



LIKE DUBAI, BANGLADESH CAN BE BUILT ON GRADE 500 STEEL

BSRM Xtreme
the next generation steel

Offers available at
TRANSCOM
DIGITAL
Your Trusted Electronics Retailer

For more information: 8855 386-8, 01712 885483

Obama to hold Pak-Afghan crisis summit

AFP, Washington

President Barack Obama will try to cajole leaders of Pakistan and Afghanistan into a crack-down on resurgent extremism, in summits aimed at bolstering anti-terror efforts.

In maybe his most challenging diplomatic gambit yet, Obama will hold one-on-one crisis talks with both Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari and convene a trilateral White House summit late Wednesday.

Obama wants support for his new multi-billion-dollar strategy to crush the Taliban and Al-Qaeda; Zardari seeks US military aid and a political

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

60 killed in deadly Pakistan fighting

AFP, Peshawar

Pakistan said it killed more than 60 militants in heavy bombardments in an upsurge of fighting yesterday that caused tens of thousands to flee and threatened to torpedo a northwest peace deal.

The military announced the death tolls, which could not be independently confirmed, ahead of a summit between US President Barack Obama and President Asif Ali Zardari, under US pressure to crush Taliban and Al-Qaeda fighters.

Helicopter gunships and artillery swung into action against Taliban in Swat

Wednesday in the deadliest fighting reported in the northwest former ski resort since a February deal sought to end a nearly two-year Taliban insurgency.

"Security forces were being targeted from emerald mines. In retaliatory fire 35 militants were killed," the military said in a statement.

Another military spokesman said helicopter gunships and artillery bombarded the mines before ground troops recaptured the area from the Taliban. He also said there were reports of civilian casualties in fighting in Swat.

"There are reports of civilian casualties in today's engagements but no details

were immediately available because the area is under curfew," he said.

The government scrambled to shelter up to 500,000 people they expect to flee Swat and local officials said tens of thousands streamed out of the district's main town.

"More than 40,000 have migrated from Mingora since Tuesday afternoon," said Khushhal Khan, the chief administration officer in Swat.

"An exodus of more than 40,000 people is the minimum number -- it should actually be more than 50,000," said an intelligence official.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Some BRTA services to be outsourced

Communications term it den of corruption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

High-ups of the communications ministry at a meeting yesterday termed the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) a den of corruption and decided to outsource some of its services to private sectors to provide people with better services.

The meeting, held to decide on the digitalisation of all services of BRTA, formed a committee with the communications secretary as its head and tasked it with preparing a set of recommendations on the matter within a week.

The ministry also decided to probe corruption and irregularities in BRTA over the last seven years.

Referring to a recent incident when a BRTA official demanded Tk 40,000 as bribe from a

former secretary of the communication ministry, Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain said, "Everybody knows about the corruption in BRTA. Now it is rotten and stinking."

Conversion of services of BRTA like fitness testing, registration and providing driving license into a digital system will help rid it of corruption, the minister said.

Initially some automobile service companies will be asked to provide fitness-testing certificate in favour of the government in exchange for a certain amount of money to ease people's sufferings.

"This system is a temporary as the services of BRTA are going to be digitalised," the minister said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Amend act to strengthen UZ parishads

Govt urged at Shujan discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday suggested amending the Upazila Parishad Act on the basis of opinions of all the stakeholders and experts to strengthen it by ensuring a balance of power between the lawmakers and elected chairmen of upazilas.

A state of confrontation

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Sedition case filed against Akhtar Hamid

UNB, Naogaon

A sedition case was filed against former deputy speaker and BNP leader Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui yesterday, 46 days after his arrest.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Mohadevpur Police Station Ilias Fakir filed the case.

On March 20, the OC filed a general diary (GD) accusing Hamid of threatening him with dire consequences and making statements against the government and the state.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Krishnachura trees in full bloom make a picturesque view on this drive along the Dhaka-Ashulia road near Turag Police Station.

20 more BDR jawans held

3rd FBI team joins investigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested 20 more Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) jawans from Pikhana headquarters in connection with the mutiny on February 25-26.

With yesterday's tally, the number of arrested BDR jawans rose to around 1,400.

