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**Bridge on Manu named after Saifur's wife**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday inaugurated a newly constructed bridge on the Manu river in Moulvibazar named after his late wife Durre Samad Rahman. The local Government Engineering Department constructed the bridge at Akhailakura at an expenditure of Tk 3.25 crore. At the inauguration ceremony, the finance minister asked people to elect his son Naser Rahman again from Moulvibazar-3 constituency. Naser Rahman, also the district BNP president, was present at the function with other local BNP leaders.

**Cops arrest 3 Mirpur teenage offenders**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mirpur police arrested the three teenagers yesterday who slit throats of three Monipur Cadet School students and looted valuables from one of the victims' house on Thursday. Acting on a tip-off, the law enforcers arrested Masud, 15, son of Nurul Islam from Mirpur 2, and Sohel Rana alias Rajib, 15, son of Amir Ali from Sheorapara, after a

**Barapukuria plant trips again**

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinaipur

Production at the 250 megawatt Barapukuria Coal Power Plant remained suspended since Friday as it tripped again due to technical glitches. On June 11, Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) took over ownership of the power plant which tripped over 15 times throughout its operational run since February last, mostly due to sub-standard machinery supplied by Chinese contractor company

CMC, plantsources said. CMC will look after the maintenance of the US\$ 250 million power plant for two years as per agreement. Another agreement with CMC to train-up the PDB officials for power plant management will be signed any time this month, PDB officials said. Initially the plant was scheduled to start operation in 1998 but it was delayed due to poor progress of the Chinese-built coal-mining project. The power plant also failed to go

into operation at least five times from last October to January this year, PDB sources said. On February 8, former state minister for power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud asked the plant's Chinese builder CMC to start commercial operation of both the units by April. But both the units of the plant tripped due to technical glitches including problems of valves and cylinder leakages while the company opted for repair rather than changing the faulty machinery.

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**Fire breaks out at garment unit**

Staff assault newsmen on duty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Officials of a garment factory at Pallabi confined seven reporters and photographers for about 12 minutes yesterday when the newsmen went there to cover a fire break out on the unit's top floor. Fire broke out in the wool warehouse of the 10-storey factory Convince Apparels Ltd around 11:45am, which firefighters believed started from an electric short circuit or a burning cigarette. Around 1,500 workers came out of the factory building within 20 minutes. No one was injured in the blaze. The factory staff first tried to extinguish the fire. Later, the firefighters rushed to the spot and doused the fire after two hours. Witnesses said some officials and staff of the factory got annoyed with the newsmen attempting to take snaps and collecting information. They obstructed the journalists that led to an altercation. "At one stage, the officials assaulted the journalists confining them to the eighth floor of the

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**51 killed as Lankan troops take on LTTE**

AGENCIES, Colombo

At least 15 Sri Lankan naval troops, 30 Tamil Tiger rebels and six civilians were killed in major sea and land battles along the island's northwestern coast yesterday, officials said. About a dozen rebel boats engaged the Sri Lankan navy off the coast of Mannar island shortly after dawn Saturday, defence ministry spokesman Prasad Samarasinghe said. He said the navy destroyed eight Tamil Tiger boats for the loss of three of their own craft. "At least 30 Sea Tigers were killed," Samarasinghe said in a statement. A navy spokesman said 12 sailors were believed killed in the initial attack although only four bodies had been recovered. Another three soldiers went missing presumed dead when a patrol craft approaching the area cap-

sized, he said. Government minister Keheliya Rambukwella said six civilians were killed and more than 20 wounded when they were caught up in the cross fire in Mannar. "We have launched an investigation into the killing of the civilians," Rambukwella said while denying that the military had targeted civilians during the early morning confrontation. The pro-rebel Tamilnet.com website said at least one woman was killed and another 44 people wounded when troops lobbed a grenade into a church on the Mannar island where civilians had taken refuge. Samarasinghe denied that the troops carried out the attack and in turn accused the Tigers of targeting civilians. "Still the government is committed to the peace process but... the government will take every

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**Primary teachers starts non-stop strike**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of government primary schools began an indefinite strike across the country yesterday to realise their 21-point demand, including elimination of salary discrimination and introduction of school-based examination system, at the primary school level. Under the banner of Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Association, around 1,80,000

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**Coalition men amassed huge wealth to buy votes: Hasina**

UNB, Dhaka

Suspecting a vote-rigging plot of the coalition government, opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday alleged that it amassed a huge amount of money to buy vote in the forthcoming general elections. Hasina came up with the remarks during her meeting with the Awami League (AL) leader from

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**Iraq attacks kill 31**

REUTERS, Baghdad

Bomb and mortar attacks killed at least 31 people in and near Baghdad yesterday in violence that showed no sign of easing despite a security crackdown against al-Qaeda in the Iraqi capital. The violence followed a vow by al-Qaeda's new leader in Iraq to avenge the death of his predecessor Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who was killed in a US air strike on June 7. In the deadliest attack, a car bomb targeting Iraqi army and police killed 11 people.

Reuters Television footage showed the blackened remains of at least six burnt-out cars. A charred body was taken on a stretcher to an ambulance. A man with blood on his face stood nearby looking stunned and smoking a cigarette. US military helicopters and divers searched for two US soldiers missing after an attack on Friday in which one American soldier was killed in the insurgent bastion of Yusufiya in the "Triangle of Death" south of Baghdad.

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**Sundarbans robber killed in 'crossfire'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A notorious robber of the Sunderbans was killed in 'crossfire' between Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and his accomplices around 2:20am yesterday at Kadamtala of Swarankhola upazila in Bagerhat district. Mohammad Kamal Khan, 37, was arrested on Friday night at Khuriakhali of the same upazila. According to a Rab press release, following Kamal's confessions a Rab team along with Kamal set out to recover hidden arms. As they reached Kadamtala, Kamal's

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**Grenade found at Chuadanga village**

UNB, Chuadanga

Police recovered a grenade from Osmanpur village in Alamdanga upazila of the frontier district on Friday night. Informed by local people, police went to the village and recovered the live grenade from behind a madrasa, official sources said. Another grenade was found at the same place in April this year.



Prof Mohammad Abdul Aziz speaks at the fifth regional dialogue on national elections 2007 organised by Centre for Policy Dialogue, Channel I, Prothom Alo and The Daily Star in Sylhet yesterday.

**5.5kg heroin seized in Rajshahi**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized Tk 5 crore worth heroin weighing 5.5 kg from the river Padma at Godagari upazila in Rajshahi on Friday night while a large cache of the contraband drug was being smuggled into the country. Sources said that a special BDR team chased a gang of drug-

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Prayer Timing		
June 18		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	6-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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