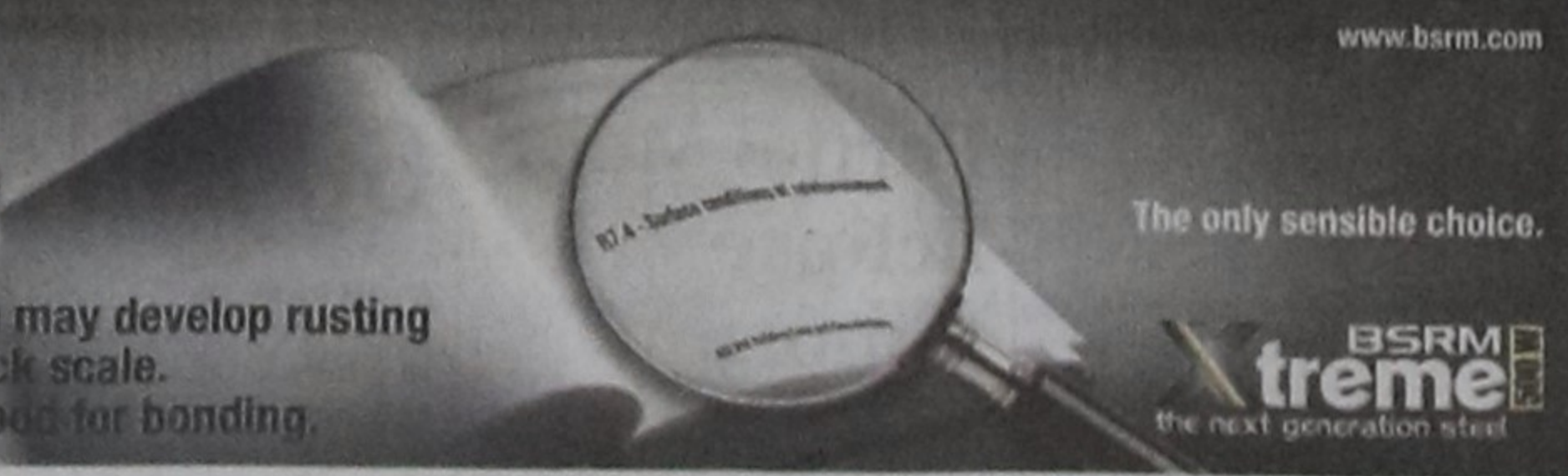


Why Xtreme?

Xtreme 500 W bar surface may develop rusting due to the absence of black scale. As per ACI code, rust is good for bonding.



The only sensible choice.

BSRM Xtreme the next generation steel

Buy specific models of Whirlpool Washing Machine. Get iron Free

TRANSCOM DIGITAL

Your Trusted Electronics Retailer

For More Information: 8855366-8, 01712 685483

60 killed in 'crossfire'

Rab says probes find no unusual use of arms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion yesterday said this year 60 people have been killed in 57 incidents in which Rab used fire-arms but the use was not proved unlawful in the investigation.

Addressing a press conference at its headquarters, Rab

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Tremor jolts country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A moderate tremor measuring 5.7 on the Richter Scale was felt in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Feni and Khagrachhari districts yesterday.

The quake was felt at 4:01:52pm in the districts and their adjoining areas, said Mohammad Shahidul Islam, an official of the Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

There were no immediate reports of casualties and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Poverty paper eyes 5 goals

Targets Tk 3,457 crore spending

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a target of spending Tk 3457 billion the National Economic Council (NEC) yesterday approved the revised second Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) for three fiscal years (FY2009-11).

The revised second PRSP has projected a spending of Tk 425 billion for interest payment, Tk 217 billion for defence expenditure, Tk 536 billion for infrastructure development including power, energy and communications, Tk 207 billion for health sector, and Tk 319 billion for social safety network programmes.

The NEC meeting was held with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Five goals of the PRSP are macro-economic management for pro-poor growth, increase of allocation in the important sectors, construction of necessary infrastructures for pro-poor economic growth, social safety net programme for vulnerable group of people, and human resource development.

After one and a half years of the three-year revised PRSP it was given the final approval yesterday.

A high official of the planning ministry said that it had been talked about at different levels and the PRSP document was discussed in the parliament for the first time.

