

Why Xtreme?

De-sealed 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.bsrm.com

The only sensible choice.

BSRM Xtreme

the next generation steel

Buy specific models of **TRANSTEC** Split AC

Get **Whirlpool** Microwave Oven **Free**

200% Off!

TRANSCOM

DIGITAL

Your Trusted Electronics Retailer

For More Information: 8855366-8, 01712 885483

Saifur laid to rest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Former finance minister M Saifur Rahman was laid to eternal rest at his Baharmordan home in Moulvibazar yesterday. Two more namaj-e-janazas were held in Sylhet and Moulvibazar which people in large number attended. Saifur, died in a tragic road crash Saturday. He was buried around six in the evening beside his wife Durre Samad Rahman as per his wish. Hundreds of his colleagues in politics, admirers, well-wishers and relatives thronged the graveyard to pay their tribute. BNP leaders M Morshed Khan, Big Gen (retd) Hannan Shah, Abdullah Al Noman, mayor of Habiganj municipality GM Gaus, mayor

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

PHOTO ON PAGE 3

Flu confusion over hajj

Saudi govt yet to clarify decision on barring elders, children, people with chronic illness from hajj

PORIMOL PALMA

Confusion mounts among the hajj pilgrims and agencies, as Saudi Arabia has not yet clarified Arab health ministers' decision to restrict the elders and children to travel to the holy land in fear of a spread of H1N1 virus. The Arab health ministers in an emergency meeting in Egypt late July this year unanimously agreed that people above the age of 65, children under 12 and those with chronic illnesses should be excluded from undertaking the pilgrimage to Makkah to be held in late November.

The decision, however, will have yet to be approved by Saudi Arabia. The hajj pilgrims, meanwhile, submitted money to the hajj agencies and completed all the documentation process. "Yes, I heard of the age bar, but not sure exactly what is going to happen. My son said the Saudi government 'may' consider the issue for this year," said Abu Naser, 67 who has submitted money and completed all the procedures to perform hajj. Abu Naser, a resident of Mirpur, told The

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Bill proposes strict penalty for realtors

Jail term, fine in proposed law to stop wrongdoings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday placed a bill in parliament for enacting a law with provisions for punishing real estate developers for wrongdoings and protecting the interests of buyers and landowners. The Real Estate Development and Management Bill 2009 is based on an ordinance, promulgated by the last caretaker government, which ceased to have effect on February 25 this year for not being ratified in parliament within the stipulated time. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina however announced in parliament that the ordinances, which ceased to have effect, would be placed in the House as bills for turning them into laws.

State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan introduced the bill in the House with a provision for stern legal actions for violating the law. The bill was sent to the parliamentary standing committee on housing and public works ministry for scrutiny. The committee has been asked to submit a report to the House within three weeks. The state minister said the proposed law will establish trust among buyers, sellers, developers and landowners and also ensure safe investment. "Any violation of conditions enshrined in the agreement by any party will be deemed as punishable offence," the bill says.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Tenant-owner feud leads to murder of a baby

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A one-year-old boy of a tenant was killed after the house owner's son allegedly dipped him into mud at Majbarbari in the city's Uttarkhan area Sunday night as a sequel to a tenant-owner feud over water supply. The baby, Mohammad Ismail was a son of Hajera Begum who has been living in a makeshift house of Atahar in the area for last one year. Police said Atahar's son Zahirul, 22, took Ismail from Hajera Begum's house to a marshy land adjacent to the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Department of Agriculture Extension predicts a good Aman harvest in the four northern districts, the biggest rice-producing zone of the country.

PHOTO: STAR

Northern farmers weather out poor monsoon

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Allaying the fear of a gloomy aman prospect due to delayed monsoon, the northern region has lived up to its 'food bowl' reputation by well surpassing the target acreage of tilling rain-fed paddy. Official sources confirmed that farmers of Joypurhat, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh, which constitute the biggest rice-producing zone of the country, put up a great deal of efforts in completing aman plantation amidst unusually delayed and low rainfall. Though the official target of aman cultivation was 4,92,820 hectares of land in these four districts, farmers already

covered 5,03,185 hectares, showed statistics available with the concerned district agriculture department offices. Last year the aman acreage was 4.85 lakh hectares in these districts. As opposed to boro, which is heavily dependent on irrigation water, farmers in Bangladesh mainly depend on monsoon rains for cultivating aman. Though the rainfall during the season was 70 per cent less than the normal during June-August period, and about 50 per cent less in the first week of September, the aman cultivation target could be fulfilled due to resilience of the farmers who managed supplementary irrigation, said officials of the Department of Agriculture Extension

(DAE). Referring to government's move of providing farmers with free electricity to irrigate aman lands, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury recently told The Daily Star that aman output would not dwindle despite lesser rainfalls as the government moved timely to reach the targeted aman acreage. DAE sources, portraying a bumper aman output, said aman cultivated in 2,50,920 hectares of land in Dinajpur as against the target of 2,46,000 hectares. Thakurgaon achieved 1,27,500 hectares against 1,24,100 hectares, Panchagarh 51,900 hectares against 51,600 hectares and Joypurhat 72,865 hectares against a target of 71,120 hectares.



