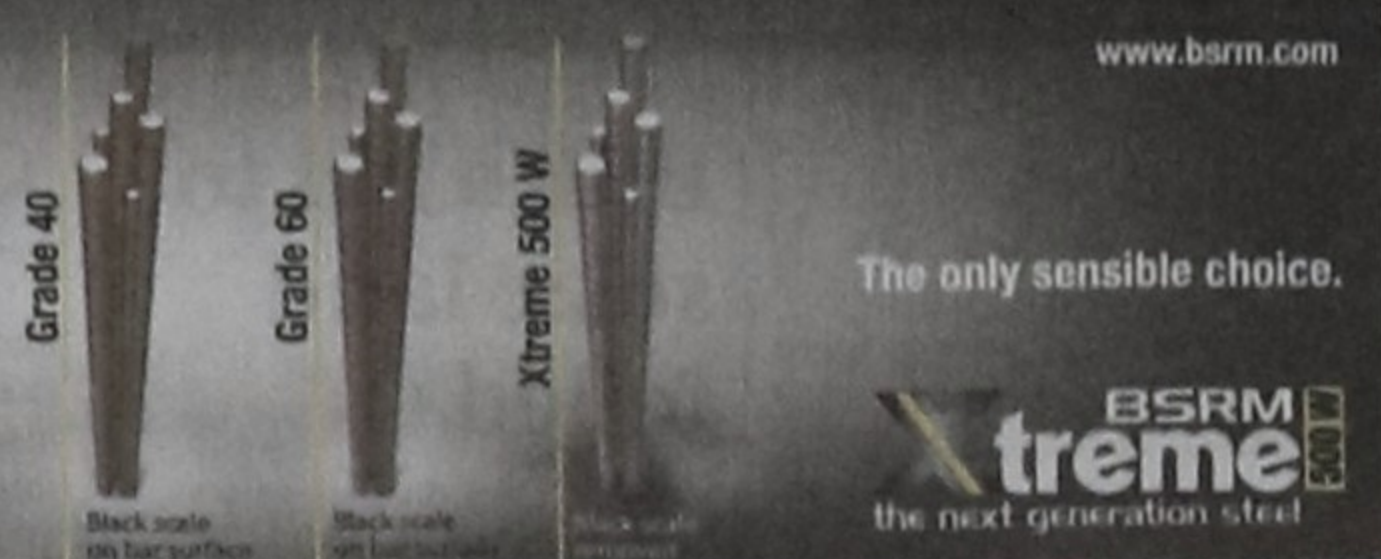


**Why Xtreme?**

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



## HC ORDER New governing body to run Proshika

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed that Proshika will be run as usual by its present governing body.

The HC bench of Justice Md Abdus Salam gave the status quo directive disposing of a civil revision petition filed by Qazi Faruque Ahmed, the ousted chairman of Proshika.

The bench ruled that Faruque can enter the Proshika office as its former chairman, but he cannot take any decision for this office and cannot hold any meeting or procession on the office premises.

It said Faruque can enter the NGO's office alone, not as a group, and he cannot cause any indiscipline on its premises.

On May 24, the present governing body of Proshika replaced Qazi Faruque with

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4

# Remove roadside illegal structures

JS body asks authorities as a measure to cut traffic congestion

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary body yesterday directed the authorities to dismantle the illegal structures along roads and highways to reduce traffic congestion, particularly in the capital where it is at its worst.

The House standing committee on the communications ministry also asked Rajuk, Wasa, Desa, and traffic police officials to attend its next meeting to discuss a coordinated action plan to resolve the traffic jams that eat up precious work hours of the city commuters.

Besides, the committee asked the ministry to patch up differences between the state-run Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation and the private bus owners' association.

The resolution of the long-standing disputes, it noted, is a must to ensure

smooth running of the BRTC bus services.

The committee has divided the country into seven zones and assigned each of its members a region to settle the row between BRTC and the private bus operators there.

The members will work in cooperation with local administration and public representatives.

Committee Chairman Sheikh Muzibur Rahman said, "We are going to draft an effective action plan to ease traffic congestion in the capital and elsewhere. And that is why we have invited high officials of Rajuk, Wasa, Desa, and the traffic department of police to our meeting next week."

Talking to reporters after a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, he said the traffic problem is a complex one, and it's not going to go overnight.

"We will however try our best to address the issue," continued Muzibur, also a ruling Awami League lawmaker.

