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TRAIN HITS PICKUP

6 of a family die in Natore

No gate or guard at level crossing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Six members of a family were killed and another person was injured as a train rammed a pickup van on Bangram railway crossing in Natore sadar upazila of the district yesterday afternoon.

The level crossing has no gate and that is why accidents often occur there, said Jahurul Islam, a resident of Bangram area. At least 10 people including this six were crushed under trains in last three years.

Noor Hossain, officer-in-charge of Naldanga Police Station, said the Parbatipur-bound Ekota Express from Dhaka collided with a pickup van that was trying to run past the railway crossing near Basudevpur Railway Station around 4:30pm.

The dead were identified as Sultan Ahmed, 40, of Khajura village in Natore, his mother Shurjan Bewa, sister Kulsum Khatun, 27, nephew Sajeeb Ahmed, 8, nephew Laboni Akter, 3, and sister-in-law Lovely Begum, 37.

Five passengers of the van died on the spot while Lovely and Saiful Islam, driver of the van, were rushed to Natore Sadar Hospital. Later, Lovely succumbed to her

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Communications Minister Obaidul Quader destroys the fake driving licence of a bus driver at Sitakunda on Dhaka-Chittagong highway yesterday. The minister stopped four buses on the highway only to discover none of the drivers had proper licences.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Quader finds all four drivers fake!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The communications minister got a dose of reality yesterday when he stopped four buses on a highway only to discover that three drivers had fake licences while the fourth was not authorised to drive heavy vehicles.

Obaidul Quader stopped the buses when he was going to Sitakunda from Chittagong yesterday to see for himself the progress of the Dhaka-Chittagong highway dual carriageway progress yesterday.

The minister stopped his car at Bokulabazar Signboard area in Sitakunda around 11:45am and then he stopped the buses. Three of the buses travel between Dhaka and Chittagong and one of

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8 arrested in Chittagong

Cops suspect 'plot of subversive act'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Detective Branch of police arrested eight people at GEC intersection in Chittagong last night.

Acting on a tip-off, they raided Hotel Sonali around 9:00pm and arrested them on charges of "plotting subversive activities" during BNP's March 12 grand rally in the capital, police said.

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EC expects to enroll 70 lakh new voters

Voter list updating begins tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 70 lakh new voters across the country are expected to be added to the voter list, estimates the Election Commission (EC) as it begins tomorrow updating the electoral roll.

People aged 18 or above now and those who will be 18 or above on January 1 next year will be registered as voters, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad said yesterday.

This may be the last updating before the 10th parliamentary elections scheduled for January, 2014.

The number of voters in the list updated earlier in the middle of 2010 rose by 52 lakh to 8.64 crore. A total of 8.12 crore voters were

entitled to cast vote in the ninth parliamentary polls held on December 29, 2008.

So, around 1.22 crore new voters will be entitled to exercise their franchise in the next parliamentary polls with the total number of voters being some 9.34 crore, according to information received from the EC

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Zardari graft case must reopen

Orders Pak Supreme Court

BBC ONLINE

Pakistan's Supreme Court yesterday ordered the government to request the Swiss authorities to reopen a corruption case against President Asif Ali Zardari.

The case is at the centre of contempt proceedings against Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, who is accused of failing to pursue the allegations.

The government has argued that Zardari has presidential immunity. He says the case is politically motivated.

But the court has said a compliance report must be filed by 21 March.

The Supreme Court earlier adjourned a contempt hearing against the prime minister to 21 March as well, saying that Gilani must either file a statement or testify personally

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Asif Ali Zardari



Pakistan cricket captain Misbahul Haq, right, speaks to reporters during a media conference at Hotel Sonargaon yesterday. On the left is Pakistan's new coach Dav Whatmore. Story on Page 16.

PHOTO: STAR

Workers go berserk over death rumour

Road blocked, vehicles vandalised

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Hundreds of garment factory workers of Beximco Industrial Park at Chakraborty area of Kashimpur flew into a fury early yesterday following rumour about "deaths" of three co-workers in an accident.

The enraged workers vandalised at least 10 vehicles and barricaded the Kaliakoir-Nabinagar road for over three hours, much to the suffering of the commuters.

