

BE SAFE BSRM
5,000,000
 (5 MILLION)
 CYCLES FATIGUE TESTED AT U.K.

BSRM Xtreme
 Feel safe with Xtreme Inside

Safety | Quality | Assurance

www.bsrm.com

TRANSCOM DIGITAL

TRANSTEC smart tv

Special Price: Tk. **39,500**
 Only at Tk. 6,584 up to 6 EMI @ 0% interest*

WIDE 16:9 Contrast Ratio 150000:1 5m 2GB

dlna

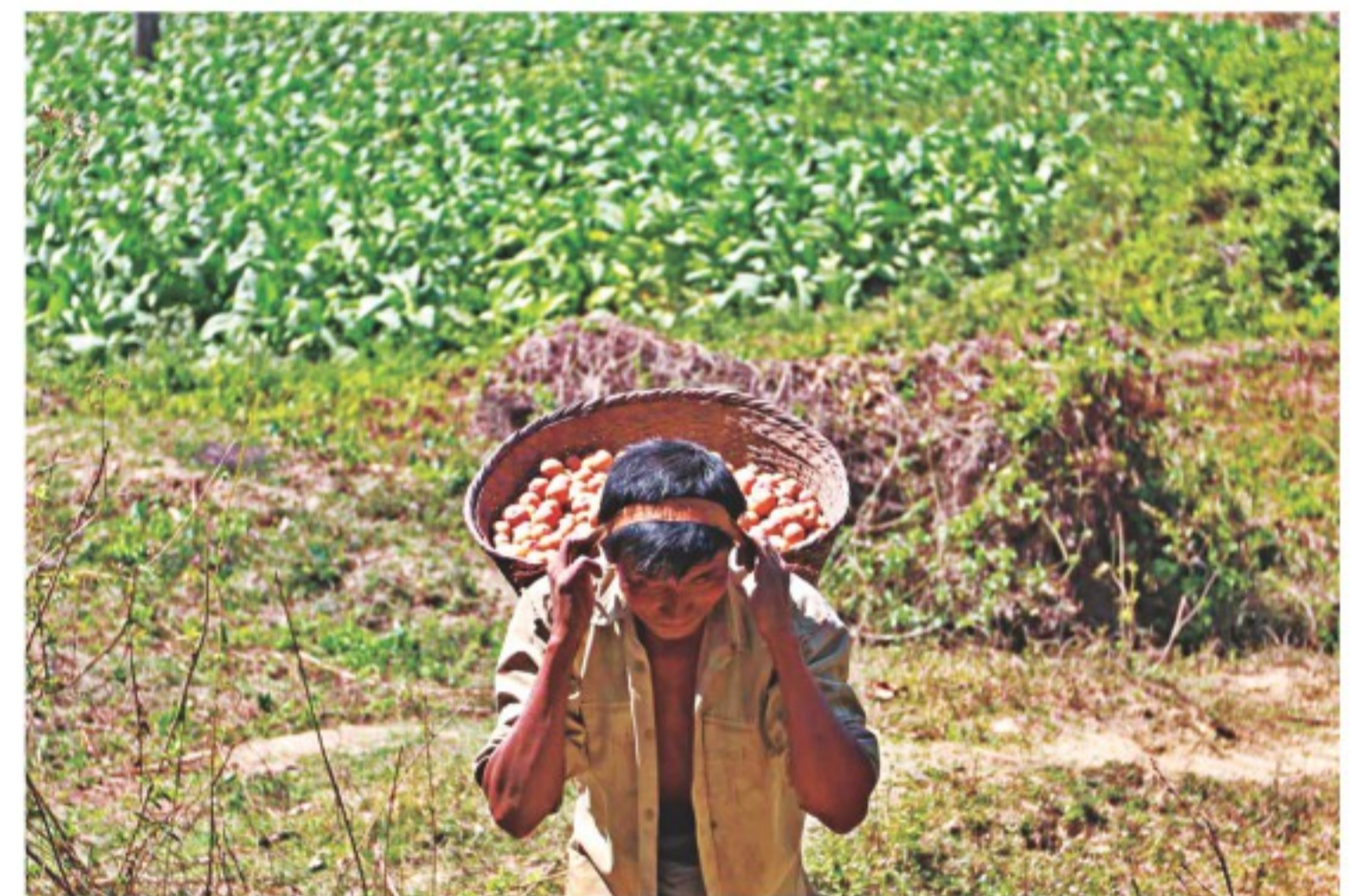
Panel 2 Years Warranty

For More Information: 9855366-8, 01712 665463

A STAND AGAINST TOBACCO ONSLAUGHT

Arable land in Bandarban is used for growing tobacco, as seen in the photo taken near the Sangu river in Thanchi upazila. Farmers there cultivate tobacco as the growers get to sell their produce well before the harvest. And they get paid in cash. The buyers of tobacco even give them the saplings. All this is destroying the fertility of the hilly land. However, Dau Elong Marma, *bottom right*, and his wife, *top right*, have walked away from the practice that harms the land. They now grow potatoes. The couple harvested 1,600kg of potatoes this season, which they are ecstatic about.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS



Honoured Says Bangladeshi-origin woman in Obama's advisory commission

STAR REPORT

US President Barack Obama has chosen for the first time a Bangladeshi-origin woman for his 14-member advisory commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs).

