



Roddick wins US Open
 REUTERS, New York
 Andy Roddick pummeled Spain's Juan Carlos Ferrero 6-3, 7-6, 6-3 to claim the US Open men's singles title and his maiden Grand Slam on Sunday, heralding the long-awaited arrival of the next generation of American tennis.
 In a jaw-dropping display of awesome power, Roddick needed just one hour 42 minutes to blast Ferrero from the Arthur Ashe sta
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IRRI's maiden Dhaka meet starts tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The Board of Trustees (BoT) of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) will hold its annual meeting in Dhaka from tomorrow for the first time since the inception of the IRRI 43 years ago.
 Coinciding with the three-day BoT meeting, the IRRI and Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) will jointly hold a communication fair titled Tomorrow's Technology for Food and Nutrition Security at Hotel Sheraton Winter Garden. Forty-four stalls at the two-day fair beginning tomorrow will display research achievements and new farm technologies evolved under the five-year Poverty Elimination Through Rice Research Assistance (Petra) project.
 BoT Chairperson Angeline S Kamba along with 30 members from 12 countries and IRRI Director General Dr Ronald P Cantrell are coming to Dhaka today.
 These were stated at a press briefing at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.
 BoT member Fazle Hasan Abed

said at the press briefing the trustees will have a closer look into agricultural achievements in Bangladesh and also the problems it faced. This will give a boost to rice research in the country, he hoped.
 Launched in 1999 with British government assistance, Petra is the largest ever project in Asia managed by the IRRI, said Noel P Magor, IRRI Representative to Bangladesh.
 Social Science Division Head of IRRI Dr Mahub Hossain and IRRI scientist Dr Swapan Dutt also spoke at the briefing. IRRI researcher Manik Lal Bose, Petra Manager (Research Programme) Ahmad Salahuddin and Assistant Manager (Communication) Mamunul Haque were also present.
 Fazle Hasan said semi-dwarf rice varieties developed by the IRRI in the 60s enabled Bangladesh to increase rice production keeping pace with its population growth.
 "We want sustainable improvement in rice production. IRRI trustees met in Bangladesh never before and this time we wanted them to come and see rice production

growth in the country," he added.
 Dr Mahub Hossain pointed out that Bangladesh successfully crossed the hurdle of feeding 135 million people now, compared to 70 million in the late 60s. "At the current population growth of 1.5 per cent, two million new mouths are being added each year. So we should not be complacent about the present level of rice output," he said.
 About the prospect of agrobiotechnology, Dr Swapan Dutt said research in rice gene mapping will help scientists to further augment output of other crops as well.
 Petra, its sub-projects, the BRRI, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation, Bangladesh Rice Foundation and Forum for Information Dissemination on Agriculture will put on display books, posters and research findings at the communication fair, which will be inaugurated by Agriculture Minister MK Anwar.
 Eighty farmers -- men and women -- will also participate in the fair to share their experience with researchers.



Motijheel's hallmark traffic jams are made worse by the lack of planned parking spaces. Without a central parking lot, Dhaka's business heart is blocked every day by haphazard parking of cars that slows down the traffic flow.



Purana Paltan residents rally at Muktangan protesting the recent murder of businessman Wahidul Islam Igloo in Dhaka yesterday.

Businesses stop at Paltan to protest Igloo murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Businessmen and traders of Purana Paltan area yesterday kept their shutters down for two hours to protest businessman Wahidul Islam Igloo's murder.
 They stopped their businesses from 4:00pm to 6:00pm in protest of the killing. Purana Paltan Safety Committee, businessmen and locals also brought out a procession and held a rally at Muktangan demanding trial of the killers.
 Ashfaqur Rahman Palash, the prime accused, and Farhan Abdullah were held in the locality within a few hours of the killing. Police also recovered a cell phone
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Chip in with literacy plans, PM urges political parties

UNB, Dhaka
 Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday appealed to all political and social organisations, clubs, libraries and associations to take up programmes to educate the illiterate.
 She was opening a three-day programme of the International Literacy Day and the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003-2012) being observed in Bangladesh as elsewhere in the world.
 The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education organised the function at the Osmani Memorial Hall. It was also addressed by Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman, PM's Adviser for

