

A building requires around  
**5kg**  
of steel reinforcement per sq. ft.  
Then why  
**COMPROMISE  
ON SAFETY?**

**BSRM Xtreme**  
Feel safe with Xtreme Inside

www.bsrn.com

HTS 3530

**Be obsessed with sound**

- ▶ 600W RMS power
- ▶ Dolby Digital & Pro-logic II
- ▶ DVD, VCD, CD & USB playback

**Price**  
**Tk. 35,500**

**Get 5% discount\***

For More Information:  
9855366-8, 01712-665463

\*Conditions apply

# Curbs on water use on the cards

*Approved draft bill aims to ensure fair use of resources, punishment to river culprits*

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and HASAN JAHIID TUSHER

The cabinet yesterday approved a draft bill that aims to stop misuse of surface, ground and river water and preserve and manage water resources in an integrated manner.

Redirecting and intercepting the normal flow of rivers and blocking any river branches are illegal under the proposed law. It says the owner of a piece of land adjacent to any river will not have the ownership of the riverbed and foreshore.

The draft bill -- Bangladesh Water Act, 2012 -- has provisions for punishment of highest five years' imprisonment or a fine of Tk 50 lakh for using water illegally, filling up rivers and other water bodies and erecting establishments disrupting water flows.

The draft comes at time when the demand for water is rising and when river grabbing and river pollution are all pervasive.

If anyone sets up establishments or buildings on land adjoining rivers, he will be identified as a grabber and will be punished under the law, says the draft, adding, "No development project that may harm the ecological balance can be undertaken."

Neither any government nor non-government organisations nor any person can initiate any project without taking into consideration the bio-diversity, aquatic environment, fish sanctuary and natural drainage system, it says.

In special cases, the government may take steps for trial through mobile courts.

Briefing reporters after the cabinet meeting at the secretariat, Cabinet Division Secretary Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said the cabinet approved the draft to give a legal framework to the existing water policy that outlined every aspect of water management, distribution, rights and payment for using water, protection

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1  
HINDU MARRIAGE LAW GETS NOD-PAGE 3



The Turag river on the east side of Gabtoli Bridge in the capital is choked up with the residue of sand piled up here for sale. Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority every year conduct drives to evict the sand traders but to no avail.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



## Pak FM to visit Dhaka this year

SHAKHAWAT LITON, from Islamabad

Pakistan Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar plans to visit Bangladesh any-time this year to boost ties between the two countries, official sources said here yesterday.

"Our foreign minister is very keen to visit Bangladesh. She has already been invited by her Bangladesh counterpart [Dipu Moni]. And she is now seriously considering the invitation," Nawabzada Malik Amad Khan, Pakistan state minister for foreign affairs.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

## Suicide blast kills 96 Yemeni troops

AFP, Sanaa

A Yemeni soldier packing powerful explosives under his uniform blew himself up in the middle of an army battalion in Sanaa yesterday, killing 96 troops and wounding around 300, a military official and medics said.

The suicide attack was the deadliest in the country's capital since newly-elected President Abdrabuh Mansur Hadi pledged to oust al-Qaeda militants from Yemen's mostly lawless and restive southern and eastern provinces.

Medics, speaking on condition of ano-

nymity, said the casualties were being treated in seven hospitals across Sanaa. All the dead and injured were soldiers, they added.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the massive blast which according to witnesses echoed loudly across the city, causing panic among residents.

Yemeni police officer Colonel Abdul Hamid Bajjash, in charge of security at the blast area, said the attack "bears the hallmark of Al-Qaeda."

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

EVEREST BECKONS ANOTHER BANGLADESHI

## Wasfia goes for summit

*2 conquerors yet to come down to base camp*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A second Bangladeshi woman mountaineer, Wasfia Nazreen, started her push for the summit of Mount Everest yesterday, two days after Nishat Majumder conquered the world's highest peak as the first Bangladeshi woman.

Using a satellite phone, Wasfia posted in Facebook, "This is it! I'm going up tonight [2:00am, 21st May] for a possible summit attempt on Friday morning, if all goes well."

"If anything nasty happens to me,

know that I have lived my life independently, honestly and creatively," she added.

Meanwhile, Nishat and MA Muhit were staying at camp 2 at 6,300 metres to take rest, though they were scheduled to come back to the base camp yesterday.

"They have decided to pass the night at camp 2 for rest. They are likely to return to the base camp tomorrow [Tuesday] morning by



Wasfia Nazreen

10:00am," Enam Ul Haque, president of Bangla Mountaineering and Trekking Club, told The Daily Star.

Nishat along with her fellow Bangladeshi conqueror Muhit reached the summit of Everest on Saturday.

"I talked to Muhit today [Monday] around 10:45am over the phone. He called me by borrowing a mobile

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



This woman is begging from passing vehicles on a Shantinagar street in the capital, not caring about the anguish of her child in her arms in yesterday's scorching weather.

PHOTO: SK. ENAMUL HAQ

## Mojaheed called for eliminating freedom fighters

*Prosecution tells ICT of his wartime role*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat leader Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojaheed through speeches and media statements provoked his followers to "eliminate" freedom fighters and pro-liberation Bangalees in 1971, the prosecution told International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday.

In a joint statement, Mojaheed, the then general secretary of East Pakistan Islami Chhatra Sangha (ICS), accused "miscreants" of the killing of Mostafa Al Madani, a collaborator of the then Pakistan army, and warned that "the miscreants would have to face the consequences", Prosecutor Mukhlesur Rahman Badal told the court.

"They [the anti-liberation forces] used to describe freedom fighters as miscreants and spies of India and thus used to incite their followers to eliminate the freedom fighters," said the prosecutor, adding that the joint statement was published in Sangram on August 12, 1971.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

### CHEMICALS IN FRUITS 16 wholesale shops fined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three mobile courts yesterday fined 16 wholesale fruit shops Tk 58,000 for selling adulterated fruits. The courts also destroyed 18,000kg of chemical-soaked mangoes and several thousand bananas from those shops.

Dhaka district administration and Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3

CREDIBLE JS ELECTIONS

## Mozena for meaningful talks among parties

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador in Bangladesh Dan Mozena yesterday laid stress on constructive and meaningful dialogue among political parties so that they could agree to a mechanism for holding a free, fair, credible and participatory election.

"There must be an agreement among political parties as to how the election will

be held. There must be a mechanism. There must be a meaningful dialogue", he said, speaking at a discussion on "US Policy towards Bangladesh" at Hotel Lakeshore in the capital.

"Having lived in Bangladesh before, I genuinely believe this country must opt for democracy. This country has a thousand years of culture, so undemocratic

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

### Child lock in mobile

BBC ONLINE

Parents will be able to control their child's mobile phone thanks to a SIM card remotely managed from a computer.

The Bemilo system, to be run on the Vodafone network in UK, offers a service for parents to prevent their

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



### CNG stations now to stay shut for 4hrs

UNB, Dhaka

The CNG filling stations in the city and elsewhere will remain closed from 5:00pm to 9:00pm every day from today instead of the existing six-hour closure from 3:00pm in line with a government decision.

"We'll follow the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

**The Daily Star**

**Integral Energy Limited**

**ONLINE POLL**

Do you think the government's plan to implement an ambitious Tk 55,000 crore Annual Development Programme for the next fiscal year is justified?

Yes (16.6%)

No (79.4%)

No Comments (4.0%)

TOTAL VOTES: 427

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think Khaleda Zia's demand for a written assurance from the government to form a caretaker government as a condition to hold a dialogue is justified?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://facebook.com/dailystarnews)

**PRAYER TIMING** May 22

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-40	6-45
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation