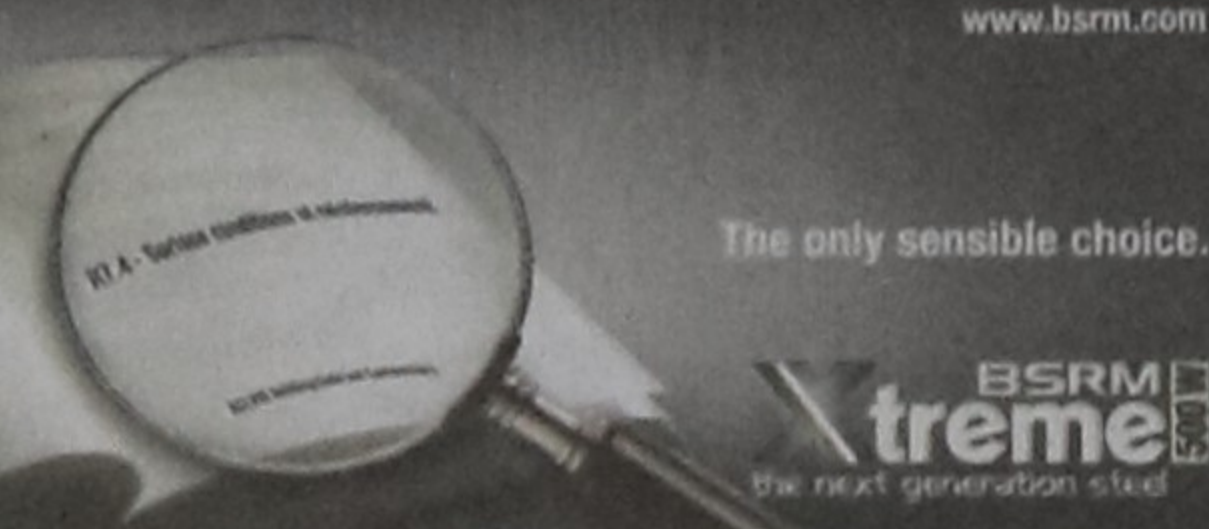


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Muggers active around banks

DMP asks businesses to have police escort while carrying big amount from banks

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

As many as 100 muggers in several groups are active in and around the banks in the capital while informants inside banks keep them informed about big transactions, detective sources said.

The gangs of muggers become desperate during the holy month of Ramadan; they rob people on the crowded city streets at gunpoint as soon as they come out of the banks with a large sum of money.

Despite a special anti-crime drive across the country from August 3 at least 10 incidents of mugging took place in the capital leaving most of the victims bullet-hit in broad daylight in the last one and a half months.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner

(DMP) AKM Shahidul Haque told The Daily Star DMP has deployed additional plainclothes police in and around the banks in the city and assigned a special Detective Branch (DB) team on the eve of Ramadan.

Shahidul said he met Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) leaders and advised them to take police escort while carrying more than Tk 1 lakh. Any individual can also enjoy the service, he added.

DB Assistant Commissioner Mohammad Nasir Uddin Khan, also a member of the special team that set up eight special check posts in posh areas including Dhanmondi and Ramna in the city to nab the muggers.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



Advance ticket booking for the Eid holidays started from yesterday. Homebound people have been waiting for tickets since sehri in the city's Shyamoli bus station.

Huge crowd at bus counters

Sale of advance ticket for Eid begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different bus services yesterday started selling advance tickets to cope with the Eid rush while railway authorities have decided to start the sale from September 7.

"We have started selling advance tickets to reduce the pressure of the passengers," said an executive member of bus truck owners association.

Md Harun, a counterman of Nabil Paribahan, said they had started the sale from 8:00am yesterday.

Meanwhile, the station manager of Kamalapur Railway Station confirmed that they will sell advance tickets for journey to all

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

VGF rice seized in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized 81 bags of rice allotted for Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme and arrested three people, including a union parishad member, at Pabna BSCIC and Pabna Market yesterday.

On information, a team of Rab-12 raided Pabna BSCIC area around 11:00am and seized a truckload of 68 bags of rice for VGF programme. Rab nabbed a rice trader Ariful Islam from the spot.

With a lead from the arrestee's statement, Rab also raided Pabna market and seized 13 more bags of VGF rice from a storehouse. They arrested another rice trader Md Abdullah there.

The two rice traders confessed to having bought the rice from Dogachhi union parishad member Md Abdul Hai. Rab apprehended Abdul Hai from his residence.

The arrestees were later handed over to Pabna Sadar police.

A case was lodged with the police station in this connection.

Sehri, Iftar timings			
Ramadan	Sept	Sehri	Iftar
14	5		7-16
15	6	5-21	7-15
16	7	5-21	7-14

Prayer Timing		
September 5		
Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	5-20	5-30
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	5-30	5-45
Maghrib	7-17	7-27
Esha	8-45	9-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

Khaleda, Delwar at odds over reform

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain and Chairperson Khaleda Zia are finding themselves increasingly at odds with each other over party reorganisation.

Some party leaders alleged that the secretary general approved some district convening committees with more than 51 members each, which is in clear violation of a party decision.

The organisation's standing committee, the highest policy making forum, had decided that those committees should have 51 members each.

Due to objections from the secretary general, the convening committees for Dhaka and Manikganj districts, and Dhaka city unit committees could not be formed yet, while the

party had already declared committees for 71 district units three months ago.

