



THE KANCHPUR-MEGHNA-GUMTI BRIDGES
ARE BEING BUILT WITH HIGHLY DUCTILE GRADE 420
BSRM ULTIMA BARS



HIGHEST SELLING
CEMENT for more than 12 years



Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad holds its grand rally today at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan to press home its five-point demand ahead of the upcoming parliamentary elections. The platform has time and again voiced its concerns over the security of the minority people and placed various demands to the government. On the eve of the rally, The Daily Star's *Wasim Bin Habib* and *Tuhin Shubhra Adhikary* talk to the platform's General Secretary Rana Dasgupta to get an insight of the overall situation of the minority communities in Bangladesh

'We're not vote bank of any party'



The Daily Star (TDS): At a recent press conference, your organisation has expressed concerns over the security of the minority communities as the national election is nearing. Why is it so? What is the present situation of the minority communities in Bangladesh?

Rana: After the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, a communal atmosphere had been created in the country due to the activities of all successive governments that came to power. When democracy was restored in the early 90s on the basis of the joint declaration of three alliances, we considered that to be a second victory after the 1971 Liberation War.

But unfortunately, we saw incitement of communal hatred in the election campaign of the first [parliamentary]

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The fort of the Alexandrine

MOSTAFA SHABUI, Bogura

A centuries-old Mahogany tree, bearing ancient stories of the now abandoned Balihar Zamindar Kachari Bari of Bogura's Shahjahanpur upazila, remains a palace of sorts to the widely beloved Alexandrine parakeet, or *Chandana tia* in Bangla. The bird, native to

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Alexandrine parakeets in their humble abode -- the ancient Mahogany tree of the abandoned Balihar Zamindar Kachari Bari -- in Bogura.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUI



SIRAJGANJ ROAD CRASH Magistrate, cops among 7 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Seven people, including an executive magistrate and three policemen, were critically injured in a road accident near the Bangabandhu bridge in Sirajganj last night.

Of them, condition of Executive Magistrate Sajia Siddika Setu of Pabna was critical, and she was undergoing treatment at Sirajganj General Hospital. Other injured were also admitted to the hospital.

Sayed Shahid Alam, officer-in-charge of Bangabandhu Bridge West Zone Police Station, said the driver of the pickup carrying them lost his control and hit railings of Nolka bridge around 8:00pm.

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Previously 'missing', now arrested

Police claim to have detained six for planning 'destructive acts' before nat'l polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While family members say they remained traceless after being picked up by plainclothes men two weeks back, police claim they were arrested while holding a secret meeting on Wednesday night to plan destructive activities ahead of the next general election.

The arrestees are Shafiul Alam, 29, president of Dhaka city (South) Chhatra Shibir, his brother Monirul Alam, 28, Monirul's friend Abul Hayat, 28, Shafiullah, 24, and Muhammad Musharraf Khan, 23.

Their families had earlier appealed to law enforcers either to release or produce them before a court if they committed any crime.

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'Husband isn't the master of woman'

India's top court decriminalises adultery in landmark judgment

STAR REPORT

In a landmark and unanimous verdict, India's Supreme Court yesterday declared that adultery is not a crime and struck down the anti-adultery law saying it is discriminatory against women and treated them as "chattel of husbands".

It's time to say that "husband is not the master of woman", Chief Justice of India Justice Dipak Misra said as the five-bench constitution bench delivered the ruling.

It was the second legal decision this month reflecting a

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Rare Apple-1 fetches \$375,000 in auction

AFP, San Francisco

An Apple-1, a rare model of the first computer produced by the now-iconic tech firm, fetched \$375,000 in an auction this week, according to Boston-based RR Auction.

The computer was among 175 of those sold by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak from their production in a garage in Silicon Valley in the early

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Armed assailants attack newsmen in Rajshahi

It comes following 'report on gambling'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Armed assailants attacked an acting editor of a local daily in Rajshahi city yesterday, allegedly for uncovering illegal gambling activities.

The incident also left a staff reporter bullet-hit, while the acting editor's assistant was attacked earlier in the day, possibly by the same group.

Afterwards, police, with the assistance of locals, arrested five suspected attackers.

The acting editor of local daily Upochar, Nur-e-Islam Milon, also the joint secretary of Rajshahi Press Club, was injured after the assailants swooped on him with iron rods. He was later given first aid, said Amanullah, officer-in-charge of Boalia Police Station.