On the proposed Asian Highway, he said they are in favour of the route that will yield maximum profit for the country in terms of trade and commerce.

He said the government is preparing in advance by constructing some approach roads for the transnational highway.

Committee member Golam Maula Rony on that point added that in picking a route the government would also consider connectivity with the land ports.

Asked about his stance on the Asian Highway, Nazrul Islam Manju, lone BNP member in the committee, said the matter is still at a preliminary stage.

"We are watching the developments," he added.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## Junta extends Suu Kyi's confinement 3-year sentence commuted to 18 months' house arrest

AFP, AP, Yangon

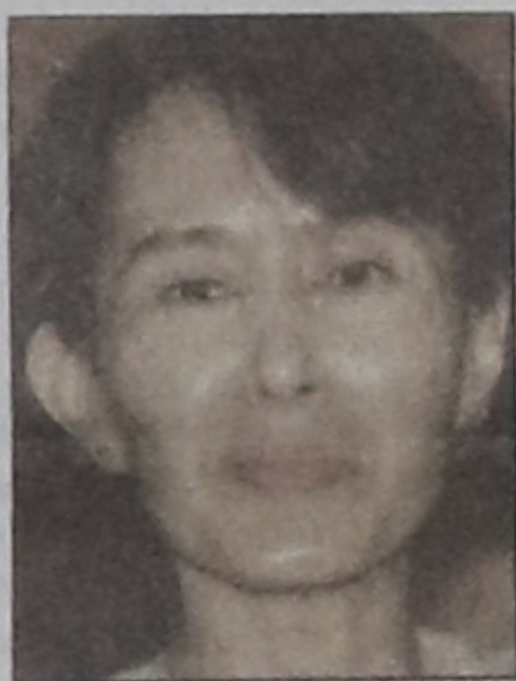
Myanmar democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi was yesterday handed another 18 months of house arrest, taking the Nobel laureate out of the picture for elections next year and sparking international outrage.

A court convicted the 64-year-old at the end of a marathon trial for breaching the terms of her detention by the ruling military junta, following a bizarre incident in which an American man swam uninvited to her home.

Judges sentenced Suu Kyi to three years of hard labour and imprisonment, but military ruler Than Shwe signed a special order commuting the sentence and ordering her to serve out a year-and-a-half under house arrest.

World leaders rounded on the regime after the verdict, with

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



## Sand lifting goes on unabated

Over dozen dredgers brought in to plunder Buriganga riverbed; Basila dwellers fear erosion

MORSHED ALI KHAN and TAWFIK ALI

Indiscriminate sand lifting from the Buriganga river near Basila continues in full swing amid fear of erosion among nearby residents and confusion in Hazaribagh police over a writ filed by sand lifters for restoring their 'right' to continue the lucrative operation.

Over a dozen powerful dredgers were brought in yesterday which were filling up large barges (with capacity of up to 10,000 cubic feet) in queue within 30 minutes each.

The entire operation of this unplanned sand lifting took place with armed hoodlums allegedly deployed by the M/S Ali International Associates roaming the area in motorboats.

This sad story of plundering of the Buriganga began on June 26 when some officials of the BIWTA departments of port, dredging, conservancy, hydrograph and engineering permitted M/S Ali International to extract and sell 10 lakh cubic feet of sand from the bed of the Buriganga near densely populated areas of Jhauchar and Basila.

The company deployed a fleet of powerful dredgers defying the permitted number of three and started lifting sand indiscriminately.

Following a report published in The Daily Star on July 12, BIWTA suspended the permission for sand extraction and stopped all operations admitting that it was causing change of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



A planted Sissoo garden in Uthrail of Dinajpur, where 3,000 of the 5,000 trees have died. Inset, termites attacking a Sissoo tree soon after it had fungal infection.

PHOTO: STAR

## Sissooo trees dying from fungal diseases

Low water table caused by climate change seen as reason

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

The very existence of *Delbergia Sissoo* -- one of the most widely grown trees in the country for its timber -- is under threat from fungal diseases that are causing depletion of the trees at an alarming rate.

The tree belonging to the *Fabaceae* family, widely popular with farmers for their commercial value, is witnessing an alarmingly high rate of mortality according to the researchers, sci-

entists and farmers.

Sources said that Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BDRI), after extensive research, has introduced certain remedies to tackle the new diseases but rural growers remain unaware of this leading to the death of thousands of trees in the countryside.

