

**POWER TO 'COMMON MAN'**

Aam Admi leader Arvind Kejriwal takes oath as Delhi chief minister

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**DEMISE OF A GENTLEMAN**

Farooq Sheikh, known for his smooth acting in Indian cinema, dies at 65

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PHOTO: COURTESY

In the shivering cold on the platform of Gharinda Railway Station in Tangail yesterday, passengers of Padma Express and Nil Sagar Express are perplexed at the action of law enforcers, who stopped the trains over 100km away from the capital and got the passengers off. More photos on page 16.

## Dhaka-bound trips turn nightmare

Thousands suffer as buses, launches cancel trips; passengers heading for capital forced to get down from trains at Tangail, Joydevpur; city people face transport crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of people heading for the capital got stranded in many parts of the country yesterday, as the government apparently restricted movement of buses, launches and trains ahead of today's "march for democracy" by the BNP-led opposition.

Leaders of the ruling Awami League, local administration and law enforcers asked transport owners to keep their vehicles off the roads, warning them of troubles on the way to Dhaka.

The sudden restriction kept most districts almost

cut off from the capital, causing untold sufferings to people. Moreover, checks and searches by law enforcers at different points added to their woes.

As hundreds of passengers thronged terminals in the capital and elsewhere in the morning, they found to their utter surprise that no bus or launch would leave for or from Dhaka.

According to transport operators, around 86,000 large and small buses ply across the country. But only a few buses ran on the major highways to the capital yesterday.

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## Dropped off midway

M ABUL KALAM AZAD with MIRZA SHAKIL in Tangail

Abdul Khaleque had no idea what he, his wife and his two daughters were in for when they got on board the Nil Sagar Express heading for Dhaka early yesterday.

In the bitter cold, they had to wait at Lalmonirhat Railway Station as the train was three hours behind schedule and it started at 2:30am. But it was nothing compared to the agony they went through first in Tangail and then on their way to Dhaka.

Around 7:40am, the train was stopped at Gharinda Railway Station near Bangabandhu Bridge. After a

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## Defer Jan 5 polls

Civil society members urge govt; call for credible, participatory polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens yesterday called on the government to defer the January 5 parliamentary election to make it participatory and credible.

Deferment of such a meaningless election is the main task now to hold dialogue among major political parties and resolve the ongoing crisis, they told a discussion at a hotel in the capital's Gulshan.

Civil society think-tank Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), legal aid organisation Ain O Salish Kendra, civic movement for good governance Sujon and Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) jointly organised the discussion on "Bangladesh in Crisis".

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**Laws to ensure MPs' accountability****Completion of war crimes trials****Focus on new Vision 2041****Full implementation of CHT Peace Accord****Per capita income \$1,500 by 2021**

## AL REVEALS POLLS MANIFESTO

## No pledge for making wealth reports public

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Having failed to fulfil its 2008 election pledge to publish the wealth statements of powerful people every year, the ruling Awami League has dropped the matter altogether and made no such promise in its manifesto for the 10th parliamentary polls.

Instead, the party has pledged initiatives for ensuring accountability of people from all sections for their income and wealth.

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## Capital braces for political face-off

*Fear of violence grows as opposition vows to defy ban on gathering; AL 'to resist' today's rally*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two archrival political camps are heading for a showdown today with dogged determination -- the BNP-led opposition to stage the Dhaka march and the ruling Awami League to resist it.

With only six days left to the January 5 polls, city dwellers are on their nerves fearing political conflicts centred in the capital after countrywide killings, arson and blasts over the past one month.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday instructed activists of her party and allies to defy obstructions from the law enforcers and ruling party men and hold the protest march at any cost.

She herself will start marching from her Gulshan residence towards the party's Nayapaltan headquarters around 2:30pm today, no matter police permits it or not, her close aides said.

"If police bar her motorcade, the

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Karnaphuli Bridge, Chittagong

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## DBBL Mobile Banking Services at BKB Branches

Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited (DBBL) has launched Mobile Banking Services at all branches of Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB). Mr. Alauddin A. Majid, Chairman, Bangladesh Krishi Bank and Mr. M Sahabuddin Ahmed, Founder of Dutch-Bangla Bank and Chairman of Dutch-Bangla Bank Foundation have jointly inaugurated this Mobile Banking Services on December 26, 2013 at the Local Office of BKB, Dhaka. Mr. Sayem Ahmed, Chairman Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of DBBL, Mr. Md. Abdus Salam, Managing Director of BKB and Mr. K.S. Tabrez, Managing Director of DBBL were present at the inauguration.

Under this agreement all 1,026 branches of the BKB will provide DBBL mobile banking services to the unbanked people of the country such as Account Opening, Cash Deposit (Cash-in) and Cash Withdrawal (Cash-out). All the existing DBBL mobile banking customers will also be able to get services from any of the BKB branches.

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