Fed 宝xx Federal Express

The World on Time

Fair plan

From Page 1

project just after two months of

assuming the responsibility of

running the country," Hasina

said and added that implemen-

with top priority.

tation of the project was started

Multipurpose Bridge, the Prime

Minister said the bridge has

created a new hope among us in

respect of the development of

the country. Direct road and

railway communications will

be established between the two

regions of the country after the

construction of the bridge, she

bridge will accelerate the pace

of socio-economic development

of the North-West region, laying

a foundation of higher rate of

growth in the national eco-

Thanking the Asian Devel-

opment Bank for its coopera-

tion, the Prime Minister men-

tioned that the Bank has taken

a praiseworthy initiative of en-

couraging the development

partners to undertake develop-

ment projects in the post-study

Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir

ADB Resident Representative in

Dhaka Bhanuphol Horayan-

gura, FBCCI President Yussuf

Abdullah Harun, Planning Di-

vision Secretary Shah Mo-

hammad Farid and study pro-

ject director K M S A Kaiser also

Ershad to take

action against

2 rebels

Jativa Party chief HM Er-

By Staff Correspondent

shad has decided to take disci-

plinary action against those

trying to tarnish the image of

the party, according to party

Ershad had succeeded in 'iso-

lating' Mizanur Rahman

Chowdhury from the two other

rebels - Shah Moazzam Hos-

The three senior leaders of

the party, through joint state-

ments earlier, had challenged

the leadership of Ershad in the

rebel leaders to attend a meet-

ing with him yesterday. Of the

three, only Mizanur Rahman

Chowdhury attended the meet-

ing, which was also participated

by Naziur Rahman Manju, the

far were not available for com-

called a meeting of the JP pre-

sidium on May 31, said a press

Shah Moazzam and Kazi Za-

Meanwhile, Ershad has

DU to open

Prof Azad Chowdhury said

From Page 1

that the Japanese government

had assured of financial and

technological help for estab-

lishment of the centre for sci-

partments under nine faculties

and seven institutes. The uni-

versity was set up in 1921 with

Public Service Commission

(PSC) and the University Grants

Commission (UGC), in their

annual reports, observed that

the standard of education in the

universities of the country was

UNFPA report

From Page 1

Female mortality in many

reproductive tract infections.

developing countries was high,

despite the fact that in most of

the world, women's life ex-

pectancy at birth exceeds that of

men. This was caused by the so

preference' is strong, mortality

rate of girls in the second to

fifth year of life is higher than

that of boys. "This is the result

of different treatment of girl

and boy children; boys are often

fed better and receive medical

attention earlier in illness," the

In South Asia, where 'son

called 'son preference.'

report said.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh

At present, the DU has 45 de-

ence and technology

six departments.

declining.

sources said.

Ershad had invited the three

sain and Kazi Zafar Ahmed.

The decision was taken after

spoke on the occasion.

