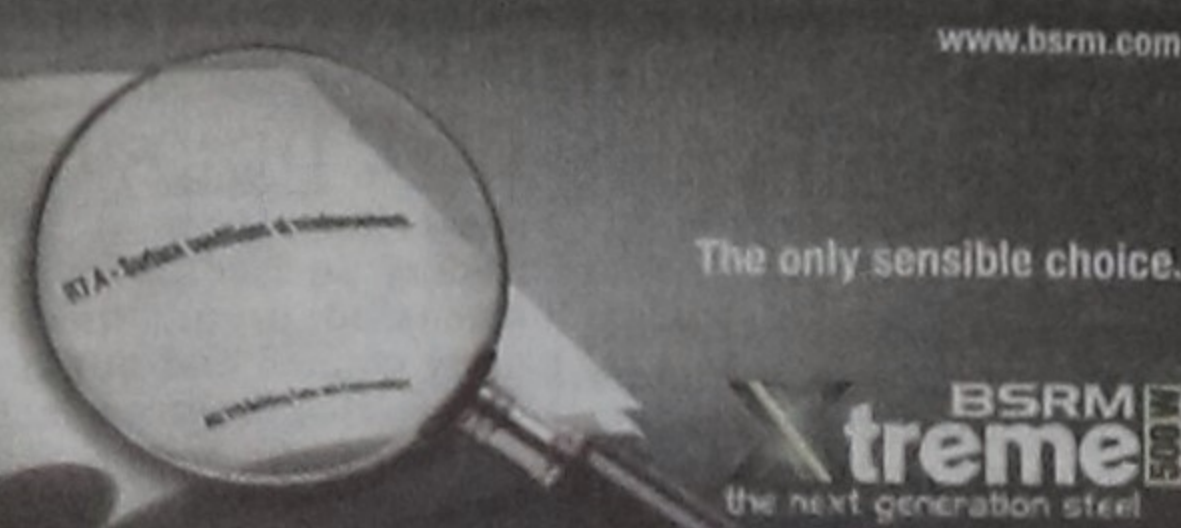


## Why Xtreme?

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



The only sensible choice.

BSRM Xtreme  
the next generation steel

Buy A Whirlpool Microwave Oven  
Get Attractive Gifts  
TRANSCOM  
Your Trusted Electronics Retailer  
For more information: 88553333, 9732 885442

# 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.

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) officials said the inflation came down drastically due to low price of rice.

According to yesterday's TCB report, prices of coarse rice have dropped by 30 to 36 percent, ata (flour) by 45 to 49 percent and edible oil by 29 to 33 percent in the last one year.

However, prices of all commodities, except for rice, have gone up compared to that of the prices a month back.

Compared to the prices a month back yesterday Soybean oil saw a 3.38 percent rise, Palm oil 9 percent, lentil 6 to 7 percent, potato 13 percent, and onion 50 percent, TCB report says. Anjuman Ara Khatun, a government servant, said when she goes to the kitchen market her monthly budget cannot keep pace with the soaring prices of essentials.

When told about the drop in inflation rate she told The Daily Star, "I have no reason to be happy about it; when I go for shopping I have to pay higher prices and it is very hard for me to manage with my budget."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



PHOTO: RAFIQUIL ISLAM

Brick kiln owners rob farmers of fertile soil as they in large numbers have soil taken away from a char near Lebukhali Ferry Ghat in Barisal during low tide.

## 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

## 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 Fatemanagar-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 5 COL 7

## 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 Anwar Hossain at 1/B, Surma Building, inside the hospital complex at Rajarbagh.

The maid was a distant relative of Anwar's wife Nargis Akhter, 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 Ruhul 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 Delwar 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 unearths 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.



PHOTO: STAR

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.

## 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

group of fleeing militants, leaving them outnumbered with 18 marines killed, Golez said.

"It was a slugfest," regional military commander Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino told The Associated Press by telephone.

"It was really close-quarter fighting so we couldn't use our artillery," he said, adding troops were still pursuing small pockets of fleeing gunmen Thursday.

A total of 23 troops and police died and 18 were wounded, four of them in serious condition, Golez said.

The militants, who Golez said possibly included members of the main Muslim separatist group Moro Islamic Liberation Front,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## 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 Andolon 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

## THIRD ODI TODAY Tigers eye series win

SPORTS REPORTER

The sturdy Tigers will go for the kill to seal the five-match series when they meet Zimbabwe in the third one-day at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo today.

Shakib Al Hasan's men carried out a professional job to lead the series 2-0 against their bottom-ranked opponents with comprehensive victories in the first two games at the same venue.

Bangladesh's top order showed some character and it was something new to watch two Bangladesh top order batsmen - Mohammad Ashraful and Shakib Al Hasan, coming up with hundreds in consecutive matches.

And the bowlers were also disciplined in their efforts to make the job difficult for the home batsmen, on the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Prayer Timing		
August 14		
Fajr	Azan	Jamaat
5:25	5:25	6:00
1:30	1:30	2:15
5:45	5:45	6:00
7:41	7:41	7:44
9:00	9:00	9:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

OnlinePoll

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](http://www.thedailystar.net)

শ্রবণ

মানুষ মরে যায়। কিন্তু বেঁচে থাকে তাঁর কীর্তি।  
যেমন তুমিও অমর হয়ে আছো সকলের মাঝে  
তোমার কীর্তি দিয়েই"

এদেশের সিরামিক শিল্পের পথিকৃৎ পিপলস ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ লিমিটেড সিরামিক ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ এর প্রতিষ্ঠাতা ও সাবেক ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক জনাব আলহাজ্ব আনহার উদ্দিন আহমেদ এর ৪৪ মৃত্যু বার্ষিকীতে তাঁর বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি।  
... মরহুমের সকল তত্ত্বাবধায়ী ও পরিবারবর্গ।