

BE SAFE

BSRM

After a house is built  
You Cannot Change Everything!

Easy to Change

Impossible to Change

Be sure about the steel used inside.

Life is precious. Be Safe.

BSRM Xtreme

Feel safe with Xtreme Inside

Be obsessed with sound

► 600W RMS power ► Dolby Digital & Pro-logic II

► DVD, VCD, CD & USB playback

Old Price  
Tk. 42,000

New Price  
Tk. 30,000

HTS 3530

PHILIPS

For More Information:  
8855366-8, 01712-665463

\*Conditions apply

TRANSKOM

DIGITAL

think electronics... think DIGITAL

# TRANSPORT FARE HIKE

## 50 vehicles vandalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The first day of the ticket system for buses in the port city yesterday saw a major setback with angry passengers vandalising around 50 buses protesting high fare and shortage of transport.

The city bus service stopped for nearly three hours following the rampage that began around 9:00am, which made the regular commuters to suffer.

Hundreds of passengers were seen waiting for transport at ticket counters for hours. Many went to their destinations on foot.

Mir Borkat Hossain, a sufferer, said people were very angry with high fares and shortage of buses and pick-ups. Counters were charging Tk 5 for a distance for which people paid Tk2 to 3 before.

Tarun Gupto Bhanu, secretary of City Bus, Minibus and Human Hauler Owners' Association, said some passengers attacked a ticket counter at Bahaddarhat intersection and vandalised a bus around 9:00am.

The group then moved to Muradpur, Sholoshahar Gate-2 and GEC intersection area. At least 60 vehicles were vandalised, he claimed.

Meanwhile, police and bus owners blamed each other for the shortage of transport.

Md Shahidullah, traffic inspector of Chittagong Metropolitan Police, said some bus owners created an artificial crisis on purpose. A section of owners took their vehicles off the street during rush hour and encouraged

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



A mob, angered by high fares and lack of transport, vandalises a bus in Chittagong yesterday. Passengers of the bus bail out through the windows, inset, fearing injuries.

PHOTO:  
ANURUP KANTI DAS



## HILLS PEOPLE

### Raja Devasish rejects FM's statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chakma Raja Devasish Roy yesterday in a written statement refuted Foreign Minister Dipu Moni's claim that non-Bangalee hill-people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts are not "indigenous" but "ethnic minorities".

As the minister termed

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

# 310 more indicted for BDR carnage

## Charge-framing against another 110 likely on Aug 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A trial court yesterday framed charges against 310 more accused in the country's largest ever killing case filed in connection with the carnage at border guards' Pilkhana headquarters in February 2009.

As many as 740 out of 850 accused have so far been charged with the gory mutiny. Fifty-seven army officers were among the 74 victims killed in the bloody mutiny at the headquarters of then Bangladesh Rifles, which was later renamed as the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

The court may indict the remaining 110 accused on August 10, paving the way for the start of trial of the case. In terms of the



number of accused, this is the largest ever criminal case in the country's history.

Arson, looting, dumping of bodies, burying bodies in mass graves and theft are the other charges brought against the accused.

The judge read out specific charges against the accused and asked them whether they are guilty. All the accused claimed themselves innocent.

Earlier on July 20, Judge Mohammad Zohurul Hoque of the Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge framed charges against 430 accused.

They include prime accused Towhidul Islam, the then deputy assistant director

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

## Mass trial worries HR body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should immediately stop the mass trials of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) jawans allegedly involved in the February 2009 mutiny to ensure justice, Human Rights Watch (HRW) has said.

The US-based rights body said those responsible for killing 74 people, 57 of them top and mid-ranking army officers, during the February 25-26 mutiny should be brought to justice. But it should meet the international standard of fair trial.

The HRW expressed concern about the mass trial completed last

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

## Target inflation

### BB pledges curb on credit growth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank will continue to curb credit growth in the current fiscal year in an effort to control soaring inflation and the depreciation of taka.

The central bank will phase out caps on lending rates in different productive sectors, and signals that the monetary policy will be tightened up in the future.

BB Governor Atiur Rahman announced the half-yearly Monetary Policy Statement at a press conference at his office in the capital yesterday.

It is imperative to rein in runaway credit expansion to limit inflation and preserve external sector viability, said the central bank.

It aims to bring down the private sector credit to 18 percent by next June from present 25.5 percent.

Monetary policies in the current fiscal year need to continue the restraints on credit growth as pursued in the last fiscal year, the bank said.

In the last fiscal year, domestic credit growth that surged far out of line with nominal GDP growth and weak external fund inflows during post global recession recovery resulted in both inflationary and balance of payment pressures.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8  
RELATED STORY ON PAGE B1

## PM invites Khaleda to iftar party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday invited Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Khaleda Zia to an iftar party on August 6, a day after the latter invited her to an August 4 iftar party.

Hasina, also president of Awami League, will host the party for leaders of different political parties at the Gono Bhaban

AL deputy office secretary Mrinal Kanti Das

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

| PRAYER TIMING              |        |      | July 28 |
|----------------------------|--------|------|---------|
| Azan                       | Jamaat |      |         |
| Fajr                       | 4-20   | 4-55 |         |
| Zohr                       | 12-45  | 1-15 |         |
| Asr                        | 5-00   | 5-15 |         |
| Maghrib                    | 6-50   | 6-55 |         |
| Esha                       | 8-15   | 8-45 |         |
| Source: Islamic Foundation |        |      |         |

## 2 failed HSC examinees commit suicide

STAR REPORT

Failed in the HSC examinations, a girl shot herself dead in Manikganj while another examinee committed suicide by taking poison at Mohammadpur in the capital yesterday.

In Manikganj town, Adiba Binte Islam Mohua

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

## TONGI-BHAIRAB DOUBLE TRACKS

### Railway signs deal with Chinese firm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway yesterday signed a deal with a Chinese firm on upgrading the Tongi-Bhairab Bazar single-line track to double lines, almost five years after a project was initiated in this regard.

The Tk 1,405 crore project also includes improving the signalling system on Dhaka-Chittagong main line, which is expected to be completed by 2014.

Abu Taher, director general of Bangladesh Railway, and Wendong, deputy general manager of the contractor firm China Railway Group, signed the deal at the Railway Bhaban in the capital.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) is financing Tk 1,330 crore, equivalent to 94.70 percent of the project cost, while the rest will be borne by the government.

The cost of the project doubled as the government and the ADB failed to select a firm to implement it. The tender process of the project was cancelled twice due to inconsistencies on the bidders' part, bureaucratic entanglement and to some extent the inefficiency of the railway officials concerned, and delay in ADB approval.

Upgrading the 64-kilometre Tongi-Bhairab Bazar track is important as the Dhaka-bound trains from Chittagong and Sylhet use this line.

Railway officials said both passenger and freight trains

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

always ready  
always on call

Akij Cement Ready Mix Concrete, a all in one solution that ensures the strongest concrete mix. Please call : 0192211150 for more details and leave the rest to us.

Akij Cement Ready Mix Concrete

• Ensures the most purposeful (accurate PSI) casting certified by BUET

• Reduces your casting time

• Ensures higher strength through seamless casting

• Reduces expenses of casting by 7%

• No hassles regarding raw material collection and storage

• Reduces environment pollution

(a concern of Akij Cement Co. Ltd.)

EDITOR: MAHFUZ ANAM - Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 and 12-13, Kalurghat Heavy Industrial Area, Chittagong-4208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Tel: 9144330 (Hunting) & 8124944, Fax: 9144332, 8125155, 8126154, GPO Box No: 3257, e-mail: editor@thedailystar.net, reporting@thedailystar.net