Reception to

3 Biranganas

Narikantha Foundation, an NGO

working for women empowerment

and socio-economic development,

has accorded a reception to three

Biranganas of the liberation war

and awarded 32 personalities

Begum Rokeya Shining

The Foundation organised the programme at Shilpakala Academy

in the city on June 12 to mark its 8th

founding anniversary, says a press

Khatun, Elejan Nesa and Duljan

Nesa -- came from Kushtia district.

Writer Selina Hossain, Kona Reza

and Kabir Ahmed Bhuiyan, handed

over crests to them at the

Zafar Ahmed, chairman of

Dhaka Mercantile Co-operative

Bank, handed over a cheque for Tk

Krishak League

campaign today

Bangladesh Krishak League, a front

organisation of Awami League, will

launch a three-month tree planta-

Opposition Leader and Awami

League President Sheikh Hasina

will inaugurate the programme by

planting a sapling at the green lawn

adjacent to Bangabandhu

Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi

During the three-month cam-

paign, the Krishak League will plant

fruit and forest tress and medicinal

at 4:00pm, says a press release.

plants across the country.

launches tree

plantation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

tion campaign today.

10,000 to each Birangana.

The three Biranganas -- Masuda

DU CORRESPONDENT

Personality Award -2006'.

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Bar Association (DBA) yesterday formed a human chain protesting the Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill-2006, says

After the human chain, the DBA led by its President Nuruzzaman Nani and General Secretary Abdul Baten brought out a procession on the court premises.

Speakers at the human chain expressed their deep concern over the government decision to amend the CrPC. They urged the government to refrain from amending the

They also said if amended, the law will go against justice and fundamental rights. They said they will continue their movement until the government withdraw its decision for amendment of the CrPC.

The drafts of the amendment include no bail to an accused in more than three cases, realisation of 50 per cent money of the bond mentioned in the bail order, completion of trial of a case in 180 days under section 339(C) of the CrPC and signature on the paper of statement of any witness recorded

Appeal for help

Salma Ahmed, a schoolteacher who has been suffering from blood cancer, is now fighting for her life, says a press release.

She needs immediate bone marrow transplant to save her life.

Salma is now undergoing treatment at the National University Hospital in Singapore for bone marrow transplant. Her relatives and friends have managed to bear the treatment cost of Tk 50 lakh so

But another Tk 50 lakh is required for her treatment, which her family cannot afford.

They have appealed to generous people and organisations to extend a helping hand to save her life.

Contributions can be sent to Savings Account No.-203773, Rupali Bank, Dhanmondi branch.

Md Saidur Rahman



Md Saidur Rahman, a meritorious. student of class ten at Comilla Modern High School, has been suffering from blood cancer, says a press release.

He is now undergoing treatment at Thakurpukur Cancer Hospital in Kolkata. The doctors said that since his cancer has been detected at an early stage, it can be cured through proper treatment.

But a huge amount of money is required for his treatment, which his poor parents cannot afford.

aunt Sanna Aknter nas appealed to generous people to extend a helping hand to save the life of the meritorious student.

Contributions can be sent to Salina Akhter, Savings A/C No.-6151, Agrani Bank, Dhanmondi Branch, Sobhanbagh, Dhaka-1209. Phone: 0185462501.

DHAKA

Discussion

Dialogue

Bangladesh Society for Manabadhikar Research and Survey will hold a discussion on 'Role of the civil society to establish human rights'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00am.

Steps Towards Development will hold a dialogue on 'National Budget 2006-2007: Gender Analysis'. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 2:30pm.

Book festival

Oitijhya, a publishing house, organises a book festival with former chief adviser to caretaker government Muhammad Habibur Rahman as chief guest. Venue: Etc, Gulshan. Time: 10:30am.

Book fair

Annito organises a fortnight rainy season book fair beginning today with noted novelist Humayoom Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: Bashundhara City.

Blue for Peace

Family of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria will stage a silent sit-in as part of their Blue for Peace Programme demanding trial of the killers of former minister. Venue: Jatrabari intersection. Time: 5:00pm.

Discussion

Ubinig will hold a discussion demanding to resist WTO treaty. Venue. Narigrantha Prabartana. Time: 4:00pm.

Tree plantation programme

Bangladesh Kriskak League organises a tree plantation programme with Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina as chief guest. Venue: Bangabandhu Memorial Museum. Time: 4:00pm.

'Only reforms in CG, EC not enough for free, fair polls'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday underscored the need for reforms in all sectors such as administration, education and business. saying that bringing reforms only to the caretaker government system and the election commission is not enough to ensure a free and fair election and resolve the prevailing crisis.

