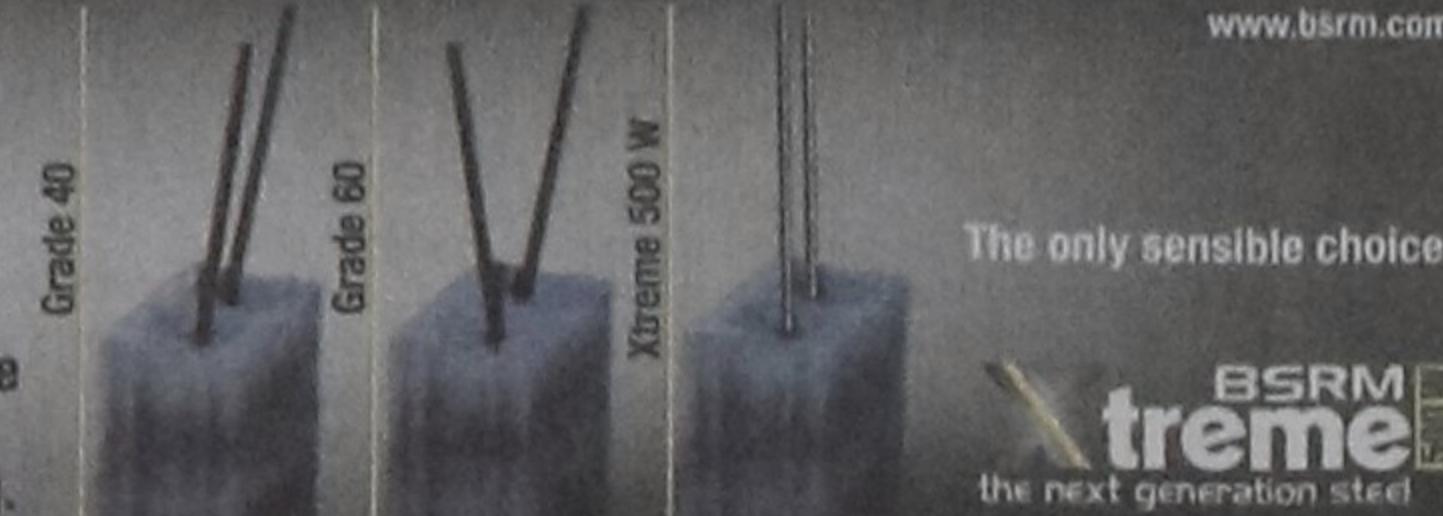


Why Xtreme?

De-scaled bar bonds better with concrete due to rust on the bar surface. As per ACI code, rust is good for bonding.



FERTILISER DISTRIBUTION
Recruitment of retailers given time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Rajshahi

The government yesterday extended the deadline for recruiting retailers to distribute fertiliser in northern region by two weeks to October 15.

The decision came hard on the heels of allegations of irregularities and political consideration in retailers' recruitment that was to be completed by September 30.

A timely recruitment of retailers is considered crucial, as farmers would be badly in need of fertilisers for production of

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RELATED STORY ON PAGE 2

MP's son 'grabs' land of 4 ship-breakers

Hired goons assault on-duty journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An Awami League lawmaker's son yesterday allegedly grabbed land of four ship-breaking yards along the coast of Sitakunda upazila.

SM Al Mamun, son of ruling AL lawmaker ABM Abul Kashem Master of Chittagong-3, encroached on the land and attached it to his under-construction ship-breaking yard.

Hired goons of Mamun also assaulted journalists, who were there to cover the land grabbing in the afternoon.

They beat up Prothom Alo reporter Pranab Baul, Samakal reporter Sekander Hossain and snatched away the camera of Prothom Alo photographer Rashed Mahmud.

Sources say about 200 men led by Mahmudul Hossain Manna appeared on the 10 acres of land

owned by ship-breaking yards -- Pakija Enterprise, Asad Ship Cutting, Moslema Steel and Prime Steel -- in Kumira around 7:00am.

They started cooking in a vacation mood and side by side erected signboards and put up boundary fences around that land.

The signboards claim that the piece of land belongs to Mamun's under-construction Unique Ship-breaking Yard, witnesses say.

A tensed situation followed as men from other yards rushed there to protest the grabbing, but police intervened.

Acting Officer-in-Charge of Sitakunda police SI Bayes Alam said, "We have asked both the sides to come to the police station with their documents and settle the matter peacefully."

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PICTURES ON PAGE 5

3 killed in 'shootouts'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three criminals were killed in separate incidents of 'shootouts' between their cohorts and law enforcers in the capital, Kushtia and Pabna yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Hedayet Ullah alias Julhas, 30, a listed criminal of Hazaribagh, Sunnot Ali, 36, a top cadre of outlawed Gono Bahini and Moktar Hossain, 30, a regional commander of Sarbahara Party.

Julhas was killed in a 'gunfight' between his associates and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-2 in Kalunagar Dam area at Hazaribagh around 1:30am, Abdur Razzak, officer-in-charge of Hazaribagh police station, said.

Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Talebir Rahman of Rab-2 told The Daily Star, acting on a tip-off, a Rab team raided

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Rights eye legal lever on govt

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

A number of human rights organisations will soon petition the High Court to compel the government to initiate proper investigation into incidents of extra-judicial killings in the names of "crossfire", "encounter" and "gunfight".

Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) and these organisations have already prepared the petition, in which they say some 1,070 incidents of extra-judicial killings have taken place in the country so far. But the government has not yet moved to investigate those.

The government has not even replied to an HC rule that asked it on June 29 to explain within four weeks why extra-judicial killings in "crossfire" and "encounters" should not be declared illegal, says the petition.