The original PRSP document was formulated during the caretaker regime but the present government revised it in the light of its election manifesto.

The revised PRSP has been named "Steps towards Change: National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction II". In the title of the revised PRSP "Steps towards Change" replaced only the words "Moving Ahead".

Macro-economic indicators like GDP growth, revenue earning, investment, and inflation were projected in the second

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



A group of miscreants take the opportunity of Ashura on Monday and bring out a procession armed with heavy sharp weapons. They vandalised several vehicles on Azimpur Road. Police had banned the use of such weapons during Ashura. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

15 killed in road crash

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

At least 15 people were killed and 30 injured in a tragic road accident as a speeding bus plunged into a roadside ditch on Dhaka-Tarail highway at Shimulhati in Tarail upazila yesterday evening.

Police and witnesses said, the accident occurred when a Tarail-bound bus of Ishakha Paribahan from Dhaka skidded off the road and fell into a ditch at about 4:00pm, leaving 13 people dead on the spot and injuring 30 others.

Of the injured, two died on their way to hospital. Fifteen of the injured were identified as Ahad, 44, Babul, 21, Samsul Huq, 40, Nazrul, Akhlas Uddin, Hilu Mia, Faruq, Akikul, Hiro Mia, Shahin, Badal, Hashem, Sahid, Mithun, and Rupa Rane. The identities of the rest could not be known immediately.

The injured were rushed to Tarail upazila health complex and Kishoreganj Modern Hospital.

Many injured passengers remained trapped inside the bus. UNO of Tarail and other administrative officials visited the spot. The rescue operation was on till filing this report last night.

Separate zone for ship-breaking

Assures minister but warns against forest plundering

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The government would set up separate zone for ship-breaking yards at Sitakunda and formulate a regulation for the industry to protect environment.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Hasan Mahmud told journalists after visiting the coastal green forest at Sonaichhari of Sitakunda on Monday.

The minister however warned that stern action will be taken against those who will set up ship-breaking yards in Sitakunda coastal area by plundering green forest and damaging its environment.

Meanwhile, a section of people staged demonstration against the forest department during the visit of the minister.

They termed the forest department's intervention on the ship breaking activities as 'ha-

arrassment'.

Earlier, the minister also visited Rahim Steel and Ship Yard at Madam Bibir Hat in the upazila where four men were killed and 10 injured in an oil-tanker explosion on Saturday.

The state minister said, "No one will be allowed to establish and operate ship-breaking yards along the coast in a scattered way."

The government will set up separate zone for shipyards after discussion with different ministries including the environment and forest and shipping and industries ministries, he said.

Issuing warning of stern action against the tree plunderers, Hasan Mahmud said, "No one including me has the right to cut down trees, raised by the forest department, without permission, even if the trees are planted on public lands."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

JS seating no more an issue

BNP wants to see cases against Khaleda, Tarique dropped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Abdul Hamid will take a fresh initiative to bring the opposition BNP back to parliament that goes into its first session next year on January 4.

The speaker told a press briefing on Monday that he would request the prime minister to allocate one more front-row seat to BNP lawmakers if they return to the House.

Talking to The Daily Star at his office yesterday, Hamid said, "I will contact the opposition chief whip soon and ask him to convey my message to the leader of the opposition (Khaleda Zia), and let me know her decision."

But Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Faroque said yesterday, "Seating arrangement is no more an issue to us. We will join parliament session once the cases filed against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman are withdrawn, and the government scraps its decision to cancel allocation of the BNP chief's cantonment residence."

He told The Daily Star that offer of one more front-row seat

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Anti-graft boss seeks fast legal proceedings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman Ghulam Rahman requested Attorney General Mahbubey Alam yesterday to constitute a separate High Court bench for quick disposal of graft cases.

In response, the attorney

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Wild elephants kill 1 in Lama

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

One person was trampled to death and two others were injured by a wild elephant at Lama upazila of Bandarban district on Monday.

The death is third of its kind within 15 days after elephants killed a four-year-old child and his father on December 14 at Bangali Para village under the upazila.

The deceased was identified as Moulavi Ayub Ali, 35, of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Train rams truck

2 killed, 4 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two persons -- including a schoolteacher -- were killed and four others were injured when a train rammed into a truck and another ran over the teacher yesterday.

