WORLD CUP FEVER

Lawmakers for

short session,

Malnutrition in Bangladesh one of highest in world

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Coordination among the government and non-government organisations is crucial to address the issue of nutrition in the country, speakers at a sharing meeting said

In spite of improving trends in nutrition parameters in the past few years, malnutrition figures remain one of the highest in the world, they said.

Only 32 per cent of rural and 42 per cent of urban slum children are weaned at the correct age of six months. About 35 per cent of all children are weaned inappropriately early and the remaining 31 per cent inappropriately late, they

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

criminals at Keraniganj near Dhaka

spread bullets on Bachchu Mia, 63,

a tin trader, in front of his wholesale

the shop and found two youths

running away while Bachchu was

groaning on the ground with blood

oozing from his chest," victim's

brother Haji Siraj told the report-

He was rushed to Mitford hospi-

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

three-day remand for two more JMB

(Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh)

cadres in Rajshahi University (RU) Prof Muhammad Yunus murder case.

They are -- Rajshahi zonal JMB

commander Abu Isa alias Enamul

Haque Mithun and JMB training

commander Golamur Rahman alias

Golam Mostafa, a student of Arabic

of RU as well as an adherent of mili-tant kingpin Asadullah Al Galib's

Fazlul Karim Chowdhury passed the

order following the prayer of the

investigating officer (IO) of the case

Inspector Nur Muhhamad Sheikh of

criminal investigation department

Germany wants to help

Bangladesh in health, energy and

market reforms to boost the coun-

Newly appointed German

Ambassador to Bangladesh Frank

Meyke apprised Prime Minister

Khaleda Zia of his country's keen-

ness when he had a courtesy call on

The new envoy said Germany is

keen to build up a long-term rela-

tionship with Bangladesh that

would enhance bilateral relations,

trade, investment and political

intimacy between the two coun-

Terming the present relations

try's socio-economic advance.

the PM at her office yesterday.

Metropolitan magistrate SM

Ahle Hadith Jubo Sangha.

shop at Jinjira at around 7:30am.

Locals said two criminals

Hearing two gunshots I ran to

They were speaking at the sharing meeting organised by Plan Bangladesh following a mid-term review of its Integrated Nutrition Project (INP).

The mid term review was conducted during November 2005-January 2006 on eight hundred under-five children, pregnant and lactating mother in 20 villages of Nilphamari, Gazipur and Dinajpur districts and three slums of Dhaka

While presenting the mid term evaluation report, Dr Shamim Talukder of Centre for Women and Children Health (CWCH) said the report found that 65 per cent urban and 46 per cent rural children were

Trader shot dead at Keranigani

tal where the doctors declared him

Hospital sources said he

Victim's relatives alleged that

some unknown criminals had been

demanding tolls from Bachchu

who had also a longstanding land

dispute with one of his relatives at

Keraniganj police said they are

Businessmen of Jinjira Bazar

kept shutters of their shops down

protesting the killing of Bachchu

JMB cadres remanded in

investigating the matter giving

focus on both extortion and land

received one bullet in his chest.

and 40 per cent rural children were underweight

On the other hand, over 38 per cent rural and 28 per cent urban slum mothers over 19 years of age were underweight. Most of them even do not know properly about exclusive breast-feeding as well as complementary feeding, the evaluation report said.

"But the report also shows improvement in the areas where the INP is initiated to address the nutrition, which indicates the need for coordination among the government and non-government organisations" said TM Alamgir Azad, project manager of Plan

and demanded arrest and trial of

procession.

pay them tolls.

The local people also took out a

Meanwhile, a mason and a

caretaker of two under-

construction buildings at Pallabi

were shot and wounded yesterday

by some criminals in separate

incidents as the owners refused to

Tohidur Rahman, mason, and

Enamul Haq, caretaker, were

admitted to Dhaka Medical College

and Hospital with bullet wounds in

mechanisms be established for severely malnourished children. Community management of severely malnourished children without concomitant illness can also be explored with development of local protocols of man-

The recommendations also cited that vitamins and medicines should be made available to schoolchildren and they should have regular health check-up by trained schoolteachers.

