

BE SAFE **BSRM** TESTED

EMF EMF LEVELS

TESTED

DUCTILE ROD

BSRM Xtreme500W

BSRM Xtreme

Feel safe with Xtreme Inside

TRANSKOM DIGITAL

Eid shopping festival

Samsung 32" LED TV

only @ Tk. **5,417**

Up to 12 Equal Monthly Installments available at 0% interest

SAMSUNG

32EH5000

Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/transkomdigital

For More Information: 9855366-8, 01712-665463

PREVENTING CHILD DEATHS

Unicef lauds Bangladesh

STAR REPORT

The United Nations children's agency on Monday commended the Bangladesh government for its commitment to end preventable child deaths in the country before 2035, building on its success of lowering maternal and child mortality.

"There's a lot to learn from Bangladesh. Between 1991 and 2011, under-five deaths fell by almost 75 percent, thanks, in part, to its commitment to innovation and knowledge-sharing," UN Children's Fund (Unicef) Executive Director Anthony Lake said in a news release.

"The challenge now is to achieve high levels of coverage of existing and new interventions, such as vaccinations and skilled birth attendants, by targeting the poorest populations where infant and child mortality remain high," Lake added.

About 60 percent of child deaths in Bangladesh happen during the first 28 days of birth, mostly due to birth asphyxia, neonatal infections, prematurity and complications at birth, according to the Unicef.

Taking effective steps to counter neonatal deaths is a "challenge", the news release said, as 71 percent of deliveries in the country still take place at home.

In addition, the main reasons for deaths of children under the age of five are pneumonia, drowning and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Some of the gold that was seized from a man returning from Muscat at Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

17 kg gold seized at Ctg airport

Man held on return from Oman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man was arrested with 146 gold bars weighing 17 kilograms at Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong yesterday morning.

The arrestee, Mir Mohammad Shahnewaz Morshed, had started for Dhaka from the Omani capital Muscat on a flight of United Airways that landed at the airport at 9:30am.

The plane stopped at Chittagong en route to Dhaka, and Morshed was the only passenger headed that way, said Sushanta Pal, assistant commissioner of airport customs.

The airline's crew handed him over to customs officials due to his

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8

Joy confident of AL's win in next polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy yesterday said he hoped the Awami League would return to power.

He said he had this information from the party's polling, which is done by him.

Joy, who lives in the US, said he came to Bangladesh to counter the smear

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Mueen, Ashraf led abductions

Martyr Serajul Haque's son testifies at war crimes tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Enamul Huq Khan, son of martyred intellectual Serajul Haque Khan, yesterday testified that Chowdhury Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman Khan led the abduction of his father and seven other intellectuals from the Dhaka University campus on December 14, 1971.

Quoting the driver of a minibus used by the Al-Badr men to pick them up, Enamul, a history professor of Jahangirnagar University, said Ashrafuzzaman himself had shot dead the brightest sons of the nation at Mirpur in Dhaka.

Eyewitness Enamul was a final year student of Dhaka University in 1971.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

PRODUCING WITNESS Counsel for SQ Chy fails again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday gave the defence of war crimes accused Salauddin Quader Chowdhury another chance to produce their witnesses.

After their failure to produce their witness on

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

GAS COMPRESSOR STATION Forced hiring hits project operation

SHEIKH SHAHIDUL ISLAM and TAMANNA KHAN

Interference of local influential people, including a ruling Awami League leader, is hindering the operation of a government energy project in Ashuganj, say its officials.

The \$136 million project to build a gas compressor station was awarded last year to Korean Hyundai Engineering Company Ltd by the Gas Transmission Company Ltd, a

Petrobangla concern. The problem began in December 2012 when Hyundai sub-contractor Pipelines Engineering Ltd (Peal) deputed to the project its engineers and supporting staff for mechanical and electrical works.

Peal Managing Director Abdullah Al Mahmud alleged that local AL leaders had put pressure on him to recruit unqualified

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BRRRI in trouble

Scientists, staff feel insecure

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRRI) is in a deep crisis due to apparent breach of discipline at its headquarters in Gazipur for the last two days.

BRRRI Director General Dr Md Syedul Islam, Director (admin) Dr Jiban Krishna Bishwas, Head of

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

Dolphins call each other by name!

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

Bottlenose dolphins have distinct "names" that they use to identify individuals in their social group, according to a study by scientists who followed groups of the animals off the east coast of Scotland.

The names are composed of whistles which they use throughout their lives to broadcast their locations to other dolphins they meet at sea.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



BRB

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

Ramadan	July	Sehri	Iftar
14	24		6-49
15	25	3-56	6-49
16	26	3-57	6-48

MODIFIED BRINJAL Campaigners issue legal notice to govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Campaigners against genetically modified crops have served a legal notice to government asking it to refrain from commercial release of Bt brinjal, a GM crop, in Bangladesh.

On behalf of Farida Akhter, an organizer of Naya Krishi Andolon, and other anti-GM activists, a lawyer served the notice to Secretary of the Agriculture Ministry, Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council and Director General of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute on Monday.

On July 15, Bari applied to the National Technical Committee for Crop Biotechnology seeking

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR POLLS EC high-ups in the dark

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has drafted an amendment to the electoral code of conduct, but surprisingly enough, its high-ups are "in the dark" about the draft.

"We've not yet seen the draft of the amendment. But some newspapers have run reports on it. We will make comments on the draft only after looking at it," Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad told newsmen at the EC secretariat yesterday.

As per a provision of the draft amendment, if the general election is held under a partisan government, the ruling party chief and its 20 leaders (picked by the party chief) would enjoy the privilege to lead electioneering across the country.

This means that the provision would allow Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with 20 other ministers or state ministers or AL leaders join the polls campaign without resigning from their posts, if the premier continues as the Awami League chief.

The CEC expressed his ignorance about the progress of the draft amendment. He also denied holding any meeting on the draft.

Some newspaper, though, yesterday reported that the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think the newly elected mayors of Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet city corporations would be able to work independently?

Yes (83%)

No (17%)

TOTAL VOTES: 211

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with International Labour Organisation (ILO) that the newly amended labour law falls short of international standards?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING July 24

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	3-55	4-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-49	7-00
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

20% 15% 10%

অটবি'র ঈদ উপহার

এ উপহার রমজান মাস জুড়ে সারাদেশে পাওয়া যাবে

• নির্দিষ্ট পণ্যের ওপর বিশেষ ছাড় • স্টক সীমিত • শর্ত প্রযোজ্য

otobi

www.otobi.com

Customer Care: +880 2 9883446