The country's problems can be resolved through ensuring democratic governance at all stages of the government, semi-government and non-government sectors, they

accidents

At least two people were killed and

seven others injured in separate

road accidents in Bogra and

was killed and five others were

injured in a road accident at

Mokamtala in the district town

Police said the accident

The injured were rushed to

Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital

where Mostafa Kamal Pasha, 40, an

employee of Joypurhat DC Office,

Our correspondent from

Sirajganj adds: An unidentified man was killed and two others were

Prof Nuruddin

Prof AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury has

been appointed vice-chancellor of

Southern University, Bangladesh

Chittagong University, joined the

SUB as its acting VC and senior

Prof Chowdhury, a former VC of

succumbed to his wounds.

appointed

DU CORRESPONDENT

(SUB), says a press release.

SUBVC

professor in April.

occurred when a truck hit a human

hauler at about 6:00am, injuring six

UNB from Bogra reports: A man

STAR REPORT

Sirajganj yesterday.

passengers.

Two killed in road

yesterday.

A faction of the Workers Party of Bangladesh (WPB) organised the discussion on 'Ineffectiveness of existing caretaker government and election commission and the crisis of present governance' in the city.

The speakers said the crisis over election has emerged as the leading political parties, particularly the Awami League and BNP, do not

pursue positive politics. Prof Abul Kashem Fazlul Haque said both the AL and BNP are busy with protecting their own interest; they do not think of the welfare of the countrymen

injured in a road accident on the

Jamuna Bridge on the Dhaka-

Banpara highway in Sirajganj

Police and witnesses said, the

accident took place at 6:00am

when a Banpara-bound goods-

laden truck turned upside down on

the road as the driver lost his con-

As a result, a passenger of the

truck fell on the road leaving him

dead on the spot while two others

trol over the steering.

were injured.

"We still did not get political freedom although over three decades have passed after independence," he said.

Five-party leader Tipu Biswas said the left-leaning parties should unite to safeguard the country from the clutches of the two major

Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal leader Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan said the country needs efficient leadership to save the nation from the grip of imperialists.

Kandakar Ali, president of the WPB faction, presided over the

Pak prison lets inmates stay up for World Cup

REUTERS, Karachi

Authorities in one of Pakistan's biggest jails are letting footballmad inmates, including hundreds of foreigners, stay up late to watch World Cup soccer matches.

Prisoners in Landhi jail in Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city, are usually only allowed to watch television until 11:00pm (8:00pm British time) but the rule has been dropped for the World Cup.

"Prisoners are provided with cable television in a designated area. Some are very keen to watch the matches as their countries are playing in it. We've allowed some relaxation," said the superintendent of the prison, Anwar Mustafa told reporters.

The jail has 643 foreign inmates, most of them serving time for drug

Inmates at Karachi's main women's prison have also caught World Cup fever, and they too are being allowed to stay up late, said warder, Bashiran Bibi.

"They watch intensely and cheer every goal. They seem to forget their problems," Bashiran said of her charges who include three women from Ghana, one from Germany and six from Ivory Coast.

Pakistan has never played in a World Cup finals and comes 153rd in world football rankings but the World Cup is followed with huge





managing director of now defunct Adbiz International Advertising Ltd

anniversary, of

Anisul Haque,

(Adbiz), says a press release. Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Managing Director of Nandan Group Mashrur Chowdhury receives 'Begum Rokeya Shining Personality Award' at a function organised by Narikantha Foundation in the city on Monday. On his left are Narikantha Foundation Executive Director Farhana Reza and Programme Officer of British High Commission Helen DeGier.

Shun anarchic activities Bhuiyan urges opposition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday urged the Awami League-led opposition combine to refrain from announcing programmes like hartal, barricade and blockade, saying that such programmes have been affecting the country's developmentprocess badly.

"Please do not announce programmes that cause sufferings to the people," Bhuiyan, also LGRD and cooperatives minister, said while addressing a press briefing at his official residence last night.

Thousands of villages in northeast-

ern India have been submerged by

people and displaced nearly

have been the worst affected by the

flooding and landslides triggered

by heavy monsoon rains that hit

the region on May 31, officials said.

ened with nearly 3,000 villages

submerged foreign an estimated

150,000 people to take shelter in

raised platforms and makeshift

tarpaulin tents," Assam Revenue,

Relief and Rehabilitation Minister,

drowned Tuesday in separate

incidents taking the toll in the

Thousands of people in Assam's worst-hit districts of Lakhimpur,

Dhemaji, Cachar, Karimgani, and

Hailakandi were caught unawares

when floodwaters swept through

their homes late Tuesday following

breaches in embankments and

als like rice and other essentials,

besides medicines and healthcare

shelters for flood-hit victims, he

"All major rivers are flowing menacingly with breaches

reported in many places," Cachar

district magistrate Gautam

and an estimated 10,000 people

displaced by floods in neighbour-

ing Tripura state, officials there

Five people have been killed

Ganguly said by telephone.

facilities," the minister said.

added.

