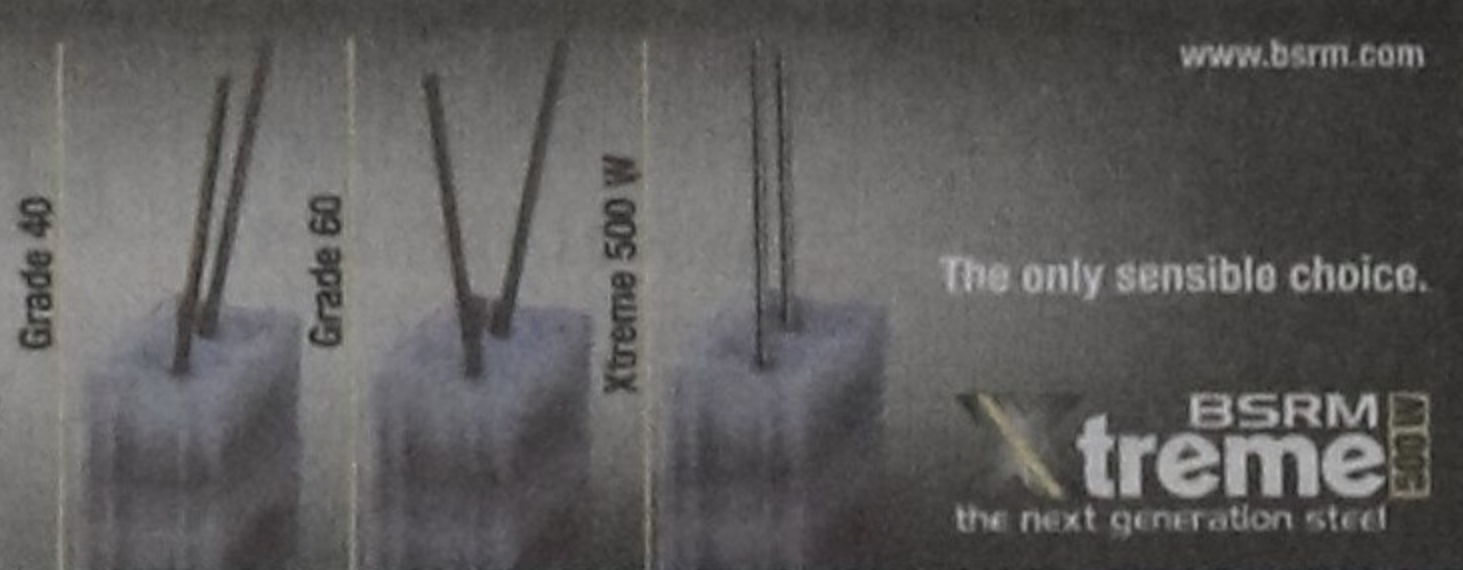


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Toll-takers set fire to tea vendor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extortionists set a tea-stall owner on fire after he refused to pay them toll in the city's Pallabi area yesterday.

The victim, Mohammad Tofazzol Hossain, 25, was admitted to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital with critical injuries.

Hospital sources said they got smell of kerosene from his body and shirt while giving him primary treatment.

However, Tofazzol alleged that the criminals set fire after dousing him with petrol.

Local criminals Rabbani, Ratul and their associates also looted his cash box and took away his mobile phone, he said. Before leaving the stall, they set him on fire.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Kewra forest in death throes

Fish traders felling thousands of trees in Barguna while authorities remain silent

RAFIQUL ISLAM, back from Ashar Char

A large reserved Kewra forest is in its death throes in Taltali coastal area under Amtali upazila of Barguna because of the greed of fish merchants and dry fish (shutki) producers.

The forest is gradually disappearing as organised gangs are stealing timber allegedly in connivance with a section of forest department staff and law enforcers, local sources said.

Local people said at least 10,000 Kewra trees have been felled by fish merchants in Ashar Char area of Taltali in last 15 days while the forest department remained a silent spectator of the mindless tree felling.

As a result of felling Kewra trees, a total of two kilometres Ashar Char area has become denuded land, increasing the risk during the time of any natural disaster like cyclone and tidal surge in the areas.

Besides, a large number of trees are dying due to unknown diseases caused by deposition of sand, forest officials say.

After cutting trees, platforms are being constructed to dry fish in the forest, which is around two kilometres long and 200 feet wide.

