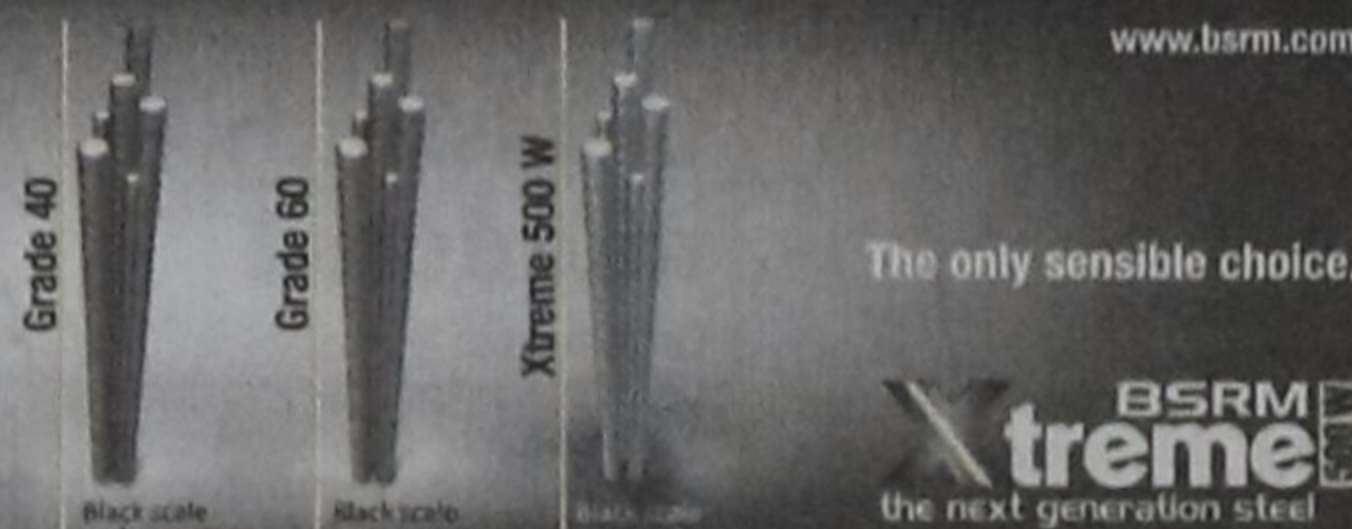


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Salahuddin new SAFF president

SPORTS REPORTER

Kazi Salahuddin has been elected as the president of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF).

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president won the hot seat of the regional soccer body unopposed in the SAFF Congress at Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

BMA polls Nov 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five panels would contest for the election to the largest organisation of doctors Bangladesh Medical Association to elect its central executive committee and district executive committees on November 5.

Ruling Awami League-backed Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad (SCP) finalised its panel with Prof Mahmud Hasan, former vice-chancellor of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), for president and Prof Sharfuddin

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Son of prison boss goes crazy

Stabs father, mother, sisters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Prisons (IG-Prisons) Brig Gen Ashraf Islam Khan, his wife and two daughters were severely wounded as his son stabbed them indiscriminately yesterday afternoon at his Dhaka Central Jail residence.

The IG-Prisons and his two daughters Afrina Ashraf, a 1st

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Prayer Timing		
October 4		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-45	6-20
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	5-15	5-30
Maghrib	6-53	6-56
Esha	8-30	9-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

Biman banks on govt for Boeing

Seeks guarantee to bank loans of \$117m

SOHEL PARVEZ

Bangladesh Biman seeks guarantee from the government to avail bank loans to make pre-delivery payments (PDP) of about \$117 million for purchasing Boeing aircraft, officials concerned said.

The government is yet to respond positively to the guarantee appeal though the first PDP instalment will have to be paid by the state-owned airline at end of October.

"We have requested the government to provide guarantee for purchasing four aircraft from Boeing. It will be difficult for us to secure bank loans without the guar-

antee from the government," said Muhammad Zakiul Islam, managing director and chief executive officer (CEO) of Biman.

The state-owned carrier, now riddled with age-old and insufficient aircraft, pleads the government for the guarantee after its sole attempt to secure finance from banks ended in vain.

Bankers said government's assurance to payback is critical although cash flow position of the Biman would not be healthy enough to repay the loan in the next couple of years.

The airline, after a three-year consistent loss, returned to black in the fiscal

year 2007-'08 with insiders attributing to trimming down of flights on non-profitable routes, improvement in efficiency and stoppage of pilferages by the then management.

After turning into a public limited company in July 2007, Biman struck a deal with Boeing in April last year to acquire four 777-300 ERs (extended range) and four 787-8s Dreamliners, and two 737-800 aircraft to replace its ageing fleet.

Less than a dozen-fleet carrier now expects to get the first delivery of two Boeing 777-300 ERs in 2011, two years

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



A man is taking home a few pond herons he bought at Farkirerpul in the capital yesterday. The country's law prohibits capture, sale and consumption of such birds.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Stop interfering in dev affair of UP

Chairmen, members urge lawmakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Union Parishad chairmen and members from across the country at a national convention yesterday demanded that lawmakers stop their interference in the development affairs of union parishads.

