

BE SAFE BSRM

BUILT SAFE!
BUILT WITH EMF TESTED BSRM XTREME!
BUILT TO LAST!

MAYOR MOHAMMAD HANIF FLYOVER, JATRABARI

www.bsrm.com

BSRM Xtreme
Feel safe with Xtreme Inside

A TRANSCOM Product

মহা ফুর্তিতে বছর পুতি
YEAR END BUMPER SALE

Single Tub Semi-Automatic (6.5Kg) TWM-S6501
Only @ Tk. 1,317
Up to 6 EMI @ 0% Interest
MRP: Tk. 7,900

Twin Tub Semi-Automatic (7.5Kg) TWM-T7501
Only @ Tk. 2,084
Up to 6 EMI @ 0% Interest
MRP: Tk. 12,500

Available at all TRANSCOM DIGITAL & authorized dealer outlets

Cold hits infants

Ctg hospitals see increased inflows of patients as temperature drops

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

With the fall in temperature, a large number of children affected by cold related complications have been admitted to the paediatric ward at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) and private clinics in the city over the past few days.

Most of them contracted pneumonia, asthma, and bronchitis, while some had diarrhoea, a disease caused in infants by Rota virus, which gets active in winter.

Mohsena Begum took her six-month-old daughter to the CMCH on Wednesday from Banskhali upazila as the baby had been suffering from serious breathing difficulties.

"My baby was first admitted to Banskhali Upazila Health Complex, but later was shifted to the CMCH as her health deteriorated," said Mohsena. The baby girl was seen occasionally wheezing under the oxygen mask put on her mouth.

With a similar problem, another six-month-old baby boy was brought to the hospital from Chandanaish upazila. The baby did not recover from breathing complications although he was treated locally, said his mother Shamim Akhter.

As the mercury dropped in Chittagong as elsewhere in the country in the past week, many children contracted cold-related diseases and were admitted to hospitals. The temperature in the port city has been hovering around 13.9 degrees Celsius.

Dr Pranab Kumar Chowdhury, assistant professor at the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



This photo taken around 11:00am yesterday shows women in queues for Open Market Sale (OMS) rice in the shivering cold at Jatrabari in the capital. With the upward trend of rice prices in the local market, they had been waiting there for the OMS truck since 6:00am. Yesterday, the truck never came.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Spirit within him wins over all odds



MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Willpower it was that gave him the strength to overcome all setbacks and move on with his life as it was supposed to be before the Rana Plaza disaster.

Saddam Hossain Laskar took his master's exams less than two months after he had lost the right hand to the worst ever industrial disaster on April 24 last year. But his result, just 19 marks short of the first class distinction, in no way reflects what he has been going through.

"I think I was one of the world's happiest persons on the day [Monday, the day the results were published]," Laskar, from Mirzapur in Tangail, told The Daily Star in an interview on Thursday.

The 27-year-old had graduated in economics from Tongi Govt College taking the help of a proxy writer in the exams. He registered

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Bombs hurled at Gonojagoron rally in Bogra

Two injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Criminals hurled three crude bombs at a rally of Gonojagoron Mancha in Bogra town yesterday afternoon, leaving two people injured.

The anti-war criminal platform started its three-day road march towards Thakurgaon from Shahbagh yesterday morning, protesting the post-poll attacks on houses and business establishments of Hindus at different parts of the country.

The injured were admitted to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital.

Bogra district unit of Gonojagoron Mancha organised the public meeting at Satmatha in the district headquarters on its way to Thakurgaon.

The attackers threw the bombs at the rally at around 4:30pm.

Later, on-duty police fired rubber bullets to bring the situation under control.

The meeting again began at around 5:00pm. Imran H Sarkar, spokesperson of the platform, addressed the rally as chief guest.

Meanwhile, the motorcade of Gonojagoron Mancha came under crude bomb attacks at different points in Sherpur and Shahjahanpur upazilas on its way to Bogra town. But nobody was injured in the attacks.

None was arrested.

