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TRH B-30	38,900	36,900
BCD-230/LEG	42,900	39,900

# Dense fog disrupts life

STAR REPORT

Thousands of travellers yesterday were stranded because of heavy fog that disrupted ship and ferry movement, train trips and flights across the country.

The dense fog may continue till Thursday or Friday, said Abdur Rahman, duty forecasting officer of the meteorological department in Chittagong.

Shahjalal International Airport in Sylhet is already facing time constraints, operating flights 15 hours a day, as its only runway gets a fresh coat of tarmac. The thick fog is now cutting down on the 15-hour time frame.

Seven Dhaka-bound international flights, including two of the state-run Biman Bangladesh Airlines, were supposed to have landed at the Shahjalal airport. But due to dense fog there, they had to land at Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong, causing suffering to the passengers.

Mohammad Hasnat, a student of Daffodil University in the capital, said his flight from Kuala Lumpur was scheduled to land at the Shahjalal airport at 9:00pm on Sunday. But the flight was diverted to Chittagong, from where he had to board another flight and finally reached the Shahjalal airport at 1:00pm yesterday.

Ship movement to and from the Chittagong port was hampered as thick fog shrouded the whole area.

A total of six ships scheduled to berth at different jetties of the port in the morning had to sit at the outer anchorage in the Bay for poor visibility caused by heavy

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Fearing pre-hartal violence, transport owners kept their buses and other vehicles off the road causing sufferings to city commuters. The photo was taken at Farmgate intersection yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Friendly attack!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was about 7:00am on Sunday. A dense fog reduced the visibility to almost zero at Gabtoli bus stand.

Several dozen men wielding sticks approached the bus terminal just an hour after the countrywide road blockade started at 6:00am.

The group belonged to a pro-government transport

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# Quit war tribunal

## BNP-Jamaat backed lawyers ask Justice Nizamul over Skype conversations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-BNP-Jamaat lawyers yesterday demanded resignation of Justice Md Nizamul Huq, the chairman of International Crimes Tribunal-1, for what they said his "misconduct" by reportedly holding Skype conversations with a Bangladeshi expatriate about the trial proceedings.

They also urged the president to take action against the judge by forming the Supreme Judicial Council and asked the government to dissolve the tribunal if Nizamul did not step down.

The demands were made after a Bangla

national daily on December 9 and 10 published two reports on the reported Skype conversations between Justice Nizamul and several persons including one Ziauddin Ahmed, an international criminal law expert, living in Belgium.

Khandker Mahbub Hossain, vice-chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council, also an adviser to the BNP chairperson, at a press conference at the Bar Council building said Justice Nizamul violated his oath and code of conduct.

He said Justice Nizamul undermined the SC

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## AMAR DESH REPORTS Prosecution for legal action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution yesterday appealed to the International Crimes Tribunal-1 to take legal action against Bangla daily Amar Desh for publishing reports, which, they said, were carried out to hamper the war crimes trial pending with the court.

The tribunal is set to give an order in this regard today.

The daily Amar Desh published reports on December 9 and 10 claiming they had exposed tribunal chairman

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## GRAFT CASE Suranjit's APS sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered sending Omar Faruque Talukdar, sacked assistant private secretary of former railways minister Suranjit Sengupta, to jail in a corruption case after rejecting his bail prayer.

Judge (vacation) Md Helal Uddin of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after Faruque surrendered before it and sought bail in the case.

Earlier on November 27, another judge granted temporary bail to Faruque till yesterday, the first day of a vacation court.

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Hartal supporters in Shivbari BRTC bus stand of Gazipur set afire a double-decker bus yesterday evening.

PHOTO: STAR

# Morsi gives army arrest powers ahead of vote

BBC ONLINE

Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi has ordered the military to maintain security and protect state institutions in the run-up to a controversial referendum on a new constitution.

The army has also been given the power of arrest.

Morsi has tried to calm public anger by annulling a decree giving him huge powers, but rejected a call to scrap the December 15 constitutional vote.

Opposition leaders called for protests today against the referendum.

The opposition was "not aiming at toppling the president" but wanted a better constitution, former Foreign Minister Amr Moussa told the BBC.

Islamist groups have said they will hold counter demonstrations, raising fears of further bloody clashes on the streets of the Egyptian capital.

In another apparent concession, the president suspended a big tax increase on the sale of a variety of goods including soft drinks, cigarettes and beer.

The decision was carried in a statement that appeared on Morsi's Facebook page early yesterday, state-owned al-Ahram newspaper reported.

WEAKENED POLICE

As tension increased before Saturday's referendum,

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## German embassy deplores attack on its citizen

UNB, Dhaka

The German embassy in Dhaka yesterday denounced the attack on a German citizen, an internationally-acclaimed architect, in the capital's Gabtoli during Sunday's road blockade enforced by the BNP-led 18-party alliance.

The embassy protested the attack in a letter sent to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

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## Wedding boom for 12/12/12

AFP, Hong Kong

Couples from Hong Kong and Singapore are flocking to tie the knot on 12/12/12, sparking a wedding boom on the century's last repeating date seen as auspicious by

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## SAGAR-RUNI KILLING

# Journos' hunger strike on Dec 23

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists will stage a mass hunger strike on December 23 in the capital demanding trial of killers of the journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi.

The six-hour hunger strike will start at 10:00 am in front of the Jatiya Press Club, announced Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ).

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## An iPhone case you can eat


CNN ONLINE

Yes, critics of the sometimes disposable nature of today's tech world, it's come to this. You can now eat your iPhone case.

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### The Daily Star



**Integral Energy Limited**  
**ONLINE POLL**  
Do you agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) is working independently?  
Yes (60%)  
No (40%)  
No Comments (0%)  
TOTAL VOTES: 1057

**TODAY'S POLL**  
Do you think the government will ensure quick punishment of those who killed Bishwajit Das during Sunday's blockade in the capital?  
PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)  
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://facebook.com/dailystarnews)

**PRAYER TIMING** December 11

	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