Meanwhile, the third team

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Proshika staff want Faruque's removal, probe into graft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Officials and employees of Proshika yesterday put forward a three-point demand that include removal of its Chairman Qazi Faruque for using the 'non-political' organisation for political purposes over the years and causing huge financial losses to it.

The other demands are formation of a high-powered

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

TOURISM SECTOR JS body formed to recover money looted in past 8yrs

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary body yesterday formed a sub-committee to recover 'the money and properties misappropriated' in tourism sector during the tenures of previous BNP-led four-party government and the last caretaker government.

The standing committee on civil aviation and tourism ministry at a meeting at the parliament building asked Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd to reappoint the efficient employees

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

'Crossfire' continues

One killed despite minister's warning

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged criminal was killed and two Rab men were wounded in a shootout between the elite force and his cohorts in the city's Kamrangirchar area early yesterday.

The incident took place despite Tuesday's warning of LGRD and Cooperative Minister Syed Ashraf Islam against 'extra-judicial killing'.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Maoists vow to step up protests in Nepal

Protesters fight cops in streets

AP, Kathmandu

Police clashed yesterday with protesting Maoists, who vowed to prevent a new government from being formed unless the president supported the firing of the country's army chief the key dispute that has thrown the Himalayan country into crisis.

The clash came after the president on Sunday overruled an order from Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal to fire the country's military chief.

Dahal, a former Maoist guerrilla leader who

entered mainstream politics in 2006, accused the army's leader of refusing to bring former communist fighters into the military. Dahal resigned Monday in protest.

Police yesterday used tear gas and bamboo batons to break up a protest of about 500 supporters of Dahal's Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) in the capital, Katmandu. No one was seriously injured. Authorities have imposed a ban on protests and rallies in key areas of Katmandu this week.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Deal signed for feasibility study on Ganges Barrage

UNB, Dhaka

An agreement involving Tk 34.34 crore was signed here yesterday for launching feasibility study of the Ganga Barrage, meant for offsetting the adverse impact of scanty flow of water in the once-mighty river Ganges (Padma).

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and associate organisations of Development Design Consultants Limited (DDC) -- a China-Pakistan consortium -- entered into the deal.

The DDC associate organisations are BETS, BCL, DIVINE and ACE of Pakistan and NESPAK, SMEC and CWRC of China.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

One killed as billboard collapses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A young man died and three others sustained injuries when a billboard collapsed on a phone shop near the Zia International Airport during storms last night.

The deceased was identified as Shah Jalal alias Akash, 25, while the injured were Ariful Islam, 18, Jamatul Islam, 22, and Mohammad Selim, 25. All the deceased and injured are the residents of Ashkona area.

Witnesses said the billboard broke down on the shop at about 8:30pm during the storms after the four persons took shelter in the shop. All of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



This road in front of Wills Little Flower school at Kakrail has been dug up for drainage work by Dhaka Wasa, leaving only a narrow stretch between the traffic lane and the ditch for students to walk to their school.

PHOTO: STAR

Hopes for job in Kuwait brightens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government sees a ray of hope for fresh recruitment of Bangladeshi workers in Kuwait as the Gulf nation has initiated formation of Kuwait-Bangladesh Joint Committee to deal with the manpower recruitment process.

"Kuwait is positive about recruiting our workers, but before that they will form a committee engaging officials of our mission there to check irregularities in recruitment process and protect their interests," Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain said yesterday after a meeting with a Kuwaiti delegation.

An initiative is underway and its completion may take 15 days to one month, the minister said.

Kuwait House of National Works President Yousef Abdul Wahab Al Ameer and Major General Mohammed Abdul Wahab Al Shayjee, Dr Sulaiman Abdur Razzak Al A'sousi and Malah Amer Al Amer were included in the delegation, which also met the foreign minister and education minister.

During the meeting with Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Yousef Abdul Wahab said Kuwaiti Prime Minister and his cabinet

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

CTG ARMS HAUL Ex-NSI boss Sahab Uddin's remand ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The three-day remand of former director (security) of National Security Intelligence (NSI) Mohammad Sahab Uddin ended yesterday evening without any further development in the Chittagong arms haul case.

The CID officials remained

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Prayer Timing		
May 7		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-34	6-38
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation