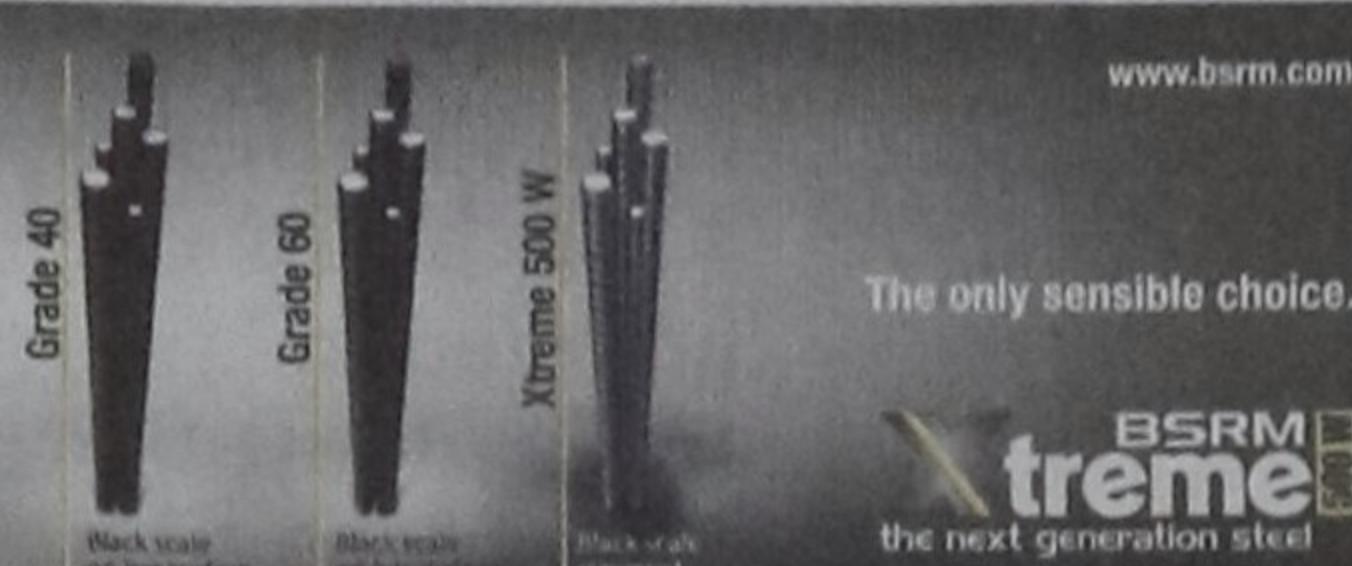


## Why Xtreme?

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



## Jackson's burial today

AFP, Los Angeles

Two months after his death, Michael Jackson is to be buried today in a private sunset ceremony that will see the "King of Pop" laid to rest alongside a galaxy of Hollywood stars.

The tragic pop music icon, whose mysterious June 25 death was ruled a homicide by city officials last week, will be interred in an elaborate mausoleum at the Forest Lawn Memorial Park in the suburb of Glendale.

Only close family and

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## Four more infected by 'Anthrax'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Four more people of Pabna's Chhoto Pathail village have been infected with the suspected Anthrax, raising the number to 30, district health department sources confirmed yesterday.

Santhia Upazila Health Officer Monsurul Alam told The Daily Star that the civil surgeon along with medical officials concerned visited the village on Tuesday and identified the infected -- Chumki, 4, Lovely, 8, Abdul Bari, 42, and Hossain Ali, 55.

Earlier on August 27, specialists from Dhaka visited Chhoto Pathail and collected

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## Planters trapped by unholy nexus

*Dishonest forest officials, illegal loggers make genuine timber business tough*

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, Rangamati

Real planters struggle to market their timber due to alleged bribery by a section of forest officials and procedural flaws in issuing permit.

Timber merchants allege illegal loggers run their business scot-free in connivance with the dishonest forest officials, leaving all the hassles for the genuine planters.

The planters allege the officials of the Department of Forest are more interested to mint bribe money out of the jute land instead of taking care of the forests.

Gunodhar Chakma, a jute owner, alleges they have to give Tk 1.5 lakh in bribe and yet the forest authorities create a lot of hassles in issuing them permit.

"At times they take up to three years upon application to issue a permit," he adds.

The forest department issues permit to the jute holders allowing the planters to market their timber. The divisional forest officers (DFOs) mainly issue the permits in every forest division.

In Rangamati Circle, four forest divisions --

CHT South Forest Division, CHT North Forest Division, Unclassified Forest Division and Jhum Control Division -- are responsible for issuing permit.

Forest department insiders say each of the four divisions issues on average 10 to 15 permits every month.

Avo Prakash Chakma, a timber trader and president of Upajatiya Kathbabsayee O Jotemalik Kalyan Samity, in Rangamati says fundamental rights of planters are being violated as they cannot sell their timber without taking permission from the foresters.

He adds it takes three years to get permission issued by the forest department. They have to suffer a lot and run from table to table to get the permit, he adds.

He however says it is not so hard for someone to get the permit "if they give hefty bribes to the DFOs".

Sources say before issuing permit the foresters go for field inspection at least thrice. The range officer concerned first inspects the jute

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Illegal loggers at reserve forest in Farua, Rangamati are seen ready to shift stolen timber to market.

PHOTO STAR



## CITY CONTINUES TO TOIL IN TAILBACKS Only one out of 14 decisions enforced

KALASH SARKAR

Only one out of the 14 decisions the government made on August 20, talking to 12 government agencies to curb traffic jams, was implemented and even that proved ineffective, resulting in the usual unrelenting citywide gridlocks.

The meeting had also formed a committee to coordinate the 12 agencies' activities to curb traffic jams.

An official who was present in that meeting could hardly recall the decisions made while one backtracked from the commitments made. A few others are yet to start working to implement the decisions.

They said lack of coordination between agencies, manpower shortage and poor logistic

supports caused their failure to give people some relief from the nagging traffic jams.

According to the decisions, a number of mobile courts were set up for special drives against unfit vehicles and vehicles that cause traffic jams but the drive failed to provide desired results.

The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha was asked to force 198 high-rise buildings to use the designated place to park vehicles. The car parks of those buildings are now being used for other purposes forcing people to park on the road.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque said, "We conducted a survey and detected that those 198 buildings have car parks but use the space for other purposes. We sent Rajuk the survey Tuesday with

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## Chopper missing with Andhra CM on board

AP, Hyderabad

A helicopter carrying a powerful politician from southern India disappeared in heavy rains yesterday as it flew over a forested region largely controlled by Maoist rebels.

Air force helicopters rushed to the area to search for the aircraft carrying YSR Reddy, the 60-year-old chief minister of Andhra Pradesh state, said K. Roshaiah, the state finance minister. He appealed to local villagers to join the search for the helicopter, which disappeared over the dense Nallamalla forest.

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## ASIAN HIGHWAY JS body pulls for 2 routes

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary committee yesterday recommended the government to link both Benapole-Dhaka-Tamabil and Banglabandha-Dhaka-Tamabil routes to connect Bangladesh with Asian Highway, an international network of 141,000 km of standard highways crisscrossing Asian countries with links to Europe.

Chairman of the parliamentary watchdog body on communications ministry Sheikh Muzibur Rahman told this to reporters after its meeting at the parliament building complex.

Nazrul Islam Manzu, lone BNP lawmaker in the committee, at a separate briefing after the meeting said he has opposed the recommendation on behalf of his party saying that this route will not be viable for the country. But he did not give any 'note of dissent' at the meeting.

On easing traffic congestion in the city, the standing committee asked the authority concerned to take action to remove all vehicles aged twenty years and more from the city streets.

It also asked to remove unnecessary speed breakers from the capital as those sometimes create tailback the busy and crowded city.

"Benapole-Dhaka-Tamabil and Banglabandha-Dhaka-Tamabil routes will be most suitable routes to link Asian Highway. Considering trade, commerce and tourism, the committee after elaborate discussion recommended these two

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## Azad Group chief freed on bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Abul Kalam Azad, chief of Azad Group, was released on bail from the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday evening.

Officials at the jail gate said Azad came out of the jail at around 7:30pm.

Earlier on the day, a Dhaka court granted him bail in the last case filed against him on charges of making forged

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Sehri, Iftar timings			
Ramadan	Sept	Sehri	Iftar
12	3		7-18
13	4	5-20	7-17
14	5	5-20	7-16

Prayer Timing		
September 3		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-19	5-29
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	5-45	6-00
Maghrb	7-18	7-28
Esha	8-45	9-15

Source: Islamic Foundation



One of the protestors is trying to protect Prof Anu Muhammad as police charge truncheons on the agitating people who marched from Muktangan to Petrobangla office to blockade the office yesterday.

## GAS EXPLORATION Protesters clash with cops: 30 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 30 people including 10 policemen were injured yesterday as activists of the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports clashed with police at Bijoy Nagar on their way to lay siege to Petrobangla office at Karwan Bazar in the capital.

