

Traffic may

FROM PAGE 1 capital. But we will try our best to make sure that vehicular movement is not disrupted," he said.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will address five street rallies at Gabtoli, Karwan Bazar, Jatrabari, Sabujbagh and Badda. The first rally will be held at Gabtoli at 10:00am.

She will exchange greetings with local leaders and workers of BNP and other components of the BNP-led 18-party alliance at Dholaihal in old Dhaka.

The alliance will also observe the mass contact programme in other parts of the country to drum up public support for their demands, including the restoration of the caretaker government system to oversee the next parliamentary elections.

Meanwhile, Home Minister MK Alamgir said if the opposition holds the programme peacefully, the government would welcome it.

"If they hold the rallies without causing sufferings to people, we will welcome that," he told reporters after attending several programmes in Chandpur, reports UNB.

Khaleda will go to Karwan Bazar from Gabtoli at about 11:00am via Kalyanpur, Agargaon and Farmgate, said party leaders.

The BNP chief will then go to Dholaihal via FDC, Moghbazar, Kakrail and Gulistan.

After exchanging greetings with party men at Dholaihal, she will go to Jatrabari via Doyaganj to address a rally, and then travel to Sabujbagh via Sayedabad and Mughda.

She will go to Badda via Basabo, Khilgaon and Rampura, and address a rally there at 2:30pm to conclude the mass contact programme.

BNP spokesperson Tariqul Islam said, "The programme will be peaceful and hundreds of thousands of people will make it a success."

The government will be compelled to accept the opposition's demand for the restoration of the caretaker government system, said Tariqul, also BNP standing committee member, at a press briefing at the party's Nayapaltan office yesterday.

The former minister hoped that good sense will prevail on the government and it will make a move to hold the next parliamentary elections under a non-party neutral government.

The day-long programme will be telecast live on www.bnplive.com, said officials at the BNP central office.

Khaleda announced the programme at a rally in front of the BNP central office on November 28.

Top Philippine communist rebel arrested

AFP, Manila

A top Philippine communist rebel with a \$128,000 bounty on his head was arrested yesterday, the military said.

The arrest of Filemon Mendrez, the country's sixth most-wanted man, comes amid a Christmas ceasefire and as the government and rebels are engaged in high-level peace talks aimed at ending one of Asia's longest-running insurgencies.

Mendrez, a key New People's Army rebel leader, will be held without bail and is due to stand trial, an army statement said, but details on the criminal cases against him were not disclosed.

The interior ministry had placed a 5.25 million peso (\$128,000) bounty on his head, it added.

Major General Jose Mabanta, the army chief of the central Philippines, described the arrest as a "law enforcement" action that had no bearing on the peace negotiations and the Christmas truce, which began last week.

"Law enforcement operations shall continue even as we observe a suspension of offensive military operations and ceasefire. This is part of (the army's job) of protecting communities, government and private establishments," he added.

Law minister

FROM PAGE 1 the opposition BNP.

Besides observing the tribunal, they had talks with the prosecution and the defence counsels of the crimes against humanity cases.

An official of the home ministry said the Turkish team had not informed them about their visit and obtained on-arrival visas at Shahjalal International Airport.

The law minister yesterday said the team had introduced themselves to him as lawyers. He later learnt that one of them was an incumbent lawmaker while another former state minister of Turkey.

Shafique said, "They told me they were lawyers. A woman said she was an international lawyer. It seemed they were representing Islamic Brotherhood and that they came to the country on behalf of the government of Turkey."

"I told them that lobbyist had been appointed [by the accused and suspects]. The accused spent a huge amount of money abroad. Therefore, influenced by them if someone comes from abroad or make derog-

atory remarks about the trials, it would be tantamount to interference in the internal matters of the country," he said.

Shafique said the team had asked him many questions including why the trials were being held after 40 years and whether impartiality would be maintained.

He said, "I told them the trial is not being held for political purpose... Those who were found involved in crimes against humanity by the investigation were facing trial."

The Turkish ambassador was also present in the meeting.

An official of the foreign ministry said they would seek an explanation about the team's visit from the Turkish embassy.

While visiting the tribunal, the visitors also introduced themselves as lawyers.

Sources said the team visited International Crimes Tribunal-1 on Monday when the hearing on the petition seeking retrial of Ghulam Azam's case was being heard.

They went into the courtroom around 11:30am and left around 1:00pm.

Newsweek

FROM PAGE 20 revenues, as audiences moved online.

From the new year, Newsweek will be a digital-only publication. Editor Tina Brown described it as "a new chapter" for the magazine.

In a defiant editor's letter, she wrote: "This is not a conventional magazine, or a hidebound place."

"It is in that spirit that we're making our latest, momentous change, embracing a digital medium that all our competitors will one day need to embrace with the same fervor."