State Minister for Planning

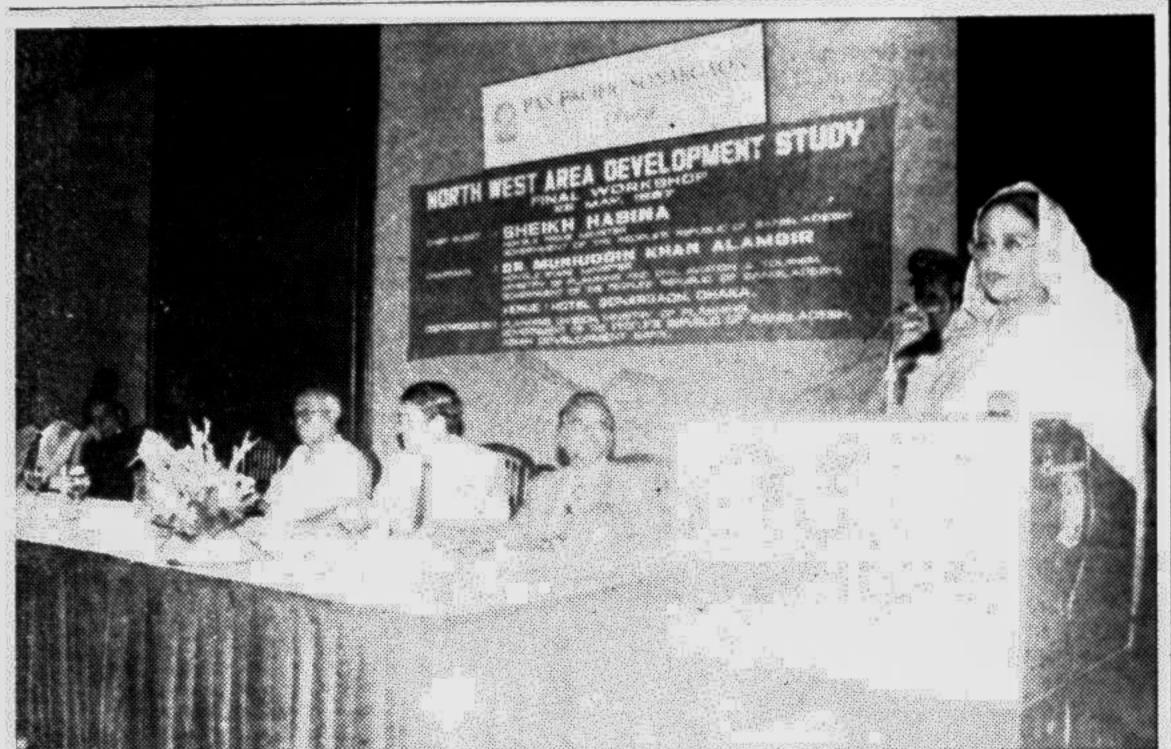
nomic development.

period.

She said construction of the

Referring to the Jamuna

"We have undertaken this



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the final workshop on North-West Area Devel--PID photo opment Study at a city hotel yesterday.

Judiciary enjoying full freedom: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the judiciary to take more effective steps to ensure the protection of law for the masses and establish their fundamental rights as guaranteed by the Constitution, reports UNB.

She also called upon the judiciary and the law-enforcing agencies to remove obstacles to establishing the rule of law. Opening a 3-day conference

marking silver jubilee of Bangladesh Bar Council at the Shilpakala Academy in the city. Hasina said her government is committed to ensuring an independent judiciary and people's fundamental rights by keeping law and judicial system above narrow political interest.

The judiciary is responsible for protecting the fundamental rights of the people and upholding the Constitution, she said, adding the government is taking steps to separate the judiciary from the executive. The judiciary is enjoying

full freedom under this government, the Prime Minister told the function. About delays in disposal of

Cyclone: Frozen food sector in Ctg suffers Tk 338cr loss

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, May 28: The frozen food sector in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar suffered a loss of Tk 338 crore in last week's cyclone, according to a press release issued by Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Asso-

In Chittagong and Cox's Bazar shrimps are produced in 1440 shrimp farms covering 19,500 hectre land.

The cyclone damaged the infrastructures of those farms particularly, roofs, pump house, generator room, blower room, hatchery operation line, water line and power line, in addition to easing death to shrimp fries and mother shrimps, the release added.

Probe report

From Page 1 trousers and a T-shirt.

Biman officials quoting Mahbub's uncle, who worked in the same garments factory, said that Mahbub was desperate to go abroad However, it could not be con-

firmed till yesterday how he got into the wheel carriage of the Rivadh-bound Biman airbus Friday night.

A CAAB official said that they interrogated the Biman security man who was on duty for about 16 hours from 6 am at the Biman hangar and in the bay area at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) Friday.

The inquiry committee formed by the CAAB is waiting for reports from Saudi authorities including the autopsy re-The CAAB committee is likely to submit a

preliminary investigation report by Sunday next.