According to farmers and researchers the tree, widely known as the *Shishoo*, is used to make furniture, plywood, musical instruments,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## Trial a must if extra-judicial killing proved

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said the government would not shy away from the trial of any extra-judicial killing if such killing is proved.

"The government does not support the extra-judicial killing, because everybody has the fundamental right to live," he said at the regular monthly luncheon meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 12 COL 5

## Govt to raise power generation for Ramadan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will increase daily power generation to 4,200 megawatts to lessen public sufferings from load-shedding during Ramadan.

It took the decision at an inter-ministerial meeting yesterday.

The ministries were convened at the power and energy ministry to discuss ways to ensure uninterrupted power supply during sehri, iftar and tarabih prayers.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

| Prayer Timing<br>August 12 |      |        |
|----------------------------|------|--------|
|                            | 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



PHOTO: STAR

People of Badda with empty vessels barricade Pragati Sarani yesterday demanding an end to the water crisis prevailing in the area.

## 3 more Indians die of swine flu

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Swine flu claimed three more lives yesterday, raising the total number of those succumbing to the disease across the country to 10.

A 13-year-old school student in the western Indian city of Pune, a seven-year-old girl at Baroda in Gujarat and a 63-year-old woman in Thane, adjacent to India's financial hub Mumbai, died of the disease, officials here said.

Shruti Gawade, a school student, died of H1N1 in Pune yesterday morning became the fifth victim of the virus in the state of Maharashtra. Five of them died in Pune while one in Mumbai. She had been kept on ventilator since August 7 when she was taken to Pune in a critical condition after being referred from a private hospital, said Pandurang Pawar, medical superintendent of government-owned Sasoon Hospital in Pune.

The woman who died in Thane was identified as Sayeeda Dorjeeewala. Fahmida Panwala, another woman who was suffering

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Muggers kill one, loot money in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Armed muggers in broad daylight shot dead a flour mill manager and injured another employee while looting Tk 10 lakh in the city's Agrabad area yesterday.

The deceased was Towhidul Alam, 32, of Noakhali and the injured was Mintu Babu, 51, of Banashali upazila of the district.

Owner of the mill Mahub Alam said he along with three of his employees reached Islami Bank to deposit the cash by a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Taliban torch 7 schools

US missile strike kills 10 militants in northwest Pakistan

AFP, AP, Peshawar

Taliban militants burnt down seven primary schools in northwest Pakistan, where children recently resumed their studies after the area was declared safe by the army, officials said yesterday.

"Three boys' and four girls' primary schools were set on fire by militants late Monday in Buner district," district police chief Abdul Rasheed told AFP.

Earlier Pakistani intelligence officials said at least 10 suspected militants have been killed in a US missile strike in northwestern Pakistan.

The two officials said the attack struck a suspected militant hide-out Tuesday in South Waziristan.

The area is part of the lawless tribal belt along Pakistan's border with Afghanistan where top Taliban and al-Qaeda leaders are

believed to be hiding.

At least a dozen rockets slammed into Pakistan's main northwest city Peshawar before dawn Tuesday, killing two civilians, while militants launched an assault on a paramilitary base nearby, authorities said.

The spate of violence came as the militants and government officials traded claims over the leadership of the Pakistani Taliban following the reported death of top commander Baitullah Mehsud in a CIA missile strike last week.

The Taliban have vowed retaliation against the government for what it says are false reports that Mehsud died. Pakistani and US officials have said Mehsud is almost certainly dead and that there may be a power struggle over succession.

No one was hurt in the arson attacks as the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## GATCO CASE SC upholds Khaleda's bail order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court upheld a High Court order granting bail to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in Gatco corruption case yesterday.

Meanwhile, HC extended for six months its earlier orders granting bail to Tarique Rahman in three cases.

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division led by Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim passed the order dismissing a leave-to-appeal petition by the Anti-Corruption Commission against the HC order on Gatco case.

The BNP chairperson's lawyer barrister Mahbub Uddin Khokon told The Daily Star that the apex court upheld the HC orders granting bail to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

## OnlinePoll

Do you agree with Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahed that there has never been any anti-constitutional clauses in Jamaat's charter?

☐ Yes (37.9%)  
☐ No (61.6%)  
☐ No Comments (0.6%)

Total votes: 2897  
TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the limited power vested on the mobile courts is adequate enough for the anti-adulteration drive?

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