#### Sister sues cops for 'murdering' 2 brothers STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A woman yesterday filed a case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court (CMM) against seven policemen and their informer accusing of torturing her two younger brothers to death for failing to pay a bribe of Tk1lakh.

Fatema Begum of West Mekot Road under Khulna Police Station (PS) accused Sub-inspectors (SI) Anisur Rahman, Ranjit Kumar Das and Shah Alam. assistant SIs Habibur Rahman and Shamim-ar-Rashid. constables Mohammad SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

#### WHEAT SCAM Probe team finds importer. agent, customs staff guilty STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A three-member customs inquiry committee in its investigation found the importer, the shipping agent and some customs officials guilty of secretly unloading over 10,000metric tonnes (MT) of imported wheat from a ship and selling it to local markets without paying customs duty.

Sources in customs believed that the shipping agent and the importer are equally responsible for the SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

# No Ulfa in Bangladesh

#### Police HQ says STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police Headquarters yesterday claimed there is no existence of the United Liberation Front of Assam

(Ulfa) in Bangladesh. metre long bridge at Maoa-Jajera "There is no Ulfa insurgent in point, costing around \$1.35 billion, Bangladesh," Addition Inspector will be the biggest ever project in the General of Police Anwarul Iqbal said country and contribute to better a press briefing, 10 days after a top communications of the southern official of India's Border Security and western parts of the country Force (BSF) claimed that Ulfa runs with the capital, Dhaka. seven hotels and operates three

bank accounts in Bangladesh. response from the donors for the Asked about Ulfa's alleged project and we want to start land involvement in smuggling of a huge acquisition from this month so that the project could be started earlier SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

# No move yet for fresh voter list, EC reforms

CEC to talk with political parties to build confidence

Sources said the EC is still

The EC meeting yesterday directed

The meeting, chaired by the CEC,

reviewed the situation in Narsingdi

following Saturday's killing of a BNP

supporter and asked the law enforcers

and implemented expeditiously,"

scheduled to start in October 2008

and finish in 2013.

pany.

The construction of the bridge is

The World Bank and other multi

national donor agencies will sit very

soon to mobilise the fund for the

project, the minister said, adding

that the government is also contem-

plating collecting money from share

markets through forming a com-

was submitted to the planning

ministry, and the Economic

Relations Division is negotiating

with the bilateral and multilateral

donors for funding the project, the

meeting said, adding that Asian

Development Bank and Japan Bank

of International Cooperation already

The project concept paper (PCP)

the communications minister said.

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) has undecided whether it will move with not yet taken any move to prepare a the six-point reform proposal subfresh voter list for the next parliamitted to the president by MA Syed, mentary election and reform the the immediate past CEC. electoral rules as demanded by the **TIGHT SECURITY FOR** mainstream opposition parties. NARSINGDI BY-POLLS

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MAAziz however said yesterday the commission will discuss the issues soon and take decisions.

The CEC also said he will hold dialogue with the political parties to build confidence as the mainstream opposition parties have rejected his appointment.

Talking to reporters after a meeting on law and order ahead of Narsingdi-1 by-polls, he said the EC will start demarcating constituencies after getting the latest census report. On the Narsingdi-1 by-election slated for June 22, Aziz said the EC is

PADMA BRIDGE

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Preparatory physical work, includ-

ing land acquisition, for constructing

the longest bridge in the country

over the Padma river will start this

month, Communications Minister

Nazmul Huda said after a high level

Construction of the 5.58 kilo-

"We have got a positive

meeting at his ministry yesterday.

this month

taking all necessary measures to The meeting decided that army hold the polls in a free and fair manpersonnel will be deployed on June

Narsingdi by-polls

21, a day before the polling, in addition to a huge contingent of the police. BDR and ansars

"All necessity steps should be taken to conduct the polls in a free and fair manner," the CEC told the meeting attended by top officials of law enforcement agencies.

Meeting sources said Election Commissioner AK Mohammad Ali expressed doubt about free and fair polls unless law and order situation improve.

MAAziz declined to comment on the writ petition filed on Saturday with the High Court challenging the validity of holding two constitutional offices by him of a judge of the Supreme Court and the CEC.

"The matter is sub judice and let it be disposed of in the high court," he told reporters



This busy road at Bijoynagar in the capital dug up by Dhaka Wasa exposes vehicles and passers-by to the risk of accident.

### NARSINGDI BY-POLLS HC rejects stay plea

The High Court (HC) yesterday rejected a writ petition, which sough a stay on holding the June 22 parlia mentary by-election to Narsingdi-1. The HC bench of Justices Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman and Mainul Islam Chowdhury passed the order after Ferdous-ur Rahman.

whose nomination paper for the byelection was rejected, filed the SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

PM to meet Nepal king, Qatar emir in Doha BSS. Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan esterday said Nepal has asked

# 2-km crack in Jessore village creates panic

villagers said

#### **OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore**

Panic has gripped several thousand people in Dalennagar and Andalpota villages in Jessore sadar upazila as a crack has developed on the earth surface of the area stretching about two kilometres

The crack is up to two feet wide and 10-14 feet deep at places, villagers told this correspondent yesterday. The area is about 20 kilometres off the district town They said the stretch of the crack is increasing

A nor'wester blew over the area Monday evening when houses shook, possibly due to a tremor, the

# Listed criminal killed in "crossfire" with police

killed in a "crossfire" between police and his accomplices in Rangunia upazila under the district early , yesterday.

Detective Branch police led by Additional Police Super Jahangi Hossain Matubber arrested Md Salim alias "Karate Salim", 34 along with his three accomplices from a hotel in the city's Chawk Bazar area on Saturday night police said

During interrogation, Salim conrobbers in different areas of the district. Police went out to search for

the area yesterday. He told the villagers that he will inform authorities concerned in Dhaka about the incident and ask to send a team of seismologists to investigate the matter.

