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Mercury to dip further

STAR REPORT

A cold wave may grip the northern region including Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions today with the temperature falling below 10 degrees Celsius, forecasts the Dhaka Met Office.

Bazlur Rashid, duty forecasting officer, said a mild cold wave swept over Srimongal in Sylhet with temperature below ten degrees in last few days.

Four children died of cold related diseases at Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital, Hatibandha and Aditmari upazila health complexes in the last three days, reports our Lalmonirhat correspondent.

There has been an alarming outbreak of cold-related diseases in five upazilas of the district, as severe cold and dense fog have been sweeping over the region for the last two weeks.

As many as 750 patients including children and elderly people with cold-related diseases received treatment at four upazila health complexes and Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital in last seven days.

At least 280 patients including 185 children have been admitted to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital and Aditmari, Kaliganj, Hatibandha and Patgram upazila health complexes.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



People, mostly women, browse through warm clothes at Chandni Chawk market in the capital yesterday. City dwellers go on shopping spree for winter wears as chilling cold has gripped the city and rest of the country.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Duty-free access must continue

Govt responds to US over 12 lawmakers' plea

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The commerce ministry in a letter yesterday urged the US to continue granting duty-free access for Bangladeshi products after 12 Democrat lawmakers last week had called for quick review of the facility.

Voicing alarm over labour conditions following the Tazreen fire, the lawmakers also had said Bangladesh appeared to be "going in the opposite direction" despite promises of labour reforms.

The ministry sent the letter to Washington, saying the government has taken some steps after

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Muggers push two engineers off train

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers pushed two textile engineers off a running train near Tejgaon Rail Station in the city on Sunday morning after snatching away valuables from the two.

The victims -- Golam Morshed Nayan, 23, and Mazharul Islam Ripon, 23 -- work at a factory in Joydevpur as interns.

They were heading to Joydevpur by Turag

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

How could you know, Suranjit?

War tribunal asks him to explain his time forecast on verdicts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday asked Suranjit Sengupta, a minister without portfolio, to explain his "imaginary comment" on the date of verdicts in the cases pending with the tribunal.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan with members Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Judge M Shahinur Islam asked the ruling Awami League leader to submit his explanation through his lawyer

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



Plea for contempt charge against law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War crimes accused Salauddin Quader Chowdhury yesterday filed a petition with the International Crimes Tribunal-1 for initiating contempt of court proceedings against Law Minister Shafique Ahmed in connection with the Skype scandal.

Abdur Razzaq, chief defence counsel for the war crimes accused Jamaat leaders, has meanwhile placed submission on their petition for reinitiating the case against former Jamaat ameer Ghulam Azam citing the same issue.

Salauddin Quader claimed Justice Md Nizamul Huq, former chairman of the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

AL NATIONAL COUNCIL Lobbying on for central posts

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Lobbying for a berth in the central leadership of the Awami League has gained momentum in the last few days with the ruling party set to hold its national council on December 29 which will elect new leaders for the next three years.

A section of former leaders of the party's associated bodies and members of various pro-AL organisations have been thronging party President Sheikh Hasina's political office at Dhanmondi and the party central office on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital.

Many of the aspirants are also going to the houses and offices of senior party leaders, ministers and lawmakers in a bid to have their support to get a place in the AL

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



A hollow Trojan horse filled with soldiers was supposedly used to enter Troy.

Trojan horse therapy can cure cancer

BBC ONLINE

An experimental "Trojan-horse" cancer therapy has completely eliminated prostate cancer in experiments on mice, according to UK researchers.

The team hid cancer killing viruses inside the immune system in order to sneak them into a tumour.

Once inside, a study in

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

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The Daily Star
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ONLINE POLL
 Do you agree with Finance Minister AMA Muhiith that the prevalent corruption in the upper layer of the government is seeing a downward trend?

Yes (16%)
 No (82%)
 No Comments (2%)
 TOTAL VOTES: 376

TODAY'S POLL
 Do you think that still there is a hope for justice to the sensational murder case of journalist couple Sagar and Runi?
 PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net
 YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystarnews

PRAYER TIMING December 25

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

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NEWS ON YOUR PALM

The Daily Star
 Your Right to Know

Grief-struck
 Tuesday, November 27, 2012
 Worst-ever factory fire toll climbs to 111; workers forced to work even after alarm bell rang; safety compliances below par

A woman cries her heart out at the sight of the body of a relative killed in the Nishchintapur tragedy. The day at the playground of a local school where the bodies of Saturday's factory fire victims were being laid down. Photo: Rashid Shumon

Authorities' negligence leads to so many deaths

Home minister's legal notice, our reply

Technical Support: MCC Ltd.