"We are ahead of the curve."

Brown became editor of the publication two years ago, after it merged with The Daily Beast, a news website she co-founded in 2008.

Newsweek's first edition was published on 17 February, 1933. It made an immediate splash with its front cover, featuring seven photos - one news story for each day of the week.

Although it always took second place to its rival, Time, it gained prominence in the 1960s for its coverage of the civil rights movement.

At its height, it had a circulation of 3 million, but declining readership and advertising revenue saw it fall into losses.

It was sold by the Washington Post Company to businessman and publisher Sidney Harman for \$1 billion in 2010, and was merged with the Daily Beast three months later.

Brown is a former editor of Vanity Fair and The New Yorker. She unveiled

Don't back

FROM PAGE 20 organised by Sub-Editors Council at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Mentioning that the trial of war crimes suspects was progressing in a transparent way, Inu urged journalists to help the government complete the ongoing trial.

The minister said the present government never influenced the media on any issue during its last four-year tenure as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her government are media-friendly.

The government has implemented Right to Information Act, formed Information Commission and taken effective steps to increase wages of journalists for their welfare, he told his audience.

The minister also said the government would take initiatives for proper implementation of the new Wage Board through consultation with newspaper owners.

Editor of Dainik Samakal Golam Sarwar and Chief Editor of Boishakhi Television Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul spoke at the programme as special guests," he added.

Bird flu in Gazipur

1.5 lakh poultry birds being culled

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Authorities in Gazipur's Kaliakoir upazila started culling more than 1.5 lakh poultry and destroying 5 lakh eggs from Monday night after an outbreak of bird flu was confirmed.

The order came after tests showed that poultry at a privately-owned farm, Bay-Agro Industries Ltd, in Telirchala had died of avian influenza.

Around 150 workers had been engaged in killing the infected fowls.

Major (Rtd) Anisur Rahman, owner of the farm, said he noticed that fowls started dying in his farm since December 20.

Later, samples of the dead poultry were sent to Dhaka for laboratory test through Gazipur district livestock hospital.

As the tests confirmed the presence of bird flu virus in the samples, Gazipur district authorities gave instructions to the district livestock department to cull the birds and damaging the eggs.

At least two more days will be required to complete the culling operation, an official of the livestock department said.

Confirming the incident, Mejbah Uddin Khandokar, officer of Kaliakoir Upazila Livestock Department, said the reason for the outbreak was being investigated.

The department officials were also monitoring whether domestic chickens, ducks and other birds within one kilometre range of the affected farm had been infected, he added.

Md Nurul Islam, deputy commissioner of Gazipur, visited the spot of culling operation yesterday morning.

The authorities concerned would compensate the farm owner with Tk 250 for each culled bird and Tk 5 for each damaged egg, he added.

Loneliness

FROM PAGE 1 close enough for the family to visit with any regularity.

Half of all people aged 75 or over live alone and at least one in ten of the ten million over-65s in Britain is badly affected by solitude.

Five million elderly -- half of that number -- say television is their main companion and more than half a million -- 600,000 -- admit they leave their house less than once a week.

Recent research by Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS) in England identified nearly 4,00,000 elderly people who say they have children who are too busy to see them.

And the further away from their elderly parents the children live, the worse the situation becomes.

The WRVS research showed that for ten percent of parents over 75, their nearest child lives more than an hour's drive away. And of those, almost half are visited just once every two to six months.

WRVS Chief Executive David McCullough said "Christmas is supposed to be a time for friends and family but the sad reality for many older people is that they will spend it alone."

"We urge everyone to spare a little time and thought this Christmas for older people in the community who may be spending the festive period alone. Asking if there's any time they would like to join you and celebrate the holiday could make all the difference to their Christmas."

The WRVS provided Christmas lunch get-togethers for the elderly across UK yesterday, as well as running a meal on wheels service for those who cannot leave their homes, or prefer not to.

Another BCL man

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Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila around 1:30am when he was preparing to flee to India and was brought to the capital, Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Monirul Islam told journalists yesterday afternoon.

During primary interrogation by a team of the Detective Branch of Police, Emdadul admitted his involvement with the BCL and said he had hit Bishwajit with an iron rod ruthlessly and repeatedly in a bid to please top BCL leaders and thus bag a job with their backing, sources in the probe team told The Daily Star.

Investigators said they identified Emdadul on the basis of photographs and videos of the incident pub-

lished in the media and efforts are on to nab the others involved.

He was produced in a metropolitan magistrate's court yesterday and was remanded for seven days.

Three others of the 11 arrestees now on DB remand confessed to a magistrate on Sunday that they are BCL activists and were actively involved in the December 9 murder. The three are Rafiqul Islam Shakil, Mahfuzur Rahman Nahid and Rasheduzzaman Shaon.

