

BSRM innovating safety

Earthquakes Don't Kill People. Buildings Do! Build Safe!

BSRM Ultima
Designed for Superior Safety

HIGHEST SELLING CEMENT for more than **12 years**

SHAH CEMENT

Zika risk on rise

Widespread presence of its carrier *Aedes* exposes the country to the virus

PORIMOL PALMA

The risk of Zika infection in the country is rising with the strong presence of its transmitter, *Aedes* mosquito, and its outbreak in Singapore and Malaysia where some eight lakh Bangladeshis work.

The danger is more than what was conceived since 80 percent of Zika cases are asymptomatic, making it difficult for health officials to initiate checkups at ports, and also because the virus is transmitted through sexual intercourse, epidemiologists said.

At least 19 were identified as Bangladeshi among the 369 Zika-infected people in the city state of Singapore until September 18. Six other cases have been found in Malaysia, according to media reports.

Besides, *Aedes* mosquitoes that transmit dengue virus here are also responsible for the transmission of Zika.

Some 2,757 Dengue cases were reported in Dhaka until September 22, which is the highest during this time since 2007, according to the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR).

Medical experts earlier said it was mostly the South American countries like Brazil that had cases of Zika, and so Bangladesh had little risk with thin traffic from the region to Bangladesh.

Now that the Asian countries having large numbers of Bangladeshi migrants face Zika outbreaks, some of them are much likely to carry the virus home, they said.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



A man taking down new textbooks from a pickup in front of Kadam Mubarak School in Cheragi Pahar area of Chittagong city yesterday. The National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) is already sending new textbooks to six schools in the city so that they are properly distributed among the students on the New Year.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS



US MALL SHOOTING: Police capture Turkish-born gunman

AFP, Los Angeles

Authorities have arrested a Turkish-born man suspected of shooting five people dead, including a teenaged cancer survivor, at a shopping mall in the US state of Washington.

Police named the suspect as Arcan Cetin, a 20-year-old resident of the nearby town of Oak Harbor, saying he was arrested late Saturday about 24 hours after the killings.

The FBI office in Seattle said it had no evidence the shooting was terror-related.

The gunman opened fire with a rifle in the makeup section of a Macy's department store late Friday, killing four women and a man, according to police. He later left the store on foot, triggering an intense manhunt.

A weapon was recovered at the scene of the violence, Cascade Mall in Burlington, a town of about 8,000 people some 70 miles north of Seattle.

Police are still trying to establish a motive.

The youngest victim was named as Sarai Lara, 16, who survived cancer as a young girl. Relatives named another victim as 52-year-old Shayla Martin, who worked as a Macy's makeup artist.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



SIBL
Social Islami Bank Limited
بازار اسلامی

PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 26

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-35 12-45 4-15 6-00 7-30
JAMAAT 5-10 1-15 4-30 6-05 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

ANTI-TERROR EFFORTS Bangladesh, US officials to meet on October 2

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US and Bangladesh officials are going to discuss enhancing collaboration in countering extremism and terrorism and cooperation in defence in Dhaka on October 2.

The government and military officials of both the countries are having the meeting following the July 1 terror attack that left 22 people, including 17 foreigners, killed in Gulshan.

This will be the fifth dialogue on security issues between Dhaka and Washington.

More than a dozen of US officials from the US Department of State, US Defence, Homeland Security, the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs and other agencies are likely to attend the daylong dialogue.

They would expect updates on the US proposals on countering violent extremism placed after the killing of US embassy's locally hired staff Xulhaz Mannan on April 25 and the July 1 killings at Holey Artisan Bakery.

Additional Foreign Secretary (Bilateral)

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

UNSC meets again as Aleppo bleeds on

Death toll mounts as US, Russia wage war of words; France, Britain decry war crimes

AGENCIES

The United States accused Russia of "barbarism" in Syria yesterday as warplanes supporting Syrian government forces pounded Aleppo and Moscow said ending the civil war was almost "impossible".

A diplomatic solution to the fighting looked unlikely as US and Russian diplomats disagreed at a UN Security Council meeting called to discuss the violence, which has escalated since a ceasefire collapsed last week.

Rebels, who are battling President Bashar al-Assad's forces for control of Aleppo, said any peace process would be futile unless the "scorched earth bombing" stopped immediately.

Britain, France and the United States called the emergency meeting to turn up pressure on Russia and press demands that it rein in its ally Syria to halt the intense bombing campaign on Aleppo.

Residents and a monitor reported heavy air raids overnight and early yesterday on the besieged east of the city, which Syria's army has pledged to retake.

US Ambassador Samantha Power said more than 150 air strikes had hit the city over the past 72 hours. She accused Russia and Syria of launching an "all-out offensive" to re-take Aleppo.

At least 115 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in Syrian and Russian bombardment of eastern Aleppo since the army on Thursday announced an operation to take it, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The monitor said at least 19 children were among those killed in the assault, which has included missile strikes, barrel bomb attacks and artillery fire.

Capturing the rebel-held half of Syria's largest city, where more than 250,000 civilians are trapped, would be the biggest victory of the civil war for Assad's forces.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Boy tortured over flimsy allegation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Chained to a tree, a 17-year-old boy was tortured for around 14 hours for allegedly stealing a mobile phone in Shibchar upazila of Madaripur.

Police rescued Mehedi Hasan, of a Shariatpur village, around 5:00pm yesterday and sent him to Shibchar Upazila Complex.

There were injury marks all over his body and his knees were swollen, said Dilip Kumar Das, the civil surgeon of Madaripur.

The alleged torturer -- Kamrul Hossain Bepari -- was detained, said Zakir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Shibchar Police Station.

Kamrul, of Rahamali Bepari Kandi village, is the younger brother of Shibchar Upazila Parishad Vice-chairman Delwar Hossain Bepari, said locals, adding that their family is

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Giant telescope starts search for alien life



AFP, Beijing

The world's largest radio telescope began operating in southwestern China yesterday, a project Beijing says will help humanity search for alien life.

The Five-hundred-metre Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope (FAST), nestled between hills in the mountainous region of Guizhou, began working around noon, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Built at a cost of 1.2 billion yuan (\$180 million), the telescope dwarfs the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico as the world's largest single-dish radio telescope, with twice the sensitivity and a reflector as

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Saturday's dedication of the National Museum of African-American History and Culture in Washington, DC brought together the president who signed into law the funding for the museum and the president who was in office during its completion. But the gathering of the 43rd and 44th first couples also saw the reuniting of two unlikely friends. Over the past eight years, former US president George W Bush and First Lady Michelle Obama have been seen becoming increasingly chummy. At public events, the two can often be found sitting next to each other, sharing a laugh or lending a hand to hold. Saturday's ceremony was no exception. During the event, Michelle reached over and grabbed Bush into a hug as their spouses clapped and looked on.

PHOTO: REUTERS

44th National Convention and International Agricultural Conference 2016
Council Session & Annual General Meeting

Chief Guest: His Excellency Md. Abdul Hamid
President, The People's Republic of Bangladesh

Chair: Krishibid A F M Bahauddin Nasim MP
President, Krishibid Institution Bangladesh

Participants: National & International Distinguished Agricultural Scientists

Krishibid Institution Bangladesh

Transforming Agriculture for Sustainable Development
29-30 September 2016, 10:30 am
Venue: KIB Complex, Krishi Khamar Sarak Farmgate, Dhaka.