They also demanded the government increase their budgetary allocation in order to strengthen the local government system.

President of Bangladesh Union Parishad Forum Mahbubur Rahman Tulu said they had decided to wage a movement if the government

keeps any provision in the proposed bill with a motive to directly control the union parishads.

Earlier in the last session of the parliament LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraf Islam placed a bill in the House proposing to enact a law on Union Parishad.

The deputy commissioners, in the proposed bill, were empowered to remove the UP chairmen from their positions if allegations are found against them and they will be removed after investigation.

All the successive governments have

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

2 outlaws killed in 'shootouts'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two outlaws were killed in "shootouts" between their cohorts and police in Khulna and Chuadanga early yesterday. Two policemen were also injured in gunfight in Khulna.

The dead were identified as Abu Sayeed Sarkar alias Ranga Sayeed, 32, an armed cadre of New Biplobi Communist Party, and Abdur Rashid alias Mollah Rashid, 42, a regional leader of Janajuddho, one of the Purbo Banglar

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

CTG AMMO HAUL Ex-home secy Omar quizzed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday in Chittagong interrogated former Home Secretary Omar Faruk who led a five-member probe committee the home ministry formed following the seizure of ten truckloads of firearms in early hours of April 02, 2004.

A top retired army officer, who held a key position in the port city during the seizure of the deadly consignment, might also be interrogated to find out the activities of DGFI and NSI in Chittagong, said a highly placed official of CID.

Besides, the seized arms and ammunition were counted and listed with the help of armed forces and taken under Army custody, he added.

CID members started interrogating Omar Faruk at about 11:00am and continued till 7:00pm at CID Chittagong divisional headquarters at Dampara Police Lines.

The investigators wanted to know about the investigation the high-level probe committee carried out and inquired about its finding that implicated only five persons creating scope for most of those involved in the incident to escape the charge.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

OFFSHORE BLOCKS Dhaka to ask China to help resolve issue with Myanmar

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh will seek China's help to resolve the overlapping issue of offshore blocks with Myanmar.

"The issue would be neutralised with the help of China as both Bangladesh and Myanmar maintain close relations with China," Energy Adviser Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury told BSS here yesterday.

Earlier the Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes told the press that India and Myanmar had formally protested the Dhaka's decision to award block-5, 10 and 11 to the International Oil Companies (IOCs) for conducting

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

4,000 still trapped under rubble

Whole villages left buried by Indonesian quake

AFP, Padang

Whole villages in Indonesia's quake zone were found obliterated by landslides Saturday, while rescuers searched desperately for up to 4,000 people believed to be still trapped in rubble.

The full extent of the damage from Wednesday's 7.6-magnitude earthquake emerged as attention turned to the hundreds of villages in the hills outside Padang, a devastated city of one million at the centre of rescue efforts.

AFP journalists travelling from the coastal city on Sumatra island to the surrounding mountains encountered dozens of crumbled houses on the steep roads, and then four villages buried entirely by landslides.

Search and rescue officers from the local government said that up to 400 people could have perished in the four hillside villages alone, including a wedding party of 30 that was preparing for a ceremony nearby.

"The difficulty in this rescue operation is that the houses are buried under the soil as much as four metres (13 feet) deep," the officer named Topan told AFP. "So far we have been using our hands to dig."

One body was seen lying in a stream nearby, but Topan said he expected to find many more. The 100-strong rescue team was unable to bring in heavy machinery because of the broken, narrow roads.

Bob McKerrrow, head of the Indonesia delegation of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Society, said aerial photos showed the extent of the damage in the mountainous outlying regions.

He said hundreds of villages were in the disaster zone, and that the few he had visited had all reported deaths and serious injuries.

"Typically in every village, there's an old woman with a broken back, with a gash on her arm and she's not moving. That's why we're

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Yes to new law, no to 'crossfire'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special act should be enacted to improve the law and order in the country instead of killing people in the name of crossfire, speakers yesterday said at the BBC's Bangladesh Sanglap.

However, Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan, one of the panellists at the dialogue, supported crossfire as a means of controlling criminals when all other efforts go in vain.

The minister said no government wants any extra-judicial killing during its tenures but crossfire is a reality in our country.

"We talk about human rights whenever a criminal is killed in a crossfire but what about the human rights of those who are killed by criminals," Shajahan questioned in defence of his claim.

"I think the incidents of crossfire would come to an end when extortion and hijacking can be stopped," said the minister.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

OnlinePoll

Do you still feel threatened by JMB and HUI after the recent crackdown on militants?

☐ Yes (64.7%)

☐ No (30.5%)

☐ No Comments (4.8%)

Total votes: 879

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government should immediately evict the illegal occupants of different archaeological sites and take stern actions against encroachers to preserve our heritage?

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