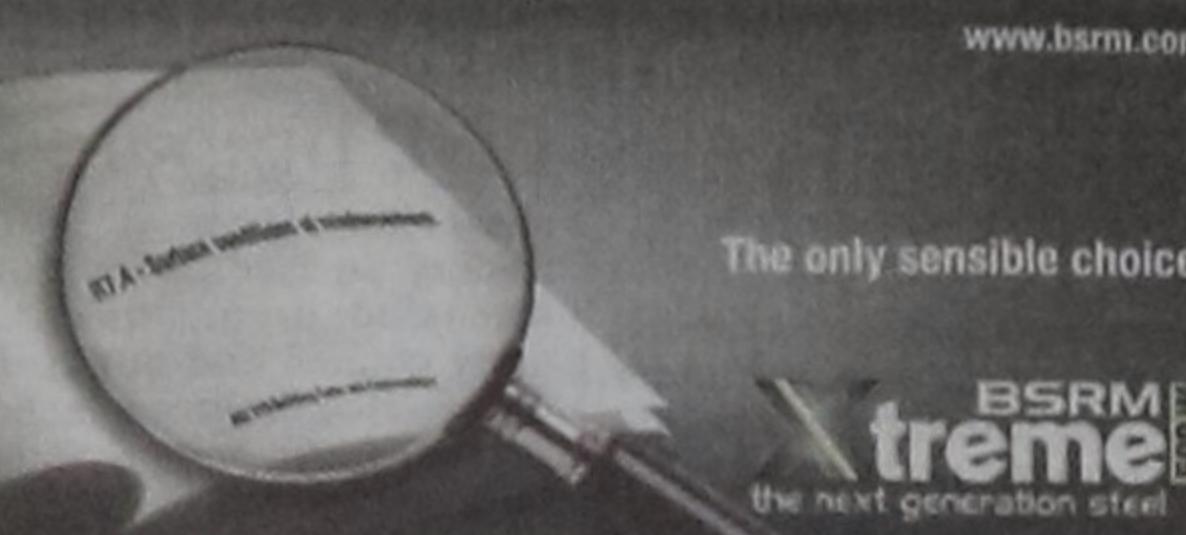


Why Xtreme?

Xtreme 500 W bar surface may develop rusting due to the absence of black scale. As per ACI code, rust is good for bonding.



Inflation down, but prices start to rise

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

About two percent drop in the inflation rate in June this year, the lowest in the last seven years, should not leave any room for complacency as it might experience a further rise, cautioned economists.

Commoners have no reason to feel good with the downward trend of inflation as they feel the pinch in the kitchen market because of exorbitant prices of essentials, they said.

According to the report of the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) prices of basic commodities, except for rice and flour (ata), have already gone up.

The inflation rate was recorded at 2.25 percent in June 2009, which was 5.39 percent in May. It was 10.04 percent in June 2008 and it further went up to 10.08 percent the next month. The downward trend has continued since then.

This year in June the inflation rate on food items was 0.25 percent, which was 4.89 percent in May. In June last year it was 14.10 percent.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

KHAGRACHHARI BDR camp withdrawal protested

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Khagrachhari

Bangalee settlers yesterday halted a government move to pull out a BDR camp at Chhoto Panchhari under Panchhari upazila in Khagrachhari putting up barricades on the Fatemanager-Panchhari road.

Around 400 settlers blocked the road since morning by putting trees on it to stop the authorities from dismantling the important border post in the backwoods.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Govt to slash import duty on some items Move to stabilise market

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan yesterday said the government would reduce duty on the import of some basic commodities within two or three days to stabilise the market during the month of Ramadan.

The minister, however, did not mention the reduction percentage of import duty on the essentials.

"I have already talked to the prime minister about the reduction of import duty on the essential commodities to keep the market stable during the Ramadan," he said.

Faruk Khan disclosed the government decision at a view exchange meeting with the leaders of wholesalers and retailers from Karwan Bazar.

The minister asked the business leaders to play their due role for keeping the market stable.

He hoped that the prices of edible oil, pulses, date and sugar would take a downturn after reduction of duty on the essentials.

"There is no reason for the prices of essential items to be

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Little house help tortured for years Rescued from doctor's house

ALPHA ARZU

Police rescued a 12-year old domestic help from the house of a physician of the Central Police Hospital on Monday this week after it was learnt that she was regularly being assaulted in the house.

Unidentified sources alerted the police that the minor girl was being assaulted at the house of Dr Anowar Hossain at 1/B, Surma Building, inside the hospital complex at Rajarbagh.

The maid was a distant relative of Anowar's wife Nargis Akther, and she brought the girl from her own ancestral home in Noapara under Netrokona to work at the house six years ago.