DU teacher From Page 1

Prof Islam sent her a divorce notice last year before going abroad, which was not served accordingly. She filed another case for declaring the divorce notice illegal, which is also pending before the assistant judge's court, Zinat Islam said. Advocate Abdus Salam ap-

peared for the petitioner while advocate M A Nur appeared for the defendant.

cases by courts, she said the government was ready to take any remedial step according to the proposal of the Supreme Court for the speedy disposal of

the pending cases. The number of under-trial cases is rising very fast, even in the Supreme Court huge cases are pending and the figure is going up every day, the PM noted.

On the Supreme Court's advice, five judges have been appointed, Hasina said, adding We are eager to increase the number of Supreme Court judges with the counsel of the honourable Chief Justice. About the demands of the

lawyers, the Prime Minister said the government was actively considering the demands for increasing the floor space of the Supreme Court building. About the appointment of

judges, Hasina said: "We believe that merit, expertise and integrity should be the yardstick for appointing judges.

Contradicting a point of Chief Justice A T M Afzal, who also addressed the function, the Prime Minister said the Special Powers Act is not "so black" as it is stated. The Act can also give the protection of law to some people.

Chief Justice A T M Afzal said, some verdicts which went against the government and caused its monetary loss, had earned fame abroad. The US State Department praised the independence of the judiciary

in Bangladesh. President of the conference committee Barrister Amirul Islam chaired the opening session and Secretary Abdus Salam Talukder spoke on the occasion. Lawyers from all over the country joined it.

From Page 1 stitutions in the capital including Dhaka College, City College Sheikh Borhanuddin College, Azimpur Girls School, Government Laboratory High School, Shaheed Anwara Girls College and Dhaka Women's College. Eighty-six per cent of the students under survey were boys and 14 per cent girls.

The survey revealed that 72 per cent of the smokers smoke regularly and 28 per cent were casual smokers. Eighty-four per cent of the smokers have smoking friends.

Sixty-one per cent of the student smokers are aware that 25 lakh people in the world die due to smoking every year, the sur-

vey said. Review meeting From Page 1

taken for each village for build-

ing infrastructure. Families would be selected for rehabilitation and other ac-

tivities would be taken up. The government has allocated an initial fund of Taka 10 crore for the project the implementation of which began this month and set to be completed by June next year, the meeting

was told. The concerned district administrations, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and the Armed Forces Division, Prime Minister's Secretariat, will implement the project.

The meeting was further informed that the families that suffered during the May 19 cyclone would be benefited by the

project. The landless people living in the areas under the village development project will be provided with two-room houses each measuring 243 square feet with an open verandah, a kitchen, and proper sanitation

facilities. Besides, the families will be given khas land for cultivation.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Tales of phone bills

By Sharier Khan

The billing system of the Bangladesh Telephone and Telegraph Board (BTTB) remains age-old and complicated, aggravating the sufferings of its clients, although the BTTB earns an annual net profit of over Tk 700 crore.

It is very common that telephone bills reach the clients after expiring of the date for depositing the money, some clients alleged. In addition, the bills do not reach clients regularly. As a result, clients have to visit the Revenue Department of the T&T frequently to update their bills, otherwise their telephones get disconnected.

Once the line is disconnected, at least seven days are needed to restore it unless someone can 'influence' the officials concerned, they alleged.

Besides, the T&T authorities, in most cases, don't pay any heed to complaints of "ghost billing." If anyone insists on his complaint, the authorities insist on paying the "disputed" bills first and tells the client that the "disputed" bill will be reviewed. But the review may take upto two years, the clients

The T&T authorities disconnect phone lines, in most cases, without any reminder if a client fails to pay bills for three consecutive months.

"In fact, I now collect my bills from the T&T revenue department every month," said one Abul Kashem of Dhanmondi. "In the past, they disconnected my telephone line thrice because I was a defaulter. I was a defaulter because I never received the bills.