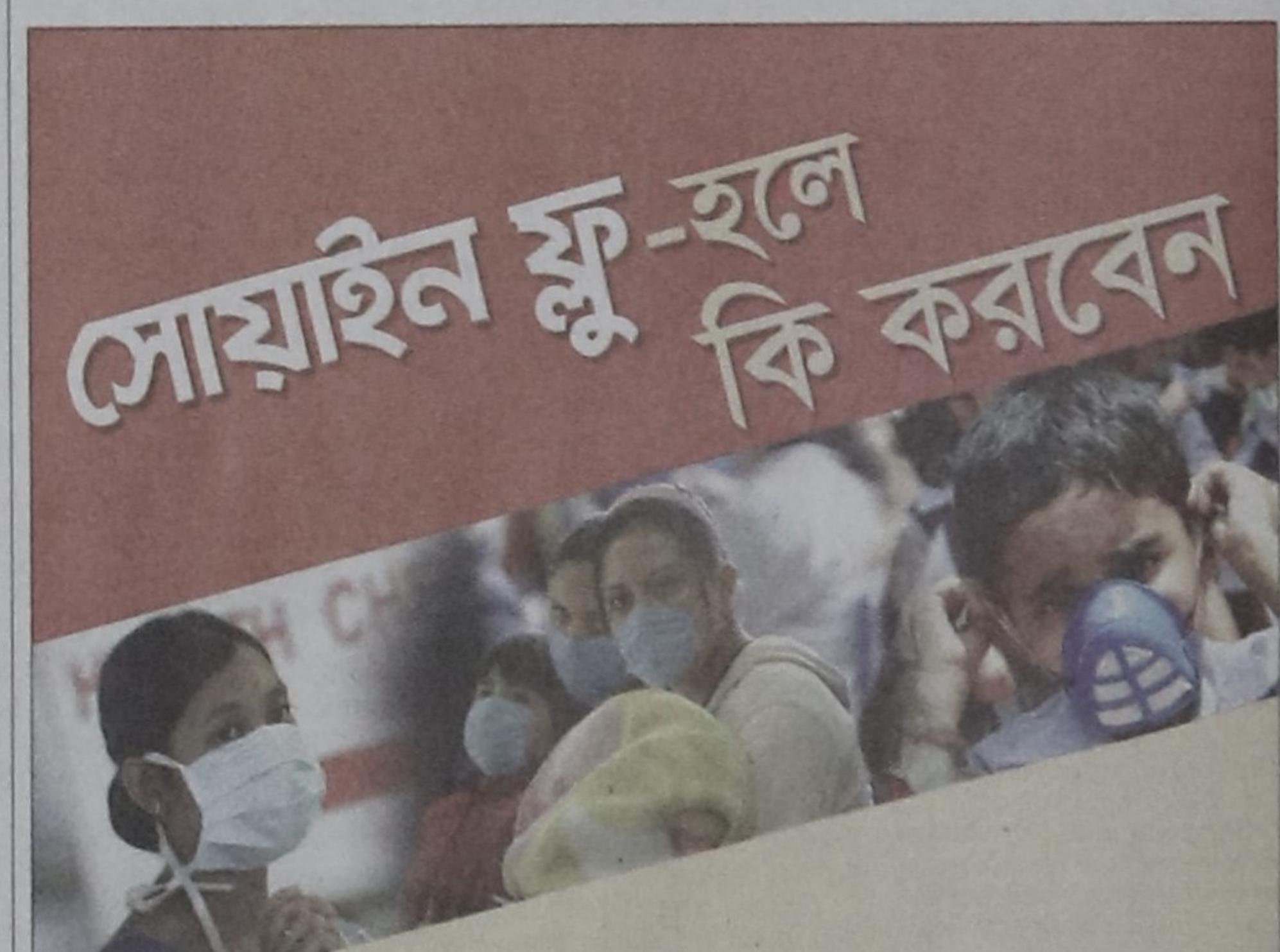
About seven vehicles were vandalised suspending traffic movement in the area for over half an hour.

Of the injured, committee member secretary Prof Anu Muhammad, Mosharfa Mishu and Haidar Akbar Khan Rono and nine others were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital while the rest received treatment at several clinics and hospitals.

Source said police barred a

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ANOTHER STORY ON PAGE 2



**Online Poll** ✓

Do you think the government should immediately issue an order to shut down all educational institutions in the wake of swine flu outbreak in the country?

○ Yes (59.4%)

○ No (39.7%)

○ No Comments (0.9%)

Total votes: 1244

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you support the recommendation of the education committee to stretch primary education to class VIII and secondary to class XII?

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

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## Quake kills 35 in Indonesia

AFP, AP, Sukabumi

A major 7.0-magnitude quake rocked Indonesia yesterday, killing at least 35 people and destroying dozens of homes across the country's densely populated heartland, officials said.

The quake struck off the island of Java less than 200 kilometres (123 miles) south of Jakarta at a depth of 49 kilometres, the US Geological Survey said.

Social Affairs Ministry official Mardi says more than 700 houses and buildings have been badly damaged in Wednesday's 7.0-magnitude quake.

Scores of people have been injured. Many of the victims died when their homes were buried in a landslide triggered by the tremor.

The official Antara news agency reports about 30 people are

## Toxic liquor claims 3 lives

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

At least three people died and another 20 fell sick, nine of them being in a critical condition, after having toxic liquor at Kathpatti in Dariyapur Bazar under Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The dead are Abul Hossain, 45 and Rustom Ali, 43, of village Dariyapur and Jall Mia, 52, of Laxmipur village of the Sadar upazila.

Police said some 30 persons consumed local liquor at the shop of Rustom Ali at

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