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LAW NOT FOR POLICE, FOR OTHERS

A police truck hurries a pedestrian to run across the street on a zebra crossing in front of the foreign ministry yesterday as it makes an illegal U-turn going over the gap in the central reservation meant for pedestrians only. The vehicle could have made a legal U-turn going just a few feet ahead. Three policemen at Sonargaon intersection stop a bicycle rider, right, for travelling against traffic on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. The officers later threw the bicycle on the footpath damaging it.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



SUNDBARBANS UN for ban on movement of vessels

UNB, Dhaka

Expressing concern over the capsizing of an oil tanker, UNDP Bangladesh yesterday said the accident once again highlights the need for a complete ban on the movement of all commercial vessels through the Sundarbans. Pauline Tamesis, country director of UNDP

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MONGLA PORT AUTHORITIES WAKE UP Move to build spill management capacity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six and a half decades after Mongla Port's establishment, the authorities have recently decided to develop capacity for oil spill management. The port, which has been operative since 1950, will get logistics required for such management, said its chairman, Commodore Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan, yesterday.

He added that other development projects at one of the country's oldest seaports were underway.

The decision came against the backdrop of oil spill from a sunken tanker, Southern Star-7, in the Shela and Poshur rivers along the Sundarbans.

Hit by a cargo vessel, the tanker carrying furnace oil went down into the Shela river on Tuesday. Since then oil has spread over

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

2 indicted for war crimes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday indicted two war crimes accused on three charges for their alleged involvement in mass killing, arson, looting, abduction and torture committed in Chapainawabganj during the Liberation War in 1971.

The accused are Mahidur Rahman, 84, of Dadanchak village, and Afsar Hossain alias Chutu, 65, of Satrosia village, under Shibganj upazila of the district.

Among the charges, two are related to the killing of 28 people in separate

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DCCs to run under new administrators

Left without elected representatives for more than 3 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has again appointed administrators to Dhaka South and Dhaka North city corporations for six months, instead of electing public representatives three years after the erstwhile DCC's bifurcation.

Rakkhal Chandra Barman, director general of the jute department,

yesterday received appointment as administrator of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) while Md Shawkat Mostafa, additional secretary (OSD) of the home ministry, took charge of the south part of the capital.

They would be the seventh-term administrators to lead the organisations since the bifurcation of Dhaka

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Fog disrupts transport

Flights delayed, ferry services halted for hours

STAR REPORT

Thick fog blanketed most of the country yesterday, disrupting normal life. At least 20 flights of different airlines were delayed while road and water links hampered.

The chill weather has hit people, mainly children and elderly, across the country. Residents in northern districts have been among the worst hit.

Thousands of passengers suffered from delays as several hundred buses and other vehicles were stranded at Shimulia-Kawrakandi and Paturia-Daulatdia ferry terminals after suspension of ferry services due to poor vis-

ibility, reports our Munshiganj correspondent.

Ferry services on the Shimulia-Kawrakandi route in the Padma were snapped for around 14 hours since 8:00pm on Wednesday. Five ferries stopped in mid-river for hours due to poor visibility.

No ferries plied the Paturia-Daulatdia route for over seven hours since 11:00pm on Wednesday. The inclement weather left four ferries stranded in mid-river on the route, said terminal sources.

Buses and goods-laden trucks caused huge tailbacks at the ferry terminals on both sides of the river.

Our Tangail correspondent adds: At five road accidents caused around 35-km and 10-km-long queues on the Tangail and Sirajganj ends of the Bangabandhu Bridge on Wednesday night. The gridlocks caused sufferings to thousands of passengers.

Such disruption in road and river links might continue for the next two or three days mainly in the coastal and riverine areas across the country, said the Dhaka Met office.

Though the temperature, said a Met official, fell in the last few days, the first cold spell of this winter is yet to hit the country when the mercury is likely to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Comets not source of Earth's water

BBC ONLINE

Scientists have dealt a blow to the theory that most water on Earth came from comets.

Results from Europe's Rosetta mission, which made history by landing on Comet 67P in November, shows the water on the icy mass is unlike that on our planet. The results are published in the journal Science.

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In the shivering cold three boys walk to school through dense fog on Dhaka-Barisal highway yesterday morning at Kashipur in Barisal.

PHOTO: ARIFUR RAHMAN

My treatment shames US flag

Yemeni prisoner tells of torture at Gitmo

Samir Naji al Hasan Moqbel is a Yemeni accused of serving in Osama bin Laden's security detail and has been imprisoned for nearly 13 years without charge in Guantanamo Bay. The following first-person testimony, recorded during his most recent meeting with lawyers from the international human rights organisation Reprieve, has just been released by prison censors.

CNN, Guantanamo Bay

I've heard that the Senate report on CIA torture is 6,000 pages long. My story, though, takes place elsewhere: in Guantanamo, away from the CIA program that the report covers. The 6,000 pages of the Senate report are just the start of what Americans have to accept happened in their name.

It starts and ends in the silence of a tiny, freezing cold cell, alone.

That's when you hold yourself in a ball, and fight to ignore the confusion of what has just happened to you, and the fear of what might be coming next. Or the fear that comes when you realize that no one is coming to help; that the life, family and friends you knew are all far, far away.

CIA CHIEF DEFENDS ACTION -- PAGE 9



Samir Naji

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that her government had strengthened rights-related institutions, including the NHRC, for promoting human rights in the country?

Yes (13%)
No (87%)

TOTAL VOTES: 262

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with some rights activists that the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is not taking effective steps to stop rights violation in the country?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING December 12

	Azan	Jamaat
Fazr	5-15	5-50
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation