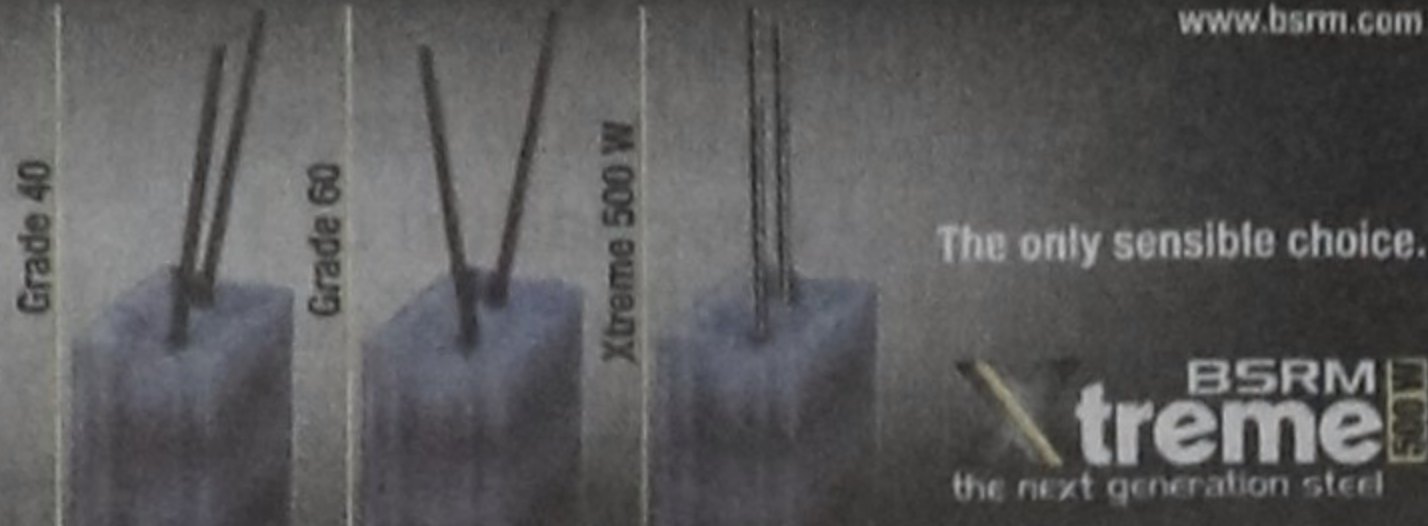


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Crucial talks in Rangamati on Aug 19

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

The committee on implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord will discuss the withdrawal of temporary army camps from CHT at its first meeting in Rangamati on August 19.

Other issues like abduction and militant activities in remote areas will also be brought up for discussion, said committee member and Awami League lawmaker Bir Bahadur at a meeting on law and order at the Deputy Commissioner's conference hall in Bandarban.

Committee Chief and Deputy leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury will preside over the meeting.

Bir Bahadur, also chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board, said the

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CHT land survey by year-end

Indigenous people's land to be recovered, says minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said the government will carry out a survey in the hill districts by December to recover and protect the land of the indigenous people.

"The government will engage its efforts in land survey in the hill districts without any delay and it will be completed by December," said Shafique Ahmed.

The minister was speaking at a meeting which was arranged by Bangladesh Adivasi Forum marking the International Day of the World's Indigenous People yesterday with the demand of constitutional recognition of the indigenous people.

"The first condition of protecting land rights is to conduct a survey of land in the hill districts. The survey would be the first task to recover the land of indigenous people occupied over the years," he added.

He also mentioned that necessary measures would also be taken to recover land of the indig-

enous people living on plain land.

"If we want to protect the rights of the indigenous people in the real sense, we have to ensure that adivasi land cannot be transferred or sold to non-adivasi people."

The minister also sought assistance from the indigenous people to bring back the Constitution of 1972 to protect their rights.

As he made the announcements and pledged to take initiative for implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Agreement, the meeting venue -- Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh -- was echoed with sounds of appreciation.

Adivasi people from across the country thronged the Institution in hundreds of groups in colourful dresses and passed the day singing, dancing and exchanging greetings.

Representatives of international organisations side by side with the local speakers and experts demanded immediate implementation of the CHT accord.

"The adivasi people are being given flawed

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Members of the indigenous community sport traditional paraphernalia at a rally brought out from the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday to mark the International Day of the World's Indigenous People.

PHOTO: STAR

48 more cases set to be dropped

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The metropolitan public prosecutor (MPP) of Dhaka yesterday recommended withdrawal of 48 more cases filed against Awami League leaders and activists on grounds that they were 'politically motivated' and meant for 'harassment'.

MPP Mohammad Abdullah Abu made the recommendation after scrutinising the documents of those cases, sources said.

But the state lawyer did not recommend withdrawal of any cases filed against BNP

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Traffic dept caught in poor logistics

Congestion, accidents keep on rising in city

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

Amidst the ever-worsening Dhaka traffic, the traffic department cannot properly address congestion and high frequency of accidents due to inadequate number of traffic personnel and their poor logistic support.

The ongoing drive against reckless driving and vehicles without route permits and fitness certificates cannot achieve expected level of success due to inadequate number of traffic personnel even though the drive is being carried out round the clock on every corner of the city.

At important intersections and areas, traffic police stop buses and minibuses and on an

average day fine 100-150 vehicles for not having fitness certificates and route permits, DMP officials said.

During the first 24 days of the special drive that started on May 1, 1,618 vehicles were fined and 360 buses were seized.

Joint Commissioner (traffic) Manjur Kader Khan said in June traffic police fined vehicles Tk 1.94 crore and in July Tk 1.97 crore.

He said each vehicle is usually fined between Tk 200 and Tk 250.

Former joint commissioner (traffic) Mohammad Jasim Uddin, who has been transferred outside Dhaka recently, said, "Traffic

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

3 more die of swine flu in India

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Swine flu claimed three more lives in India since Saturday night as the number of people affected by the disease showed an upward trend.

A 43-year-old non-resident Indian Praveen Patel, who came from Atlanta, USA, on July 31, was admitted to a hospital in Ahmedabad last night in a critical condition as his left lung was badly damaged and he succumbed in the wee hours of Sunday, Gujarat Health Secretary Ravi Saxena said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

45 killed in north India landslide

AFP, AP, Dehradun

At least 45 people have been killed in a landslide that swamped three villages after heavy rain in India's northern Uttarakhand state, an official said yesterday.

The landslide swept down a steep slope in Pithoragarh district in the early hours of Saturday.

"We can confirm 45 deaths," senior administration official NS Negi told AFP by phone.

Twenty bodies were pulled from the debris after the landslide Saturday buried the villages in Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand state, said SM Shamim, a paramilitary force commander.

Police and volunteers were digging through mud and rocks Sunday to recover the bodies of 23 others, he said.

Rescue teams were searching through the mud and rocks for the other fatalities, Negi said.

The remote, hilly region was lashed by annual monsoon rain before the landslides occurred. Pithoragarh, in the Himalayan foothills, is about 500km northeast of the Indian capital, New Delhi. Extensive deforestation has made the region prone to landslides during monsoon rains.

Man kills wife for dowry just after marriage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A husband allegedly killed his wife for dowry just a day after their marriage at West Jabra village in Manikganj on Saturday.

Runa Akter is a student of class ten in Jabra Shahid Sarani High School. Hasan Khan, Runa's husband, passed SSC this year.

Officer in charge of Ghior Police Station Afsar Uddin said they arrested him at the Manikganj Sadar Hospital where he was admitted faking illness.

They had a relationship for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Bodies of the three workers lie on the terrace of a four-storey building next to Bell Tower in Dhanmondi yesterday. Picture inset shows the tower where the labourers were cleaning the windows when the accident occurred. (Story on page 1)

PHOTO: SHAFIQ ALAM

SC upholds Khaleda's bail order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday upheld a High Court (HC) order of granting bail to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in Niko corruption case against her.

