

BE SAFE

BSRM

By the Sea Road Movement

5,000,000

[5 MILLION]

CYCLES FATIGUE TESTED AT U.K.

BSRM Xtreme

Safety | Quality | Assurance

www.bsr.com

BSRM Xtreme

Feel safe with Xtreme Inside

TRANSFORM

DIGITAL

HD LED TV

32EH4003

• Wide Color Enhancer Plus

• ConnectShare Transfer

• Triple Protector

TK. 39,900

NEW HD LED TV

32H4100

• Family TV

• Wide Color Enhancer Plus

• ConnectShare Transfer

TK. 47,000

SAMSUNG

For More Information:

9855366-8, 09613 700700

Jute growers in trouble

BJMC cannot buy their produce due to fund shortage

REAZ AHMAD

Jute growers are left in the lurch this peak season as their biggest buyer, Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) has shied away from the market due to fund constraints.

The state-owned company has opened over 140 jute purchase centres across the country early this month, but it could hardly buy any jute for want of money.

In a depressed market, producers are now left with no other option but to sell the natural fibre at non-competitive prices to the middlemen, market sources said.

The middlemen, who are stockpiling raw jute, would be the ultimate beneficiaries as they would be getting premium prices at the fag end of the season when the BJMC would eventually be able to manage funds.

The biggest employer in the country's industrial sector with nearly 90,000 people on its payroll, the BJMC operates 24 jute mills and buys nearly 1.5 million bales of raw jute annually through 174 purchasing centres.

The company sent five letters to the jute ministry between July 8 and August 4 seeking Tk 500 crore for timely purchase of jute and providing the farmers with price support, BJMC sources told The Daily Star yesterday.

In response, the finance ministry has recently released only Tk 100 crore. The paltry fund comes in sharp contrast to the fact that the BJMC already has outstanding dues of Tk 213 crore.

"We're wondering whether we should go for fresh jute purchase this season or pay up the dues first," said a BJMC official wishing not to be named.

A sluggish market is dictating the prices at a time when

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Jute is being loaded on to a truck at a weekly market in Karatia, Tangail. The fibres were sold to private buyers.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

Careless driving takes kid's life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two-and-a-half-year old Rifat could not have known his most favourite game would turn fatal one day. He played it with his father every morning. He would block his father's way before the latter left for work and would not budge an inch until he was promised a gift.

It was no different yesterday morning. Only he could not trace his father anywhere. Feeling tricked, he came out on the narrow street that leads to a school named Savdar Ali Scholars Institute.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

TOXIC PARACETAMOL CASE 'Missing' documents placed in court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Evidence in the cases against toxic paracetamol syrup producers appears to have been swept under the rug by none other than the country's drug regulatory body itself.

For the first time in two decades since the trial opened against BCI (Bangladesh) Ltd, the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) yesterday finally produced before the Dhaka Drug Court the original documents relating to tainting the company's paracetamol syrup, Paraciton, with diethylene glycol.

Earlier, the DGDA repeatedly claimed to have lost all the papers relating

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Mobile phone use gets costlier

ABDULLAH MAMUN

The government continues to strain mobile phone users, with its latest move being a 1 percent surcharge on top of the existing 15 percent VAT. The proceeds from the surcharge, likely to be implemented from September, would be used for educational purposes.

READ MORE ON B1

Fate of Gaza truce hangs in balance

Death toll tops 2,000

AFP, Gaza City

The Gaza death toll rose over 2,000 yesterday as the clock ticked towards a midnight deadline and negotiators in Cairo strove to hammer out a decisive end to weeks of bloodshed.

As millions in and around Gaza enjoyed an eighth day of calm brought on by two back-to-back truce agreements, tensions were once again on the rise ahead of a new

deadline ending a five-day ceasefire which expires at 2100 GMT.

But there was little sign of any workable consensus emerging from ongoing talks between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators in Cairo.

The warring parties have just hours left to either: reach an agreement, accept a further extension, or risk a resumption of the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Homes go under water at Belka of Sundarganj upazila in Gaibandha as floods grip the north. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Floods damage crops, houses

Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogra worst affected districts

STAR REPORT

Floodwaters have washed away some 200 houses, damaged crops of over 10,000 hectares in northern Kurigram district and rendered more than one lakh people marooned.

Flood situation continued to worsen as almost all the rivers in the district saw their water levels increase yesterday.

Of the flood-affected northern districts, Rangpur, Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari saw water receding, but people there are now suffering from a food and drinking water shortage.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

BROADCAST POLICY BNP rally in Dhaka today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led 20-party alliance is all set to hold rallies across the country, including the capital, today to protest the National Broadcast Policy as it thinks the formulation of the policy will help the government gag the media.

As part of the alliance's earlier announced programme, the rally will be held at Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital beginning at 3:00pm.

BNP chairperson and chief of the alliance Khaleda Zia is likely to address the rally as chief guest, BNP joint secretary general Rizvi Ahmed told The Daily Star.

This will be Khaleda's

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Poachers target lesser-known animals

AP, New Delhi

Wildlife poachers, hindered by India's efforts to protect majestic endangered animals including tigers and rhinos, have begun to think smaller. And activists say scores of the country's lesser-known

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



The Daily Star



Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think that a one-hour admission test at the public universities through multiple-choice questions (MCQ) can truly assess the quality of a student?

Yes (24%)
No (76%)

TOTAL VOTES: 252

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Law Minister Anisul Huq that restoration of a provision to empower the parliament to impeach judges of courts will not harm the independence of judiciary?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING August 19

	Azan	Jamaat
Fazr	4-25	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-38	6-41
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

MIRZA AZIZUL ISLAM

SELECTED
MACROECONOMIC
ISSUES...
THEORY AND PRACTICE

Available Now

A distinguished economist's take on the prevailing theories of Macroeconomics in light of the present situation in BANGLADESH.

Daily Star Books on HOME DELIVERY SERVICE. To place your order over the phone, please call 8815941 or 01714161001 (from 9am to 6pm, except on Fridays). To place your order online please visit: www.thedailystar.net/books

Bookstores where our titles are available:

Aziz Super Market: Shahbag: Prothoma (9664825), Pathak Samabesh (01713-034440), Bidita (01911-166475); Gulshan: Words n pages (989-0832), Road no.07; Dhanmondi: Gyankosh, Road no. 4 (862-3251); Book View (01711-520662), New Market; Omni Books, Road no.27 (812-6433); Baily Road: Sagor Publishers (01716-544444); Banani: Aranya Crafts Ltd (988-2542); Old Airport: Book Worm (912-0387); Airport: Omni Books (890-1808); Farmgate: The Daily Star office (01711837719/812-4944); Karwan Bazar: Kiosk (ph. 8111641, ext.4938); Motijheel: Amir & Son's (01711137851) Chittagong: Batighor (01713-304344) and Prothoma (01711-649422), Jamal Khan Road.