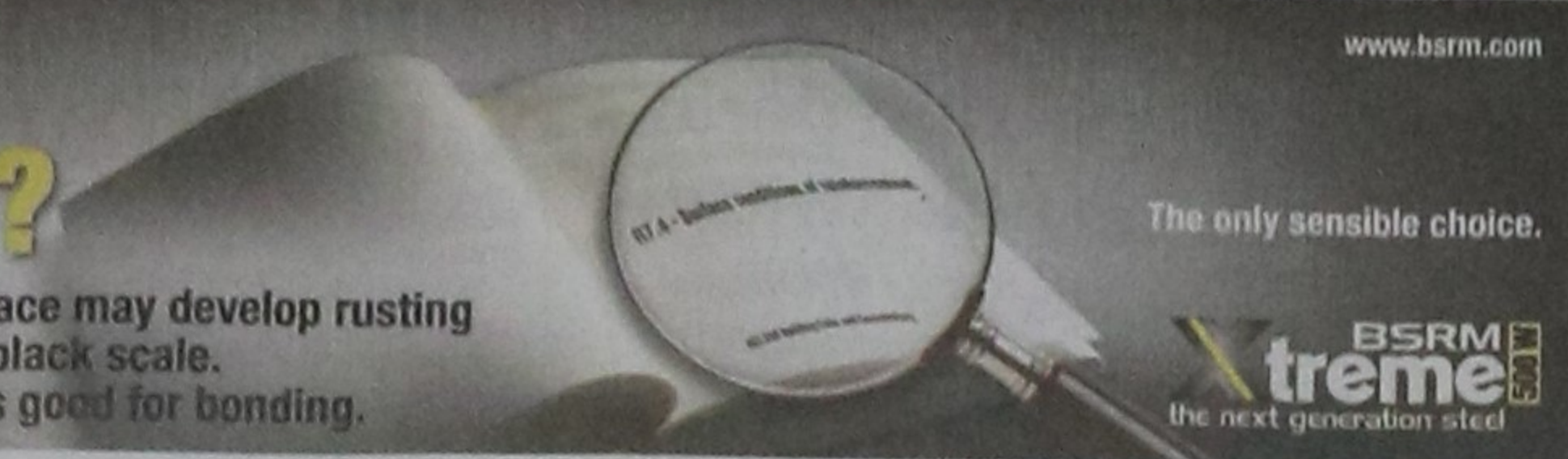


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Barakat sets noble mark

Signals he means simple business in Janata

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newly appointed Janata Bank Chairman economist Abul Barakat has set a new example of austerity and simplicity at the top level of management, insiders say.

Upon joining the bank on September 14 prior to the Eid holidays, Barakat sent a note to the state-owned bank's management stating that he doesn't require a vehicle. Besides, he doesn't want to use the bank's elevator exclusively and a large "throne-like" chair for him at the bank's board meetings, he informed.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Govt fails to fulfil poll pledges

Says Khaleda at Eid reception

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia said the government could not implement any of its election pledges in nine months of rule and people would have no choice but to start agitation if it fails to change the situation.

"People passed days during Ramadan in miseries because of the price hike of essentials and deterioration in law and order. They are celebrating the Eid amid sorrows and miseries," the leader of the opposition told reporters at an Eid reception on Monday.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Durga Puja begins today

UNB, Dhaka

Durga Puja, the biggest religious annual festival of the Hindu community, begins today across the country with due solemnity and great devotion to the deity.

It is a festival in which devotees worship the Hindu goddess of power, Durga or Shakti.

The origin of public celebrations of grand Durga Puja, also known as Durgotsab, can be traced back to the 15th century.

With the ascent of the Moguls, Durga Puja became more of a status symbol those days.

Grand celebrations, gala feasts and huge fanfare were part of the very first 'Sharadiya Durgotsab' festivals.

As a festival, Durga Puja was first organised by Raja

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Lotus Kamal made new BCB chief

SPORTS REPORTER

The government has appointed Awami League lawmaker AHM Mustafa Kamal, popularly known as Lotus Kamal, as the president of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Wednesday. He is succeeding Lt. Gen. Sina Ibn Jamali.

Jamali was appointed president of the country's most affluent sports body by the caretaker government in July 2007.

Kamal, a 62-year-old AL lawmaker, will take over the charge today and his immediate challenge would be to speed up the preparations for the 2011 ICC World Cup in which Bangladesh is a co-host.

It may be mentioned that only the president of the BCB is appointed by the government while the directors are elected by the board councilors.

The new BCB president at

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



Lack of doctors and nurses at Dhaka Pongu Hospital during the Eid vacation compels this patient to move through the ward unattended adding to his misery. PHOTO: SHEIKH ENAMUL HAQ

Healthcare left in a holiday mess

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MAHBUBA ZANNAT

Sufferings of patients in the city hospitals mounted during Eid vacation because of shortage of doctors and nurses.

Patients from Savar, Gazipur and Narayanganj had to throng Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) failing to get minimum services from local hospitals and clinics.

Even the tertiary level hospitals like Suhrawardi and Mitford also referred patients to DMCH saying they don't have

anaesthetist and other services because of Eid vacation.

"Most of the doctors and nurses working over the past few days are non-Muslim as the Muslims are on vacationing with their near and dear ones," said Clinical Assistant of the National Institute of Orthopaedics and Traumatology Rehabilitation (NITOR) Dr Uttam Kumar Roy.

He also said the outdoor department was closed on the Eid day and the day after the Eid. The Indoor operating theatre (OT) was also closed during this period

and no pathology test was conducted in the hospital excluding x-ray.

Two nurses and two doctors had to see more than one hundred patients every day at the emergency department.

