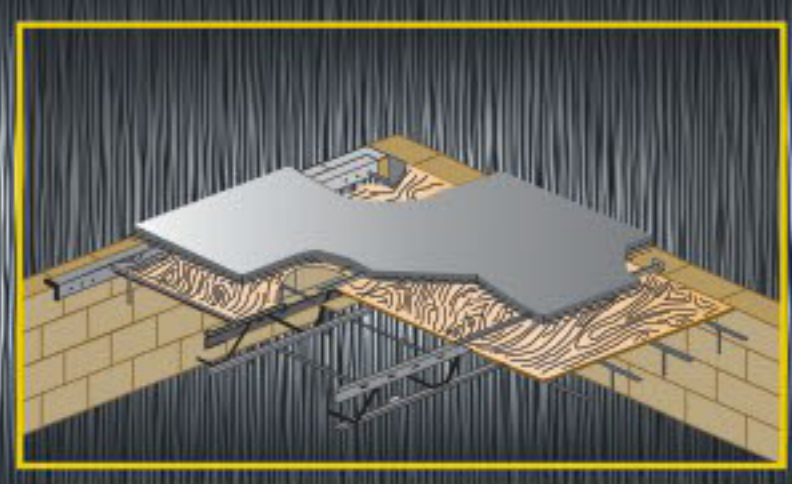


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Buses, right, block almost the entire Gulistan Police Box intersection in the capital while trying to get more passengers, creating tailbacks yesterday. Hawkers occupy most of nearby streets and entire pavements, forcing pedestrians to walk on the road risking their lives, left and bottom.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

PASTOR KILLING ATTEMPT IN PABNA Cops capture key 'JMB commander'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police yesterday arrested the "regional commander" of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) at Majidpur in the district in connection with the attack on pastor Luke Sarkar.

The arrestee, Rakibul Islam Rakib, along with his two associates led the attack on the pastor, police claimed.

Pabna Additional Superintendent of Police Liton Kumar Saha said Rakib was arrested in Majidpur area of Tebunia around 12:30pm following information given by previously arrested Rakibul Islam Rabbi and four other JMB suspects.

Rakib in a confessional statement to a Pabna court on October 17 said he along with Rakib, who led the attack, and Shakil attempted to kill Luke Sarkar at his home in Ishwardi.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Teen restaurant worker 'shot dead by owner'

Say police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage restaurant staff was shot dead allegedly by his employer in the capital's Swamibagh early yesterday after being tortured for hours for "stealing a mobile phone and Tk 1,500", said police.

Aged about 16, Md Riad was a staff of Ghoroa Restaurant in Motijheel.

A primary investigation revealed that restaurant owner Ariful Islam Sohel, 27,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Govt to further step up airport security

Minister cites 'threats from certain quarters' as reason

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to further beef up security at the country's three international airports following "threats from certain quarters".

The decision came yesterday at a meeting of the cabinet committee on law and order at the home ministry with Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu in the chair.

"There are threats from certain quarters. So we have decided to further strengthen

security at airports... we will ensure world-class security there," Amu, chairman of the committee, told The Daily Star last night.

The security measures include increased vigilance and search operation, said sources.

The authorities already enhanced security at the three airports from Sunday night following information from intelligence agencies.

According to meeting sources, some members of the committee criticised the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

WAR CRIMES TRIAL AI statement irks lawyers, activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawyers and activists for war crimes trials yesterday criticised an Amnesty International statement that the trial and appeal process of convicts Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and Ali

Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed was "seriously flawed".

They said the AI was "audacious" and "acted

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Discharge of untreated waste of dyeing factories into the Karmapara canal in Savar pollutes the water. To make things worse, local influential people dump garbage choking the canal. The photo was taken yesterday near Savar Bank Town.