When this correspondent visited the area on November 6, a huge number of fishermen were seen engaged in chopping down the reserved forest, moving the timber somewhere else and building fish drying platforms. But no one was obstructing them.

Ranjit Mandol, leader of a fishermen group, told The Daily Star that he had been leading a group of 19 fishermen. Around 29 groups came from Satkhira, the locality of Ranjit.

Over 100 groups with 15/20 fishermen in each group were engaged in chopping down the trees and building platforms to dry fish, he informed.

He further said that they have to pay Tk 2,000 as lease money to the forest staff for using a plot of 3,000 square feet area.

The bigger part of the money goes to the higher authorities through Taltali range officer, fishermen and local people alleged.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



The photo shows cut down kewra trees of the reserve forest at Ashar Char along the bank of Payra River in Barguna. Fish merchants almost destroying the woods have turned the shoal into a dry-fish processing zone, as if, it's a private property.

BFF sacks Brazilian coach Dido

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) on Monday sacked its Brazilian coach Edson Silva Dido following uproar over his selection of a young side for the SAFF Championship to be held in Dhaka in December.

The decision was taken in an emergency executive committee meeting last night after the Brazilian had refused to reconsider his choice of 23-member team that was announced on Sunday.

His decision to stick to an inexperienced side overlooking some proven players for the biggest football competition of this region came under severe criticism.

"The executive committee

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Outlaw killed in 'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

One of Pabna's most wanted criminals was shot dead by police during a 'shootout' in Faridpur district yesterday.

Superintendent of police at Pabna Nibash Chandra Majhi described Md Kamruzzaman Oli, 45, as the kingpin of crime in Pabna.

As well as being wanted for three murders, Oli had been involved in outlawed groups since the 1990s. He was the current chief of the outlawed Janajuddha, a faction of the Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) in Pabna, and he was the chairman of Hadal union parishad.

Oli had been in hiding since the caretaker government

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Housewife commits suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife allegedly committed suicide by taking poisons at the city's Khilgaon yesterday.

Salma Akhtar Haque, 32, a Bangladeshi born US citizen, died at city's Rashmono Hospital at 1:00pm.

Sirajul Islam, brother of Salma filed a case against Salma's husband--Shahin Haq alias Abu Taleb and his three brothers with Khilgaon Police Station.

"Relationship between Salma and Shahin worsened over the last few months centering Shahin's illicit relationship with a woman," Sirajul

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Sluggish ADP prime reason for slowdown

Finance ministry, BB, NBR prepare report on economic situation for meeting with PM

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh Bank and the National Board of Revenue (NBR) have identified poor implementation of Annual Development Programme (ADP) as the prime cause of the country's present economic slowdown.

They will present the fact in tomorrow's meeting on economic situation to be chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The meeting is going to discuss the country's overall economic situation. High officials of the Finance Division, Bangladesh Bank and NBR will be present at the meeting.

The finance ministry has already prepared a position paper. Slow progress in implementing the programmes taken in the current fiscal year

and challenges in the country's economy against the backdrop of world recession have been highlighted in the position paper, finance ministry sources said.

Bangladesh Bank and the NBR have sent the finance ministry reports on the country's economic situation during the first quarter of the current fiscal year.

The government took the biggest ADP of Tk 30,500 crore to boost the economy from the sluggish momentum created during the tenure of the last caretaker government and the global economic meltdown.

No big breakthrough in implementing the ADP was achieved in the first three months of the current fiscal year. Only 10 percent of the total ADP outlay was implemented which is 1

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

AL plotting to foil BNP's nat'l council

Alleges Delwar

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday said their allegations about Awami League's 'conspiracy' to foil BNP's national council have proved right by the recent incidents of setting fire to its offices by the ruling party activists.

"The ruling party is still trying to foil our council, we apprehend that BNP will hold it in time, no matter what they are trying to thwart the council," he warned.

Delwar said this when reporters sought his comments at the party central office on Awami League presidium member Syeda Sajeda

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

BNP central body awaits shake-up

Poor performers to be replaced by new faces in the Dec 8 council

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

A major reshuffle in the BNP National Executive Committee is in the offing as the main opposition party is preparing to form a new committee through its national council slated for December 8.

A number of mid-level leaders might be promoted to the posts of joint secretary general and organising secretary, said party insiders.

Some new leaders are likely to get secretarial posts of the 251-member committee.

Many leaders will be dropped from the committee due to their poor performance during the tenure of the last caretaker government and in the last few months.