The next morning they saw the

People offered special prayers

as they thought it was a sign of a

Ainal Haq, headmaster of

local government primary school,

said many panicked villagers are

Jessore Deputy Commissioner

Mohammad Abdul Wazed visited

long chasm on the earth surface.

powerful tremor yet to come.

thinking leaving homes.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg A listed criminal of the district was

fessed of possessing more than 30 illegal firearms that he rented out to

illegal firearms taking Salim with them at a hideout of criminals in Maiumderkhil under the upazila at around 3.30am



declaration from Tokyo about Japan's contribution for the project during Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's upcoming visit next month.

The meeting also decided to conduct an economic and environmental survey on the project sites and to make a video record of the existing land condition so that the unscrupulous people can not take advantage of the government's land acquisition

A separate division for the Padma bridge headed by a secretary will also be set up under the Ministry of Communications for quick implementation of the project. Last month, the Japan SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

to take adequate measures to avoid such incidents ahead of the polls. A supporter of BNP was chopped and shot dead by miscreants at Karimoani in Narsingdi Sadar upazila Saturday night.

the law enforcement agencies to take tight security measures to ensure peaceful atmosphere in the **CEC DECLINES TO** COMMENT



### Arman taken on remand again

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday remanded Arman, one of the 23 top police listed criminals, in police custody for another seven days in a murder case on completion of his sevenday remand in an arms case.

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), while seeking the fresh remand, told the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka that Arman has divulged important information on the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally and on Malibagh killings on February 13, 2001.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Abdur Rouf of Rab-4, the investigation officer (IO) SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

# US air strikes kill 40 insurgents in Iraq

three weeks ago.

#### REUTERS, AFP, Baghdad

US air strikes killed an estimated 40 insurgents in western Iraq on Saturday, the military said, but in Baghdad a suicide bomber attacked the headquarters of an elite police unit, killing three.

Seven precision-guided US air strikes on the outskirts of the town of Karabilah killed the insurgents who were stopping vehicles at gunpoint and threatening Iraqi civilians, said a US military statement.

The strikes came Saturday, after at least 43 people were killed in attacks in Iraq over the past 24 hours as a spate of bomb attacks shattered a relative calm in Baghdad since US and Iraqi forces Wolf Brigade in Baghdad, Major General Mohammed Qureishi, killing launched a sweep for insurgents three other policemen in the attempt, the Interior Minister said.

The motive was unclear but the

In an Internet claim of responsi-

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

men and women.'

The military said there were no US casualties when Marines engaged large groups of insurgents mainly Shia Muslim force has been armed with rocket-propelled great the centre of controversy about nades, machine guns and AK-47 aggressive methods and accusaassault rifles. tions of a sectarian "dirty war" on minority Sunnis.

The US military said there were no reports of civilian casualties. It was not immediately possible to confirm the insurgent casualty figures independently.

While US forces struck guerrillas in their heartland of Anbar province, a former Iraqi police commando blew himself up in a failed bid to assassinate the leader of the anti-insurgent

Bangladesh to hold a meeting between King Gyanendra and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in Qatar on the sidelines of the Second South. Morshed said Gyanendra and

Khaleda would have the opportunity to discuss bilateral and regional SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## BSF beats up Bangladeshi to death

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia** 

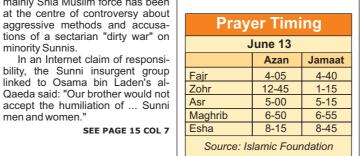
Border Security Force (BSF) beat up to death a Bangladeshi youth in Sonapur village in Mujibnagar upazila, Meherpur in the early hours yesterday. Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sources said the BSF held Faruk Hossain, 18, son of Raju Ahmed of Sonapur, when he was crossing the Hridoypur border point in India at about 2:00am. The BSF severely beat Faruk up and left him dead near the pillar No.

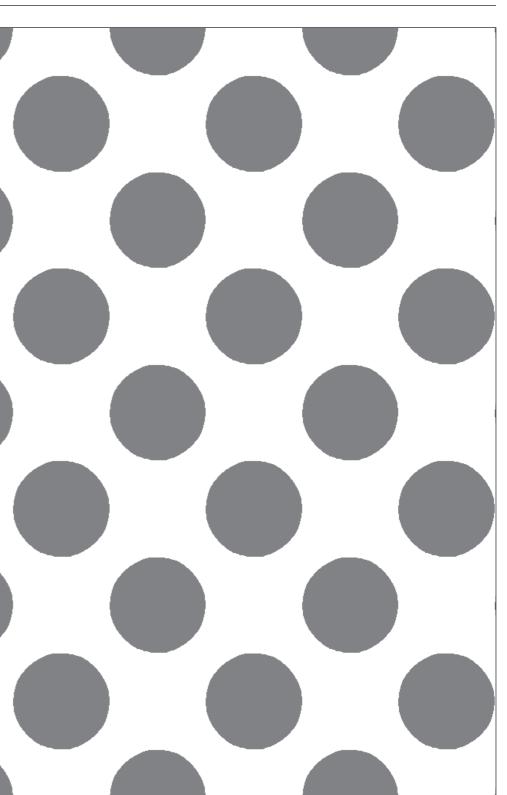
SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

### One gets 30yr for trafficking boy as jockey COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a man to 30 years' of rigorous imprisonment for trafficking an eight-year-old boy to Dubai as a camel jockey in 2000.

Judge Shamsul Arefin of the Fifth Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka handed down the verdict in SEE PAGE 15 COL 6





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