Among others, Country Director of Plan Bangladesh Edward Thomas Espey was also

CHILDHOOD DISABILITIES

team leaves for

Ethiopia today

A team of professionals from

Foundation (BPF) and Shishu

Bikash Network (SBN) will leave

Dhaka today for Addis Ababa to provide technical assistance to

Ethiopian government for con-

ducting survey on childhood dis-

This is the first of several surveys

to be conducted worldwide to

ascertain the prevalence of child-

hood disabilities in Asia, Africa and

other developing countries through a joint World Bank and

The door-to-door two-stage

survey method has been validated

by an international team of experts including Prof Sultana S Zaman, exteacher of psychology department

of Dhaka University and general secretary of the BPF, Dr Naila Z

Khan, professor of Child Neurology

at Dhaka Shishu Hospital and

chairperson of the SBN, Dr Zena

Stein, professor of Epidemiology at

Columbia University and Dr

Maureen Durkin, professor of

Epidemiology at the University of

The method is to be adapted in

several countries simultaneously

Headed by Dr Naila Z Khan, the

ream included Dr Shamim

Ferdous, director, and Qazi Afroza

Sultana, child psychologist and special teacher of BPF, respectively.

beginning with Ethiopia.

abilities, says a press release.

OECD initiative.

Wisconsin, USA:

Bangladesh Protibondhi

Bangladesh

DU statute to streamline financial mismanagement from July 1

Bangladesh Union Parishad Oikya Jote stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday to press their

निष रेडी भेरम श्रीतेयम शास लामात मार्का

KAMRUL HASAN KHAN

Dhaka University (DU) is going to introduce a financial statute to streamline its financial manage-

nine-point demand, including nationalisation of jobs.

A nine-member committee headed by DU Treasurer Prof Sayed Abul Kalam Azad submitted a draft statute to the finance committee on May 26.

The draft statute, being approved by the finance committee and the syndicate, is now waiting for the approval of the senate which will meet on June 27. The financial statute would be

functional from July 1.

Under the statute, an administrative departmental head will be able to give sanction up to Tk 5000, treasurer from Tk 5000 to Tk 50000, pro-vice-chancellor from Tk 50000 to Tk 75000 and VC from Tk 75000 to Tk 100000 in budgetary money, the treasurer said. Through this process, the

financial autonomy of the university would be decentralised among the VC, Pro-VC and treasurer," said He said in case of emergency the

VC can sanction more than Tk 1 lakh but that should be immediately reported to the syndicate through finance committee. For re-appropriation sanctions

in any sector, the process must go through the finance committee and the syndicate for their Meanwhile, Dhaka University

Teachers' Association (Duta) has

Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman told The Daily Star that haphazard introduction of financial statute without an open discussion with all the related forums might hamper university's main spirits- autonomy and openness.

There are some ambiguities and imbalances in the statute," he

expressed its concern saying that a haphazard introduction of the statute might hamper the economic autonomy of the univer-Duta General Secretary Proj

Parenting programme needed to make children skilled manpower attention as a result of changing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop in the city yesterday underscored the necessity of parenting programme in order to make children skilled manpower.

Referring to the first five years of life as crucial for the foundation of every individual's intelligence, personality, and social behaviour, hey said parents should be educated first on early childhood development.

Alliance for Cooperation and Legal Aid Bangladesh (ACLAB) organised the national workshop titled 'Early Childhood Development (ECD)' at the Biam auditorium in the city in association with Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) and Terre

Presenting a keynote paper on the occasion, Farida Akhtar, chief executive of Inner Force, said though ECD has received greater

global trends and challenges around the world, Bangladesh has responded to the concept late.

Qualitative ECD programmes may play a significant long-term pact on young children's social adjustment, cognitive ability and early school achievement, she said referring to the studies and programmes conducted across the

"Choices made and actions taken on behalf of the children during the critical period affect not only how a child develops but also how a country progresses," she Speakers also emphasised that

the ECD education be reached at the grassroots level to get the maximum benefit out of it rather than confining it within urban areas.

They called for government's between the NGOs and the govern- occasion.

Abu Yusuf Choudhury, director

of Piact-Bangladesh, said "ECD programme should be incorporated with mother care as proper children development will not be possible unless mother nutrition needs are met

Speaking as a special guest, Kamaluddin Ahmed, secretary to the ministry of Women and Children Affairs, said the ruling government has initiated the preschool programmes in the 64 districts assisted by Unicef.

Barkat Ullah Bulu, adviser to the ministry of Women and Children Affairs, addressed as the chief guest while Wahida Banu, director programme, Aparajeo Bangladesh presided over the function.

ACLAB Executive Director Tarikul Islam and TDH Netherlands Country Director initiative and coordination Mahmudul Kabir also spoke on the

Govt conspires to rig polls: Amu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) Presidium Member Amir Hossain Amu has accused the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition government of conspiring to remain in power through vote rigging in next parliamentary election.

Amu was talking to senior leaders of 14-party opposition combine including Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed and Rashed Khan Menon at his Eskaton residence in the city vesterday.

They went there to greet Amu on his return home on June 16 after around a nine-month stay in Singapore in connection with the treatment of his wife who had been

suffering from cancer for long.

Amu urged the party workers to intensify the ongoing agitation to

compel the alliance government to accept reform proposal

They (government) know well that people are no more with them, so they are afraid of people's verdict," he added. He said there will be no election

in the country without electoral reforms. As Amu remained abroad for a

long time, rumour spread out that he exiled himself following a pique with the party President Sheikh

But Amu brushed aside the rumour saying that the government had made such ill propaganda. "I will meet Sheikh Hasina

tomorrow (today) and discuss the present political situation of the country," Amu told The Daily

Orientation programme Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum

(BSAF) will hold an orientation programme on 'Hazardous child labour'. Venue: BSAF conference room. Time:

Workshop

held. Venue: Radisson Water Garden Hotel. Time: 9:00am.

Seminar

Welfare Association of Repatriated

Roundtable

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the United Nations Development Programme will hold a roundtable on 'Partnership for employment of women and youth'. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 1:15pm.

Economic Reporters' Forum will hold a National Press Club. Time: 11:00am.

post-budget discussion. Venue:

'National Budget 2006-2007: Gender auditorium. Time: 2:30pm.

uninterrupted electricity STAFF CORRESPONDENT An Awami League (AL) lawmaker at parliament yesterday demanded uninterrupted supply of electricity during the World Cup football. On the other hand the ruling BNP lawmaker Zainal Abedin Farooq

demanded an early adjournment of session everyday so that they could get pleasure from the games of their avourite teams. AL lawmaker Abdur Razzak initiated the unscheduled discussion

at zero hour immediately after tabling the question answer and said that government has failed to ensure uninterrupted supply of power even during the World Cup matches. He pointed out that thousands of football fans are either holding dem-

onstrations or attacking offices of electricity supply authorities every-day across the country to protest disruption of power that deprives them of the chance to watch "the biggest show on earth" "It's appreciable what the opposi-tion lawmakers have demanded here

but they should refrain from playing games inside the House," told Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Health and FamilyWelfare Minister. However, Acting Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui said that he would

consider the proposal.
"The session does not deprive the legislators of enjoying the World Cup as the House usually adjourns around 9:30 pm, "headded.

Haji Selim gets

bail in 4 cases

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday granted interim bails to Haji Selim, city committee joint secretary of Awami League (AL), in four cases filed by Lalbagh police. Lalbagh police filed the cases on June 9, 10 and 11 accusing Haji

Selim and 1,000 to 1,500 others.

