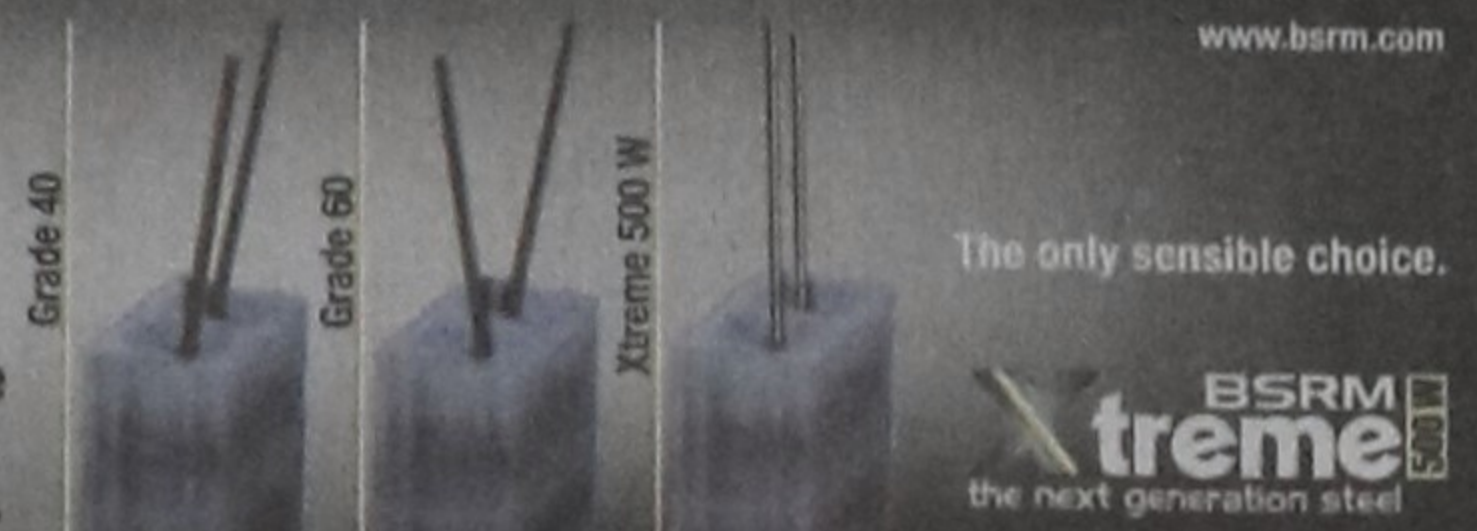


## Why Xtreme?

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



Clock goes back at 11:59pm on Dec 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In an attempt to dispel widespread confusion over the introduction of Daylight Saving Time (DST), the government yesterday clarified that clocks should be adjusted back one hour from 11:59pm to 10:59pm on December 31.

The period of DST will last until 10:59pm on March 31 next year, when the process is reversed by putting the clocks forward one hour.

Introducing DST adds more sunlight to winter afternoons whilst the mornings have less which is believed to reduce energy consumption.

The cabinet approved the decision to implement DST on June 2 and it first came into

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Trade fair, circus take over school

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

Students of Rangpur Zila School might miss classes in the first couple of weeks of the next academic year since a trade fair and a circus are being held on the campus.

Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) organised the fair and circus.

The RCCI took permission from the district administration for organising the month-long trade fair from December 4, but it opened the fair on December 11. And it staged the circus later without permission.

The school authorities have expressed concern that they cannot start classes on the very first working day of next year (January 2) as per the education ministry's directive.

Contacted yesterday, Headmaster of the school Abu Noor Md Anisur Rahman Choudhury expressed doubts about taking classes amidst such a chaotic situation on the

school ground and its vicinity.

He said the deputy commissioner had advised him to allow holding of the trade fair on the school ground from December 04 to January 04 next. "I agreed to this as academic activities remain suspended in December following annual examinations."

The headmaster also said he had informed the district administration about the unauthorised holding of circus shows but no action has been taken in this regard as yet.

Another teacher said they could not organise annual sports of the school this time because of the fair on its ground. He wished not to be named.

The school has about 2,000 students, and it operates two shifts.