They also torched a covered van and a bus carrying around 28,000

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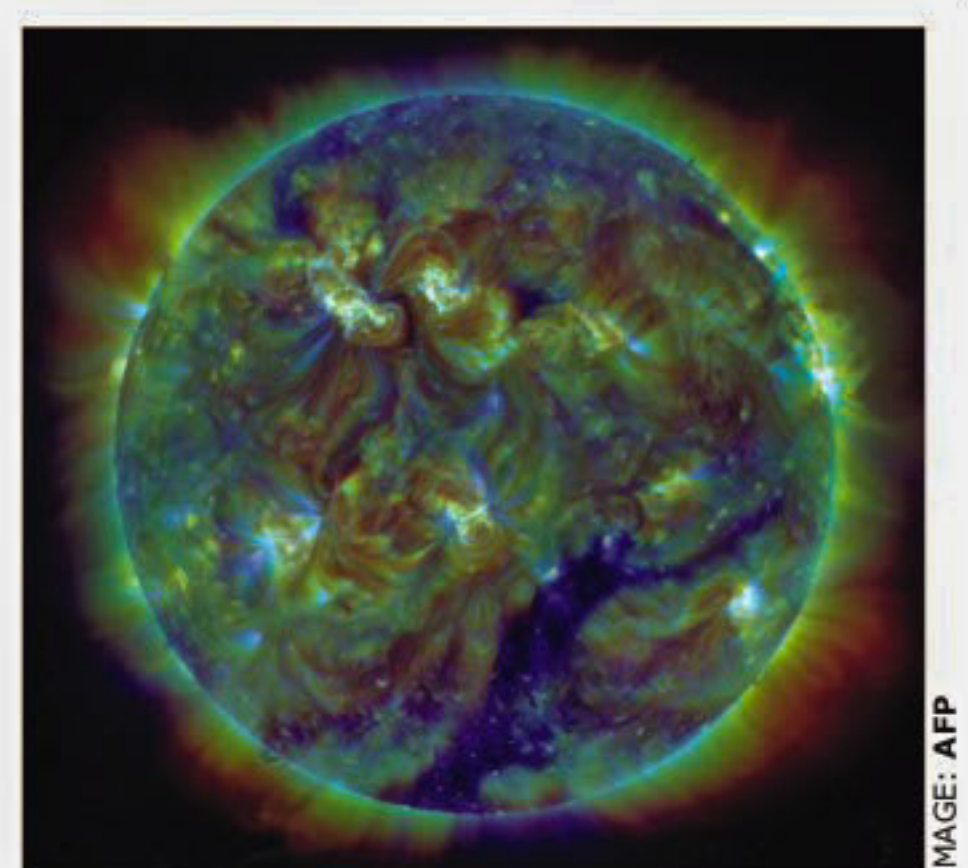
Strong solar storm hits Earth

AFP, Washington

A strong geomagnetic storm hit Earth early yesterday, but the planet's magnetic field appeared to be absorbing the shock and it was unlikely to reach severe levels, US experts said.

The storm was nevertheless expected to be the strongest in five years and has the potential to disrupt global positioning

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This image of Nasa's Solar Dynamics Observatory highlights a bright flare toward the upper left of the sun's disk on March 6.

IMAGE: AFP

DoE fines illegal brickfield

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined an illegal brickfield Tk 10 lakh in Palash upazila of Narsingdi for destroying

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PRAYER TIMING		March 9
Azan Jamaat		
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-05	6-10
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

Upgrading MPs' air tickets illegal

HC verdict says Biman didn't follow Warrant of Precedence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday declared illegal a Biman decision to upgrade the air tickets of the members of parliament and their family members flouting the Warrant of Precedence.

In its verdict on a writ petition, the court directed the government to upgrade passengers from economy to business class following the serial mentioned in the Warrant of Precedence, and to take effective steps to save Biman Bangladesh Airlines from bad reputation, financial losses and mismanagement.

Parliament members are in serial number 13 in the Warrant of Precedence, but the Biman board of directors in March 2009 had brought them to number six for upgrading their tickets, Manzill Murshid, counsel for the petitioner, said.

He noted that many high-ranking officials including the Supreme Court judges,

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

How do you look at State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam's directive to the leaders and workers of Awami League to help law enforcers arrest "unknown people" in the capital?

Justified: (5.8%)
Ridiculous: (94.2%)

TOTAL VOTES: 424

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think AHM Mustafa Kamal should quit as Bangladesh Cricket Board president?

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

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featuring the success of Char Dakatia of Bagerhat in creating their own health safety net. Learn how floating schools in the Haors of Sunamganj are providing access to education to dozens of children. Also, read about Mymensingh's tomato growers in Shykh Seraj's regular column "Farmers' Voice".

Star Insight is a fortnightly publication of **The Daily Star**