Sea level rising up to 20mm a yr

Says climate change study on Bangladesh

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The annual rise of sea level in Bangladesh ranges between 6mm and 20mm, posing threats to the country's agriculture, land and population, according to a

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



PRAYER TIMING

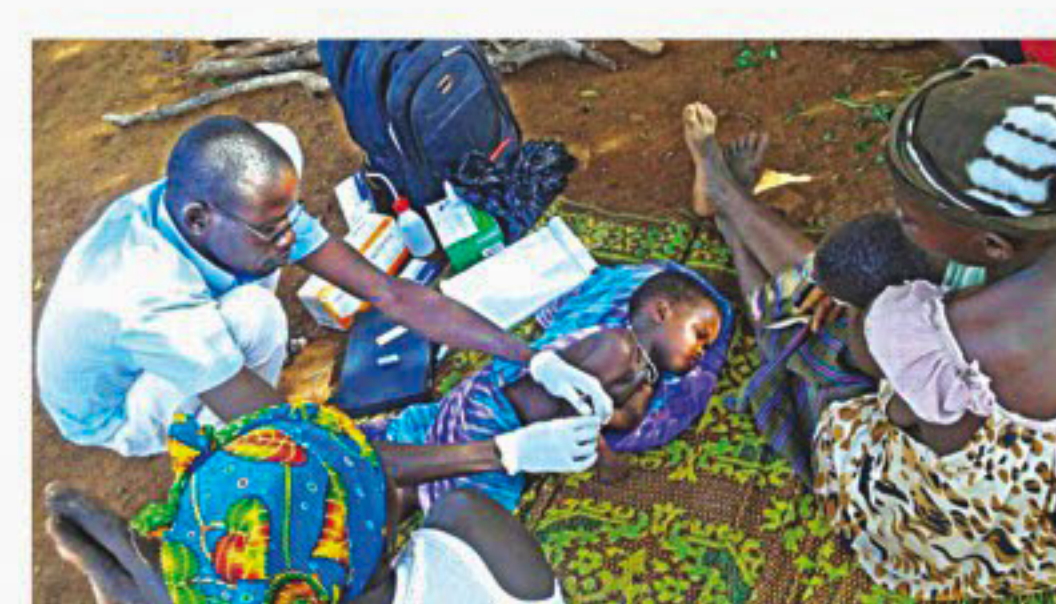
OCTOBER 29

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-50 12-45 4-00 5-32 7-15

JAMAAT 5-25 1-15 4-15 5-35 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Worm-killing drug 'tackles malaria'

BBC ONLINE

A parasitic-worm-killing drug, whose discovery won the Nobel prize, may also cut cases of malaria, say researchers.

Early data coming out of trials of ivermectin in Burkina Faso suggest it leads to 16% fewer cases of childhood malaria.

Scientists at the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene's conference said the drug was toxic to blood-drinking mosquitoes.

They said their findings were pretty exciting, but still at an early stage.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Nepal gets first female president

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's parliament elected lawmaker Bidhya Bhandari as the country's first female president yesterday, after the adoption of a landmark constitution last month.

The former defence minister defeated her opponent Kul Bahadur Gurung by 327 to 214 votes to become the Himalayan nation's ceremonial head of state.



Bidhya Bhandari

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Kathmandu inks first fuel deal with Beijing

Aims to ease crisis as supply from India blocked

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal signed its first ever fuel agreement with China yesterday for Beijing to supply petroleum to ease a crippling shortage after protests blocked imports from sole supplier India, an official said.

Scores of trucks have been stranded at a key India-Nepal border checkpoint for more than a month, cutting off vital supplies and forcing fuel rationing across the landlocked Himalayan nation.

The shortages have led to overnight queues at gas stations in the Nepalese capital and prompted the government to turn to its northern neighbour for help, ending a decades-long monopoly by India as tensions deepen

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Toxic gas in septic tank kills four

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Four construction workers, including a man and his son, died after inhaling toxic gas inside a septic tank in Chuadanga's Jibonnagar upazila yesterday.

The dead are Hasem Ali, 51, his son Sujon Ali, 23, of Kondoppur village, Jalal Uddin of Baidyanathpur

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

IN FOND MEMORY



One more year has passed since you left us and our hearts are still beyond repair. The part of us that left with you is still hopelessly lost. Our world even now fails to turn. We miss every single moment, the precious gems you spent with us in your ephemeral life. We do still cherish every fleeting shadow you have draped around us as your blessings. We believe that Allah (SWT) is taking good care of you and pray to Him that you may have eternal peace.

- Your family

We ask all friends and well-wishers of Mr. Imtiaz Husain to pray for his departed soul and remember him fondly for the good deeds he has done and the hearts he has touched.