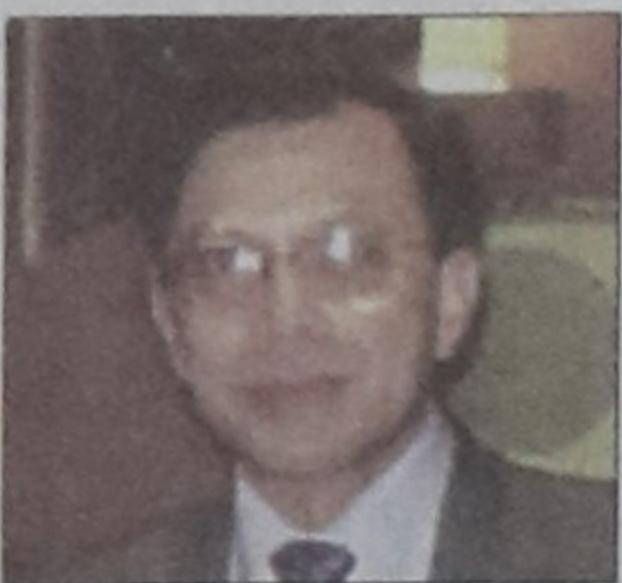
RCCI President Shanewaz Bablu, when contacted, claimed they have organised the fair and circus with permission from Deputy

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



The ongoing circus show on Rangpur Zila School ground might delay the start of the school's next academic year.

PHOTO: RAFIQUE SARKER



## New Indian HC in city

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The newly appointed Indian High Commissioner to Dhaka Rajat Mitter arrived here early yesterday and took his

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## PM outlines green plan

Says regular talks with India to help save rivers

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday vowed to build a 'Green and Blue Bangladesh' through massive afforestation and preserving the country's rivers, canals and water bodies.

The premier also stressed the need for regular talks with neighbouring India over Bangladesh's share of water in 54 common rivers including the Teesta.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

## KRISHNA-TRISHNA Mother flies to Australia soon

AFP, Dhaka

The Bangladeshi mother of the separated twins Krishna and Trishna would soon fly to Australia to see her daughters, the babies' legal guardian said yesterday.

Mahfuzur Rahman Atom, known as Atom Rahman among his Australian friends, is the legal guardian in Bangladesh of the formerly conjoined twins and arranged the girls' travel to Australia for treatment in 2007.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

## Jamaat honours 5 'Muktijoddhas'

2 demand punishment to its leaders, if guilty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In an ironic move, Jamaat-e-Islami accorded a reception and gave award to five Muktijoddhas (freedom fighters) yesterday, 38 years after the birth of Bangladesh.

This party had termed freedom fighters traitors and miscreants during the Liberation War in 1971, and called for killing them.

Jatiya Muktijoddha Parishad, a Jamaat

patronised organisation, organised the reception at a city hotel.

The function was held against the backdrop of public demand for and the government's promise to hold trial of war criminals who had not only opposed the Liberation War but also collaborated with the Pakistani occupation forces in committing genocide during the nine-month war.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Constructively criticise our mistakes

PM asks media not to run untrue news

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought cooperation of the media in maintaining uninterrupted run of the hard-earned democracy in the country.

Hasina also said she and her government want to build Bangladesh as a most peaceful country in South Asia.

"Media can be one of the

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

## China unveils world's fastest train link

AFP, Beijing

China on Saturday unveiled what it billed as the fastest rail link in the world -- a train connecting the modern cities of Guangzhou and Wuhan at an average speed of 350 kilometres (217 miles) an hour.

The super-high-speed train reduces the 1,069 kilometre journey to a three hour ride and cuts the previous journey time by more than seven and a half hours, the official Xinhua news agency said.

Work on the project began in 2005 as part of plans to expand a high-speed network

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



A newly launched bullet train undergoes a test at the new railway station in Wuhan, central China's Hubei province on December 24. The train with an average speed of 350 kilometres an hour will connect Guangzhou and Wuhan cities.

PHOTO: AFP

## Rohingya, road link under focus

Foreign secys meet in Dhaka tomorrow

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka-Yangon direct road communications, repatriation of Rohingya refugees, border trade and easing visa regime will be high on the agenda of the two-day foreign secretary-level talks between Bangladesh and Myanmar beginning in Dhaka tomorrow.