Meanwhile, The Daily Star had earlier run reports identifying seven of the killers and all of them are now on DB remand from different dates.

Bishwajit, a 24-year-old tailor, was brutally killed by BCL activists, who took him

for a pro-blockade picket involved in a cocktail blast near Bahdurshah Park in Old Dhaka during the blockade.

According to records, Emdadul obtained master's degree in philosophy from Jagannath University. But on December 12, the JnU authorities cancelled his degree for his alleged involvement in the killing.

Emdadul told investigators that he and his accomplices wanted to use the cocktail blast as a chance to please the leaders of JnU unit of BCL who had asked them to give a lesson to those who exploded it.

He also said he is from a poor family in Jessore and wanted to manage a job by impressing BCL top leaders with his loyalty to them, according to police sources.

Welcome to world

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But for a growing band of 'lifeloggers', every single day is recorded in minute detail and stored for future reference.

Fans say lifelogging allows them to create a perfect digital archive, which can be accessed at any time, whether it's to recall a favourite moment in exact detail or simply check where they left their carkeys.

But critics argue it is a self-inflicted form of the Big Brother dystopia predicted by George Orwell's novel 1984, in which every word and movement could be seen and scrutinised.

Lifeloggers seek to capture daily details, either through pictures and video stored on the internet or by recording the patterns of their mood, sleep, exercise or diet.

So far, only a handful of users have broadcast their lives on the internet for others to see, but the popularity of blogging sites like Twitter suggests that others will not hesitate as the technology becomes more available.

Privacy campaigners warn that users risk revealing too much information about themselves, leaving them vulnerable to identity theft and blackmail.

And they raise questions about the privacy rights of the thousands of friends, colleagues and strangers who would inevitably feature in users' lifelogs, with or without their knowledge.

Until now, the technology used by lifeloggers has typically involved the user wearing a digital camera to take time-lapse photographs or record continuous video.

The devices have been too big to be worn covertly, meaning those around the lifeloggers have usually been aware they have been caught on camera.

But the newer devices include the Pivothead Durango, a camcorder concealed in a pair of sunglasses, capable of taking high-definition images and recording CD quality sound, and even equipped with face-tracking technology.

Next year will see the launch of Memoto, a £173 camera the size of a postage stamp, which can be clipped onto clothes and will automatically take a photograph every 30 seconds.

The images will be uploaded to the internet every time the camera is charged and automatically GPS-tagged and dated to show when and where they were taken, allowing them to be easily searched and

shared.

Memoto's Swedish makers said it aimed 'to give you pictures of every single moment of your life, complete with information on when you took and where you were.'

'This means that you can revisit any moment of your past,' Juniper Research, a British market research firm, forecasts that consumers will spend nearly £1 billion on such gadgets by 2014.

Britain already has 1.85 million CCTV cameras and the average person in London is caught on camera some 300 times a day because of the capital's concentration of surveillance cameras.

Google provoked fury last year when it sent cars armed with cameras around the country, capturing photographs of streets and houses for its Street View mapping service.

Stephen Bowen, director of the British Institute of Human Rights, said: 'This kind of technology transforms our notion of privacy and offers untold opportunities to monitor our every move in real time.'

Civil rights campaigners have voiced concerns over the advance of technology into our everyday lives.

Bid documents snatched

FROM PAGE 1

added Huda. Talking to The Daily Star, MA Kalam, executive director of Abdul Monem Ltd, said the bidding documents were snatched from the fourth floor of Rajuk Bhaban, where its chairman sits.

No sooner had Kalam along with his staff approached through the main entrance of Rajuk to a lift, two youths followed them and insisted on them getting down on the fourth floor, although they wanted to get off on the third.

Around four more youths joined the thugs there and one of them snatched the documents and disappeared, he mentioned.

"I immediately informed the project director of the incident, but could not see the chairman as he was in a meeting," said Kalam. "Around 4:30pm, we emailed a complaint to both the chairman and project director demanding re-tendering."

He plans to make the complaint in person this morning.

He reckon that some low-profile bidders might have sponsored the snatching, sensing a high prospect of Abdul Monem Ltd for winning the bid.

Contacted, Padma Traders owner Abdus Salam Khan claimed that he had no link with the snatching incident and was a victim of a conspiracy.

Without naming anybody, he said some quarters had offered him to get them the project award in exchange of five percent of the project cost, but he refused them.

The youths who committed the offence roam around

the Rajuk premises all the while using the name of the ruling Awami League and they can easily be identified from CCTV (closed-circuit television) footage, said Salam.

He added that State Minister Abdul Mannan Khan is his uncle.

The state minister said there was no incident of obstructing submission of tender documents. "It's a move to tarnish my image. My relation won't get the work, even if he becomes the lowest bidder."

Mahmudul Haq, director of another construction firm Monico Ltd, said they also could not drop their bid as some people at Rajuk office in Motijheel obstructed his men.

"We may not take part in any probable re-tendering, as we are not interested in any troublesome work," he mentioned.

Cold could harm

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Lalmoinirhat sadar upazila, said they were yet to get warm clothes from government or non-government sources.

The weather would remain unchanged in the northern parts of the country for a few more days, said Abdur Rauf, duty forecasting officer of the BMD.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) is facing a huge financial loss as vessels did not ply across Mawa-Kawrakandi route for 102 hours yesterday.

Amid such a situation, lack of public toilets, food, drinking water and security added to the sufferings of the people stranded.

Ferry services on Mawa-Kawrakandi route resumed around 3:30am yesterday after a two-hour disruption due to dense fog, our Munshiganj correspondent reported.

route, BIWTC earns over Tk 35 lakh per day, said Ashrafullah Khan, manager (commerce) of Aricha side in BIWTC. Therefore, the loss for 63-hour suspension of ferry service is estimated at about Tk 91 lakh, he added.

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Ferry services on Mawa-Kawrakandi route resumed around 3:30am yesterday after a two-hour disruption due to dense fog, our Munshiganj correspondent reported.

Five passengers in the meantime were injured as Chandpur-bound MV Rofrol collided with Dhaka-bound MV Juboraj in Gozaria in the Meghna river.

The vessels did not capsize, local people said. At the time of the accident, MV

Juboraj was kept anchored as the master was unable to operate it in thick fog.

1st West Bank Israeli University recognised

AFP, Jerusalem

Defence Minister Ehud Barak on Monday confirmed a government decision to officially recognise the status of the first Israeli university established in the occupied West Bank.

Israel approved plans to upgrade the college in Ariel to a full-fledged university on September 9, although the move still needed the approval of the defence minister in charge of the occupied Palestinian territories.

UN concerned

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The unanimously adopted UN resolution "expressing particular concern about the situation of the Rohingya minority in Rakhine state, urges the government to take action to bring about an improvement in their situation and to protect all their human rights, including their right to nationality."

At least 800,000 Muslim Rohingyas live in Rakhine State along the western coast of Myanmar, also known as Burma. But Buddhist Rakhines and other Burmese view them as illegal immigrants from neighbouring Bangladesh who deserve neither rights nor sympathy.

The resolution adopted on Monday is identical to one approved last month by the General Assembly's Third Committee, which focuses on human rights. After that vote, Myanmar's mission to the United Nations said that it accepted the resolution but objected to the Rohingyas being referred to as a minority.

"There has been no such ethnic group as Rohingya among the ethnic groups of Myanmar," a representative of Myanmar said at the time. "Despite this fact, the right to citizenship for any member or community has been and will never be denied if they are in line with the law of the land."

PM asks media

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mass-media," she added.

The premier made the remarks while inaugurating a programme marking four decades of the state-owned Bangladesh Television (BTV).

Hasina said freedom is a matter of enjoyment, but it also creates responsibility. "So all concerned should have that responsibility."

She also said the media have to be more careful before publishing or airing any news and programmes as people of all ages -- from children to elderly -- read newspapers and listen to TV news.

Hasina delivered her speech through videoconference from her Gano Bhaban residence in the capital.

Terming her government as media-friendly one, the premier said "My government during its previous term in 1996 first approved the private satellite TV channel."

After assuming office this time, her government has endorsed 16 new TV channels including Sangsad Television, and seven radio stations that have ensured free flow of information, she added.

Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu spoke at the function from BTV's Rampura station, while BTV Director General M Hamid delivered the welcome address at Gano Bhaban.

Prime Minister's adviser HT Imam and Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, among others, were present at the function at Gano Bhaban.

Driver killed

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long tailback in Gobindhaganj of Gaibandha and Shibganj of Bogra, causing bus passengers to suffer.

The demonstrators retreated after they had been assured of proper punishment of the sergeant involved, said Mokbul Hossen, an assistant superintendent of police (ASP).

Senior ASP of Bogra highway police Anisur Rahman last night said he was still at the spot of the incident and that the sergeant had been withdrawn. He said an investigation was going on in this connection.

Prosecutor, 6 others killed in Guatemala

AFP, Guatemala City

A Guatemalan federal prosecutor and six other people were killed in an attack near the Mexican border blamed on drug traffickers, officials said Monday.

The attackers burned the bodies of their victims, including Chiquimula prosecutor Irma Olivares, a businessman and the director of a regional government social services agency, said Interior Minister Mauricio Lopez.