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DEC 18 VIOLENCE Arrest order against 17 BNP leaders stayed

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday stayed an arrest warrant hours after issuing it against 17 leaders and activists of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami in a case filed for creating violence in the city's Paltan area on December 18 last year.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mostafa Shahriar Khan passed the

Gloomy weather may improve today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The weather was gloomy coupled with drizzles in different parts of the country including the capital yesterday but the situation will improve today, meteorologists said.

The peripheral effects of cyclonic storm Thane that crossed India's Tamil Nadu coast on Sunday caused the gloomy

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Tents are being pitched on the bank of Turag for the participants in the first phase of Biswa Ijtema to be started on January 13.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

HEALTH, WOMEN'S EDN Amartya praises Bangladesh for gains

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
New Delhi

Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen yesterday praised Bangladesh for its achievements in health and women's education, saying it surpassed India in these fields.

"There is lower maternal mortality in Bangladesh than in India. Literacy rate of girls is

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

AL leader Shamsur Rahman dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former lawmaker and Tangail district Awami League president Shamsur

Rahman Khan Shahjahan died of old-age complications at his residence early yesterday.

Shahjahan, who was one of the key organisers

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10-year jail for making, distributing pornography Cabinet okays draft law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved a draft law with a provision of maximum 10 years' rigorous imprisonment or Tk 5 lakh fine or both for pornography-related offences.

The draft of 'Pornography Control Act, 2011' comes in the backdrop of rise in production, preservation, carrying and marketing, export and import of pornographies.

The weekly cabinet meeting headed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Secretariat also approved the draft of the Sonadia Deep Seaport

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Deep-sea port still far away

Govt was to launch Tk 40,000 cr Sonadia port project last year, but the only progress so far is drafting a law

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Setting up a deep-sea port appears a far cry as the government has taken two and a half years to draft a law only, let alone approving designs and finding investor for the Tk 40,000-crore project.

The cabinet in a meeting yesterday accepted in principle the draft of Sonadia Deep-Sea Port Authority Act 2011.

The draft has to be vetted by the law ministry and then approved by the cabinet before it is placed in parliament.

Inefficiency of the shipping ministry and red-tapism are responsible for the long delay in framing a law, the first step to build the port in Sonadia Island in the Bay, experts say.

The government has aimed to begin the port construction towards the end of 2011.

Experts say it may take three to four years more to start the work, if Bangladesh can lure investors after laying the groundwork by digging channel, constructing road and rail links and commissioning a 100MW power plant.

The only progress made so far has been the formation of a cell in August 2010 for quick execution of the port related decisions.

"There's still a long way to go," said head of the cell, Captain Shafiqullah, terming the draft a major leap-forward.

"Formation of a deep-sea port

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Burnt Amena fighting for life Attackers yet unidentified

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

A 19-year-old newly-wed girl was writhing in a hospital bed with much of her body burnt. Her once delicate face shrivelled. Eyes burnt to coal.

Victim Amena Begum was set ablaze by someone in her in-laws' house at Hatir Khuda in Khagrachhari on Sunday night. The identity and motive of her attackers are yet to be known.

Amena is now fighting for life with 95 percent of her body burnt, said doctors at Chittagong Medical College Hospital where she was undergoing treatment.

Jasim Uddin Ahmad, associate professor and head of surgery department at CMCH, termed her condition critical and recommended that she be transferred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The incident happened between 9:00pm and 10:30pm on Sunday. Her mother Bibi Hajera said she went to see Amena that morning and returned home, which is two km away, in the afternoon. She talked to Amena over the phone around 9:30pm on her return.

"We received a phone call around 10:30pm from a neighbour of Amena's in-laws who said my daughter was

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Over 6,000 women repressed last year

Says Mahila Parishad survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 449 women committed suicide facing different forms of repression last year, according to a report of a women's rights organisation published yesterday. Of them, 27 took their lives due to stalking.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad made the annual report on women repression based on stories published in 14 national dailies last year, a press release said.

A total of 6,616 women fell victim to repression across the country last year, says the report. Of them, 1,014 women were victims of stalking, 96 were killed after rape and 38 died after being set on fire. Moreover, 81 women were acid burnt while two of them died following the attacks.


Over 800 women were raped, of whom 165 were gang raped, as per the report.

Two hundred and eighty seven women faced sexual harassment in 2011. About 181 women and teenage girls were abducted while 109 women and girl children fell victim to trafficking. Among the victims of trafficking, 45 were sold to brothels, the report says.

At least 330 women were killed for failing to give dowry while 55 teenage house helps died in different incidents

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The Daily Star



Integral Energy Limited
ONLINE POLL

Do you think the chief prosecutor of the war crimes trial should resign for 'failure' to submit charges properly?

Yes

No

No Comments

(11.1%)

(87.1%)

(1.8%)

TOTAL VOTES: 433

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the 'Pornography Control Act-2011' and 10-year jail term as the highest punishment for making or distributing pornography would reduce such criminal activities?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
www.thedailystar.net
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT
facebook.com/dailystarnews

PRAYER TIMING

January 3

Azan

Jamaat

Fajr

5:30

6:05

Zohr

12:45

1:15

Asr

4:00

4:15

Maghrib

5:30

5:35

Esha

7:00

7:30

Sources

Islamic Foundation

Shajahan backs drivers again

Quader for maximum alertness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The communications minister yesterday directed drivers to maintain maximum alertness to prevent road accidents while the shipping minister defended them once again saying drivers are not solely responsible for accidents.

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader at an awareness-building programme for drivers directed them to refrain from reckless driving and overloading, and to follow traffic rules and signals to reduce accidents.

Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan, who attended the programme as the executive president of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation, said faulty road engineering, plying of unfit vehicles, roadside temporary market, and movement of animals are equally responsible for road accidents as the drivers.

Strongly defending the drivers, Shajahan said drivers are not "killers", rather "service providers".

"Academic qualification is not a mandatory prerequisite for a driver. Training is more necessary than academic qualification for a driver," he said.

Both ministers were speaking at a programme

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

BRTC driver found guilty

*PM for sending
accident victim
Nikhil abroad*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The probe body formed on the road accident of journalist Nikhil Bhadra, following which he lost a leg, has recommended punishment for the driver of the BRTC bus that ran him over on December 28.

Submitted to acting communications secretary MAN Siddique yesterday, the report also recommended sending the senior reporter of Bangla daily Kaler Kantha abroad for better treatment and arranging a job for his wife.

Meanwhile, BSS quoting Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam

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PHOTO COURTESY: SHAHRIAR CAESAR RAHMAN

During a recent expedition in the remote areas of Alikadam, Bandarban, Shahriar Caesar Rahman of Independent University sighted the keeled box turtle (cuora mouhotii) for the first time in Bangladesh. Keeled box turtle is a rare and endangered species found in northeast India, Myanmar and some other parts of Southeast Asia. Chittagong hilly areas are home to some of the last remaining among the several rare turtle species facing a high risk of extinction due to over hunting for meat consumption.