The T&T authorities take some three weeks to prepare all the bills and dispatch those through mail, giving the clients some two weeks' time to pay their dues. For example, the telephone bill for May is prepared by June 22, mailed by June 25 and the clients are asked to pay their dues by July

"We now have 2.5 lakh clients in the city," an official

of the BTTB said. "When we post 2.5 lakh bills between 23rd and 25th of the month, the postal department faces enormous pressure. I think the postal department is unable to dispatch all these mails in time," he said.

Depositing bills with the banks is another tiresome job for clients. After payment of the bills, the banks usually take 20 to 30 days to send back the deposit slips to the revenue department of the BTTB.

"By that time, T&T would issue another bill and add an arrear which I have already paid, complained one Afzal Hossain of Shahjahanpur. "Therefore I have to go to the T&T Revenue Department again to update my

According to BTTB officials, there are two billing systems. computerised and manual. Computerised billing was introduced in the Eighties when digital telephone system was introduced in the city. However, billing for digital lines is not fully computerised as computer readings do not show arrears.

"To calculate arrears, the bills are checked manually by the revenue department. Then needs time," an official said Billing for analogue phones

are done manually and therefore some three weeks are required for the task, he said. Shortage of manpower is another reason for the slow

billing, he said, adding there was no recruitment in the T&T department since 1983. In many countries, tele

phone bills are posted to clients every three months and clients are given three months time to pay their dues, the official said. In some other countries, the bills are totally computerised and clients receive their bills in the first or the second week of a month and gets adequate time to deposit their dues.

Khaleda opens photo show on Zia today

By Staff Correspondent As part of the BNPs 10-day programme to observe the 16th anniversary of the death of Ziaur Rahman, the party's cultural wing, JASAS, will arrange an photo exhibition on the life and works of Zia at the Shilpakala Academy at 11 this morning.

BNP chairperson and leader of the opposition Begum Khaleda Zia will open the exhibi-

The Jatiyatabadi Sechchyasebok Dal, another front organisation of BNP, will hold a discussion on "Zia: National Economy and Volunteered Labour" at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium at 4 pm tomorrow. Noted personalities will participate in the discussion meeting. Begum Zia will also be

On May 30, the day Zia was assassinated in an abortive military coup 16 years ago, Begum Zia and other central leaders of BNP will distribute sweets among the poor people in the city. Besides, the party will arrange kangalee bhoj, milad mahfil, photo exhibition and play the recorded speeches of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman in different parts of the city. A discussion meeting will be held at the Shilpakala Academy at 4 in the afternoon.

In the morning, Begum Zia and other leaders will visit Zia's mazar at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar and offer fateha and place wreaths there.

DU polls

From Page 1

Three panels — pro-Awami League Blue Panel, pro-BNP White Panel and left -leaning Pink Panel — are contesting the election.

Meanwhile, a dissident group of White Panel have also submitted separate nomination papers and will contest the

They have also circulated a leaflet inserting six new names from the original White Panel, dropping six names from it.

Foreign investors participate in Ctg business roundtable From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 28: A delegation of foreign investors arrived in the port city today. Soon after arrival, the dele-

gation visited the Chittagong Export Processing Zone. The members of the delegation also attended a business roundtable conference spon-

sored by MM Ispahani Ltd. Presided over by Salman Ispahani, director of M M Ispahani Ltd, the conference was addressed by the members of the delegation David O' Rear and Christopher F Bruton.

Others who took port in the discussion were Qamrul Islam Chowdhury, general manager of James Finlay Company, Anis A Khan, senior manager of Grindlays Bank, Wadud Ullah, Shamsul Kamal, chief executive of Chittagong Stock Exchange, and Kamal Uddin Ahmed, vice president of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

They spoke about the investment opportunities available in Chittagong.

Christopher F Bruton said "We are very impressed as Chittagong has a lot of industrial potentialities.