"We are providing relief materi-

Government authorities have set up nearly 1,500 makeshift

The minister said four people

Bhumidhar Barman, told AFP.

floods in Assam to seven.

The flood situation has wors-

The states of Assam and Tripura

160,000, officials said yesterday.

AFP, Guwahati

Bhuiyan hoped that the opposi- tenure.

in two Indian states

tion would shun all types of anarchic programmes. He also said the opposition did not get any public support during their 36-hour countrywide shutdown.

The BNP policymaker said the opposition's demands for electoral reforms would not be realised through movements. 'To reach a consensus over the electoral reforms, they will have to sit for dialogue," Bhuiyan said, brushing aside the opposition's threat to force the government to resign.

The BNP leader said they would not resign until the end of their

and we are taking all measures to provide relief to the affected peo-

ple," a Tripura government official

the number of people killed

nationwide in weather related

incidents since the monsoon hit

Commission Wednesday, the

Brahmaputra river is flowing above

the danger level in at least eight

Rain likely

India on May 18.

places in Assam.

The latest deaths bring to 152

According to the Central Water

"Caretaker government cannot implement the opposition's demand. They will only conduct election. So, if they (opposition) want any reform, it could be done during our term," he added.

He said the Election Commission (EC) could only bring reforms to the electoral process. "We can request the Election Commission to bring reform, if the opposition agrees with us through dialogue," he added.

Bhuiyan also pointed an accusing finger at the opposition over the gunshots at an election commissioner's house in the city.

The 2,906-kilometre (1,816-

mile) river -- one of Asia's longest -

traverses China's Tibet region,

India and Bangladesh before emp-

the river to flood, submerging

paddy fields, washing away vil-

Every year the monsoon causes

rying into the Bay of Bengal.

state of 26 million people.

displaced in the floods.

WEATHER WEATHER

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or

squally wind is likely at many places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Sylhet,

Chittagong and Barisal divisions and at a few places over Khulna

predicting nearly unchanged day temperature in the period.

Temperature

in Celsius

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, said Met Office

Highest temperature 36.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday

The sun sets in the capital at 6:47pm today and rises at 5:11am

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

28.7

26.8

29.0

28.8

28.5

20.7

division in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

at Jessore and Iowest 20.7 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

Max

32.0

31.8

35.7

35.5

33.4

26.0

major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town

Chittagong

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Dhaka

'Buddha Bihar set on fire Floods kill 12, displace 1.6 lakh in Khagrachhari'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A Buddha Bihar was set on fire in the early morning of yesterday, said Zila Nagorik Committee and United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) in separate press

They alleged that a group of people set fire to the Aranya Kuthir (Buddha Bihar) at 255 No Maischhari under Mohalchhari

apazila in the district. ages, drowning livestock and Nagorik Committee and UPDF killing people in Assam, a remote expressed concern over the mat-In 2004, at least 200 people died ter and demanded punishment to

and more than 12 million were the culprits. Aranya Kuthir was built on a

disputed land as a Bangalee settler Joynal Abedin claimed the ownership of the land. On June 10, Mohalchhari UNO

urged both sides not to take any move till a final decision is made No comment was found from

the district administration about

New bus service hits Ctg roads on Saturday

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A new bus service will hit the port city on Saturday with a view to making hassle-free movement for

the passengers. City Bus Minibus Human Hauler Owners Association declared to launch the bus service named 'City Link' at a press conference at the Chittagong Press Club yesterday. Association leaders said the

service would carry passengers as per its sitting capacity and stop only at the designated points to reach every destination in time.

The route includes Bahaddarhat-Sholashahar-Dewanhat-Agrabad-Port

Connecting-EPZ.
The fair is fixed at Tk2 per person for travelling a distance of 1st kilometre and another Tk 1 would be charged for every additional kilo-

President of the Association Lokman Hakim Mohammad Ibrahim, its adviser Dastagir Chowdhury and General Secretary

AKM Jahangir spoke at the confer-

Removal of Khagrachhari DC demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Khagrachhari Parbatya Zila Nagorik Committee and United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) demanded removal of Deputy Commissioner Humaun Kabir for his controversial comments on the indigenous communities of Chakma, Marma and Tripura.