"Those who showed courage and commit-

ment to party leadership in bad times must hold leadership," a BNP joint secretary general told The Daily Star wishing anonymity.

The BNP leader said the party chairperson will prepare her plan on the next committee expected to be approved by the councillors unanimously.

A number of BNP lawmakers, leaders and workers said they think leaders like Zainul Abidin Farroque, Barkat Ullah Bulu, Shamsuzzaman Duda, Mohammad Shahjahan, Amanullah Aman, Fazlur Haque Milon, Ilias Ali, Nazimuddin Alam, Khairul Kabir Khokon, Mujibur Rahman Sarwar, Fazlur Rahman and Mizanur Rahman Minu might be promoted to the posts of joint secretary general

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Strike on waterways called off

Body formed to meet workers' demands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Water transport workers withdrew the countrywide strike yesterday after being assured of fulfilment of their demands.

The withdrawal of the strike was announced around 1:00pm after a tripartite meeting at the shipping ministry between water vessel owners, workers and the government representatives.

A 16-member committee was formed at the meeting, presided over by acting Shipping Secretary Abdul

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Militants kill 6 Pak troops

Three die in suicide bombing

AFP, Peshawar

A suicide bomber killed three people while militant attacks killed six troops in Pakistan's tribal belt, where soldiers backed by warplanes and helicopter gunships are pressing a major anti-Taliban offensive, officials said yesterday.

The suicide bomber killed three people on Monday in the second attack in Pakistan's city of Peshawar in 24 hours as the military suffered further losses during a major anti-Taliban offensive.

Police said the bomber got out of a rickshaw and detonated his explosives at a police

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Diarrhoea breaks out in city

500 infected in 24 hrs

ALPHA ARZU

Outbreak of diarrhoea is taking an alarming turn in some areas of the city, including Badda, Gulshan and Mirpur as about 500 people were infected with the waterborne disease in last 24 hours ending yesterday evening.

Diarrhoea has broken out in the city due to scarcity of pure drinking water, scientists at ICDDR,B told The Daily Star.

On Sunday, a total of 488 diarrhoea patients were admitted to the ICDDR,B hospital at Mohakhali. The doctors of the hospital suspected that the number of patients may increase today.

Generally a large number of patients come from the city's Badda, Mirpur and Gulshan area. But earlier we did not find such outbreak in this season, said Dr Azaharul Islam Khan, head of the short stay unit of ICDDR,B.

More than 100 patients come from a slum near Narda Bazar of Badda, said the ICDDR,B physicians, adding that children are the most sufferer of the outbreak.

Dr Islam also said the ICDDR,B has sent a team of scientists to the affected areas of the city to find out the cause behind the sudden outbreak of diarrhea. "The team will submit its laboratory report tomorrow," said the senior scientist of ICDDR,B.

"Earlier we did not get huge number of patients in the months of November, December and January but it looks

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

OnlinePoll

Do you think political influence is the main reason behind the sluggishness in government machinery?

☐ Yes (89.6%)
☐ No (7.6%)
☐ No Comments (1.8%)

Total votes: 1171

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain that the government is making a 'heinous attempt to destroy BNP' by using the August 21 bomb blast incident?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

November 10

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	6-00	6-35
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-22	6-25
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

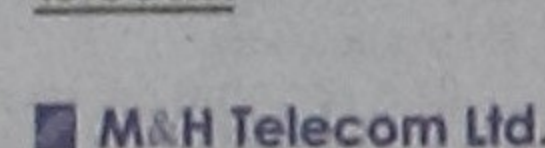
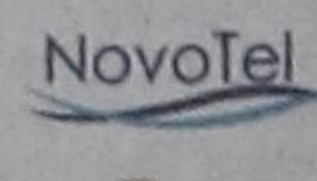
CONDOLENCE

Members of Telecommunication Infrastructure Operators of Bangladesh (TIOB) express deep condolence at the sudden demise of **Mir Zahir Hossain** (MD, Mir Telecom Ltd), who passed away on the 7th November 2009 (Innah Illahi wa inna ilaihi rajiun). We gratefully acknowledge his contributions in the affairs of TIOB. May Almighty Allah grant his soul eternal peace in heaven.

May Allah give enough mental strength and tolerance to the members of the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss and shock.



Bereaved Members of TIOB



Telecommunication Infrastructure Operators of Bangladesh