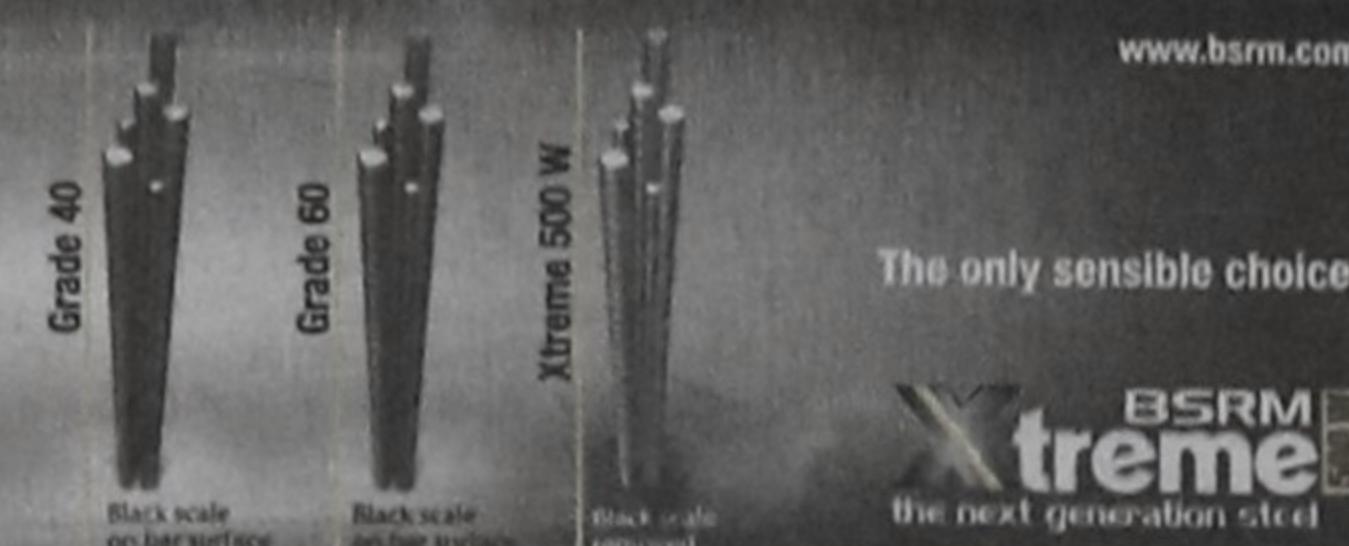


## Why Xtreme?

Xtreme 500 W is the only de-scaled bar in the country.



# Tk 7cr swindled out of 12,000

Shady marketing company shut its offices collecting money from small investors in Rangpur

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

A shady multilevel marketing company closed down its offices within two years of operation allegedly after collecting Tk 7 crore from over 12,000 small investors in Rangpur, Nilphamari, Thakurgaon and Dinajpur.

Sources said hundreds of shareholders of the company, TIDY Corporation Ltd, are seen waiting at its head office on College Road in Rangpur every day to get back the money they invested.

The fake company's head office in Rangpur and all branch offices in nine upazilas of four districts have been

closed. Many of the shareholders lodged complaints with the local administration but no action was taken.

The company sprouted in January 2007 with its head office in Rangpur and 25 branch offices at Baliahdangi and Birganj in Thakurgaon, Domar, Dimla, and Jaldhaka in Nilphamari, Fulbari and Parbotipur in Dinajpur, Taraganj, Badarganj and Sadar upazilas in Rangpur. Chandan Roy of Taraganj upazila in Rangpur conceived the company and became its managing director (MD).

The TIDY Corporation Ltd set up a mixed and organic fertiliser company at Borobhita under Jaldhaka upazila in

Nilphamari district and engaged as many as 194 agents to sell shares of Tk 3,200 each to over 12,000 people of the four districts. The company said the shareholders could earn at least Tk 700 a month by selling their products (mixed and organic fertiliser) to people.

Ranga Miah, manager of the company's Rangpur Sadar upazila branch, told this correspondent over phone that they sold about 22,000 shares in the four districts and claimed most of the shareholders got benefits.

Keya Begum, assistant manager of the company's Rangpur Sadar upazila branch, said the company had closed its offices in

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An attendant of a patient collects water bottles from all patients in Female Ward-14 at Dhaka Medical College Hospital to fetch water from outside the hospital since the drinking water available at the ward is foul smelling.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

US to bolster war on terror ties with India, Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

The United States will enhance cooperation with Bangladesh and India in fighting against violent extremism by various means, including sharing of intelligence, as a US spokesman said discussions with the governments of the two countries were held to this end.

US State Department Deputy Spokesman Robert Wood made the remarks responding to a question at a

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## Govt means metro rail business

Strong committee to oversee Tk 21,390cr project

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government will form a 17-member high-powered committee to oversee a Tk 21,390 crore underground metro rail project in the capital.

The committee would mainly determine the major terms and conditions including the timeframe for the project, monetary allocation and user's charges and fees.

The government has already estimated an expenditure of \$3.10 billion (Tk 21,390 crore) for the project.

Ministry sources said a target of five to seven

years is likely to be set for the completion of the project.

A meeting of cabinet committee on economic affairs with the finance minister in the chair today will approve the communications ministry's proposal for the committee formation.

The communications ministry also sought approval of the cabinet committee to float tenders for the metro rail subway under a package programme for both feasibility study and investment initiatives.

