



REGD, NO. DA 781

VOL. XV NO. 104

DHAKA WEDNESDAY MAY 4, 2005

People's Right to Know

BAISHAKH 21, 1412 BS

RABIUL AWAL 24, 1426 HIJRI .

Will seek records of departmental cases

ACC to probe actions

against corrupt officials

20 PAGES PRICE: TK 7.00

# Tall talks but no action to check land grabbing

SHAKHAWAT LITON

In one and a half years since identifying land grabbing as a national concern the government has not initiated any drive but on paper only to recover at least 20 lakh acres of

In October 2003, a meeting of secretaries chaired by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia identified land grabbing as a major issue of concern and formed a secretarial committee to address it. The committee came up with a comprehensive report in three months in which it made a set of recommendations, including

sterner penalty to stem land grab-

But nothing concrete has happened since then; the administration has just been sitting on the recommendations. And, while the government failed to act out its own agenda, grabbers continued gobbling up forest and Khas land and Waqf and vested property across the

It also appears the government even knows not exactly how much land and property it owns or wards. It also has no specific figures on how much of that land and property it

legal amendments to provide for actually controls and how much it cies makes it difficult for the land has lost to grabbers, encroachers

A persistent lack of co-ordination among the government, municipal and other organisations and agenministry to detect and recover the grabbed lands, officials said.

However, the scattered data available with various government

#### CONFUSION OVER GRABBED LAND

- Govt says 4.45 lakh-acre vested property gobbled up
- Study says grabbers occupy 90pc of 21 lakh-acre vested property
- No tough action against grabbing since 2004
- DCs blame ruling coalition men for encroachment

**INSURGENT GROUPS** 

#### Indian defence report criticises Dhaka

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The Indian defence ministry in its annual report has accused Bangladesh of "being insensitive and unresponsive to the presence of Indian insurgent groups from the northeast and the ISI on its soil illegal immigration and criminalisation of the border".

The report says there has still been no explanation for the large cache of arms and ammunition bound for the northeastern India and detected in Chittagong in April

ferent" to the rising influence of political parties and organisations of "fundamentalist and radical SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Bangladesh has remained "indif-

The anti-graft watchdog observed that many government

against govt staff

(ACC) will probe corruption of

government officials getting away

with minor punishment on the

The Commission will call for

actions had been taken against

pretext of departmental action.

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

officials got away with minor punishment for big corruption, accord-

The Anti-Corruption Commission ing to Commission sources. 'In many cases, respective departments withhold two increments or stop promotion or suspend (officials) for a few months although the officials indulge in huge corruption for which they records of departmental cases filed against government officials on should face criminals charges," an ACC official told The Daily Star graft charges to see if adequate

> yesterday, seeking anonymity. The minor punishment that their departments slap on them allows them to ultimately avert criminal

The Commission has decided to send letters to all the ministries, departments, directorates, offices and autonomous organisations for sending records and documents of departmental cases filed against their officers and employees.

"We'll ask the government for these," Commission's Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan said vesterday, acknowledging their

"We are discussing whether we SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

#### Morshed phones Natwar, discusses summit dates

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday telephoned his counterparts in New Delhi and Islamabad to discuss the dates for holding the stalled Saarc summit in Dhaka.

Khan has proposed two sets of dates, September 4-5 or November 13-14, for holding the 13th summit, which was postponed twice.

Diplomatic sources told the private news agency that in his teletalk with Indian External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh, Khan said Dhaka sent the proposed dates to Islamabad, the current chair of the Saarc, for securing confirmation of the member states.

Singh assured Khan that he would confirm the dates in a day or

The two foreign ministers agreed to resolve all bilateral issues through dialogue. They also agreed to take necessary steps to keep the border

This is the second direct contact between the two foreign ministers after their meeting in Jakarta on the sidelines of Afro-Asian Summit last

Khan has also invited Singh to visit Dhaka, preferably before the Saarc summit, and a formal invitation was sent to him vesterday | concealing information on corrup-

### Media doesn't taint US Asst Secy image, rather helps better governance

Observes World Press Freedom Day seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Media plays a vital role in improving the governance system instead of "damaging" the country's image, speakers at a seminar in Dhaka observed yesterday.

"It is the government's wrong activities rather than writing about the social irregularities that damage the country's image," said noted jurist and constitution expert Dr Kamal Hossain.

He was speaking at the inaugural session of the seminar co-organised by the South Asia Free Media Association (Safma) and the Massline Media Centre (MMC) to mark the World Press Freedom Day-2005 in the LGED auditorium.

Dr Kamal, also the president of Gono Forum, said it is the duty of the media to point out the irregularities in society in order to make the government aware of those. He also said SEE PAGE 15 COL 3 | tion and criminal activities would

Let your money work for you

or dial 9554514, 9571006-10, 011830552, 0171564920

Dhaka Bank Special Deposit Scheme

RELAX

rather constitute a false image of the

Referring to the recent remarks by some ministers on media's role, he said, "The image of the country would automatically brighten if you follow the constitution in running the state affairs and check corrup-

Dr Kamal said freedom of the press and independence of the judiciary are complementary to each other. He demanded punishment of the criminals for the killings of journalists in recent years.

