষ্যে ট্রেইলর, ট্রাক, কভার্ডভ্যান ইত্যাদি মালবাহী গাড়ির এক্সেল ওজন (Axle weight) পরিমাপ করা হবে। আগামী ১ জানুয়ারি, ২০১২ দারিখ হতে এক্সেল ওজনসীমা (Axle weight limit) অতিক্রমকারী গাড়ির বিরুদ্ধে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

জিডি-৫৪২৪

বিআরটিএ