The nominee, Dr N Nina Ahmad, is co-owner and Executive Vice President of Government Affairs for JNA Capital, Inc, a Philadelphia-based real estate finance and development company.

"Humbled/honoured to serve on President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders," Ahmad tweeted on Friday in her reaction.

The commission members will advise the president on innovative ways to engage AAPIs across the US

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

RANA PLAZA COLLAPSE

Cop probe goes nowhere

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

Even a year after the Rana Plaza collapse that left at least 1,135 people killed and scores maimed, police have yet to complete probing the country's worst industrial disaster.

Seven out of 21 accused in the three cases filed in this connection have already been out of prison on bail from the High Court.

Three other accused including Sohel Rana, owner of Rana Plaza, have also secured bail from the HC in two cases. They are, however, still behind bars, as

the Supreme Court has stayed the HC bail orders following opposition from the Attorney General's Office.

Of those out on bail, Abdul Khalek, father of Sohel Rana, returned to Savar and has allegedly been lobbying with influential quarters for his son's bail.

Police officials claimed they were taking time to complete the investigation so that it could be done smoothly and faultlessly.

The Savar police, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) and a victim's family filed the cases following the disaster on April 24 last year.

Rajuk official Helaluddin filed one of the cases against Sohel Rana for structural fault found at Rana Plaza and for constructing the building with substandard materials and violating the National Building Code.

Another case was filed by Sub-Inspector Wali Ashraf of Savar police against Rana, his father Abdul Khalek, and owners of five garments housed in the nine-storey building for the loss of lives.

The last case was filed by Sheuli Akter, wife of Jahangir Alam, whose body was recovered on April 24,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

May God save India from 'Modi model'

Says Sonia as new data shows West Bengal ahead of Gujarat in jobs creation

AGENCIES

Congress president Sonia Gandhi yesterday termed the Gujarat model of governance destructive, divisive in nature and prayed to God to save the country from this model.

"God save the country from this model," Sonia Gandhi said reacting to BJP's claims of trying to replicate what Gujarat chief minister and BJP's prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi had done in that state.

The Congress president said the BJP's much touted Gujarat

SEE PAGE 8 COL 7



Seaboard sings

Wins designs of the year 2014 award

THE TELEGRAPH, London

Influential, innovative and inspiring – just three of the "ins" that are obligatory for any product, service or idea to make the cut for the Design Museum's Design of the Year 2014 award. For

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

WAR CRIMES INVESTIGATION Report on Jabbar almost done

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The agency designated for probing war crimes of 1971 has almost completed its investigation into the former Jatiya Party lawmaker Abdul Jabbar's alleged war crimes and could submit its report on Monday.

The agency, through the prosecution, would also seek an arrest warrant from the international crimes tribunal for the 82-year-old war crimes suspect of Pirojpur, Sanaul Huq, a senior member of the investigation agency told The Daily Star yesterday.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



BNP's demo tomorrow

Mass hunger strike May 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP will stage demonstrations countrywide tomorrow and a "mass hunger strike" on May 4 to protest "the government's repression and filing of false cases" against the party high-ups, including Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Senior Vice-chairman Tarique Rahman.

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir announced the programmes after a meeting of the party at its Nayapaltan central office yesterday.

Both the programmes will be held in all upazila and district towns, divisional headquarters and metropolitan areas. The hunger strike will be staged between 9:00am and 6:00pm.

The BNP spokesperson strongly condemned the "abduction, forced disappearance and extrajudicial killings" of the opposition activists and accused the government of being behind these.

By filing false cases against the BNP leaders and activists, the government was implementing an "evil plot" to keep the party from political activities and future elections, he alleged.

"How can democracy

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Stalking leads to attack on Hindus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least 10 Hindu houses were vandalised, as a Hindu man allegedly harassed a Muslim girl in Demra Bazar area under Faridpur upazila of the district yesterday morning.

Soon after the news of harassment spread in the area, locals caught the assaulter, Sukumar Tamli, 45, and beat him up and vandalised his tea stall at the bazar.

Yesterday around 6:30am, Sukumar reportedly intercepted a girl of class-VIII when she was heading towards her coaching centre in Demra Bazar area.

According to the victim's father, Sukumar held the girl by her hand and dragged her inside his shop to sexually assault her. But the girl somehow managed to free herself from the clutch and ran away. She later told about the incident to her friends and locals.

Enraged by the incident, locals soon thronged the market place and beat up Sukumar and vandalised his shop.

On information, police rushed to the spot and tried to rescue Sukumar, but the angry crowd beat up two policemen. Sub-Inspector Rezaul Karim and constable Sohel Rana had to be admitted to the upazila health complex.

Additional force later rushed to the spot and calmed the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Tired of the prolonged dry spell, villagers of Bhatpara in Gaibandha get frogs "married off" in a unique custom seeking rain from the deity. The frogs were dressed in tiny clothes and people in colourful attire attended the "wedding" Friday afternoon.

PHOTO: STAR

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with the investigations of the Election Commission that there was no violence, rigging in the recently-held upazila elections?

Yes (07%)

No (93%)

TOTAL VOTES: 233

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it was justified for BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul to claim without giving any detail that the govt is destabilising the country's garments industry?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING April 27

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-29	6-34
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation