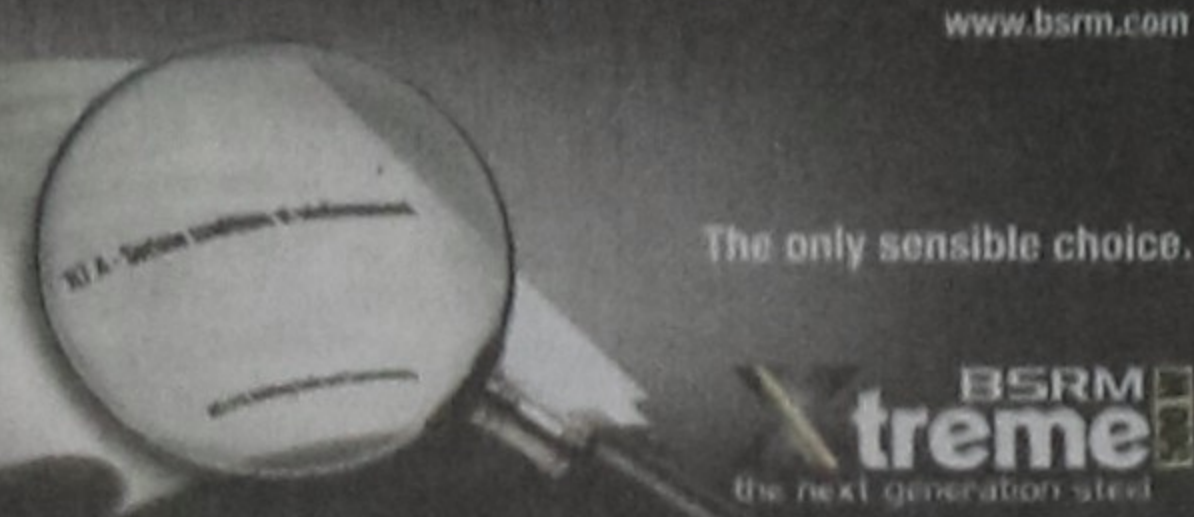


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Wealthy men on VGF card list

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Askir Khan, Awami League general secretary of Rajnagar upazila, is indeed a man eligible for a VGF (Vulnerable Group Feeding) card! His name was inserted into the list of VGF card recipients to the utter disbelief of locals.

Another solvent person, Saudi Arab returnee Sufi Miah's name was also on the same list, which locals said made the VGF card programme an object of ridicule.

On the list Askir Khan was shown as a disabled person

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Primary education up to class VIII, secondary XII

Experts' recommendations on Education Policy on Sept 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Education Policy Formulation Committee will submit the much-awaited National Education Policy to the government on September 2 with the recommendations of extending the primary education level up to class VIII and secondary level up to class XII.

The committee has already consulted with over 50 organisations, institutions and stakeholders concerned and now it is finalising the policy, said Dr Quazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, co-chair of the committee.

"The policy is now at the final stage

and we will submit it to the education minister on September 2," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said the ministry is likely to inform the media about the policy on September 2. "We have discussed different aspects of the policy," he said, adding that necessary corrections on the policy are going on.

Dr Ahmad said the policy suggests primary level to be extended up to class VIII from current class V with holding a public examination at its end and secondary level up to class XII from current class X.

According to the sources, the students of all mediums-general, madrasa and

English regardless of types of education system and education institutes-will have to study several subjects in the primary level to have better understanding about certain things of the country.

They also said the students of all mediums in secondary level will also have to study three subjects.

Basic ICT and pre-vocational training will be introduced in class VI, they added.

They also said they want to formulate a pragmatic policy aiming at ensuring national consensus, social and moral values and the spirit of the liberation war.

The government formed a 16-member

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Probe Fatwa incidents

HC asks authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed the authorities concerned to investigate into the incidents of extra-judicial punishments by beating and lashing people in the name of arbitration or conciliation, and to take action against those responsible.

The extra-judicial penalties are often executed at village arbitrations (Salish) in presence of or with the active participation of members or chairmen of union parishads applying 'Fatwa' concept, a lawyer said.

The HC asked the authorities to provide security and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Jackson's death ruled 'homicide'

AP, Los Angeles

Michael Jackson's death has been ruled a homicide caused by a mix of drugs meant to treat insomnia, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press, while his personal doctor told investigators he was actually trying to wean the King of Pop off the powerful anaesthetic that did him in.