PAC reviews 105 audit objections

A meeting of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts of the Jatiya Sangsad was held yesterday with its 'chairman SM Akram in the chair, reports

According to an official press release, the meeting was informed that since the constitution of the committee Tk 43 crore has been realised. Tk nine crore was adjusted and recommendations have been made to take departmental measures to adjust Tk 17 crore.

The meeting reviewed the activities of eight previous meetings of the committee and 105 audit objections.

30 killed as tornadoes rip thru' Texas

JARRELL, Texas, May 28: Tornadoes ripped through central Texas from Waco to Austin, wiping out an entire sub-division in this small town, killing at least 30 people and injuring scores, reports AP. Between 50 and 70 homes in

the Double Creeks Estate were levelled by one of several twisters to hit four counties about 4 pm Tuesday. "It's not there anymore," said Sheriff's deputy R B Raby. "I don't know of anything anyone

can do. It's just a flat, vacant Thirty people were confirmed dead at a temporary morgue set up at the volunteer fire department and rescue workers planned to search for survivors throughout the night.

Bits of clothing hung from barbed-wire fences, telephone poles were snapped in half and a tractor-trailer lay on its back in the middle of a field. Hearses trickled in a rescue workers began retrieving bodies. Stunned residents covered in

mud wandered around in the

rain, crying and consoling each

say, because right now no one

"It's hard to know what to

knows who's missing and who's dead," Johnson said. "In a town this small, there's probably not one person who did not know someone killed in this tragedy. The swath of destruction was

about a mile long and 200 yards (meters) wide, officials said.

CCC rally in front of BSS office

hunt recovered a huge quantity of looted goods of a garments Leaders of the Central Coordination Committee of three factory worth about Taka 18 federations of newspaper induslakh from different parts of the try and DUJ have said none will district and city during the last be able to foil the Saturday's 24-24 hours ending at 6 pm today. reports BSS. hour strike in newspapers and According to Doublemooring news agencies, reports UNB. police, the team led by acting The committee organised the commissioner of Chittagong

rally as part of its three-day action programme demanding immediate announcement of the 5th Wage Board Award.
Addressing the rally, the CCC leaders rejected the statement made by "four people" as it

was against the interest of the journalist community. The Central Coordination Committee will hold a similar rally in front of BSS office at 11 am today.



Satinelle Removes hair by the root

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Let's make things better PHILIPS

Proposed HR commission should be free from govt, political influence

Matin Khasru, speaking as

chief guest at the symposium.

said the government is trying to

devise a mechanism so that ma-

jority of people could have ac-

cess to justice, which is their

Human Rights Commission, he

said, "It will be an institution of

people from all walks of life. It

will help them with its expert

opinion ... Let's make it au-

tonomous, independent, credi-

ensured that the commission

would not face by any political

UNDP resident representative

David E Lockwood said there

should be a consensus among

the government, NGOs and

members of civil society in

constituting a National HR

Commission that could redress

Special Adviser on National

Institutions to the UN High

human rights violation.

Addressing the symposium.

or government interference

The minister said it must be

About the proposed National

right.

ble and viable."

A symposium in Dhaka yes-terday underscored the need for an independent, autonomous, credible and effective National Human Rights Commission in the country to protect and safeguard human rights, reports

It stressed that the proposed commission should be accessible to the common people, the victims of human rights violation, beneficial to the people from all walks of life, and free from government and political influence.

The day-long symposium on the composition, powers and functions of National Human Commission in Bangladesh was participated by ministers, jurists, UN representatives, human rights activists, NGO executives and other professionals.

It was organised by the Institutional Development of Human Rights in Bangladesh (IDHRB), a project of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, which is conducting an action research study on human rights situation in the country.