Primary and Mass Education Prof Jahan Ara Begum, Primary and Mass Education Secretary Prof Tahmina Hossain, DG of Non-formal Education Mohammad Saifuzzaman and Unesco Representative in Bangladesh Wolfman Wolman.
 The Unesco Literacy Award-2003 went to Dhaka Ahsania Mission for its contribution to removing illiteracy through educating 38 lakh people so far. The mission's Executive Director Kazi Rafiqul Alam received the award from the prime minister.
 On the occasion, the prime minister advised the educated people to make literate at least one person each every year to help

accelerate the socio-economic development and improve the living standard of the people.
 She requested the elected public representatives and the conscious citizens to supervise the government's stipend programme for the poor and talented students to make the Education for All programme a success.
 The prime minister cited Hadith that says all Muslims must acquire knowledge and also mentioned the constitutional obligation for ensuring education for all.
 She gave assurance that the government attached top priority to
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Hasina visits Ctg today to end party infighting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
 Main opposition Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina arrives in the city today on a two-day visit in what is believed to revitalise the fragile party organs.
 The former prime minister is visiting the port city for the first time in nearly two years since the last parliamentary elections in October 2001.
 Hasina will address a public meeting at the Laldighi Maidan tomorrow. Besides, she is expected to meet separately with leaders of the three units of Chittagong AL and the different professional bodies, party sources said.
 Observers and some party men
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Govt, AL agree on pursuing biotech to up farm output

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The government will pursue agricultural biotechnology to raise food production to feed a fast-growing population, while the main opposition Awami League (AL) has pledged support for getting a biosafety act passed in parliament.
 The government's policy standing and the opposition's commitment came at a dialogue held in the city yesterday on 'Sustainable Agricultural Growth in Bangladesh: Should We Go for Biotechnology for Rice Improvement?'
 The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), an independent thinktank, organised the dialogue at the BRAC Centre Inn auditorium. Agriculture Minister MK Anwar and State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir attended the

dialogue as chief and special guests with the CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan in the chair.
 Head of the social science division of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) Dr Mahabub Hossain, IRRI scientist Dr Swapan K Datta and BRAC University teacher Prof Muazzam Husain jointly presented the keynote paper titled 'Rice Biotechnology: Opportunity, Perceived Risks and Potential Benefits to Bangladesh'.
 Lawmakers, agricultural scientists, agro-biotechnologists, economists, NGO and civil society activists and government officials took part in the three-hour discussion.
 The agriculture minister said the government would encourage agrobiotechnological research but at the
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2 get death for raping girl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
 A special court in Rajshahi yesterday ordered death sentence to two in Salma rape and murder case.
 Rajab Ali, son of Abdur Rahman and Abdus Salam, son of Abul Kashem of Sultanpur village in Bagha upazilla were sentenced to death under the Section 6(4) of Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 1995. Judge Nurun Nahar of the Special Court for Women and Children Repression Prevention read out the 25-page judgement in a packed courtroom.
 The victim's father Zamat Uddin, in his reaction, told journalists he was happy with the verdict and said convicts' relatives were threatening him.
 In their response, public prosecutors expressed satisfaction over the judgement but defence lawyers said they would appeal to higher

court.
 Rajab and Salam raped the six-year old girl in a sugarcane field and strangled her on August 22, 1999, sources said.
 Zamat filed a case with Bagha Police Station two days after the incident and police submitted chargesheet against the criminals on September 11, 1999.
Mamata returns to Vajpayee cabinet
PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi
 Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee yesterday returned to the cabinet of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee after a break of two and half years.
 The Trinamool leader was
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IGP in Ctg to review drive against crime

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
 Inspector General of Police (IGP) Shahudul Huq arrived in Chittagong yesterday on a two-day visit to review current law and order situation in the region.
 Huq, in his second visit in two weeks, will hold meetings with top police officials in Rangamati,
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SEC plans mandatory credit rating for IPOs

NAZRATUN NAYEEM MONALISA
 The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday agreed in principle to introduce mandatory credit rating for any issues intending to raise funds from the public.
 The move came against the backdrop of lowest trade volume in Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) since 1998 that reflected lack of investors' confidence.
 The credit rating is being made
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