

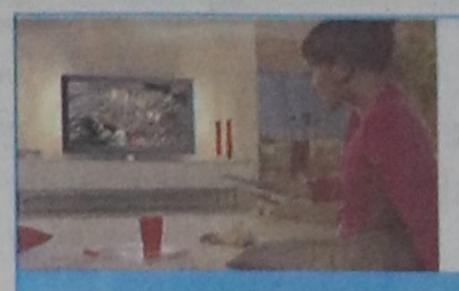
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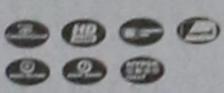
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PHILIPS

HR Watch slams mass arrests

AFP, Dhaka

Human Rights Watch yesterday called for Bangladesh's emergency government to charge or release thousands of people it has detained in the past eight days.

At least 10,000 people -- many of whom have ties to the country's two main political parties -- have been arrested since May 28.

Police say the operation is expected to last one month and is aimed at improving security ahead of the country's scheduled return to democracy with elections due by the end of the year.

The main parties -- the Awami League and BNP -- say the arrests are part of a political crackdown by the emergency government, which has already detained both parties' leaders.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

13 find home

Thirteen wild animals and

birds, including four rare mon-

keys, were released into the

Lawachhara Reserve Forest in

Moulvibazar's Kamalganj

upazila on World Environment

caught by locals in last two

months as they strayed into

households on the jungle's

teur local environmentalist,

collected the animals and birds

-- four slowloris, three civets,

one fishing cat, one kak

dhanesh (Asian hornbill), two

red jungle fowls, one python

and one monkey -- from the

Sitesh Ranjan Dev, an ama-

outskirts in search of food.

The wild critters had been

in nature

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

reserve

Moulvibazar

Day Thursday.

locals.

UN summit vows to halve hunger, boost food output

AFP, Rome

A UN summit vowed Thursday to take "urgent" action over the global food crisis, but only after going into overtime at a fractious summit in

gathering -- which saw some 6.5 billion dollars (4.1 bln euros) notably over biofuels -- world wide-ranging plan to resolve it." leaders also agreed to boost food production in poor countries.

New York-based Human Rights | take urgent and coordinated action tackle some of the contributing Watch described the arrests as to combat the negative impacts of causes by ending compulsory soaring prices on the world's most biofuels targets and providing

The summit was an "important halve global hunger by 2015 and first step" but not sufficient to charity Oxfam said.

Oxfam Chief Executive Barbara tem," she said. Stocking said in a statement that In a final declaration at the while leaders of the world's richest countries had "acknowledged the importance of aid to agriculture", Franco Frattini calling it "disappledged, but which exposed strains the global food crisis needed "a pointing."

countries, they must provide more "We are convinced that the money to deal with the immediate international community needs to impact of the current crisis but also

vulnerable countries and popula- more long term aid for agriculture,"

"The current crisis illustrates by no later than 2015." starkly that what we need is not tackle the global food crisis, British business as usual but deep reform

> even before it was formally agreed, with Italian Foreign Minister

by the ANSA news agency.

Reaffirming a UN goal despite the most contentious points. the current crisis -- in which soaring prices have sparked famine and moted notably in Brazil and the food riots around the world -- the

summit vowed to cut "by half the number of undernourished people

"There is ... an urgent need to help developing countries and of the international trading sys- countries in transition expand agriculture and food production The declaration was criticised and to increase investment (from) both public and private sources," the statement added.

The declaration was finalised only after wrangling went down to The text was "unfortunately the wire at the Food and "As the world's most powerful very watered down with respect to Agriculture Organisation (FAO) the initial ambitions," he said, cited headquarters in Rome, with biofuels and trade barriers among

Biofuel development is pro-

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



Pakistan cricket team arrives at the VIP terminal of Zia International Airport in the capital yesterday to play in a threenation ODI tournament starting tomorrow.

Pak cricketers arrive

SPORTS REPORTER

Shoaib Malik-led Pakistan became the first team arrived in the capital yesterday to play the three-nation AFP, Colombo Kitply Cup.

Pakistan came here without two frontline bowlers in Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammed Asif, who is in detention in Dubai for allegedly carrying contraband substances.

