

BE SAFE BSRM

5,000,000 (\$ MILLION) CYCLES FATIGUE TESTED AT U.K.

Xtreme

Safety | Quality | Assurance

www.bsrn.com

BSRM Xtreme

Feel safe with Xtreme Inside

TRANSCOM DIGITAL

TRANSTEC Refrigerator

LFGB Approved vegetable box 30% energy saving Wide voltage coverage

Model	Capacity	MRP	6 EMI
TRS-176G (glass door)	176 Ltr	Tk. 30,900	Tk. 5,150
TRS-196G (glass door)	196 Ltr	Tk. 32,900	Tk. 5,484
TRS-220G (glass door)	220 Ltr	Tk. 34,900	Tk. 5,817
TRH-15	200 Ltr	Tk. 33,900	Tk. 5,650
BCD-230/LEG (glass door)	230 Ltr	Tk. 37,500	Tk. 6,250

Compressor warranty: 5 year • Free service: 2 year • Parts: 1 year • Free Delivery • Free Installation

Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/transcomdigital

Up to 6EMI @ 0% Interest

No Additional Charge For Purchases Using Cards

For More Information: 9853366-6, 01172-665463

ELECTRONIC MEDIA

PM wants the policy soon

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the information ministry to complete the formulation of a broadcasting policy soon after consultation with stakeholders.

"The government has already prepared a draft policy (in this connection)," she said in her introductory speech to high officials of the ministry and its affiliated bodies at the secretariat.

Hasina said her government believes in full freedom of the mass media, but "such freedom does not mean publishing or saying anything according to the will of individuals in the mass media".

The media should enjoy freedom through exercising objectivity, constructiveness and thoughtfulness, and it is the duty of the ministry to monitor this, she said.

She also suggested preparing broadcasting contents suitable to children and elderly people as well as programmes which could be enjoyed by family members together.

"The information ministry can play an important role in this connection," the premier told the officials.

She directed the ministry to be equipped with modern technology so that accurate and the latest information on development could be made available to all at home and abroad.

Referring to the rapid changes in information and communications technology, she said the government and private media should go ahead by keeping pace with change.

Hasina asked the ministry to prepare broadcast contents in light of the four basic principles of the constitution and make all-out efforts to inspire the new generation with the spirit of the war.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Perched on a fence in Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital, this kite keeps its wings slightly spread and breathes heavily through the mouth to cool down in the summer heat yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

ARSON ATTACK

Four of a family burnt to death

A CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

Four members of a family, three of them children, were burnt to death in an arson attack in Gopalganj Sadar upazila on Saturday night.

The dead are Huriya Begum, 65, her grandsons Aminur Sardar, 14, and Tamim Fakir, 8, and granddaughter Tanima, 6, of Dumdia village.

Sharifa Begum, daughter of Huriya, alleged that her husband Azad Mollah was behind the attack. Sharifa used to live with her mother in Dumdia after Azad's second marriage.

Sharifa said two days before the incident, Azad came to her mother's house, and told her to go with him. As she did not agree to Azad's proposal, he

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

10-year plan needs \$7.2b investment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has presented its development partners a new 10-year Master Plan for agricultural development of the southern region of the country.

The plan requires a total investment of Tk 57,802 crore equivalent to \$7.22 billion for implementation.

The agriculture ministry yesterday presented the Master Plan at a meeting with development partners at the NEC auditorium. Finance Minister AMA Muhith and Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury attended the meeting.

The current existing Annual

Development Programme (ADP) covered by the Master Plan is worth \$864 million, which accounts for only 10 percent of the total requirement, Additional Secretary of the Agriculture Ministry Md Nazmul Alam revealed while making the presentation.

The development partners' allocation in these programmes is currently estimated at around \$750 million.

The presentation stated that there remains a wide funding gap of 81.2 percent. It said the government and development partners need to review funding status together and consider allocating funds according to programme priorities set in the plan.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

TOP SCHOOL CHART IN SSC

Rural schools lag behind

WASIM BIN HABIB

The same renowned schools have been coming up on the chart of best results for years and almost all of them are in urban areas.

Schools in rural areas are doing better every year with increasing pass rates in the secondary school certificate exams but could not surpass those in the metropolitan areas. The trend is evident in this year's SSC examination results as well.

Urban students do better because they have more access to private tuition and go through extensive classroom activities, educationists say.

A huge number of rural schools lack infrastructure and efficient and trained teachers, which is why their students do not do well in the board exams, they observe. Besides, guardians in the urban areas are more conscious and spend more on children's education.

This year's pass rate hit an all-time record 92.67 percent in the SSC examinations under the eight general education boards. Of the 10,08,174 students

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Sangsd goes into budget session Jun 3

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad goes into the budget session on June 3. This is the first time since the restoration of parliamentary democracy in 1991 that the BNP will not have any participation in the session.

The party, which was either in the treasury or in

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

PRAYER TIMING			May 19
	Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	4-15	4-50	
Zohr	12-45	1-15	
Asr	5-00	5-15	
Maghrib	6-34	6-38	
Esha	8-00	8-30	

Source: Islamic Foundation



Relatives of the seven people abducted and murdered last month demonstrate with shoes in their hands as ex-Rab official Rana, inset, who is allegedly involved in the murders, is taken inside a court in Narayanganj yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Witness testifies against Azhar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday described how narrowly his father had escaped death when the Pakistan occupation army accompanied by the then Islami Chhatra Sangha president of Rangpur town ATM Azharul Islam shot him during the Liberation War.

Advocate Rathish Chandra Bhowmik, 13th prosecution witness in the war crimes case against Azharul, told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that his maternal uncle Shanti Chaki was killed in the same incident on April 14, 1971.

The witness' father, Dinesh Chandra Bhowmik alias Montu Doktor, was a homeopath and president of Awami Krishak League of Rangpur district.

Rathish said the Pakistani army and their local collaborators, including the Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Sangha, had cordoned off their house at Babupara in the town on March 27.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think 2 ex-Rab officials' arrest will allay the fear of Narayanganj people to speak up against corrupt law enforcers and officials?

Yes (27%)

No (73%)

TOTAL VOTES: 289

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with a CPD study that mainstream political parties, specially the Awami League and BNP are in a race to "grab state resources"?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

Dhaka to work more intensively with Delhi

Foreign minister tells envoys of Saarc, Asean nations

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka is looking forward to working more intensively with the newly elected government of India to take the existing ties between the two countries to greater heights, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali has said.

He made the remarks while referring to the just concluded Lok Sabha elections in India at a diplomatic briefing at the state guest house Padma in the capital yesterday. Indian High Commissioner Pankaj Saran

was present on the occasion.

Briefing the envoys of Saarc and Asean countries stationed in Dhaka, Ali said the government deeply valued bilateral relations with its South and South East Asian neighbours.

Dhaka would continue to pursue 'good neighbourliness and regionalism' for greater inter-regional economic cooperation and connectivity to benefit people in the region, he added.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Nasa aims to land on asteroids

MAIL ONLINE

Nasa's mission to land on an asteroid could help save the Earth, the space agency has revealed.

The mission is expected to test an 'enhanced gravity tractor' that could be used to push away an asteroid on a collision course with Earth.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