As part of a drive against noise and air pollution, a mobile court halted a number of vehicles on Rokeya Sarani in the city yesterday and penalised some of them, causing traffic jams in the area for sometime. Inset, A hydraulic horn being removed from a vehicle.

PHOTO: STAR

Honkers fined

Mobile court also penalises black-smoke emitters, vehicles with fake papers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday penalised motor vehicle owners with fines in the city's Agargaon area for using horns beyond permissible sound limit, emitting black smokes and possessing fake documents. Department of Environment (DoE) along with Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) and traffic police conducted the drive led by Executive Magistrate Sharifa Ahmed. The court penalised 21 vehicles, including buses, lorries, covered vans and cars and realised Tk 28,800 in fine under the Motor Vehicle Ordinance, 1983 and the Environment Conservation Act, 1995 and other relevant rules. Eight of the vehicles have been fined for noise pollution while four for emitting black smokes, said DoE Deputy Director Sukumar Biswas. The BRTA and traffic police checked driving licences, route permits, and registration and fitness certificates of the vehicles. Magistrate Sharifa Ahmed said under the motor vehicle ordinance, a vehicle can be fined Tk 500 for not having genuine licence while Tk 2,000-5,000 for no registration and Tk 200 for emitting black smokes. A vehicle can be fined Tk 2,000 or three months imprisonment or both for the first time while Tk 5,000 or six months imprisonment or both for the next time for running a vehicle without route permit, she said. However, the fine of Tk 100 for using horns beyond permissible sound limit and banned hydraulic horns under the motor vehicle ordinance is ridiculous and too negligible to be a penalty for the offenders.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

El Salvador detains 25 Bangladeshis

Found in US-bound boat in Pacific

STAR REPORT

The navy in El Salvador on Saturday detained 76 migrants, including 25 Bangladeshis, aboard a boat in the Pacific on their way to the USA. The others detected by the Salvadoran navy about 80 kilometers off the coast include 25 Nepalese, 21 Eritreans and five Ecuadorians, reported news agency Associated Press on Sunday from El Salvador, a central American country. El Salvadoran Navy

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

OnlinePoll

Do you believe the garment owners are really unable to pay their workers as BGMEA demanded Tk 30 billion from the government to pay workers wages ahead of Eid?

Yes (15.7%)

No (83.2%)

No Comments (1.1%)

Total votes: 543

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support the practice of keeping many senior government officials including secretaries on OSD?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

| Sohri, Iftar timings | | | | |
|----------------------|------|-------|-------|--|
| Ramadan | Sept | Sohri | Iftar | |
| 17 | 8 | | 7-13 | |
| 18 | 9 | 5-22 | 7-12 | |
| 19 | 10 | 5-22 | 7-11 | |

| Prayer Timing | | |
|---------------|------|--------|
| September 8 | | |
| | Azan | Jamaat |
| Fajr | 5-21 | 5-31 |
| Zohr | 1-45 | 2-15 |
| Asr | 5-30 | 5-45 |
| Maghrib | 7-13 | 7-23 |
| Esha | 8-45 | 9-15 |

Source: Islamic Foundation

Outlaw killed in 'crossfire'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

An operative of outlawed Gono Bahini was killed in 'crossfire' between Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and the outlawed organisation at Durbachara in Kushtia Sadar upazila yesterday. The dead was identified as Asrafal Islam alias Asha Mondol, 40, son of Monabber Mondol of Durbachara. According to the source, a Rab-12 team raided Durbachara village where some Gono Bahini men, led by Asha, were holding a meeting around 3:45am.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Trade, Tipai to top agenda

Dipu Moni talks to Indian FM today

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni reached New Delhi yesterday on a four-day visit to discuss the entire spectrum of bilateral ties with the top leaders of the country, including Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Dipu Moni, accompanied by Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes, kicks off her engagements today by leading Bangladesh delegation at talks at the Hyderabad House where the Indian team would be headed by External Affairs Minister SM Krishna. Trade, investment, sharing waters of common rivers, including the Teesta, Tipaimukh dam, border demarcation, connectivity

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Bullet-hit body of 'abducted' BNP man found in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The bullet-hit body of a local BNP leader, who was allegedly abducted from Dhaka, was found near Brac office at Khanpura in Babuganj upazila yesterday morning. The victim, Golam Mustafa Nanna, 48, was the vice president of BNP Babuganj upazila unit. Police said Nanna was also a regional leader of an outlawed party and he might have been kidnapped and killed by his party rivals.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Israel approves huge settlement homes

Abbas blasts the plan, terms it unacceptable

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel yesterday gave the go-ahead to build hundreds of new housing units in settlements in the occupied West Bank, defying warnings that the move could endanger any resumption of Middle East peace talks. Defence Minister Ehud Barak authorised the construction of 455 units, most of them in the large settlement blocs that Israel has said it wants to keep in any final peace agreement. The move -- which comes just days ahead of a planned visit to the region by US Middle East envoy George Mitchell -- will almost certainly bring criticism that it is undermining US-led

efforts to budge the stalled peace process. When Israel announced last week its intention to approve a burst of settlement building before considering a US-demanded halt, the Palestinians, Washington and Europe all warned against the move. Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas had blasted the plans as unacceptable, and warned that if Israel goes ahead there will be no point in holding a three-way meeting between him, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and US President Barack Obama on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly later this month. "We will not go back to the negotiating table

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8