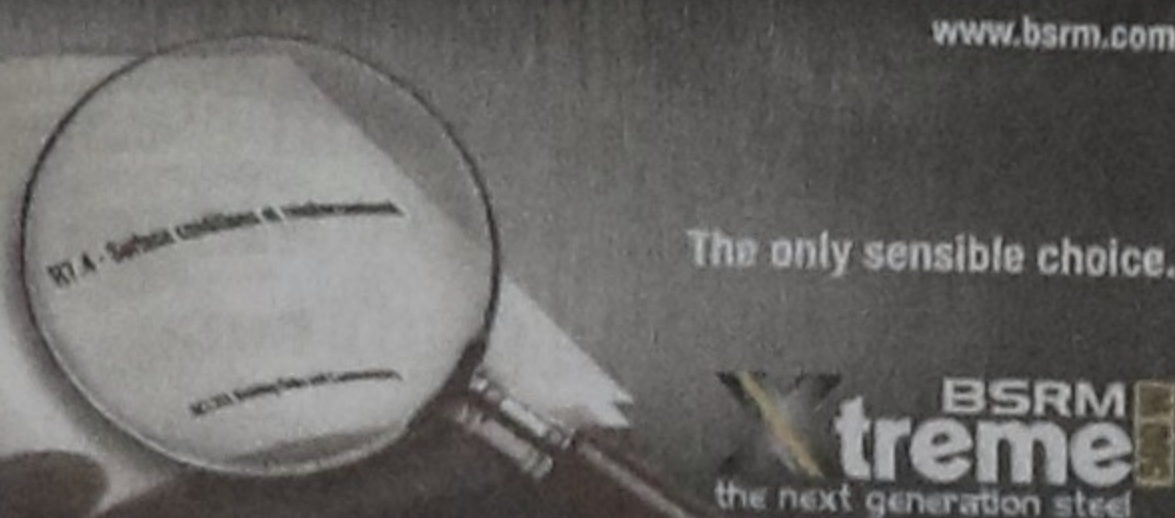


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# Resourceful Khulna left in the cold

Speakers at The Daily Star roundtable seek special govt allocation for development of the division

PORIMOL PALMA and QUAZI AMANULLAH from Khulna

Khulna division is lagging far behind the rest of the country despite the fact that it is one of the most resourceful regions with good prospects for industries and tourism, speakers at a roundtable discussion yesterday said.

The speakers at the discussion titled "Development of Khulna division: problems and prospects" organised by The Daily Star at Hotel Royal International in Khulna attributed this backwardness to fragile road communications and crises of power and gas.

They also demanded special allocation to the division given that it is a disaster-prone area and natural disasters every year cause huge damage to its resources.

They suggested the government makes the Mongla Port fully operational, accelerate the construction of Padma Bridge, supply gas to the region and complete the construction of Khulna Khan Jahan Ali Airport to utilise the full potential of the region.

The government should take immediate

steps to reopen the closed newsprint and jute mills to bring back vibrancy in economy and form Khulna-Sudarbans Development Authority to turn the region into a tourism hub, the speakers said.

"Khulna produces jute and fish in huge quantity, especially prawn but we are ruining these industries as most of the jute mills are closed while it lacks proper infrastructure for fish cultivation and export," said Khulna Chamber President Shahrulzaman Mortaza.

He said the successive governments had neglected Khulna, which is why very good river and road links had not developed here and power supply is inadequate.

Mongla Port has very good potential but the authorities are not paying attention to it, Mortaza said demanding its operation in full swing to facilitate exports and imports.

"A tonne of goods for exports requires additional transport cost of 20-25 dollars; we have to export them through Chittagong Port as we cannot use Mongla Port," said Abdul Mannan, a jute exporter.

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## Clouded Leopard found

Wildlife trust tries to secure its release into forest

SUPRIO CHAKMA

A Clouded Leopard cub, critically endangered for Bangladesh, is now in captivity of some indigenous people near Barkal of Rangamati.

Sources said the locals captured the cub in last week of June and Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh (WTB) is trying to secure its release into the forest.

The locals saw the mother-leopard with its two cubs was feeding on a monkey, according to the sources.

They chased the leopard family and captured one cub while the mother and the other cub managed to escape.

WTB Chief Executive

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PHOTO: COURTESY

This cub of a thought-to-be-extinct clouded leopard was captured in Rangamati recently. Experts say that the species is hardly seen due to loss of habitat.



## Doctor stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A doctor was stabbed to death yesterday in her clinic chamber at Sabujbagh by her "suitor".

Deceased Salma Khatun, 28, a medical officer of Rawshan Ara Clinic, had obtained her MBBS degree

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## Renal failure of 20 kids to be probed

Body formed to investigate deaths, paracetamol syrup in-take

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday formed a seven-member probe committee for investigating the deaths of around 20 children from acute renal failure after taking paracetamol syrup.

