

Why Xtreme?

De-scaled bar bonds better with concrete due to rust on the bar surface. As per ACI code, rust is good for bonding.

Grade 40
Grade 60
Xtreme 500 W

www.bsrml.com

The only sensible choice.

BSRM
xtreme
the next generation steel

End Offer

200% Off!

Buy Specific models of PHILIPS Domestic Appliances

Get up to 10% Discount*

TRANSCOM
DIGITAL

Your Trusted Electronics Retailer

For More Information: 8855366-9, 01712 685463

Bureaucrats set for promotions

Job status of around 400 officers to be elevated in order to bring dynamism in admin

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The government is set to give promotions to a large number of civil administration officials, prioritising those who were denied promotions by previous governments.

The move is also aimed at bringing more dynamism to the administration, as inertia is still evident in the bureaucracy due to a lack of coordination among inexperienced ministers, advisers, and the top bureaucrats.

Around 400 officers of the ranks of senior assistant secretary, deputy secretary, joint secretary and additional secretary are likely to be promoted in a day or two, said sources in the establishment ministry yesterday.

The mass promotion will be the biggest provided by the Awami League-led coalition government since its assumption of office in early January this year. The move was planned although there is hardly any post vacant at the top level bureaucracy, the sources however added.

"Giving promotions to those who have been at the same post for years is only fair. At the

same time, we believe, promoting a large number of officials will definitely inspire them to work with added sincerity, ultimately accelerating the pace of administrative work," observed a senior official of Bangladesh Secretariat.

The Superior Selection Board (SSB) held meetings on Wednesday and Thursday at the establishment ministry to finalise the names of the officers to be promoted. Cabinet Secretary M Abdul Aziz chaired the meetings.

"The SSB meetings recommended promotions to the levels of deputy secretary, joint secretary, additional secretary and secretary," said an official of the Cabinet Division, adding that a large number of officials mostly of the administration cadre of various batches of Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) will be promoted.

The establishment ministry is set to send a relevant summary to the Prime Minister's Office anytime, the sources added.

The AL-led government recently gave promotions to the tiers of additional secretary and



Father of sick Rani Begum sits helplessly on a pavement near BSMMU, as auto-rickshaws demand three to four times the normal fare, which he cannot afford, to take them to a hospital.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Another BDR camp pulled out from CHT

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Another Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) camp was pulled out from Gumti area under Matiranga upazila in Khagrachhari district yesterday.

The camp-in-charge Major Bakhtiar Fahmi told The Daily Star Gumti BDR camp, locally known as Counter Insurgency Operation camp, was attached with 29 Ramghor BDR Battalion yesterday.

The camp was established on June 24, 1981 consisting of 41 BDR and 26 Village Defence Party (VDP) members. The camp was providing security to 10-15 villages against insurgency, he said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Why bail in Aug 21 attack case won't be cancelled

2 Huji men asked to explain by Aug 30

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked two Harkatul Jihad (Huji) operatives to explain by August 30 why their bails would not be cancelled in the August 21 grenade attack case.

Judge ANM Bashir Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after the prosecution submitted a petition for cancellation of the bail in the murder case.

The Huji men are Munshi Mohibullah, brother of Huji chief Mufti Abdul Hannan, and one of his accomplices Arif Hassan Sumon.

The grisly grenade attack was on an Awami League rally at Bangabandhu Avenue on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

GATCO CASE Khaleda bail extended for a year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday extended for one year its earlier order granting bail to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in Gatco corruption case.

An HC bench of Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah and Justice Md Abdur Razzaque passed the order upon an extension prayer moved by her (Khaleda) counsel barrister Mahbub Uddin Khokon.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Unfit vehicles rush to get fit at BRTA

KAILASH SARKAR

As the government launched a drive to rid the capital of unfit vehicles and ease congestion, owners and drivers of such vehicles thronged the offices of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority to get their papers in order.

A large number of unfit buses, mostly more than 20 years old, did not run to avoid the mobile courts and police, resulting in a slight improvement of congestion. Vehicles with fake documents and drivers with fake licences were also out of commission, sources said.

According to witnesses, several hundred vehicles, for the most part cars, were seen parked in long queues around the

BRTA office at Mirpur as the owners of these vehicles went there to update the papers.

Sources said following the government directive to rid the city of unfit vehicles, owners and drivers of those vehicles are now trying to get their vehicles fixed, repainted and their documents updated.

BRTA Director (enforcement) Tapan Kumar Sarker told The Daily Star, "Everyday around 200 to 250 people come to their office to update their vehicle papers. But after the recent government move, the number has started to increase."

He said yesterday's and Sunday's number of vehicles were more than double than that of the previous days'.

Tapan Kumar Sarker said around 7,500

buses and minibuses ply the city streets and of them around 2,500 are "model out" vehicles (buses that are legally too old to run in the capital) while many of them do not have fitness certificates or other documents.

The BRTA director said there are around 12.5 lakh registered vehicles in the country and over five lakh are registered in the capital.

The government has formed a 12-member committee headed by the additional secretary to the communications ministry to coordinate and monitor the activities of mobile courts and other agencies to ease traffic jams in the capital.