Even patients at the emergency OT complained they are not getting proper services while the aggrieved relatives of a victim of a road accident at NITOR said that even after five hours of admission the patient received no treatment.

Brokers, however, were found active taking patients from the gate of the hospital

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Another BDR jawan dies of 'cardiac failure'

UNB, Dhaka

A BDR jawan died of cardiac failure at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as Amjad Hossain, 48, of Tarpurchandi village of Chandpur district.

He worked under 19 Rifle Battalion in Feni, said a BDR press release.

Amjad was admitted to BDR Hospital with cardiac problem on August 27.

Later, he was shifted to DMCH on September 12 as his condition deteriorated, the release said.

Amjad breathed his last at

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

2 killed as AL factions clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

In a fierce clash between two rival groups of Awami League, two people were killed and eight others sustained severe injuries at Katanga village under Terokhada upazila of the district around 11:30am Tuesday.

The dead were identified as Rabiul Islam, 28, an AL activist, and Ismail Mollah, 50. Rabiul was shot dead on the spot while Ismail succumbed to his head injury at 7:30pm at Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH).

Of the eight injured—Jabbar Mollah, Enayet Mollah, Rafique Mollah, Shafiqullah Mollah, Ali Akbar and Rima Khatun—are now under treatment at KMCH while Mahfuz and Ali Mollah at Terokhada Upazila Health Complex.

Officer-in-charge of Terokhada Police Station Mosharraf Hossain said supporters of Mostafizur Rahman, member of AL Khulna district, attacked the supporters of Shabbir Ahmed Labu, secretary of AL youth and sports of the upazila unit, over establishing supremacy in the locality.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

DU student murdered

Husband held, remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka University student was killed allegedly by her husband in the city's Mirpur on Saturday while three others died in separate incidents during the Sunday-Tuesday Eid holidays.

Police took DU student Mafruda Huq Sutopa's husband Imrul Sadat alias Abeer, an official of Al-Arafah Islami Bank Ltd, on a three-day remand for questioning.

Sutopa was a master's examinee in mass communication and journalism department and resided at her

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Daunting task of birth registration ahead

Only 59pc done since 2001, 9 months left to complete programme

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

After registering the births of 58.77 percent of the population since 2001, the birth registration programme has a daunting task ahead as it has to achieve cent percent registration within the next nine months.

The programme failed to complete birth registration all by its first deadline, December, 2008. The government had then set the deadline for June, 2010.

"Till this June only 58.77 percent of the total population has received birth certificates," said Director of Birth and Death Registration Project AKM Saiful Islam Chowdhury.

The process of birth registration started in 2001 and after eight years not even 60 percent of the people have been registered making it apparent how sluggish progress of this programme has been. Furthermore, imposing a

fee on birth registration made the process more slow, especially in Dhaka City Corporation area.

Till July, 2008, registrations were done free of cost and only 99,361 people had received birth certificates in the DCC area and around six crore people in the country.

Even though the overall progress of birth registration is not so bad in the country, it is very poor in the DCC area, said Saiful Islam, adding that as of June, 2009 only 13.28 percent of the city dwellers have been registered due to manpower shortage.

He said it is not possible to complete the total process of birth registration by only 10 zonal registrars and if the DCC mayor delegates the power to the councillors, the work would get momentum.

"If the 90 councillors in 90 wards start to work, certainly the speed of the work

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Jewellery looted from city shop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals looted gold jewellery worth Tk 4.2 crore breaking into a jewellery shop in the city's Gulshan Plaza Market Monday night while incidents of burglaries have been reported in the capital during the Eid vacation.

On the loot, police said criminals made a hole in the position wall of Nur Jewelry and Biriani House. A shutter of the restaurant was found broken and there were two holes—one in the wall and another in the glass partition inside the jewelry shop, added police.

Owner of the gold shop Nazir Ahmed Bhuiyan told The Daily Star over phone that he closed the shop Sunday

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



CID personnel investigate the Monday night jewellery shop burglary at Gulshan Plaza Market. Inset, the hole burglars made in the wall to get into the shop. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Taliban bomb Pak school

No casualties as school closed for Eid

AFP, Peshawar

Suspected Taliban militants bombed a primary school on the outskirts of Peshawar on Tuesday, underscoring the Islamist threat in northwest Pakistan despite a series of military offensives.

Militants planted explosives to destroy the small school, which educated girls alongside boys and likely provoked the ire of Islamists who oppose the education of women and frequently target girls' schools.

"The school building, which consisted of three rooms was destroyed in the blast on Tuesday," local police official Hamzullah Khan told AFP.

There were no immediate reports of casualties because the school was closed for the Muslim festival of Eid-ul-Fitr to mark the end of Ramadan.

"The nature of the blast shows that Taliban are behind the incident," said Khan. Provincial education official Mohammad Nisar confirmed the attack.

Gunmen have destroyed hundreds of schools since Taliban and al-Qaeda-linked extremists embarked on a concerted campaign of bombings two years ago in which more than 2,000 people have died in the nuclear-armed country.

The army won back control of the northwest Swat district following a blistering summer offensive to defeat a two-year

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

OnlinePoll

In view of over 4,000 deaths in a year in highway accidents, do you think the government should give it top priority to enforce strict rules to check the accidents?

Yes (88.7%)
No (9.9%)
No Comments (1.4%)

Total votes: 877
TODAY'S POLL

In view of the recent earthquakes, do you think the government should immediately launch quake preparedness program in the country?

Please cast your vote at
www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

September 24

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-40	6-15
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	5-30	5-45
Maghrib	7-05	7-10
Esha	8-30	9-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

Heavy pouring in the city yesterday turns Rokeya Sarani at Mirpur into a nightmare. Vehicles stick to the fast lane while the remaining part of the road goes under knee-deep water. PHOTO: STAR

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