Official sources said Dhaka might also ask for assurance from the Myanmar authorities that Myanmar would not encroach upon Bangladesh's maritime boundary. Although Bangladesh went to the UN tribunal to settle the maritime dispute, officials said Dhaka would continue talks with both India and Myanmar bilaterally.

Foreign Secretary Mohamed Mijarul Quayes will lead the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## 6 sued over ship blast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Crg

The owner and five labour contractors of Rahim Steel were sued in connection with Saturday's blast that left four people dead and 13 others injured at its ship-breaking yard.

Sub-inspector (SI) Azam of Sitakunda Police Station filed the case under sections 285/287 and 304 on Saturday night.

The accused are: Owner of the yard Mohammad Israfil and labour contractors Mohammad Alam (1), Jafor Ahmed, Mohammad Yusuf, Abu Saleh and Mohammad Alam (2).

SI Azam told The Daily Star the six were sued for their negligence as they failed to ensure safety measures before the use of fire in the highly combustible oil tank that led to the explosion causing

SEE PAGE 7 COL 8

## Housing loan to be available

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank has increased the fund for housing refinancing scheme to Tk 700 crore to expand the opportunity to purchase flats for the low and medium income group people.

The central bank yesterday approved the proposal for increasing the fund from the present Tk 500 crore.

The demand from the low and medium income group for getting the loan has substantially increased since introduction of the scheme, said a high official of Bangladesh Bank.

The fund was earlier increased to Tk 500 crore from Tk 300 crore in April because of increased demand.

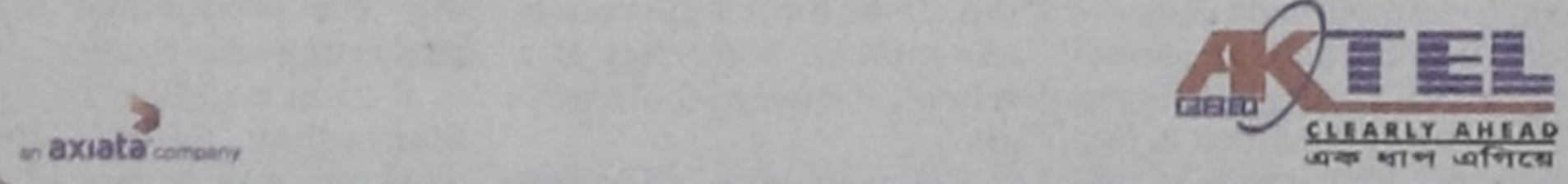
The official said Tk 480 crore from the present fund has already been disbursed as of November and the huge demands

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

## NOTICE FOR OUR VALUED SUBSCRIBERS

AKTEL services in Dhaka were disrupted from 1am - 8:30am and 12pm - 2pm on Saturday, 26 December 2009 due to a temporary problem in our optical fiber network. As a result, our valued subscribers of Dhaka may have faced brief disruption in making and receiving calls.

We sincerely regret any inconvenience caused, and assure you of our best efforts at all times.



## WAR TRIAL Appointment of prosecutors, investigators by March

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Investigators and prosecutors involved in the trial of war criminals from the 1971 Liberation War will be appointed by the government by March next year.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed made the announcement yesterday at the Judicial Administration Training

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Daily Star of Wednesday, 30th December '09 will publish a 16-page tabloid size special supplement on the growth of private universities in Bangladesh. The supplement will contain articles on the topic written by renowned academics and brief profiles of some major and upcoming private universities of the country. Please ensure that your hawkers delivers the supplement to you.

সস্তাবনাময় গন্তব্যে...



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আগামীকাল ২৯ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৯

বারিধারা শাখা  
বাড়ী নং-৭-৩৭/১, ব্লক-জে  
জামালপুর টাওয়ার, প্রগতি সরণি  
গুলশান, ঢাকা

শীঘ্রই আরও ১ টি নতুন শাখা খোলা হচ্ছে

● নান্দিনা বাজার শাখা, জামালপুর। শুভ উদ্বোধন- ৩০ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৯

✓ সকল শাখাই কম্পিউটারাইজড



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