The weeklong day-night tournament will kick off with the match between hosts Bangladesh and Pakistan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur tomorrow and on the same day, India arrive here.

After arriving late on Friday morning, the Pakistan side practised in the afternoon in Mirpur | people were injured and admitted | someone pulled me out," she told where captain Shoaib Malik to the nearby hospitals. attended an official press conferoutfield and a covered pitch following a spell of rain, which is the biggest threat for the tournament. Allrounder Shahid Afridi talked

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Tigers bomb Lankan buses: 23 killed

At least 23 people were killed and 67 wounded in Sri Lanka Friday in two Tamil Tiger bomb attacks on public buses packed with civilians, sion. officials said.

ling just south of Colombo was noise and the whole bus toppled to peppered with red-hot shrapnel the side," said 21-year-old office from a powerful fragmentation worker Shanika Priyadharshani mine placed on the roadside.

killed, eight of them are women, police spokesman Ranjith was black smoke, people were dead Gunasekera told AFP. At least 47 Hours later, the rebels set off a

and wounding 20. Police said they were holding a suspect in connection with the attack.

Military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara blamed the

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for both "cowardly attacks."

Survivors of the morning explosion said the bus was knocked sideways by the force of the explo-"I was standing in the middle of

A crowded state-run bus travel- the bus when there was a loud while being bandaged up in hospi-"Twenty-one people have been tal. +

"I blacked out for a while. There around me. I shouted for help and AFP. The defence ministry immedi-

ence prior to warm-up in the | bomb inside a bus in the central ately sealed off the area, although Mirpur venue. They found wet | district of Kandy, killing two people no arrests have been reported. Police did, however, discover and diffuse another Claymore-type mine near the scene of the blast.

Sri Lanka's President Mahinda

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Bogra AL man found dead 3 hours after abduction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A local leader of Awami League (AL) was found dead three hours after his abduction at Makor Khola village under Sherpur upazila on Thursday night.

Locals said a gang of miscreants picked up Abdul Majid, 35, joint secretary of Mirzapur Union AL, at gunpoint from Arishal area while he was returning home from Mirzapur Bazar in a rickshaw at around 8:00pm.

The rickshawpuller, Mokhles, said a gang of six tied Majid's legs and hands with ropes and took him to an area nearby.

Majid's body was found in a cropland at around 11:00 pm. On information, police rushed to the spot and recovered the body.

A murder case was filed with Sherpur Police Station. Sub-Inspector Ilias Ali, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, suspects the miscreants might have strangled Majid.

2 robbers beaten to death in Faridpur

UNB, Faridpur

Two robbers were beaten to death by the villagers at Naya Kanti village under Bhanga upazila of the district early yesterday.

Police and witnesses said a gang of about 16 robbers stormed into the house of Hatem Matabbar at the village at around 2:00am and looted Tk 50,000 in cash and gold

ornaments. The gang stabbed Hatem as he refused to help them enter the nearby houses of his brothers.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Prayer Timing		
June 7		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-45	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		

China keen to strengthen ties with S Asian states

He treated them for injuries The caged monkey and the fishing cat caught by locals in the last two months were released in Lawachhara Reserve Forest in Moulvibazar. The animals

REZAUL KARIM, back from China

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2 reportedly left the forest due to scarcity of food.

China is keen to develop economic and regional cooperation with the Saarc member countries on the tion. basis of five principles of peaceful for economic and social development of South Asian countries.

linked by mountains and rivers with a time-honoured history of friendly exchanges. We are eager to these countries and share developbuild an amicable, tranquil and ment experience with them for prosperous neighbourhood and common development, Yafei want to see a peaceful, stable and added. prosperous South Asia," said Chinese Assistant Minister of and electronic media from Foreign Affairs He Yafei.

Talking to a reporters' delegation from Saarc countries recently, he said China is also ready to continuously deepen friendly cooperative relations of long-term stabil-

ity and orientation towards the future with all South Asian countries based on the spirit of equality, mutual trust and win-win coopera-

He said the South Asian councoexistence and continue support tries are a very important part of the international system. China will continue to offer support and "China and South Asia are assistance with no political strings attached within its ability for economic and social development of

> Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka visited different places in China, including the Olympic venues in Beijing and Shanghai, at the invitation of the

This recent photo shows the excavated portion of a doorway to a room found 3-4 metres under the 1500-year-old

Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs during May 19-31.

