

Farmers agitate for power, fertiliser

Highway blocked for hours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Hundreds of vehicles, including that of a state minister, were stuck for hours along the Dhaka-Rangpur-Dinajpur Highway yesterday as the farmers agitating for power and fertiliser put barricades on the road.

Sources said, at least 5,000 farmers of Dinajpur Sadar upazila brought out a procession in the morning demanding power and fertiliser.

Later the procession marched towards the Bankali Palli Bidyut Samity under the third Fazlipur village sub-power grid and laid

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

JS body asks Desa to revoke Tk 10cr incentive bonus

Authorities gave false systems loss account to claim money

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Irked by financial irregularities and mismanagement in Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (Desa), the Public Accounts Committee (Pac) of the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday asked the authorities to recover Tk10 crore given to Desa officials as incentive bonus against cooked-up figures of systems loss.

The parliamentary body also asked Desa authorities to initiate punitive actions against the persons responsible for providing the incentive bonus, suppressing the actual situation in the organisation.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

JMB chief won't seek bail from 'worldly' court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) chief Abdur Rahman said he would not seek bail from a 'worldly' court when he was produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) court in Dhaka yesterday.

The JMB chief said it when the magistrate asked him whether he wished to appoint a lawyer or seek bail during the hearing on the remand petition in connection with an August 17 blast case.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police accompanied by the members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) took Rahman to the CMM court amid tight security on expiry of his 10-day remand in the case

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

TAX EVASION NBR targets 200 big businessmen

JASIM UDDIN KHAN

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) launches a drive next month to ascertain the actual income and expenditure of 200 businessmen under its large taxpayers' unit (LTU).

The decision was taken recently as the NBR found directors of different companies had evaded income tax by hiding the particulars of their lifestyle as required by the NBR.

The tax officials say there are mismatches between the directors' actual electricity, land phone and cellphone bills and the amount they show in the prescribed form.

The NBR will soon issue letters to different government and private utility service providers to lend support to the tax officials in this regard, sources said.

"We will give emphasis on examining their utility bills, specially electricity, land and mobile phone bills during the drive," a high official of the NBR said.

"If we find gross mismatches between the bills and the amounts declared by the directors, we will then investigate their bank statements," the official said.

The taxmen will primarily target 200 out of the 700 directors under the LTU. The remaining directors will also be brought under the drive if the NBR finds it necessary.

The tax officials are hopeful of collecting around Tk 20 crore additional income tax from the directors by conducting the special drive.

Another NBR official said the taxpayers under the LTU usually keep the lifestyle form empty or

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

NEW MOORING TERMINAL Mohiuddin sends letter to PM with recommendations

UNB, Ctg

Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury yesterday sent a letter to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia protesting the government's decision to hand over management of New Mooring Container Terminal to the private sector.

In the letter, he also submitted a 10-point recommendation, stating that a 'particular quarter' termed

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



Mashrafe bin Mortaza bowls out Kenyan batsman JK Kamande in the third one day international at Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Kenya lost in Rafique maze

Tigers clinch series

SPORTS REPORTER

A wily Mohammad Rafique claimed his first five-wicket haul in one-day internationals as Bangladesh pulled off a thrilling 20-run victory against Kenya at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The victory in the third game at the fourth purpose-built cricket venue of the country gave Bangladesh a decisive 3-0 lead in

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

Govt denies allowing transit to India

Says foreign secretary, terms PM's visit a great success

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday denied allowing transit to India during Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's just-concluded visit and termed the visit a great success.

"We did not allow transit to India, rather renewed the agreement for transporting Indian goods through river routes," said Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin responding to a question at a press conference in Dhaka.

On a question about the revised trade agreement signed during the visit, the foreign secretary said this was also nothing new as the accord

has been effective since 1972.

The visit is a turning point for strengthening bilateral relations and restoring confidence, Hemayetuddin said briefing newsmen about the outcome of the visit by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to New Delhi on March 20-22.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Sonia quits Lok Sabha over controversy



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Congress party President Sonia Gandhi yesterday resigned from Lok Sabha in the wake of a political storm on the issue of the government's move to promulgate a controversial ordinance on redefining the office of profit.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

JHALAKATHI JUDGES KILLING Rahman, Bangla Bhai, chargesheeted

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday pressed charges against nine top JMB leaders including its supremo Abdur Rahman and second-in-command Siddiquil Islam alias Bangla Bhai for killing two judges in Jhalakathi on November 14 last year.

Meantime, the Taskforce for Interrogation (TFI) is now quizzing

Bangla Bhai about the source of funds and explosives, and whereabouts of the JMB cadres still evading arrest.

Sources said apart from gleaning information on those points from the JMB operations commander, the interrogators are verifying the information in this regard earlier given by other top

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Shanta accusers traceless

She is now implicated in arson, gets bail in 3 cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The persons who filed two cases against Shahin Sultana Shanta, victim of March 12 police brutality during a 14-party protest programme, used false addresses for their houses, which has triggered suspicion that the cases were filed to harass Shanta and her family members.

No one named Firoz Mia or Daud Mia was found at 79/1 Kalyanpur and 1/5 Satmasjid Road, the addresses mentioned in the complaints filed on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, one Jasim Uddin Molla, a bus-driver, filed a third case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) court accusing Shanta of taking part in setting a passenger bus ablaze during the 14-party protest programme on March 12.

Shanta alleged that the police raided the houses of the witnesses of the cases filed by her and picked a witness named Zakir.

Shanta along with her lawyer husband Advocate Atiur Rahman yesterday appeared before the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

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