The deceased Kazi Moazzem Hossain, 65, was a teacher of National High School at capital's Badda while Abdus Sattar alias Gafur, 60, was a hawker.

Injured Mizanur Rahman, 20, and Mohammad Feroz, 25, and two unknown youth -- day labourer and resident of Kadamtali area -- were rushed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Duta polls today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The election of the executive council of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) for the term 2010 will be held today.

Casting of vote will continue at the university teachers' club without any break from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

Prof Dalem Chandra Barman of peace and conflict department will play the role of election commissioner.

Pro-BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami teachers under 'White panel' and pro-Awami League and left-leaning teachers under 'Blue panel' are contesting the election.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Villagers beat the leopard to death on Monday and hung it from a tree in Kishoreganj upazila of Nilphamari.

Leopard beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Villagers beat a leopard to death after it attacked eight people in Nilphamari's Kishoreganj upazila on Monday.

Purnima Rani, 40, of Basunia Para village of Bahagli union under Kishoreganj upazila was collecting bamboo leaves when the leopard attacked her.

Hearing her screams, villagers rushed to her aid and attacked the leopard with sharp weapons.

During the confrontation the leopard injured six other people, including Minto, Abbas, Mazed, Rahmat, Heda and Mohabbat.

Mojnu, 28, then grabbed the leopard and a fierce fight between man and beast ensued.

The leopard bit Mojnu repeatedly, causing serious injuries.

A crowd of villagers then intervened with sharp weapons to save Mojnu's life and killed the leopard.

One injured person is in a critical condition at Rangpur Medical College Hospital and three others have been admitted to Kishoreganj Upazila Health Complex.

The remaining three people were treated with first aid at the scene.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Karachi reels from Ashura carnage

43 killed as bomber blows himself up at procession

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's financial capital Karachi shut down yesterday to mourn its worst attack in two years and count the cost of rioting after a suicide bomber killed 43 people at a Shia Muslim procession.

The bomber detonated explosives strapped to his body as crowds paraded down Mohammad Ali Jinnah Road in the heart of Pakistan's largest city, turning the Shias' holiest day of Ashura into a bloodbath.

Within minutes, furious mourners went on the rampage, throwing stones at ambulances, torching cars and buildings and reducing shops to charred wreckage. Fire fighters continued to

drench the flames after daybreak Tuesday.

The bombing and ensuing riots underscored the extent of the volatility in Pakistan, where militant attacks have killed more than 2,760 people since July 2007 and which Washington has put on the frontline of its war on al-Qaeda.

"The death toll has risen to 43 -- 41 bodies were shifted to the Civil Hospital and two others to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre," police surgeon Jagdish Kumar told AFP.

Three women and three children were among the dead, Kumar added.

Saghir Ahmed, health minister of the southern province of Sindh, of which Karachi is

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Strong security to watch revelers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcement agencies are to heighten security measures over New Year's Eve to ensure that celebrations throughout the country pass without incident.

Police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) authorities will deploy an additional 20,000 members to patrol the streets, man barricades and check-posts and undertake intelligence operations.

The government has

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

OnlinePoll

Do you support BNP's decision to observe January 11 as 'Black Day' to mark the takeover of power by army-backed Fakhruddin-led caretaker government?

Yes (41.32%)
No (58.29%)
No Comments (39%)

Total votes: 2841

TODAY'S POLL

Anti-Corruption Commission suggested setting up separate bench at the High Court for quick disposal of the graft cases. Do you think this will help fight graft?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing		
December 30		
Fajr	6-30	7-05
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	4-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-27	6-30
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

GARMENTS INDUSTRY FOR LEASE

A well established & reputed 100% Export oriented Ready-made Garments Industry (woven) offering for lease with machinery, fixture, fittings & furniture for 24-25 production lines, 4,00,000 pcs production capacity per month at about 1,30,000 sft. with sufficient compliance facilities at Tongi Zone (attached with Dhaka-Mymensingh main road), Greater Dhaka. Only foreign Companies/ Persons are encouraged to contact immediately for long-term lease.

Mobile : 01819216119, 01819286908
E-mail : naazimuddin@hotmail.com
Web site : www.sshifashion.com