Earlier in this month, the organisation in another road march went to Jessore to visit the Hindus who were attacked allegedly by Jamaat-Shibir men at Malopara of

Target expat workers

Kidnappers realise ransom from families thru' agents in Bangladesh

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOLO

A number of kidnapping gangs run by Bangladeshi nationals are trapping their compatriots working abroad by offering lucrative jobs in some European countries.

The gangs, active mainly in some Middle Eastern countries and Greece, lure migrant workers with promises of jobs in Turkey, Italy and some other European countries, kidnap them and then force their families in Bangladesh to pay ransom to their agents here.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Police arrested 14 local agents of the gangs while six gang operatives were detained in Iran and Greece between September and November last year.

The existence of these organised crime groups first came to the attention of police in September last year when the brother of Rafiqul Islam, who had been kidnapped along with 29 fellow migrants in Iran six months earlier, informed the law enforcement agency of this.

Twenty-nine of the 30 workers

escaped from the kidnappers and returned home on December 22 last year. The other victim, however, could not make it home as he was allegedly beaten to death by six of his fellow workers over a dispute at Bandar Abbas in Iran on December 14 after their escape.

Then the CID started an investigation and identified a network of such gangs with agents in Bangladesh and some other countries.

"There are probably 10 to 12 gangs

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8

Lost dynasty found in Egypt



Archaeologists unearthed an ancient cemetery thought to contain the tombs of 16 pharaohs of Egypt.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A previously unknown, yet potentially very important, ancient Egyptian kingdom has been discovered by archaeologists working in the Nile Valley.

Excavations at Abydos, 70 miles north-west of Egypt's famous Valley of the Kings, have revealed the existence of an entire royal cemetery.

The cemetery is believed to be the final resting place of up to 16 mysterious pharaohs -- an entire dynasty whose existence was up till now virtually unknown to the Egyptological world.

Bizarrely more than a century ago, in

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

North Korea greets PM

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

North Korea and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) have congratulated Sheikh Hasina on her assumption of office as the prime minister of Bangladesh.

Pak Pong Ju, the premier of the cabinet, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, congratulated the new government of Bangladesh headed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

EGYPT REFERENDUM Islamists, cops clash ahead of results

AFP, Cairo

At least one person was killed in clashes between Egyptian police and Islamists yesterday, as the country awaited results of a constitutional referendum billed as an endorsement of President Mohamed Morsi's overthrow.

Clashes between Morsi's Islamist supporters and tear gas firing police were reported in several cities, security officials said.

One person was killed in fighting in Fayoum, a city southwest of Cairo, police said. His identity was not immediately clear.

Police fired tear gas at pro-Morsi protesters in Cairo and the Mediterranean city of Alexandria, security officials and state media said, in what has become a weekly ritual in a massive crackdown on Islamist protests.

The interim authorities trumpeted the two-day poll as a chance for voters to show their support for the army's July overthrow of Egypt's first freely elected president after mass street protests.

Flagship state-owned daily Al-Ahram hailed a 98 percent vote in support of the new charter drawn up the interim authorities to replace the Islamist-inspired one adopted under Morsi in 2012.

Morsi's Islamist supporters, who boycotted the vote, described it as a farce and predicted it would culminate in the sort of massive electoral fraud that characterised the three-decade rule of Hosni Mubarak, ended by the Arab Spring uprising of 2011.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think that the government has failed to keep its promise to bring about reforms and enact laws to make the public administration merit-based and service-oriented?

Yes (80%)
No (20%)

TOTAL VOTES: 342

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government would respond to the call of the United States for fresh polls in Bangladesh by June?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

12th Death Anniversary of Late-Mohammed Hanif Bhuiyan

Founder Chairman of Abedin Group of Industries and an important social welfare worker, who died on 18th January 2002. He built many industries, social institutes such as Mosque, Madrasa, School & College which made him alive among us forever.

We remember him with deepest sorrow, love & respect on the occasion of his 12th death anniversary and pray to Almighty Allah for peace & happiness of his departed soul.

Wife, Sons, Daughters of Late-Mohammed Hanif Bhuiyan and All Officers & Staffs of Abedin Group of Industries.