

# 6 GIs killed in Iraq attacks

**AP, AFP, Baghdad**

A roadside bomb attack killed five US Marines and gunfire killed an American sailor in a western Iraqi town, the US military and Iraqi officials said yesterday, as an upsurge in rebel violence battered American forces.

The Marines died Wednesday after their vehicle was attacked near Ramadi, 115km west of Baghdad, the military said. Officials in Ramadi had reported a roadside bomb blast in the pre-dawn hours.

A sailor attached to the Marines' unit, the 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, was also killed Wednesday in Ramadi by gunfire, the military said.

The six US deaths raised Wednesday's toll from insurgent attacks to 58 killed, making it the deadliest day of violence in more than a month.

At least 1,714 US military mem-

bers have died since the war began in 2003, according to an AP count.

Eight policemen were killed and 25 wounded in a suicide car bombing targeting Iraqi security forces in Baghdad yesterday, an interior ministry source said.

"Eight public order brigade members were killed and 25 wounded when a suicide car bomber targeted their convoy on the airport road," he said, adding that the mid-afternoon attack destroyed five vehicles in the convoy.

Meanwhile, a judge and his bodyguard were killed last morning in an eastern Mosul neighbourhood where many residents support the now-banned Baath Party of toppled President Saddam Hussein, officials said.

Six masked gunmen in two cars blocked the road and sprayed the judge's car with machine-gun fire, said Mosul court Judge Abdul

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

# Seven cops held, BDR men flee after robbery

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia**

Meherpur police yesterday arrested seven law enforcement personnel including an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) for their alleged involvement in a robbery.

According to a police source, a joint forces team of 12 from the Elongi police outpost, led by SI Khorshed Alam and ASI Altaf Hossain, went to the house of Idris Ali, a cattle trader, at Bamundi village in Gangni upazila in the district at about midnight Wednesday.

The family members of Idris said the police claimed that they had information about arms caches in Idris' house. The police team confined all the family members into a room and started searching the house.

According to Idris, the police

team looted Tk 26,000 in cash, which he had got selling two cows on Wednesday, and ornaments worth about Tk 30,000 during the search.

The law enforcers warned Idris not to disclose the matter, otherwise he would be implicated in a criminal case, Idris said.

The family members cried out for help when the team was leaving. Hearing their cry, the neighbours came out quickly and surrounded the police team.

Five members of the team, including SI Khorshed, however, managed to escape.

The villagers kept the seven confined to Bamundi Primary School. They also gave them a good beating, sources said.

Informed of the incident,

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

# AUGUST 21 CARNAGE Court orders arrestee's foolproof security

**COURT CORRESPONDENT**

A Dhaka court yesterday directed the investigation officer (IO) of the August 21 grenade attack case to take maximum security measures for George Mian during his second phase remand.

Metropolitan Magistrate Shafiqul Islam gave the order after granting the IO to take George into another seven-day remand.

Earlier, IO Abdur Rashid, assistant superintendent of police (CID),

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

# Ctg chamber faxes PM to end outage

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) president in an emergency fax to the prime minister yesterday expressed grave concern at erratic power supply in the port city, seeking immediate action in resolving the crisis.

"Production at industries and factories and trading in Chittagong have been disrupted seriously, while people are suffering unbearably due to unprecedented load shedding," Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed said in the fax.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

# Aftab revives Bangladesh

**AL-AMIN from London**

A 76-run seventh wicket stand between Aftab Ahmed and Mohammad Rafique lifted Bangladesh from a hopeless position to a modest 190 against England in the rain interrupted first one-day international of the NatWest Series at The Oval yesterday.

Aftab struck a superb 51 and entertained the capacity crowd with four spectacular boundaries and two magnificent sixes after an all too familiar top-order collapse saw the visitors struggling at 76-6 with the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7



Outgoing US Ambassador Harry K Thomas makes a farewell call on Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at her party office in Dhanmondi yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Citigroup, UNCDF launch award for microentrepreneurs

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Citigroup Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Citibank NY, and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) will award microentrepreneurs and microfinance institutions in four categories for their outstanding performance in Bangladesh.

The Global Micro-entrepreneurship Awards (GMA), first of its kind in Bangladesh, are the Best Micro-finance Institute of the Year, Most Innovative Business of the Year, Best Woman Micro-entrepreneur of the Year and Best Micro-entrepreneur of the Year.

The winner of the Best Micro-finance Institute of the Year will receive \$2,000 in prize money, while the recipients of the three other awards will get \$1,500 each.

Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed, chairperson of the GMA Advisory Council, yesterday announced this while launching the GMA programme at a press conference at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel in the capital.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

Managing Director of Palli Karma Shahayak Foundation Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed speaks at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday on Citigroup's Global Microentrepreneurship Awards. Former advisors of caretaker government Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, right, and Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, second right, and former Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr M Farashuddin Ahmed, left, are also seen.

# MPs sceptic about poverty-cut target

**Stress checking corruption, bettering education level**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Lawmakers from both the ruling and opposition parties at a workshop yesterday viewed that the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of reducing poverty by 50 percent by 2015 will not be achieved under the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) without ensuring quality education, curbing corruption, checking population growth and creating employment opportunities for people.

They also underscored that no such programmes like the PRSP will be able to alleviate poverty unless the public representatives are involved in addressing problems of their respective constituencies.

Speaking at the workshop on "Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper

# Iran elections go down to the wire today

**AFP, Tehran**

Iranians vote today in the tightest presidential election in the Islamic republic's history, with conservative frontrunner Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani facing a tough twin challenge from pro-reform and hardline candidates.

A former president and long considered a sure-fire winner, Rafsanjani was expected to be forced into an unprecedented second round run-off with either reformist doctor Mostafa Moin or

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Prayer Timing		
June 17		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