The delegation travelled to Beijing, Shenzhen, Shanghai and Kunming and had a series of interactions with high government officials, Olympic officials, leading businessmen, economists and common people.

On Saarc-China relations, Yafei noted that China participated in the last Saarc summit as an observer and proposed projects, including training of diplomats, poverty alleviation and promoting trade with South Asian countries, Twenty-one journalists of print which were appreciated by the Saarc member states.

Yafei said that the volume of trade with the Saarc countries reached \$50 billion, registering a sharp increase by 45 percent. "We are looking for people-to-people SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

concerned at media control

Newsmen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sangbadik-Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad, an organisation of journalists and media employees, yesterday expressed grave concern over the 'chaotic and fearful state' stemming from the emergency

have broken all previous records,

Stating that although freedom of expression as guaranteed in our constitution is infringed by several other provisions, it said the imposition of the state of emergency has

Intact brick wall

rules in the country's media sector. Media controls in recent times

forcing journalists to perform their duties amid risks to uphold their professional dignity, the parishad leaders said in a press release following a meeting at the National Press Club.

denied that very right.

The situation is so grave that SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU,

from Bogra

PHOTO: STAR

Bihar dug out

beneath Vasu

In a major breakthrough, archaeologists dug out an intact brick wall built on a concrete floor beneath the 1500-year-old Vasu Bihar in Bogra that suggests there existed archaeological excellence even before the days of the monastery.

The new findings along with some other artefacts date back to the pre-Pal era, said Nahid Sultana. leader of a government archaeological excavation team.

"We think a university campus lie buried there. Maybe the Pala dynasty built the Vasu Bihar on the structure knowingly or unknowingly," she told The Daily Star yesterday. However, the team had to wrap

constraints in January putting more such discoveries into uncertainty. The team, which began its dig

up the excavation due to fund

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

HC MAKES INSTALLATION MANDATORY IN MARCH

Motor vehicle owners yet to be notified of speed limiters

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government is yet to notify the motor vehicle owners about the installation of speed limiters in their vehicles, which has been made mandatory by the High Court (HC) in March.

In a judgment dated March 10, the HC directed the authorities concerned to take steps to install "speed governor seals" in all modes of public by March 10, 2009 to control speed and reduce road accidents in the country.

The court also directed the government to publish a notification in newspapers asking all motor vehicle owners to install the to install the speed limiter in their

speed governor seal on their vehicles and saying they would be punished for failure.

intervener in the hearing of a suo moto rule, told The Daily Star yesterday that although about the judgment, the authorities have not yet published any notification asking vehicle owners to install speed limiters in their vehicles. In its judgment, the HC said at 48kmph.

selling and purchasing of motor vehicles without speed limiters would be declared illegal after vehicles. March 10, 2009.

If any motor vehicle owner fails

vehicles by that time, they will be fined Tk 200 for each day since expiry of the deadline and Tk 400 for

Advocate Manzill Murshed, an each day since the date of first fine. As per the eighth schedule of the Motor Vehicle Ordinance 1983, the maximum speed for light vehicles three months have passed since like private cars is set at 113km per hour (kmph), passenger vehicles like buses and minibuses at 56kmph, heavy vehicles like lorries at 40kmph and fire brigade vehicles

> Advocate Manzill said the traffic police would monitor the speed of

A minibus knocked down Sadia Afrin Suchi, a first year student of SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

The Daily Star

Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus

Linking Young Minds Together

The Daily Star offers campus based weekly magazine 'Star Campus' - the ultimate magazine for the young generation - a common platform for the college and university students and academicians - to share their ideas, thoughts, dreams, opinions and views.

Star Campus is an endeavour to bring into the center stage the visionary aspects of our college and university students, alongside their lifestyle, cultural trends and their multidimensional talents.

Star Campus is a magazine broadly based on campus life! It contains articles, academic news, achievements, travelogues, interviews, book reviews, quiz, milestones, academic tips, profiles of educational institutes, cultural and extra-curricular activities in campus, jokes, cartoons, photographs and much more. This is a magazine Of the Students, By the Students and For the Students. Star Campus helps link young minds together.



