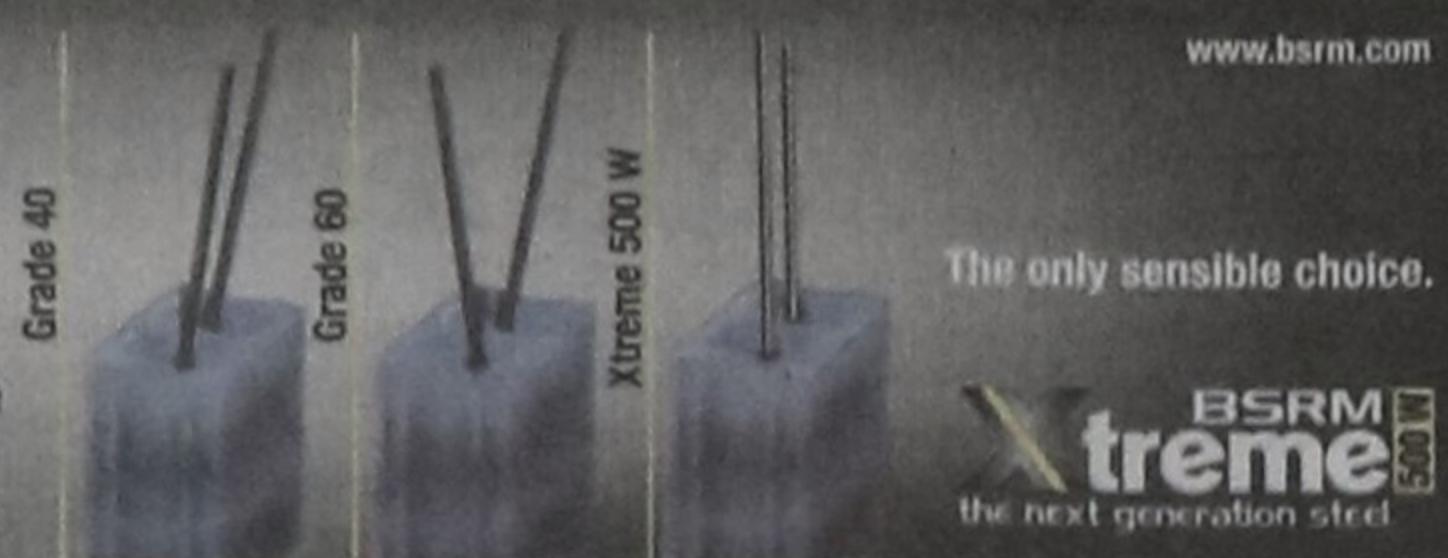
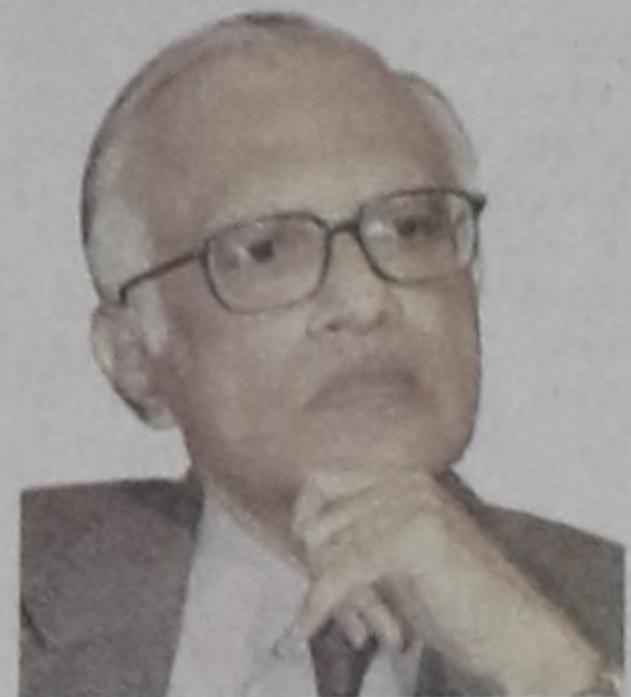


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Wahiduddin made member of UN body on dev policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned economist Wahiduddin Mahmud, a professor at Dhaka University, has been appointed a member of the United Nations Committee for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

PM's India tour now starts on Dec 19

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has deferred her India visit by a day and will now start her four-day official visit from December 19, official sources said.

As per the fresh schedule, the prime minister will arrive in New Delhi from Copenhagen climate change summit in the early hours of December 19.

Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh will also return to his country from

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Kashmiri militant Butt admits to Aug 21 role

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER and KAILASH SARKAR

Detained Kashmiri Islamist militant Abu Yusuf Butt, who is a leader of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan's armed wing Hizbul Mujahideen, confessed to a Dhaka court yesterday that he was linked to the 2004 grenade attack on an Awami League rally on Bangabandhu Avenue in the city.

Disclosing that he was present at the scene of the attack that killed 24 people and injured 300 others, the Hizbul Mujahideen leader also admitted to his close involvement in the planning and preparation of it, court sources said.

Yusuf gave the confessional statement before Metropolitan Magistrate AKM Emdadul Huq after being in remand for

14 days in four phases in the custody of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

The magistrate took about five hours to record the statement and then sent him back to jail.

Yusuf said he also worked with banned Islamic outfit Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji) and Pakistan based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

On December 3, Huji founder Moulana Sheikh Abdus Salam also the chief of Islamic Democratic Party confessed to his own involvement in the August 21, 2004 carnage.

According to the sources, in the confessional statement, Yusuf also admitted that he was involved in association with LeT Bangladesh leader Moulana Tajuddin who

is a brother of former BNP deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu, in the process of getting the grenades to the throwers.

Yusuf entered Bangladesh several years ago with the help of Tajuddin and since then he was involved in Islamist militant activities in the country supplying explosives, firearms and ammunition in cooperation with detained current chief of Huji Mufti Abdul Hannan and his other associates, according to the statement.

He also admitted that he was assigned by his bosses to continue militant activities in Bangladesh and India administered Kashmir, and to traffic Islamist militants from Pakistan administered Kashmir to India administered Kashmir through Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Hasina invited to BNP council
Govt to ensure special security for Khaleda; decision to create co-chairperson post

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of founding members of BNP were excluded from the list of guests to be invited to the inaugural session of its fifth national council though about three thousand guests, apart from councillors and delegates, are going to attend it.

The daylong council will be held tomorrow at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in the chair.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the BNP Standing Committee last night decided to create a post for party co-chairperson, sources said.

However, no official announcement was made in this regard after the meeting ended late last night.

Khaleda visited the council venue last evening to see for herself the progress in the run-up to the council. She also talked

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Take measures against fatwa

Zillur asks NHRC

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to take quick measures against all sorts of human rights violations, particularly fatwa (religious edict) as it is being used against rural women.

"Repression of women with fatwa will have to be eliminated," the president said when a three-member NHRC delegation, led by its Chairman Justice Amirul

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Online Poll

Do you think country's farmers will be benefited from the "Krishi Card"?

Yes (59.1%)
 No (36.1%)
 No Comments (4.8%)

Total votes: 868

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India will open a new chapter in relations between Bangladesh and India?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

December 7

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	6-15	6-50
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-19	6-22
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

WHOLESALE BAIL TO LIFERS Govt challenges HC orders

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government has begun challenging a High Court bench's recent orders granting bail to a good number of people convicted of serious offences.

The attorney general's office yesterday filed petitions with the Supreme Court for permission to appeal against bail orders obtained by 18 people sentenced to life in prison.

The move comes in response to concern that the "wholesale granting of bail" to the ones found guilty by trial courts of grievous crimes would leave an adverse impact on the society.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam yesterday told The Daily Star his office had filed the petitions with the apex court to have the HC orders overturned.

He said the bench of Justice AFM Abdur Rahman and Justice

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Pakistan holds Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh and Pakistan played out the tournament's first goalless match in their insipid encounter of the Bangabandhu SAFF Championship under the floodlights at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

This result puts Bangladesh in a much stronger position to qualify for the semifinals than Pakistan while

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Infant mortality rate halved in 18 years

Unicef report says on Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Infant mortality rate in Bangladesh halved in 18 years since 1990, reveals a global flagship report of Unicef released yesterday.

The report titled "The State of the World's Children" was formally launched at a function at Cirdap auditorium in the capital in celebration of the 20th anniversary of Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

The report on impacts of the convention and the remaining challenges states that the infant mortality rate came down to 43 from 103 per 1,000 births by last year.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Duration of traffic lights to be recast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation authorities have decided to resynchronise the duration of traffic lights, considering peak and off-peak hours of commuters' movement in the capital to bring discipline in vehicular movement.

The DCC will also perform necessary repair work at 70 signal points so that Dhaka Metropolitan Police authorities can impose traffic rules strictly from tomorrow after the traffic rules awareness

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

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