Forensic tests found the anaesthetic propofol combined with at least two sedatives to kill Jackson, according to the official, who spoke Monday on condition of anonymity because the findings have not been publicly released. Based on those tests, the Los Angeles County Coroner has ruled the death a homicide, the official said.

The coroner's homicide ruling does not necessarily

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



The ship BLV of Chittagong Port sank at the port channel Monday night. Movement of ships through this channel has become risky following consecutive accidents at the same spot.

PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Traffic situation improves

Unfit vehicles not seen in 2 days

KAILASH SARKAR

The government's recent moves to rid the capital of nagging traffic congestion have witnessed dramatic improvement in the last two days much to the relief of city dwellers.

Transport movement on the city roads was comparatively smooth yesterday as most of the unfit and age-old vehicles and other modes of vehicles without licences and legal papers remained off the roads.

Apart from the activities of newly set-up mobile courts, traffic police in the last few days have been more vigilant and proactive in implementing traffic rules and controlling vehicular movement.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) and Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) seized around 2,000 unfit and worn-out vehicles while several hundred owners

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Drifting in sea without food

Andaman tragedy survivors tell of ordeal

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Emadad Ullah, 40, watched 19 people die in front of his very eyes 304 of them floated on two boats on the high waters of the Bay of Bengal.

Yesterday, the man who was lucky enough to survive the ordeal over the last eight months, described how he and 116 others survived nine days and nine nights on an engineless trawler and finally reached the Andaman Islands.

Emdad, son of Ahmed Ali of Shah Parir Dwip Majharpara village under Sabrang union in Teknaf upazila, also said there were 259 other Bangladeshis on two other trawlers on their way to Andaman Islands. He had heard that both trawlers had sunk and all aboard them had drowned.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) yesterday brought

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

2 outlaws killed in 'shootouts'

STAR REPORT

Two leaders of outlawed parties were shot dead during 'shootouts' with law enforcers in Kushtia and Magura yesterday.

The dead were identified as Shahinur Rahman Dablu, 36, from Saldah village under sadar upazila of Kushtia and Tabibur Rahman alias Tota from Harishpur village under Shalikhupur upazila in Magura.

Kushtia police said the regional unit commander of outlawed Gono Bahini, Shahinur, was accused of extortion, mugging, and looting on the riverways.

Acting on a tip-off, separate teams of the Detective Branch and sadar police took position at Milpara Shashan ghat. As

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Extortionists gun down labourer

Housewife murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed extortionists gunned down a construction worker after failing to realise extortion from the building owner in the capital's Mirpur while Kafrul police recovered a body of a housewife from Ibrahimpur area yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Shaheen Qadir, 35, a construction worker at East Monipur of Athena Developer Company of Lalmatia and Tania Begum, 22, wife of Mohammad Pavel, resident of Ashidag in the area.

Mirpur police said a gang of three criminals reached the spot around 4:00am and dragged Shaheen out of the site. They stabbed and shot at his head and left the scene.

Bazlur Rahman, director of the developer company, said the extortionists threatened Shaheen to handover a chit carrying a cell phone number to the authority.

As he denied, they threatened again with dire consequence on Monday and accordingly killed him yesterday, Bazlur added.

Shaheen's co-workers identified the criminals as cadres of the Shahadat gang and said the extortionists gave another chit with the same cell phone number to another worker after the killing.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Online 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?

Yes (66.3%)
No (28.9%)
No Comments (4.8%)

Total votes: 1053

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the ruling party's failure to control its activists led to the recent tender-snatching incident?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Aug	Sehri	Iftar
4	26	7-26	
5	27	5-16	7-25
6	28	5-16	7-24

Prayer Timing

August 26		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-25
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	5-45	6-00
Maghrib	7-26	7-36
Esha	9-00	9-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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Mrs. Nazma Rahman

In the name of Almighty, the Beneficent-the Merciful

With a profound sense of grief we announce the sad demise of Mrs. Nazma Rahman, the youngest daughter of our Founder Chairman Late Hamidur Rahman Sinha, The ACME Laboratories Ltd. and the beloved wife of Mr. Hasibur Rahman, Executive Director of the company.

She breathed her last on August 25, 2009 at 12.30 am, in the Apollo Hospital, Dhaka (Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajeun).

May Almighty Allah grant her an eternal abode in heaven and also give strength to the members of her family to bear irreparable loss due to her death with courage and fortitude.

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