They said a book titled Khagrachhari-2003-2005' was published by the district adminis-

termed the indigenous communities of Chakma, Marma and Tripura as outsiders and settlers.

managing director of the bank, accompanied by the Medical Consultant Dr Mozammel Hossain Khan visited the cleft-Cox's Bazar "The situation is still very grim

Solar power competes with diesel in Himalayas

REUTERS, Leh

The Tibetan monk fingers his beads as he climbs up the stone steps of a 1,000-year-old monastery perched on a hilltop spur overlooking the Himalayas,

The rooftop is bare and drab like the surrounding hills, save for a low wall adorned with painted tridents, ancient symbols of power. The only sign of modernity is a solar panel.

Many of the monasteries, or gompas, lining Ladakh's Indus valley, in northwest India near China, boast a small blue rectangle of photo-voltaic technology. Standing 3,500 metres high (11,480 ft) they have the advantage of being closer to the sun than many other

inhabited places. "There's a lot of scope as we have over 300 days of sun a year here, and average solar radiation is high," said Tashi Chombel, an engineer in Ladakh's local govern-

Solar power is mostly used for

night-time lighting rather than to keep Ladakh's bitter winter cold at bay, which would need more costly systems. Villagers built around green oases in Ladakh's barren valleys collect sparse poplar wood and animal dung for fuel. Most power in the Buddhist-

Dutch-Bangla Bank organised a four-day plastic surgery operation free of cost at South View Hospital at Mirpur in the

city on June 11 for the poor cleft-lipped boys and girls to bring back the endearing smile on their faces. Md Yeasin Ali,

dominated region comes from hydroelectric plants or diesel generators, but the bustling capital, Leh, is regularly plunged into darkness because of lack of supply. Businesses such as guesthouses stock up on candles.

Blackouts are unlikely to stop with just one new 45-megawatt hydroelectric plant starting construction this year, and not due on stream for five years. And running generators is getting expensive with diesel costing twice as much as two years ago after oil rose to more than \$70 a barrel.

Such blackouts are seen as an percent subsidy to those looking to obstacle to development in India, aiming for double digit growth and which cost around 13,000 to 16,000 competing for oil assets around the rupees (154 to 189 pounds), but

world with China and western despite its ambitious rural target has replaced one such generator majors to feed the surging energy needs of its 1.1 billion population. ENLIGHTENMENT The government aims to bring

electricity to all rural areas by 2012 and has committed \$3.1 billion (1.7 billion pounds) for rural electrifi-

About 500 million Indians lack access to electricity, more than the population of the European Union, according to the World Bank, whose private-sector lending arm, the International Financial Corp., has said it will help with rural pilot "There's a misconception that

rural areas cannot pay -- they are paying the highest cost in diesel generation," India's power secretary, R.V. Shahi, told a recent industry conference. The government gives a 90

install a solar panel in Ladakh,

and the painful cost of oil it has given out few such grants this year. "Cost is definitely one of the key issues and solar is much more

expensive than wind, which is seeing phenomenal growth," said Bishal Thapa of ICF Consulting in Delhi. "The kind of institutional support solar receives is for off-grid applications and tends to go up and down." Those who cannot wait rely on

private diesel generators, but they suffered a 7 percent hike in diesel prices in June, as the government tried to limit losses for state-run refiners suffering from the gap between capped domestic and soaring world prices. Chombel says that apart from

fuel costs, diesel generators can take months to replace if they break down in Ladakh, which is cut off by road for about six winter months

The Leh-based Ladakh Ecological Development Group

with a 100-kilowatt solar plant, supplying power to 10 villages, and is planning another one. It also advocates so-called

passive solar for warmth, through heat-trapping brick walls and south-facing glass windows, that alone can keep rooms above zero when it is minus 20 degrees centigrade outside. It says this can reduce the use of wood. But the agency seems pessimis-

tic on funding for greater use of solar power. "Funding is not easy," said its director, Phontsog Namgyal. "The plant cost 77 million rupees, which came from donors, and one-off subsidies for solar panels are limited." YAKS

The plant is run by Tata BP Solar, a joint venture between BP and the Tata Group, which says it has installed over a megawatt of solar ower in Ladakh, including about 14,000 home lighting systems and over 9,000 solar lanterns.

ged terrain, such small-scale distributed generation is the only likelihood of light. The villagers pay an installation charge and then effectively rent the lighting sys-"The systems were dropped off at the last motorable point, after which they were transported

Humidityin

percentage

Morning Evening

73

81

79

95

For many isolated villages off

the national grid in Ladakh's rug-

onwards by donkeys, yaks or human beings, sometimes at several days walking distance," said Tata BP Solar of one project. "The weather was bone chilling." Tata BP Solar plans a 25-kilowatt power plant in Leh this year and

more in the rest of Ladakh next But these volumes are still tiny.

India has invited bids for 4,000tration a few days ago.
In the book, the DC allegedly megawatt thermal coal plants and is also aiming for more hydro and nuclear power to help double its generating capacity.