Headed by communications secretary the

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### CTG AMMO HAUL CASE

Re-probe gets 75 more days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The time for further investigation into the Chittagong arms haul case has been extended for 75 more days.

The court of Chittagong Metropolitan Sessions Judge Bhabani Prashad Singh extended the time yesterday after Criminal Investigation Department (CID) tendered a petition seeking three-month time extension for further investigation.

With the time extension

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## Most govt schools run without top teachers

ALPHA ARZU

Most of the government secondary schools are running without headmasters, assistant headmasters and adequate number of assistant teachers due to bureaucratic tangles and reluctance of the education ministry to fill the vacant posts.

Officials at the ministry say 252 out of 317 public secondary schools don't have headmasters for the past four years. This is severely hampering academic and administrative progress of the schools.

The Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) officials say 273 posts of assistant headmasters and more than 600 posts of assistant teachers are also vacant in schools

imparting lessons among about two lakh students.

The DSHE officials blame it on the administrative logjam and reluctance of the ministry to properly address the issue.

Speaking anonymously, a DSHE deputy director says: "We can't appoint required number of assistant headmasters because of the rules set by a statutory regulatory order [SRO] issued in 2004."

"Since we are unable to appoint the assistant headmasters, we find no teachers fit for becoming headmasters," the DSHE adds.

The SRO stipulates 50 percent of assistant headmasters through direct recruitment and 50 percent through promotion.

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Passport cheats caught

1,400 fake passports, seals and writing pads seized in raid on recruiting agency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch of Police Tuesday arrested seven cheats of a gang at a recruiting agency in the city's Banani and seized around 1,400 fake passports and various fake seals and writing pads from their possession.

Additional Commissioner Mollah Nazrul Islam of DB told The Daily Star that the cheats had been taking thousands of taka from innocent people who want to go abroad to work through the recruiting agency Kishore Enterprise.

Mollah Nazrul Islam, who led the drive, also said they seized various kinds of seals and writing pads which the criminals used for forging documents to collect money from people.

The detained are Anwar

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



A few of the fake passports and seals seized from the seven cheats in Banani. Insert: Some of the fake seals of high-ranking officials the gang managed to forge. The photo was taken at the DB headquarters on Minto Road.

## AL yet to finalise list of councillors

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

One day shy of the 20th national council of the ruling Awami League (AL), the party is still to finalise the list of councillors who should constitute the electorate for ratifying the provisional changes in the party constitution and electing a new leadership.

Of the 73 organisational district units of the party, seven to eight did not send their lists of councillors until 6:00 pm yesterday when the AL Central Working Committee sat to finalise the national list.

Earlier, the council preparatory committee at its July 18 meeting chaired by AL President Sheikh Hasina had asked the district

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## AL invites Khaleda Ashraf made acting gen secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League yesterday invited opposition leader and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain to its national council to be held tomorrow.

Meanwhile, AL spokesman Syed Ashraf Islam was made acting general secretary of the party at its Central Working Committee meeting last night after AL general secretary Abdul Jalil resigned from his post Tuesday.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting chaired by AL President Sheikh Hasina, Ashraf said they invited different political party leaders including Khaleda and Delwar to the council and left out people who are accused of war crimes.

He said they also invited intellectuals, representatives of

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Sahara not aware of Taj act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Sahara Khatun said she was unaware of the resignation of her deputy Tanjim Ahmed Sohel Taj, contradicting her claim that she maintained communication

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## OFFSHORE EXPLORATION Cabinet weighs 2 bids today

STAR REPORT

The cabinet today considers approval of offshore oil and gas exploration bids by two international oil companies in three blocks of the Bay of Bengal.

The energy ministry places its recommendations for awarding shallow water block SS-08-05 to Irish company Tullow Bangladesh and deep sea blocks DS-08-10 and 11 to US company Conoco Phillips South Asia New Ventures Ltd.

These proposals stemmed from the offshore oil and gas block bidding held in May last year. Seven oil companies had submitted proposals in 15 blocks out of total 28 blocks opened for the bid last year.

Conoco Phillips offered to invest \$442.63 million under four PSCs for eight blocks, while Tullow proposed to invest \$50 million

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Pakistan kills more than 30 militants

AFP, Peshawar

Pakistani troops backed by fighter jets killed more than 30 suspected Taliban militants around the Swat valley and northwest tribal belt on the Afghan border, officials said yesterday.

The high number of casualties, which are impossible to confirm, is the latest in a surge of deadly clashes reported since Pakistani commanders said they had effectively defeated Taliban opposition in parts of the northwest.

Sources say Obaidullah was informed about all Huji activities, including the August 21 grenade attack and Rama blast, in which Hannan is an accused.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Huji's Hannan, Lashkar's Obaidullah old friends

They were roommates in Deoband madrasa

KAILASH SARKAR

Detained Lashkar-e-Taiba leader Indian national Mufti Obaidullah and Harkatul Jihad al Islam (Huji) Bangladesh chapter leader Mufti Abdul Hannan were teachers and roommates at an Uttar Pradesh madrasa in India in the 1990s.

They were also close to each other since they were students of Deoband Madrasa in India and maintained an intimate friendship for 20 years.

Sources say Obaidullah was informed about all Huji activities, including the August 21 grenade attack and Rama blast, in which Hannan is an accused.

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### Online 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?

- Yes (68.2%)
- No (28.6%)
- No Comments (3.2%)

Total votes: 704

### TODAY'S POLL

Do you think reopening the cross-border railways abandoned in 1965, would strengthen trade, investment and people-to-people contacts between Bangladesh and India?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)