The HC rule came following a writ petition jointly filed by

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

EC expects to enrol 40 lakh new voters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 40 lakh new voters are likely to be added to the country's electoral roll with photographs which is now being updated, senior officials engaged in the job said yesterday.

The number of voters in the updated list might rise to over 8.50 crore from 8.13 crore in the existing one.

But the number will be around 80 lakh less than that in the controversial voter list prepared by the Election Commission (EC) headed by MA Aziz in between 2005 and 2006, which was one of the reasons for postponement of January 22 parliamentary polls in 2007.

In the Dhaka City Corporation area, enumerators have already collected particulars of 1.28 lakh prospective voters, and they will continue to do so by making door-to-door visits

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Matin flouted law to up service age

Accuses JS body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday accused former shipping adviser Maj Gen (retd) MA Matin of violation of constitution and the Public Servant (Retirement) Act by increasing the service age of pilots of Chittagong port to 60 years from 57.

The parliamentary standing committee on shipping ministry recommended the ministry file cases against the former adviser and four government officials in this connection and also take departmental disciplinary actions against them.

The four officials include former shipping secretary Sheikh AK Motahar Hossain, incumbent Chairman of the Chittagong Port Authority Commodore RU Ahmed, former joint secretary of shipping ministry Abdul Matin and former senior assistant secretary of the same ministry Sharif Mohammad Masud.

The parliamentary probe found that those officials abetted the former shipping adviser in committing the offence.

It also asked the shipping ministry to send the matter to the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Sugar price reset at Tk 50 a kg

SC stays bail to 14 alleged hoarders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday fixed the retail price of sugar at maximum Tk 50 per kg in keeping with the international sugar market, said Commerce Secretary Feroz Ahmed.

The commerce secretary also said the sugar price was revised at Tk 45 per kg at the mill gate while the previous rate was Tk 39 per kg. At present, sugar is selling between Tk 54 and Tk 55 per kg at retail level, he added.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court (SC) yesterday stayed the High Court (HC) orders that granted bail to 14 sugar traders from Jessor and Khulna in two cases filed against them for illegally stocking sugar last month.

Price of sugar jumped to Tk 70 per kg last month due to price manipulation by a section of unscrupulous businessmen.

Following the price hike of the item the government held a series of meetings over the last few days with the importers, mill owners and refiners, wholesalers, dealers and business leaders

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Criminals kill puller, snatch rickshaw

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified criminals killed a rickshaw puller and took away his rickshaw in the city's Agargaon yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Habibur Rahaman, 35, of West Agargaon at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police said on information they had recovered the body from the staircase on the ground floor of an under-construction building in the area at around 9:00am.

The right leg of the rickshaw puller had been broken, they added.

Sub-inspector (SI) Mohammad Ataur Rahman of

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Speaker against river lease out
Govt to buy 15 dredgers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Abdul Hamid yesterday in parliament asked the water resources minister to stop leasing out the rivers across the country for fish production.

The speaker urged the minister to give the matter a serious thought and said those who live by the rivers should be allowed to catch fish.

He said people set up bamboo fences in rivers in the name of fishing that obstruct the free flow of water filling the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Nobel prize for chemistry of life

AFP, Stockholm

American scientists Venkatraman Ramakrishnan and Thomas Steitz and Ada Yonath of Israel won the Nobel Chemistry Prize on Wednesday for work on the ribosome, a cellular machine that makes proteins, the stuff of life.

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Prayer Timing

October 8		
	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



Local surfers ride the waves at Kalatoli point on Cox's Bazar beach yesterday although authorities hoisted cautionary signal-3.

Delwar critical of EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Protesting torture and repression on the opposition leaders and workers, BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday asked the government to refrain from destroying democracy in the country.

He also criticised the role of Election Commission (EC)

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

7 DISMISSED DOCTORS Confusion over HC's status quo order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) authorities and seven axed doctors to maintain status quo on the matter.

The HC also issued a rule upon the authorities to explain within four weeks why cancellation of appointments of the seven doctors should not be declared illegal.

The status quo will continue till hearing of the rule, the court said.

An HC bench comprised of Justice Tariq ul Hakim and Justice

Eight food joints fined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A combined team of police and BSTI officials led by executive magistrate of Dhaka district fined eight business centres Tk 79,000 for selling food items without BSTI seals and in unhygienic conditions at Shantinagar in the capital.

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) sources said New Super Queen

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Surfers defy rough sea

A CORRESPONDENT,
Cox's Bazar

A total of 45 surfers delighted a huge number of local and foreign tourists with theirfeat in the surfing competition defying the rough Bay due to a low in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Though 17 foreign surfers from the USA, Australia, Indonesia and Japan were scheduled to take part in the last day of the two-day competition, they did not join as cautionary signal number 3 was hoisted.

Tom Brower, president of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Online Poll	
Do you think movement of rickshaws should be restricted on VIP roads to ease traffic congestion?	
<input type="radio"/> Yes	(73.2%)
<input type="radio"/> No	(25.6%)
<input type="radio"/> No Comments	(1.2%)
Total votes: 1285	
TODAY'S POLL	
Do you think introduction of electronic voting system will stop vote rigging?	
Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net	



Land of music binds us...

The life in Kushtia is a mystic blend of culture and trade. Glorified with the touch of Rabindranath Tagore, childhood of Mir Mosharraf, the land of baul song becoming increasingly important in national economy for its rapid agricultural and industrial development.

NCC bank has stepped in Kushtia with its 59th branch from 08 October 2009 to stimulate this growth.

This is another milestone of continuous success story of NCC Bank.

NCC bank's 59th branch now at KUSHTIA

Kushtia Branch
Mornat Tower, NS Road, Kushtia
Phone: (071) 72327, 72328

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