Paltan thana police have put the girl under shelter at a city victim support centre.

Officer-in-Charge of Paltan Model Police Station, Md Mujibar Rahman told The Daily Star, "We found bruises all over her body, evidently from physical beatings. She appeared a very shy girl,

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

2 more swine flu cases detected

3 more deaths in India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two more cases of swine flu were confirmed yesterday, raising the number of infected to 36 in the country in last two months.

Official sources said a woman and her one-year-old child who came from Singapore were diagnosed with the swine flu caused by H1N1 virus. But people need not panic, as the condition of the infected is not critical at all.

However, the government takes extra cautionary measures to combat swine flu as the increased number of swine flu patients in neighbouring India poses risk to Bangladesh.

Strong screening programme has been taken at the 16 entry points of the country, said Health Minister Prof AFM Ruhal Haque, adding that the government has taken the issue seriously and is going to start a massive awareness campaign through electronic and print media.

"We have already directed the medical college hospitals

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

ANTI-ADULTERATION OPERATION Drive stalled in cop excesses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A group of angry people confined a mobile court to an area of Jagdal Bazar in Sadar upazila of Panchagarh for two hours protesting police action during an anti-adulteration drive Wednesday evening.

Police and locals said the mobile court led by Magistrate Dewar Hossain went to Jagdal Bazar around 6:00pm and seized some sacks of non-iodised salt. It also fined shop owners for selling such salt and forced them to throw it into water.

Locals said Sub-Inspector Tariqul Islam of Panchagarh Police Station who accompanied the mobile court beat up Helal, Zakir and three others of the market during the drive.

At one stage, local traders encircled the team members of the mobile court and kept them confined for over two hours from 7:30pm. Police also fired two rubber bullets into the air.

The shop owners claimed that they have kept non-iodised salt for feeding the cows. Villagers buy the salt for cows but the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Rab uncovers gun-making factory

UNB, Cox's Bazar

An arms factory was unearthed with eight rifles and huge gun-making materials at Sukuriakata village in Maheshkhali upazila yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) launched the operation at about 4:00pm and discovered the illegal arms factory in the hilly area in close proximity of the Bay.

Raiding the arms-house, they seized eight rifles and huge materials used for making various types of arms and arrested three persons engaged in making guns at the factory.

"A hectic operation is being carried out in the hill area to track down those involved in gunrunning," says a report from the area.



A bus owner gives an age-old bus a fresh coat of paint at Kamalapur in the city to make it look new in the eyes of law enforcers. The government is trying to get buses older than 15 years off the street and the workers even scraped off the number plate to hide how old this bus is.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Online Poll

Do you think government should equip the fire brigade adequately on urgent basis to tackle the post-earthquake rescue operations in Bangladesh?

Yes (91.5%) No (7.3%)

No Comments (1.2%)

