

### Dense fog disrupts vehicle, ferry services

STAR REPORT  
Dense fog disrupted vehicle and ferry services on different routes in the country at night yesterday, causing a lot of sufferings to passengers. Our Tangail correspondent reports, thousands of passengers faced untold sufferings due to long tailbacks on Dhaka-Tangail highway for at least 20 hours from Friday to yesterday. The tailbacks were seen from Kaliakair upazila of Gazipur to Bangabandhu bridge's west end in Sirajganj and on the highway stretching 65km in Tangail. The tailback started around 6:00pm on Friday on the highway, said Sub-inspector Motaieb Hossain of Gorai Highway Police Station. The dense fog led to suspension of ferry service on Paturia-Daulatdia route, which cause a severe tailback, he said. On the other hand, vehicular movement remained suspended on the Bangabandhu bridge from 7:30am to 8:30am and later 9:00am to 9:40am due to dense fog, said Sub-inspector Jahangir Alam of Elega Highway Police Outpost. "I have started my journey from Airport area in Dhaka at 5:00am and reached Tangail at 1:00pm," said Muaj Ahmed, a private firm official in the capital. Our Manikganj correspondent reports, ferry service on Paturia-Daulatdia route was halted for an hour yesterday morning, said sources at Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC). Our Munshiganj correspondent adds, ferry services on Shimulia-Kawrakandi route in the Padma River were suspended for six hours, said officials.



Participants of the concluding session of the 39th annual meeting of Bangla Academy's general committee on its premises in the capital yesterday. Inset, the academy Director General Shamsuzzaman Khan and President Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman with awardees, from left, Hossainuddin Hossain (Sadat Ali Akhand Sahitya Puraskar (literature award)-2016), Abu Bakar Siddique (Mazharul Islam Kobita Puroshkar (poetry award)-2016) and Akhter Hossain (Kabir Chowdhury Shishu Sahitya Puraskar (children's literature award)-2016). PHOTO: STAR

### Publishers should organise Ekushey book fair

Says Prof Anisuzzaman adding it will help Bangla Academy do regular activities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Bangla Academy President Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman yesterday opined that publishers and their association should organise the month-long Amar Ekushey book fair in February, helping the academy, ultimately the nation, concentrate more on regular activities affected for three months. It appears that one of the academy's major functions is to arrange the book fair, the eminent academician told the concluding session of the 39th annual meeting of the academy's general committee. Although the organising role stimulates reverence for the fair and for the last 60 years significantly aided the country's cultural developments, the academy has no reason to accept debates arising nowadays, he said, urging the academy's executive body, cultural affairs ministry and publishers to give it a thought. Earlier, the academy Director General (DG) Shamsuzzaman Khan presented an annual activity report of 2015-16 fiscal year. "Different initiatives and programmes have been taken for upholding the image of the academy. Efforts from SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

### Woman killed by stray bullet 'meant for AL man'

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna  
She was just a passerby but it was fateful day. Six armed men riding motorcycles fired bullets and one of them hit her fatally. The bullet was meant for an Awami League leader. Shipra Kundu, 46, was just another victim of the country's deadly politics. She was the wife of Chittaranjan Kundu, deputy general manager of Bangladesh Development Bank Ltd of Khulna branch, and lived with her family on Islampur road of Khulna city. Around 11:00am yesterday, the unknown miscreants chased and targeted ZA Mahamud Don, former ward councillor and publicity and publication secretary of Khulna city unit of AL, in Shitolbari Mondir area of the city and shot at him. But the bullet hit Shipra while the AL leader

escaped, said Shafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Khulna Sadar Police Station. On the New Year's Eve, the news came as a thunderbolt to the family. "We used to have a happy family," said Chittaranjan wailing at his house as hundreds of people gathered to say goodbye to his wife. Shipra went out of home to buy flowers for worship at the Shitolbari temple. After being hit, she was rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital where she succumbed to her injuries, the OC added. Shipra's son Avijit Kundu and daughter Abonti Kundu study at Khulna University. "It came as a thunderbolt to us," said Chittaranjan. Crying loudly over her coffin, Mrinmoy, a friend of Avijit, said, "She was like my mother. I'm from Natore but stay in Khulna for my studies. Now I'm motherless here."

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BEXI FABRICS

Rail link with Rangpur halted for protesting 'assault on staff by AL man'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Rangpur Railway officials and staff yesterday halted rail communications for six and a half hours from 1:00pm demanding punishment for 12 Awami League activists who allegedly assaulted four of their fellows during a meeting. According to Rangpur Railway officials, Chief Commercial Manager of Western Railway Zone Mihir Kumar Guha was holding a meeting with his staff at Rangpur Railway Station where General Secretary of Rangpur Mohanagar AL Tushar Kanti Mondal accompanied by 11 activists suddenly turned up with their demands for a new intercity train between Rangpur and Dhaka, and all new and extra coaches for incumbent Rangpur Express. Tushar demanded railways minister's phone number as the officials

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