Ashik Iqbal Antor, a staff reporter and also Milon's nephew, was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) with a bullet wound in his left abdomen and the acting editor's assistant Moazzem Hossain Liton

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TEST FIRE IN BAY

Two navy officials killed, 6 others hurt in explosion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two navy officials were killed and six others injured in an explosion in a navy ship at the outer anchorage of Chattogram port yesterday during a test fire in the Bay of Bengal.

The deceased are petty officers MM Rahman and M Motaleb, Lt Col Alamgir Kabir, director of Inter Services Public Relations, told The Daily Star.

The identities of the injured, who were admitted to Dhaka Combined Military Hospital, could not be known immediately.

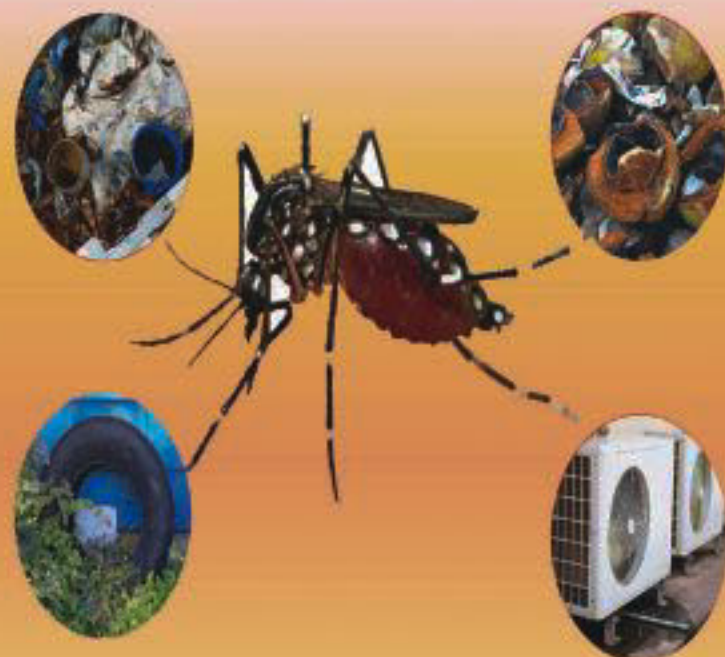
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এডিস মশা থেকে নিরাপদ থাকুন, ডেঙ্গু ও চিকুনগুনিয়া প্রতিরোধ করুন

● এডিস মশা বাসাবাড়ির ভিতরে এবং বাহিরে যত্রতত্র পড়ে থাকা পাত্র ও অন্যান্য স্থানে জমে থাকা পরিষ্কার পানিতে ডিম পাড়ে।

● বাড়ির ছাদ, উঠান, বেইজমেন্টের পানির ট্যাংক, নির্মাণ কাজে ব্যবহৃত চৌবাচ্চা, ওয়াসার পানির মিটার, ব্যবহৃত বালতি, ডাম, পানি রাখার মটকা, টব ইত্যাদিতে একনাগাড়ে ও দিনের বেশি পানি জমে থাকতে দিবেন না।

● স্ক্রিজ ও এসির পানি জমতে দিবেন না।




● বাড়ির আশেপাশের বৌপরাড় ও আঙিনা পরিষ্কার রাখুন।


● ঘুমানোর সময় মশারি ব্যবহার করুন।

● ডেঙ্গু ও চিকুনগুনিয়া রোগে আতঙ্ক নয়, সময়মত সূচিকিংসায় ডেঙ্গু ও চিকুনগুনিয়া রোগ ভালো হয়।

● ডেঙ্গু ও চিকুনগুনিয়া রোগ সম্পর্কিত যে কোনো প্রয়োজনে নিকটস্থ স্বাস্থ্য কেন্দ্র/হাসপাতালে যোগাযোগ করুন।



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Today, we rejoice in celebrating the birthday of the Daughter of the Father of our Nation, the pioneer of Digital Bangladesh, the guardian of our democracy, the Mother of Humanity and the Honorable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Her Excellency, Sheikh Hasina. With eternal love and gratitude from the depths of our hearts, we extend the warmest wishes and endless blessings - on behalf of everyone at **Premier Bank**.