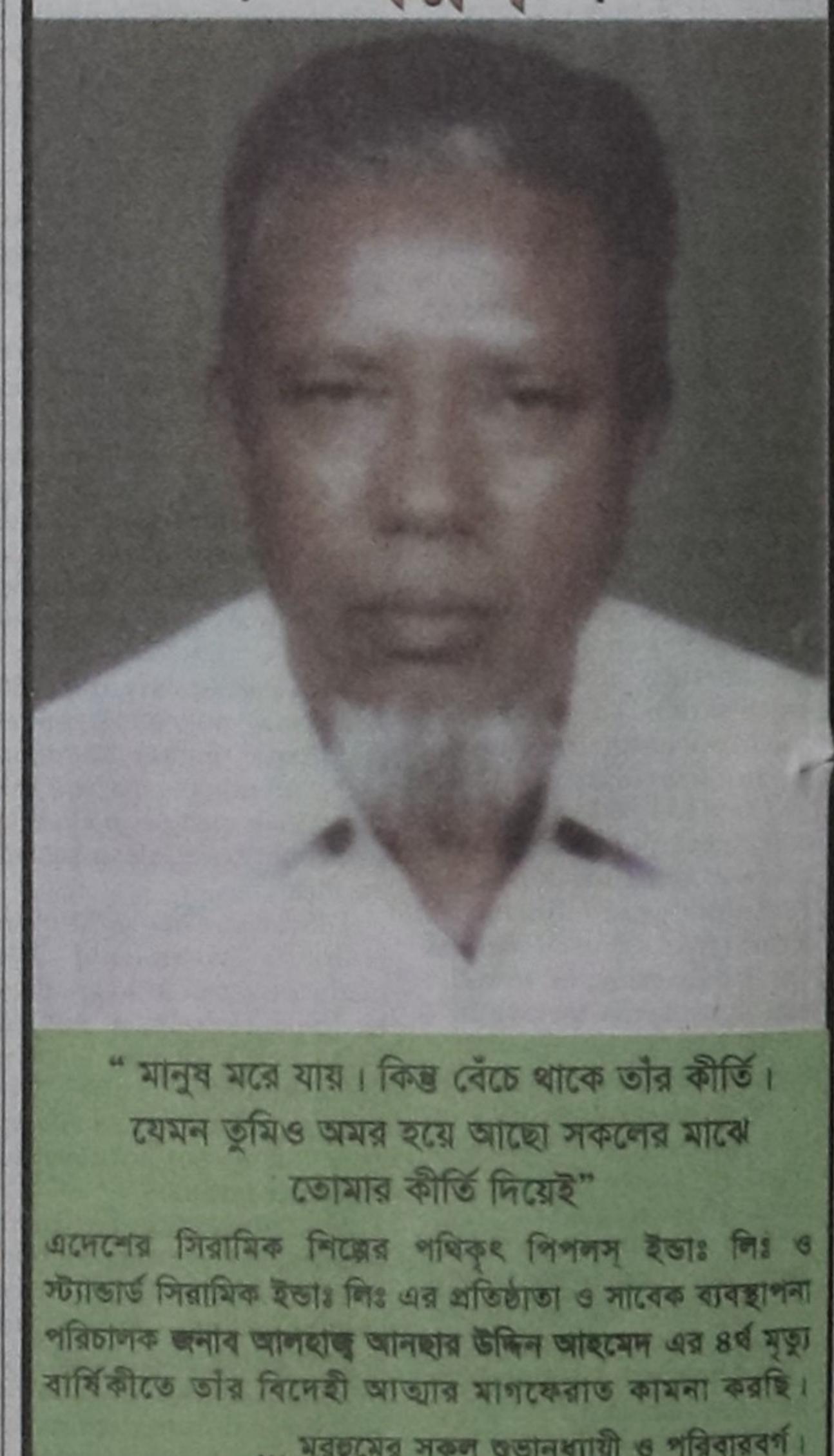
Total votes: 750

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government should immediately ban the illegal rikshaws and buses in order to reduce traffic congestion in the capital?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

স্মরণ



"মানুষ মরে যায়। কিন্তু বেঁচে থাকে তাঁর কীর্তি।

ত্যেক ত্রুটি অমর হয়ে আছে। সকলের মাঝে

তোমার কীর্তি দিয়েই"

এদেশের সিরায়িক স্তরের পথিকুল লিপস ইতাঃ লিঃ ও স্ট্যান্ডার্ড সিরায়িক ইতাঃ লিঃ এর প্রতিষ্ঠাতা ও সার্বেক ব্যবহার্য পরিচালক জনাব আবদুল্লাহ আব্দুল্লাহ আব্দুল্লাহ এর পুর্ণ মৃত্যু বার্ষিকীতে তাঁর বিদেশী আভাব মাগফেরাত করান।

... মুরহমের সকল উভানুধায়ী ও পরিবারৰ্ম।

54 killed as Philippine troops clash with rebels

AP, Manila

Philippine troops overran two southern jungle camps of al-Qaida-linked militants in fighting that killed 23 soldiers and 31 guerrillas. It was the deadliest clash in years and a top commander described it Thursday as a "slugfest."

More than 400 marines, army and police commandos Wednesday stormed the hilltop camps on Basilan Island on Wednesday in raids targeting about 150 Abu Sayyaf militants led by two terror suspects wanted for a series of bomb attacks and kidnappings, said navy chief Vice Adm. Ferdinand Golez.

Heavy fighting ensued when a unit of marine reinforcements met up with a large

Madrasa shut over militancy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Al Markajul Islami As-Salafi Madrasa at Nawdapara in the city was closed sine die by its authorities yesterday due to attempts of implanting extremism in students by Ahle Hadith Andolok Bangladesh (Ahab), a militant outfit led by Asadullah Al Galib.

Galib, arrested in 2005 on charges of militancy and now free on bail, has been sheltering outsiders, many of whom are students of Rajshahi University and Rajshahi College, in madrasa dormitories for last few months, said Principal of the madrasa Abdus Samad Salafi.

These outsiders with assistance from some pro-Galib teachers used to assault students, sometimes the teachers who were not in Galib's favour, said Salafi, adding that they were also engaged in indoctrinating the students to defy madrasa rules

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Prayer Timing

August 14

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-25	6-00
Juma	1-30	2-15
Asr	5-45	6-00
Maghrib	7-41	7-44
Esha	9-00	9-30

Source: Islamic Foundation