Law. Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul

papers: JU probe

boday submits

report to VC

JU Correspondent

leakage of question papers for

admission test of Mathematics

Department of Jahangirnagar

University this year has sub-

mitted its report to the Vice

But the report was not made

The four-member body

headed by Prof Mohammad

Masum, was formed on May 14

Following the allegation of the

leakage of question papers, the

results of the admission test

Chowdhury, said the report

tional dailies after consulta-

tions with the University Syn-

4 vie for Cong

presidency

largest political party, the

Congress in its 110 years of his-

tory faces a contest for its pres-

idency for the third time when

four of its top leaders including

the incumbent president Sita-

ram Kesri filed nomination for

the post, election to which will

take place on June 9, reports

Apart from present Congress

president Sitaram Kesri the

filed nomination papers for the

party presidency, are former

Maharashtra chief minister A

R Antulay, leader of the

Congress in the Lok Sabha

Sharad Pawar and former

union minister Rajesh Pilot.

Congress spokesman an-

nounced after the deadline for

receiving nomination papers

withdrawal of nomination pa-

per is June two when a clear pic-

ture will emerge as to the con-

test for the Congress presidency.

Diarrhoea claims

29 in Noakhali

nine people died of diarrhoea

and more than 3,844 were at-

tacked in different thanas of

the district last week, civil sur-

geon office said today, reports

gumganj, Sadar, Companiganj

office, 8,227 people were at-

tacked at different thanas of the

district with diarrhoea last

of the outbreak of the water

borne disease to short supply of

awareness among the people.

safe water and absence of

Looted goods worth

Tk 18 lakh

recovered in Ctg

special team of the Double-

mooring police after a massive

Metropolitan Police and Assis-

tant Commissioner (Port), in

the drive arrested four persons.

Nirmal Chandra Das and ac-

cording to his statement the

rest three were arrested and fi-

nally the goods were recovered

from Anwara, Patiya and other

19 sewing machines with 18

covers and 18 electric motors.

The recovered goods included

parts of the city.

Police first arrested one

CHITTAGONG, May 28: A

and Batia.

month.

The affected thanas are: Be-

According to civil sergeon's

Doctors attributed the cause

NOAKHALI, May 28: Twenty-

However, the last date for

ended here today.

other three top notchers who

NEW DELHI, May 28: India's

would be published in the na-

The VC, Prof Amirul Islam

Chancellor yesterday.

were cancelled.

The probe committee on the

Commissioner for Human Rights Brian Burdekin said accessibility and responsibility are the first and foremost quality which a National HR body Pabna transport Leakage of question

begin strike PABNA, May 28: Road communication between Dhaka and northern parts of the country was snapped following a nonstop transport strike, reports

owners, workers

Pabna Transport Owners' Group and Transport Workers' Union today called the strike protesting the terrorist acts of Atique Bahini' at Gabtali bus terminal in the capital.

Addressing a joint press conference in Pabna, leaders of the Transport Owners' Group and the Transport Workers' Union alleged that members of the 'Atique Bahini' beat several booking managers at Gabtali bus terminal as they refused to pay them toll.

Abul Barkat Khan, general secretary of the Owners' Group, demanded immediate arrest of Atique and his associates.

We will continue the strike until the terrorists are arrested," he warned.

Earlier, they submitted memoranda to Deputy Commissioner and Police Super of the district to press the demand.

Indonesia goes to polls amid tight security today

JAKARTA, May 28: After weeks of campaign violence, the government says more than 25,000 soldiers and police will stand guard tomorrow while Indonesians vote in parliamentary elections, reports AP.

Nearly 300 people were killed during the official 27-day campaign period, most in auto accidents during chaotic street parades and others in riots of fighting between supporters of rival parties.

There also are threats that some frustrated voters might protest sweeping restrictions on political activity by boycotting the vote for 425 seats in the largely ceremonial, 500-member parliament. The other 75 seats are reserved for the mili-

The government says 25,000 security personnel are to guard polling stations in Jakarta, and thousands more would be on duty in other parts of the coun-

"Don't worry, Just go to your polling booths and we will guard your safety," Jakarta military chief Maj Gen Sutiyoso said in comments published on the front page of the newspaper Jakarta Post.

Urban population

From Page 1

and the year 2000 Bangladesh's population would grow at a rate of 1.6 per cent while its urban growth rate would be 5.2 per

The report - which contained global demographic statistics - was formally released by a UNFPA representative at a press conference held at the Jatiya Press Club yester-

It said that the country's population, which currently stands at 122 million, was likely to rise to 182 million by the year 2025. At present, 18 per cent of the population live in urban areas

The report also said that of every 1000 children born, 103 males and 109 females died before the age of five. It indicated the average life expectancy of a Bangladeshi male was 58.1 years while females lived an average of 58.2 years.

In the country, just 49 per cent of males and 26 per cent of females are literate. However, in Bangladesh 97 per cent of people have access to a conveniently located and adequate supply of safe drinking water.

should have.

Prof Gudmundur Alfredsson of Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law of Sweden said the function of HR commission should not only be investigatory and advisory, but also promotional and educative.

He suggested that a mechanism like National HR Commission should attain international standard and credibility.

The PRA report identified some problems regarding human rights such as demand of dowry, domestic violence by husband, less access to public health services, polygamy, discrimination against women, human rights abuse by police. non-registration of marriage and teasing of school-going

The IDHRB study which started in July 1996 reveals that 90 per cent of the people never heard the term Human Rights. They prefer remedies at doorsteps and, according to their preference, they use to go first to the village elders for arbitration, and then UP chairman, court, local MP and po-

Tripura team due in Khagrachhari today CHITTAGONG, May 28: A 15-

member delegation of the Tribal Welfare Association of Tripura state of India arrives at Khagrachhari hill district tomorrow, reports BSS. The delegation will see for

themselves the rehabilitation programmes undertaken by the government for the repatriated tribals. According to official sources here, members of the delegation including three high officials of

the Tripura state will arrive through Ramgarh border point. Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachhari Mohammed Ismail will receive the delegation at the border point.

The delegation led by acting chairman of the Tribal Welfare Association Ranjit Narayan Tripura will stay in Khagraehhari till May 31 and visit different rehabilitation centres at Ramgarh, Dighinala and Tabalchhari thanas.

3 held for throwing acid on female garments worker By Staff Correspondent

Three persons were arrested vesterday for allegedly throwing acid on a teenage female garments worker in Gudaraghat area under Mirpur thana Monday evening.

Police held Abdul Latif, Manik and Joynal Abedin during a raid near the Sony cinema hall at Mirpur. Police suspected that the arrested men threw acid on Jesmin, 14, when she was sitting beside a window in their house.

Daughter of Md Ramzan, Jesmin sustained serious burn injuries in her face and was under treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

PM: Japan From Page 1

hold talks with her Japanese counterpart, covering the entire gamut of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of common con-

Hasina, who looks forward

to visiting Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines in September, is expected to discuss with the leader of the economic super power the expansion of trade and market facilities in Asia, Far East and Pacific region. The Bangladesh leader is ex-

pected to visit various Japanese industrial belts and complexes and meet with business mag-

Japan, the largest bilateral donor to Bangladesh, has been extending assistance to its various sectors including energy, health, roads and transport, rural development, ship building

Sheikh Hasina, as the Prime Minister, has so far visited the United States, China, India, Pakistan, the Maldives and

She is scheduled to visit Turkey in the second week of June to attend the D-8 summit in Istanbul. The D-8 comprises Bangladesh, Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria and Egypt.

61 enterprises From Page 1

tured the privatisation board taking members of parliament. It is headed by a chairman from the private sector, who will have the status of a State Minister. Zafarullah said. The board now has the power

10 crore. The government will appoint chartered accounting firms to determine the value of the SOEs. The government is also

to sell industries worth upto Tk

meeting the workers to assure them that they would not lose their jobs after privatisation.