The probe body has been formed at a meeting at the health ministry conference room with Additional Health Secretary BD Mitra in the chair. The meeting asked the committee to submit its report within five working days.

Joint Secretary (Hospital) Abdul Jalil was made convener while Deputy Secretary (Public Health) Mohammad Roisul Alam Mondol member secretary of the committee.

Experts from National Kidney Institute, Dhaka Medical College and Hospital, BSMMU, Directorate General of Health Services and

Dhaka Shishu Hospital are members the committee.

While talking to the newsmen, Prof M Moazzam Hossain, chairman of the department of Pediatric Nephrology of BSMMU said the government is considering the issue seriously and the sample collection has already started.

Some eight patients, aged between 11 months and three years, were admitted to the department of Pediatric Nephrology of BSMMU with acute renal failure since last one and a half months and five of them died.

Besides, some 26 children were admitted to the department of Pediatric Nephrology at Dhaka Shishu Hospital with acute renal failure since June to July 19. Among them, 17 died at the hospital.

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## Form intelligence units, tackle unrest

JS body recommends shifting jhoot business from garment industries

RASHIDUL HASAN

A House body yesterday made a set of recommendations including shifting jhoot (garment by-products) business from the garments industry areas, and forming intelligence units to prevent further unrest in the sector.

Jhoot business in and around garments factories, non-implementation of minimum wages fixed earlier, absence of trade unions, and extortions are the major reasons behind labour unrest in garments industry, said the parliamentary standing committee on labour ministry.

"Jhoot taders try to establish supremacy over each other creating an unhealthy situation that also leads to unrest in the garments sector. We therefore asked the authorities concerned to take steps for shifting jhoot business out of garments factory areas, Chairman of the committee Shajahan Khan told reporters after it met at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan.

A ruling Awami League lawmaker, Shajahan also said, "We have recommended that the government form intelligence units for garments industry. They will provide information

SEE PAGE 12 COL 5

## PARTIES' CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES, EC for ordinance to give time extension

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission will ask the government to promulgate an ordinance amending the Representation of the People Order to provide political parties with additional six months' time for submitting their ratified constitutions.

A meeting of the EC yesterday finalised a draft of the ordinance. The EC Secretariat completed preparations to send it to the law ministry today, commission sources said.

Talking to reporters yesterday afternoon, Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda disclosed the commission's decision on extending the timeframe for submitting ratified party constitutions up to January 24, 2010.

"The commission in its forwarding letter with the draft ordinance will ask the law ministry to place the proposal before the cabinet without any delay for consideration," a source in the EC said.

If promulgated by the president--since there is no parliament in session now, this will be the first ordinance of the Awami League-led government and the EC proposed making it effective from July 25.

The EC took the decision on extending the deadline following

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PHOTO: COURTESY

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus shakes hands with Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao prior to the Global Think Tank Summit held in Beijing recently to find solutions to the global financial crisis.

## Khaleda warns govt not to take anti-nation steps

UNB, Dhaka

Opposition leader Khaleda Zia once again assured the government of her cooperation in protecting national interests but warned that resistance will be built up with people in case

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## 2 Afghan cities hit by Taliban: 14 die

AP, Gardez

Eight Taliban militants attacked three government buildings and a US base in two eastern cities yesterday in near-simultaneous attacks a signature of major Taliban assaults. Eight insurgents and six Afghan security forces died.

Using suicide bombings, gunfire and rockets, the militants attacked the governor's compound, the intelligence department and the police department in the eastern city of Gardez just before 11 am (0630GMT; 2:30 am EDT), officials said.

Tribal elders and government officials had just finished a meeting at the governor's compound about security for the country's Aug. 20 presidential election when gunfire broke out at the nearby intelligence department, said deputy Gov. Abdul Rahman Mangal.

A rocket fired into the intelligence department killed three officers, said Ghulam Dastagir, the province's deputy police chief, while a suicide bombing in front of a police station killed two police. A rocket was also fired at the governor's house, he said.

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## TIPAI PROJECT Happy, if no harm done

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Indian president Dr APJ Abdul Kalam yesterday said he hopes India will not do anything harmful to Bangladesh with the Tipaimukh Dam.

He said this while talking to journalists at the Zia International Airport before he left for India after his three-day visit, reports the private television channel.

He said they had invited a team from Bangladesh to visit the site and the people of Bangladesh will know better after it comes back with its report.

He also talked about the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## OnlinePoll

Do you think the government's decision of withholding the disclosure of Sohel Taj's resignation for more than a month was correct?

Yes (11.44%)  
No (86.35%)  
No Comments (2.21%)

Total votes: 1040

TODAY'S POLL

JS body has recommended canceling lease of 45,000 acres of land in three districts of Chittagong Hill Tracts. Do you think the leasing process should be stopped permanently?

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Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	6-00	6-15
Maghrib	7-54	7-58
Esha	9-15	9-45

Source: Islamic Foundation