Justice Mohammad Abdul Wahab Mia and Justice Mohammad Abdur Roich granted the bails until the hearing of the cases took place.



Obituary

Mohammad Hammad Ali, former CSP officer, passed away after prolonged ailment at Darwin General Hospital in Australia on June 14 at the age of 80, says a press

She will be laid to rest at the graveyard in Darwin after Zohr prayers on June 20. Fatema left behind her one daughter, three sons and host of relatives to mourn her death.

Her qulkhwani will be held at her residence at House No-74, Road No -11/A at Dhanmondi in Dhaka after Maghrib prayers on June 20 for salvation of the departed soul.

Shamsul Islam Rana



Bangladeshi doctor in USA. passed away on lune 13, says a press release. Rana, son of SI Shahjahan,

Shamsul Islam

Rana.

former director of BCIC and sonin-law of first acting president of Bangladesh Syed Nazrul Islam. He will be buried at the Banani

graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at the Khejur Bagan Masjid on the Sangsad Avenue after Asr prayers on June 21. On the occasion, a doa mahfil

will be held at Bashundhara City Seminar Hall (Level-7) on June 22.

Relatives, friends, and admirers are requested to attend the doa

Md Abdul Bari Talukder



lopment Board, passed away at his residence in Dhaka due to a massive cardiac arrest on Saturday at the age of 64,

says a press release. He was a freedom fighter who worked for the government-in-exile during the war of independence. He left behind his mother, wife,

a son and two daughters. His qulkhwani will be held at his

residence at House No10, Road No 5 at Dhanmondi in the city after Asr prayers on June 23.

Akteruzzaman condoled

Death of Prof

Two organisations yesterday condoled the death of Prof Akteruzzaman, head of the Department of Forensic Medicine of Dhaka Medical College, says a press

Expressing condolence, members of Azimpur Estate Bohumukhi Samabaya Samity in a statement prayed for salvation of the departed soul and also conveyed sympathy to the family members of Prof Akteruzzaman, also President of the

They also demanded of the government to take legal action after proper investigation into the acci-

The Medicolegal Society of Bangladesh also expressed their profound shock at the death and expressed sympathy to the bereaved

Prof Akteruzzaman succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital after receiving severe injuries when a jeep hit his motorbike near Eden College on June 16 and dragged him 15 yardsaway.

Prof Yunus killing case

men who gave judicial statements referring to the murder did not mention their clients, adding that the remand prayer was only for harass-Advocate Rasul also expressed his

previous remands, the law enforcers to admit it this time. Defending the IO, court inspector Mahbubul Kuddus Siddiki told the court that the militants were needed

alias Boma Matin, but hearing on the Defence lawyers Advocates

concern that as his client Golamur did not confess to the crime in two might resort to torture and force him

ing the mystery behind the grue-The IO also submitted remand prayer for JMB cadre Abdul Matin

prayer was not held, as Matin was not

Germany keen to help in health,

between the two countries excel-

lent, Frank noted that Germany is

the second-largest overseas market

their willingness to forge durable

relations and interest in supporting

health and energy sectors and

market reforms in Bangladesh. She

said Germany could further

increase the import of Bangladeshi

quality products, particularly jute

goods, ceramics and

more in Bangladesh, particularly in

textile and knitwear sectors," the

number of ventures, including two

"German investors could invest

Germany has investments in a

try during the period, Met Office said.

City/Town

Dhaka

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Thundershowers likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong,

Sylhet and Rajshahi divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the coun-

Highest temperature 36.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday

The sun sets in the capital at 6:48pm today and rises at 5:11am

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

Min

28.2

27.0

27.5

at Mongia and lowest 24.5 degree Celsius at Rangpur and Srimongal.

Temperature

in Celsius

Max

35.0

33.8

34.5

36.5

35.5

34.2

The PM thanked the envoy for

of Bangladeshi products.

pharmaceuticals.