Noted journalist ABM Musa observed that journalism is now facing multifarious problems that are difficult to overcome. "With a few exceptions, by and large some big business houses are now controlling the media which has repressed the freedom of journalists," he noted.

Eminent educationist Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury said there SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

### Rocca due on May 11

US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Christina Rocca is expected to arrive in Dhaka on

May 11 on a two-day visit.

Rocca will hold meetings with
Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan and other high officials of the for-eign ministry on May 11. She will call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on

Diplomatic sources said Dhaka and Washington will review the entire gamut of bilateral relations during the official talks. Regional and Middle East issues will also come up for discussion, they added.

Rocca's visit will be the first highlevel tour from America after President Bush was inaugurated for a second term in the White House. She had come to Dhaka months before the US presidential election last year

### Outlaws kill cop, police source

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia** 

Underground operatives killed a police constable and a police informant in separate incidents in Chuadanga Monday night.

Ali 42, a constable at Koira Police Station in Khulna and Safauyat Laskar, 32, of village Jadabpur of Sadar upazila in Chuadanga

Ishak who came to his home at Santipara of Sadar upazila in Chuadanga on Monday noon, was killed at village Binnadi on the night.

As Ishak reached Binnadi field on the way to his father-in-law's house, the gang stopped him. They slaughtered him with a sharp knife and threw his body into a roadside ditch,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

### gets 3-month imprisonment

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court has sentenced the managing director (MD) of Hirajheel Property Development (Pvt) Company Ltd to three months' jail for violating its order.

Judge Mohammad Rezaul Karim of the Court of Third Joint District Judge on Monday handed down the verdict at a packed courtroom following a case filed by Fatema Rahman and five others for violating the court order that asked the real estate firm to maintain status quo regarding the sale of a piece of land. The court also ordered the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

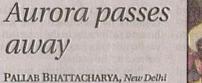
#### Hazari plans to surrender in a month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

the country and surrender in the court within a month, he said in a statement faxed yesterday to news-

paper offices. Hazari termed the party decision to expel him an outcome of a con-

former AL lawmaker, who has been SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



away

Indian army legend Lt Gen Jagjit Singh Aurora, who oversaw the surrender of about 93,000 Pakistani troops in Dhaka in 1971, died in New Delhi yesterday at 89. Aurora, who had been ailing for

sometime, died of heart failure in sleep at a private hospital. Born on February 13, 1917 in Kalagujran village of Jhelum district, now in Pakistan, Aurora was com-

missioned into the Indian Army in the first battalion of the 2nd Punjab Regiment in 1939. His participating in action came during the World War II in Burma. In

the 1948 Kashmir operations, he led the same battalion in Pir Kalewa region of Rajouri district. Later, he SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Lt Gen Jagjit Singh Aurora, left, then chief of Bangladesh-India joint command, looks on as Lt Gen AAK Niazi, commander of Pakistan occupation forces, signs the surrender treaty on December 16, 1971 at Race Course, Dhaka.

#### Bangladesh loses a friend

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

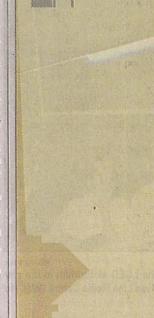
With the demise of Lt Gen Jagjit Singh Aurora, Bangladesh has lost a friend who was closely linked to its independence, leading Liberation War commanders yesterday said fondly recalling the memories of his contribution in the war.

"He was a great friend of Bangladesh and sincerely played his role during its Liberation War," said AK Khondoker, then deputy chief of staff of Bangladesh Armed Forces. AK Khondoker represented

Bangladesh Mukti Bahinee (liberation forces) when Gen Aurora, chief of Bangladesh-India joint command, signed Pakistan's surrender treaty at the Race Course in Dhaka on December 16, 1971.

Since my acquaintance with SEE PAGE 15 COL 7-

BERGER



## **ORDER VIOLATION** Real estate MD

Expelled Awami League leader Joynal Hazari wants to come back to

spiracy against him. He however said he would welcome the decision if it brings in good for the party.

Create. Be eminent. In association with the Institute of Architects Bangladesh 2nd Berger Young Architects' Award 2005 Award 2005 In association with IAB Categories of Competition: Any architectural project in Bangladesh. The Awards: Best three Entries selected as best by the jury will be awarded a prize money of Tk. 50, 000 (Fifty thousand), a crest and a certificate. Eligibility: Any member of the Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB), age maximum 40 (forty) years on June 30, 2005 or below, is eligible to participate. Documentary evidence like passport/ birth certificate issued by the municipal authority/ academic certificate/ driving license (attested photocopy) should be

submitted as proof of age. **Submission Requirements:** 

Forms are available at IAB office). Each entry shall comprise not more than 4 (four) A2 size sheets.

Each entry shall include the project related drawings (Plan, Elevation, Section, Details), information and photographs.

Each entry must be accompanied by the prescribed Entry Form given by Berger (Entry

Each participant may submit more than one project.

Interested architects are requested to submit their entries by June 30, 2005 (Between 2pm and 8 pm) to:

**Award-Coordinator** 

Berger Young Architects' Award C/o- Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB) House # 11, Road # 4, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh

In the four-page statement, the

www.dhakabankitd.com

Income Unlimited