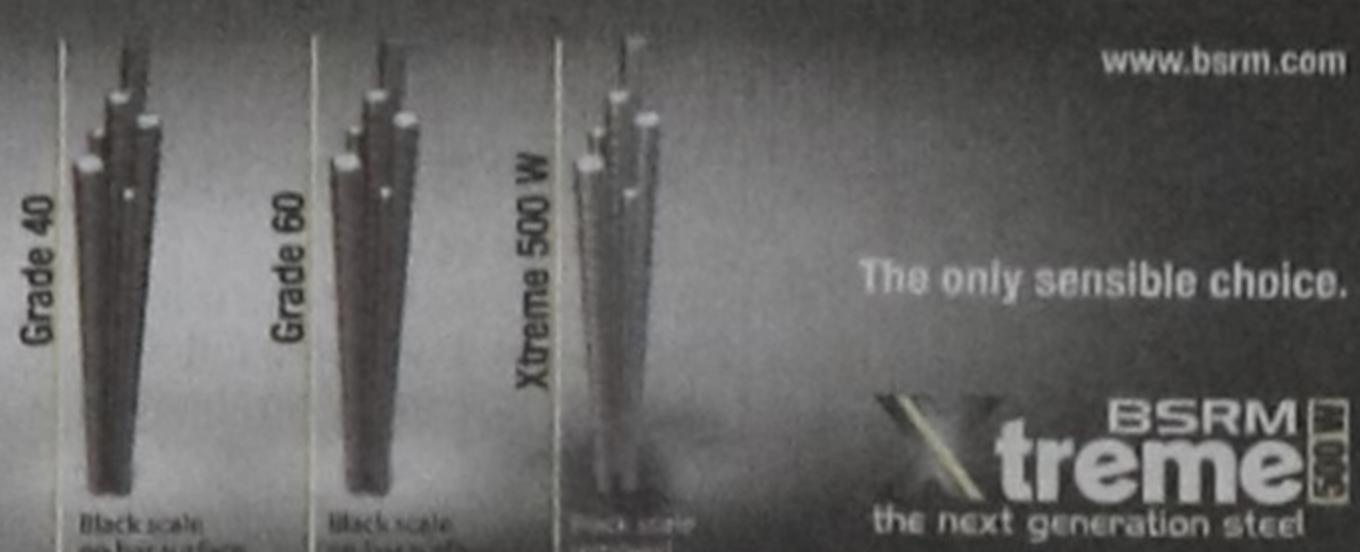


Why Xtreme?

Xtreme 500 W is the only de-scaled bar in the country.



41 killed in Pak suicide blast

Airstrikes kill 31 militants

AFP, Peshawar

A massive suicide bomb hit northwest Pakistan killing 41 people yesterday, as the military geared up assaults on Taliban rebels blamed for increasingly bloody and brazen attacks killing 31 militants in airstrikes.

The bomber flung himself at a paramilitary convoy passing through a busy market in Shangla, a northwest district near Swat valley where the army claimed to have flushed out Taliban rebels after an offensive launched in April.

But Islamist extremist groups appear

far from quashed, with an audacious raid on army headquarters over the weekend leaving 22 people dead and underscoring the vulnerability of the nuclear-armed nation.

The al-Qaeda-linked Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) movement, holed up in the lawless northwest tribal belt bordering Afghanistan, claimed responsibility for the day-long hostage drama near Islamabad, and vowed more attacks.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the Shangla blast, but the suicide bombing bore all the hallmarks of a TTP strike, and hit in a one-

time stronghold of fugitive Swat Taliban commander Maulana Fazlullah.

"Forty-one people were killed and 45 were injured in the suicide blast," said Mian Iftekhar Hussain, information minister for the North West Frontier Province. "Twelve of the injured are in a serious condition."

He told AFP that six of the dead were military personnel and the rest civilians. Major Mushtaq Khan, a spokesman at the military-run Swat Media Centre, said: "It was a suicide blast. The attacker was on foot."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

First woman wins Nobel in economics

AFP, Stockholm

Elinor Ostrom and Oliver Williamson of the United States won the 2009 Nobel Economics Prize for their work on the organisation of cooperation in economic governance, the Nobel jury said.

Ostrom is the first woman to win the Economics Prize, which has been awarded since 1969.

"The research of Elinor Ostrom and Oliver Williamson demonstrates that economic

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

FREEDOM FIGHTERS Service age extended by 2 yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday decided in principle to extend the service age of the freedom fighter officials and employees by two years from 57 to 59 years.

Those who have gone on leave preparatory retirement (LPR) under the present government would come under the decision, sources say.

The decision was taken at the weekly cabinet meeting held at the Cabinet Division.

Presiding over the meeting, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also chief of ruling Awami League, directed the Ministry of Establishment to place the final proposal in this regard at the next cabinet meeting.

Talking to The Daily Star, State Minister for Liberation

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Clarification

Akhter Hossain, 14, one of the worst injured during the BDR mutiny, received a donation of Tk 1 lakh from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on September 17.

The PM also arranged everything for the free treatment of Akhter at Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka, PM's Office sources said yesterday after The Daily Star carried a report headlined 'Compensation did too little for him.'

After further contact yesterday, Akhter and his parents admitted to having the assistance from the PM.

The government has also offered treatment for Akhter and asked him to contact CMH by October 20, they said.

Akhter said an NGO also has offered him free treatment abroad.

Prayer Timing

October 13

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-45	6-20
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	5-15	5-30
Maghrib	6-45	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8