PM assured.

energy and market reforms

to be interrogated further for reveal-

A metropolitan magistrate court on June 8 granted three days remand against another Rajshahi Zonal commander Shafiullah alias Tarik in

sources said that Tarik, Enamul, Golamur, and Matin will be interrogated together. Another IMB cadre Abul Kashem Tufan was also shown arrested in the case. The IMB militants were impli-

cated in the case after JMB chief Abdur Rahman confessed the murder before Taskforce Interrogation Cell in Dhaka and Shafiullah Tarik gave a judicial statement in

ProfYunus, an economics teacher of RU and president of local Bangabandhu Parishad, was murdered on February 24 in 2004 while

EPZs in Bangladesh, said an offi-

The Ambassador mentioned

that a German business team

recently visited Bangladesh and an

"investment-friendly atmosphere"

cance to Germany not for its loca-

vibrant and diversified press in

Bangladesh and the role of govern-

Humidityin

percentage

Morning Evening

He said Bangladesh has signifi-

50-member Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi body he was taking his morning walk.

formed A 50-member committee of fatiyatabadi Ainjibi, a pro-government lawyers' body, was formed at a meeting of Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi on Saturday night at the residence of BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, says

apress release. Advocate Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed MP was selected convenor while Barrister Habibul Islam Bhuiyan and former speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali were declared as joint convenors. Shah Khasruzzaman was selected mem-

ber secretary. Bhuiyan, also the LGRD minister, presided over the meeting.

tion but for the country's prosper-The names of the other members ity and its hardworking people. will be declared soon. He appreciated Bangladesh's At a proposal in the meeting, they socio-economic progress under condemned opposition party's contempt of the court's verdict. They the leadership of Khaleda Zia. also vowed to uphold the dignity of The Ambassador also praised

the law, the High Court and the Justice TH Khan, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, Communication Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, Telecommunication Minister Barrister Aminul Huq, State Minister for Law Barrister Muhammad Shahjahan Omar, Bir Uttam, were

also present at the meeting. Painting exhibition to raise funds for Najifa Taj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A painting exhibition of reputed painters of the country will be held at Gallery Chitrak at House No 21, Road No 4 at Dhanmondi in the city on June 20-23.

The proceeds from the sale of the paintings will be used to raise fund for the ongoing treatment of Najifa Taj, an A level student of Maple Leaf International School who is suffering from a rare form of cancer known as Hodgkin's Lymphoma Nodular Sclerosis Disease and is now undergoing treatment in Bangkok.

Renowned artist Qayyum Chowdhury will inaugurate the Jamiruddin Sircar and Prime exhibition organised by Gallery Minister Khaleda Zia issued sepa-Chitrak and Try Foundation at rate messages. 6:00pm today.

One dies after inhaling

poisonous gas in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur A man died after inhaling poisonous gas in Gazipur municipality

area yesterday. Abu Hanif, 27, entered a septic tank using a bamboo to pick up a mobile phone that fell down from the hands of his wife in the morning, but failed to come out of the

Later Joydevpur police in col-laboration with the local fire service recovered the body and sent it

to sadar hospital for autopsy. Traffic constable killed in city road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A traffic constable was killed when a passenger bus knocked him from behind when he tried to stop the bus as it ignored the traffic signal at Bailey Road point in the city yesterday.

The dead was identified as

Ramna police seized the bus and

arrested the driver. Pry Education Week from today

BDNEWS, Dhaka "The Primary Education Week" will

Sadrul Haque, 50.

be observed across the country from today aiming to create awareness among the people on the necessity of primary education. To mark the day Acting President Barrister Muhammad

A validation workshop on National Livestock Policy and Action Plan will be

Bangladeshi Employees (WARBE) will hold a seminar on 'Support for safe migration, reintegration and livelihood options'. Venue: Bangladesh YWCA Bhaban. Time: 2:30pm.

Discussion

Dialogue The third phase of a serial dialogue on

Analysis' organised by Steps Towards Development will be held. Today's topic is agriculture sector. Venue: Cirdap