The 12-member committee chief

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



This photo taken at Gabtoli shows a typical CNG-run bus of the capital - dents and marks of bumps and scrapes everywhere on the body; tail and indicator lights that do not work and a boot-lid that would not close.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

ANDAMAN SEA TRAGEDY 175 Bangladeshis back home

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

India yesterday handed over 175 Bangladeshi nationals rescued around eight months ago from the sea near the Andaman Islands.

Most of the returnees hail from Cox's Bazar and Bandarban. Tareque Mohammad Ariful Islam, counselor of Bangladesh mission at Kolkata, officials of Bangladesh Rifles, police, and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society formally received them at Benapole.

Indian coastguards went to their rescue when they were left marooned in the sea by the Thai navy last December.

The navy caught them on their way to Malaysia and they took off the engines from the trawlers.

The Andaman Islands authorities sheltered them for the last several months.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Abducted rubber garden staff freed at last

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

The abducted PHP Rubber garden supervisor Hefajetur Rahman was released after eight days in the district yesterday.

Armed miscreants abducted him with another garden worker on gunpoint for ransom at Baishari under Naikhongchari upazila on August 16.

Police said Hefajetur came yesterday to the Alikadam

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Parliament attack plot foiled in Pakistan

Says interior minister, 13 men detained for plotting attacks, troops to continue anti-Taliban drive during Ramadan

ANI, AFP, INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Islamabad

Interior Minister Rehman Malik has said that government forces had foiled a planned terrorist attack on parliament and buildings of the intelligence agency and other federal institutions last month.

"Pakistan's parliament building was one target of a planned attack," he said.

Giving details of the plan in an interview with CNN, he said three men with suicide vests had been arrested over the past four weeks.

He did not say when and where the suspects

had been nabbed, the Dawn reported.

Meanwhile, Pakistani police have arrested 13 men accused of plotting attacks across the country, with one cell planning to disrupt Ramadan and the other targeting economic hub Karachi, police said yesterday.

In Karachi on Sunday, police held seven members of banned al-Qaeda-linked extremist group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi on suspicion of planning suicide attacks in the southern port city and capital of Sindh province.

"We have arrested seven men and recovered three explosives-filled jackets and detonators,"

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Rowdy protest at ZIA over Biman flight delay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 200 passengers, mostly migrant workers, staged demonstration at Zia International Airport (ZIA) in the city yesterday morning protesting delay of an Abu Dhabi-bound Biman flight.

They chanted slogans and shouted at Biman authorities for the delay, officials at the airport said.

The flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines was scheduled to take off from ZIA at 7:15am yesterday, but the authorities rescheduled the time at 10:00 pm, as the Airbus scheduled for Abu Dhabi flight became grounded due to technical glitches, a Biman official told The Daily Star.

Sensing more trouble, Biman high officials rushed to spot and assured the aggrieved passengers of arranging flight as early as possible.

Later, the passengers were taken to different hotels in the city's Uttara, said an official at ZIA.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Ramadan sees low gas supply

HELEMLU ALAM

Gas crisis in many areas across the capital intensified since Sunday, the first day of Ramadan, causing sufferings to thousands of city residents.

Residents of Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Matuail, Dhonia, Rayerbag, Purba Nakhla, Rampura, Jurain and Moghbazar have been suffering from gas crisis for the last four months but the situation got worse from Sunday.

Protima Rani Das, a resident of Dhonia, said gas supply in the area earlier would remain suspended from 11:00am till 2:00 pm but the supply had been cut off from 3:00pm to 8:30pm since the first day of Ramadan.

Touhidur Rahman, living at Mirpur-12, block-D, told The Daily Star that on the first Ramadan the supply was snapped at 10:30am and his family members waited for gas supply to resume until iftar.

He said they had to buy iftar items from a nearby shop as they could not cook anything at home.

"We usually face gas crisis from 12:00noon till 2:00 pm or 3:00 pm every day but the crisis intensified on the first day of Ramadan," he said.

Ilias, a resident of Mirpur section-12, said he had to buy a kerosene stove from the market on Sunday afternoon for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

BDR TRIAL SC hearing on reference today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court today holds hearing on the reference seeking its (SC) opinion on whether the people charged with mutiny and massacre at the BDR headquarters can be tried under the military law.

The reference has been listed as second item for hearing on today's cause of the 11 judges' full bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin. Earlier on August 17, President Zillur Rahman sent the reference to the SC for its opinion over the issue.

The apex court on August

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

CTG PORT Deprived operator to sue Matin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Everest Enterprise, an aggrieved private berth operator, prepares to file a compensation suit of Tk 25 crore against former adviser to the last caretaker government Maj Gen (ret'd) MA Matin.

Proprietor of the enterprise Shahadat Hossain Salim in a press conference at

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

OnlinePoll

Do you think it is possible to control price hike of essentials without curbing extortion during transportation of goods?

- ☐ Yes (16.7%)
- ☐ No (80.9%)
- ☐ No Comments (2.4%)

Total votes: 1069

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government should immediately make a policy to stop plantation of acacia, rubber, mahogany and eucalyptus instead of reviving natural forest in Madhupur?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Aug	Sehri	Iftar
3	25		7-27
4	26	5-15	7-26
5	27	5-16	7-25

Prayer Timing

August 25		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-25
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	5-45	6-00
Maghrib	7-27	7-37
Esha	9-00	9-30

Source: Islamic Foundation