An Appellate Division bench of three members, headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin, passed the order dismissing a leave-to-appeal by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) against the HC order.

The apex court also asked both the parties to step

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Mugger killed in shootout

Two injured; gang snatches Tk 2.2 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mugger was killed and two people including a woman sustained bullet wounds in a shootout between police and the muggers yesterday in the capital's Pallab area.

The deceased was identified as Taiyab, 35, while the injured were Kaniz Fatema Munni, 23, wife of expatriate Helal Uddin of Tejgunipara of Tejgaon and CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver Hafizur Rahman.

Munni was rushed to Samarita Hospital with two bullets in the lower part of her body while Hafizur was taken to Pangu Hospital for treatment.

Officer-in-charge (OC) Abdul Malek of Pallab Police Station said the gunfight ensued around 1:30pm when a team of police

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

OnlinePoll

Do you support the government's plan to reinstate the armed forces officials sacked "wrongly" or "on political grounds" during the last caretaker government and BNP-led coalition government's tenure?

Yes (47.7%)
No (50.6%)
No Comments (1.8%)

Total votes: 1236

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government should seriously take note of ethnic groups' demand for protecting their rights constitutionally?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Pak Taliban battle for succession

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's Taliban appeared in turmoil yesterday after reports of a deadly shootout between contenders to replace the shadowy movement's leader, who is believed to have been killed in a US drone attack.

Intelligence officials said Friday that Baitullah Mehsud, who had a five-million-dollar bounty on his head, was killed in the US missile attack. Pakistan's government says it is still seeking confirmation.

There were then unconfirmed reports of a deadly shooting at a meeting of top Taliban commanders who convened to discuss the choice of a successor to Mehsud.

Interior Minister Rehman Malik said the reports from the meeting in the lawless region of South Waziristan were being investigated.

The commanders were reportedly Hakimullah Mehsud, a deputy to Baitullah

Mehsud and the warlord's main spokesman, and Wali-ur Rehman, a senior commander in Mehsud's umbrella Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) movement.

"We have reports that there was fighting between Wali-ur Rehman and Hakimullah.... I said earlier that one of them is dead. I will not disclose the name. I am seeking verification," Malik told private Pakistani TV channel Geo.

"The (shooting) incident took place on Friday and I said in the National Assembly the same day that there was internal fighting between Wali-ur Rehman and Hakimullah," he said.

However, someone claiming to be Hakimullah Mehsud called up media outlets on Saturday to claim that Baitullah Mehsud was still alive. The two men are part of the same tribe.

Despite the apparent internal turmoil

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SYLHET MAYOR ATTACK Charge-framing against Huji men Aug 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet District and Sessions Judge Md Momin Ullah yesterday fixed August 30 for framing charges against the accused Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (Huji) chief and his men for December 2005 grenade attack on the city mayor Badar

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Prayer Timing		
August 10		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-25	6-00
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	5-45	6-00
Maghrib	7-41	7-44
Esha	9-00	9-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

আভিনন্দন

বাংলার গণমানুষের স্বাধিকারের সোপান
এলাকাভিত্তিক পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন কার্যক্রম আজ
বিশ্বের বুকে মডেল স্বরূপ। এ কার্যক্রমের অন্যতম
সফল ও বলিষ্ঠ কাভারী পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ডের
প্রাক্তন চেয়ারম্যান **ব্রিগেডিয়ার জেনারেল
(অবঃ) মোঃ এনায়েত হক, এম.পি** গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী
বাংলাদেশ সরকারের বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানী ও খনিজ
সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়ের প্রতিমন্ত্রী হিসেবে দায়িত্বপ্রাপ্ত
হওয়ায় **৭০টি পল্লী বিদ্যুৎ সমিতি** হ'তে তাঁকে
জানাই প্রাণঢালা **অভিনন্দন ও ফুলেল শুভেচ্ছা**।