At a meeting of the standing committee on Monday, Khaleda expressed her disappointment over the slow pace of the party reorganisation supervised by Delwar, meeting sources said.

Against such a backdrop, the chairperson is also considering inclusion of more leaders in the standing committee, although some senior leaders are opposing the idea, saying changes in the highest policy making body should only be brought through a national council, according to party insiders.

The leaders said Justice TH Khan, Jamiruddin Sircar, MK Anwar, and Nazrul Islam Khan might be picked for inclusion in the

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

2 university students drown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Two students of Jagannath University drowned while having a bath in the river Kakra at Chirirbandar upazila of Dinajpur Friday morning.

The deceased were identified as Mahmudul Hasan, 28, son of Rafiqul Alam and his cousin ABM Nazmul Hasan, 25, son of Chan Miah of Kazipur under Sirajganj Sadar upazila.

Both were students of accounting department and they were visiting Dinajpur with a team of Tablig Jamaat.

Police said they reached Chirirbandar from Dhaka along with some of their friends early Friday to attend

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Truckload of palm oil hijacked

Some oil recovered, truck yet to be traced

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed criminals looted a truckload of palm oil from the capital's Dhanmondi area early yesterday.

After eight hours into the incident police recovered 44 out of 60 drums of looted oil from New Market area.

Sub-inspector Yunus Ali of Dhanmondi Police Station said businessman Mostafa Kamal of Jibon Nagar of Chuadanga purchased the oil from Chittagong and the truck was heading towards Chuadanga.

A gang of seven to eight criminals intercepted the Chuadanga-bound truck on the Mirpur road near Rapa Plaza.

The criminals got into the truck and took control of the steering at gunpoint at around 3:30am.

They beat up driver Moktar Hossain and helper Zillur Rahman and ejected them from the truck in Banani area, said Dhanmondi Police Station Officer-in-charge Shah Alam.

New Market Police Station Officer-in-charge Kamrul Hasan

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Match factory gutted in Munshiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

A devastating fire gutted valuable machinery of Akiz Match Factory at Charmuktarpur here yesterday.

Witnesses said the fire originated at the factory at about 2:30pm while the workers were putting away the leftover matchsticks and it spread fast due to the negligence of the factory authority.

Tanoy Biswas of Munshiganj Fire Service Station said, "It took about two hours of hectic effort to douse the flame with the assistance

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

JMB man held in Kurigram

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested an activist of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from Krishnapur village under Kurigram municipality early yesterday.

The arrested JMB man, Habibur Rahman Habi, son of Shahadat Hossain of the village, was sent to jail hajat when he was produced before the chief judicial magistrate court in Kurigram.

Police and local sources said a team of Rab-5 led by Camp Commander Major Alamgir Islam arrested Habi from his house in the early

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Declare roadmap to war crime trial by Sep 30

Demands Nirmul Committee; places 9-point proposal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee yesterday threatened to launch a tough movement unless the government announces a roadmap to trial of 1971 war criminals by September 30.

The committee, a forum for secular Bangladesh and trial of 1971 war criminals, made the announcement at the first session of its Representatives' Conference-2009 at the Supreme Court Bar Auditorium in the capital yesterday.

It also placed a nine-point proposal that

includes appointment of skilled, honest and pro-liberation war people as tribunal judges, investigators and lawyers and closure of businesses run by alleged war criminals.

The committee also proposed forming commissions to probe incidents of repression on minority communities, August 21 grenade attack and the Chittagong arms haul during the tenure of previous BNP-led government and publishing white papers on those.

"The people well-known to the countrymen as killers, rapists and looters during the liberation war, should be arrested immediately under

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

WTO negotiations to resume for new free-trade pact

AFP, New Delhi

WTO ministers agreed yesterday to resume high-level negotiations to clinch a new global free-trade pact, but despite the talk of a breakthrough there were words of caution about the hard work ahead.

Indian Trade Minister Anand Sharma told reporters that ministers from more than 35 countries meeting here for two days of talks had committed to high-level contacts resuming at a meeting on September 14 in Geneva.

"There has been a breakthrough in negotiations. The impasse in resuming negotiations has been broken," he told reporters.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

OnlinePoll ✓

Government is considering general mercy for the outlawed activists to bring them to normal life. Do you think it will be a right decision?

Yes (14.5%)
No (80.7%)
No Comments (4.7%)

Total votes: 866

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support Rab's method of crossfire to eliminate criminals?

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IMF sees global recovery, urges exit strategies

AFP, Berlin

The global economy "appears to be emerging" from a steep slump and countries should plan to wind down stimulus efforts, International Monetary Fund chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn said yesterday.

"The global economy appears to be emerging at last from the worst economic downturn in our lifetimes," Strauss-Kahn said in a speech in Berlin.

The risks of the fragile recovery stalling appeared to be diminishing, as several advanced economies -- including France and Germany -- had already returned to growth and emerging economies were "recovering even more strongly," he said in prepared remarks.

But he warned that problems in the financial sector could persist or even intensify, particularly if efforts to restore banks to health are not completed.

In light of the fragility of the recovery, Strauss-Kahn cautioned there was "a real danger" countries may end their extraordinary monetary and fiscal crisis measures prematurely.

"Having said this, the time is right for policymakers to formulate their exit strategies," he added.

The former French finance minister said that international coordination of exit strategies would perhaps be even "more important" than the well-coordinated crisis response.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1