

### DCs asked to recover lands from grabbers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Minister for Environment and Forest Tariqul Islam has directed the deputy commissioners (DCs) to take initiative for recovering the government land occupied by grabbers.

Addressing the DCs Conference 2006 at the Secretariat yesterday, he asked the DCs to reclaim the lands from the grabbers irrespective of their identities.

Initiative for legal action against the land grabbers, most of who are millionaire, does not work as they manage to obtain stay orders from the court, some DCs told the minister, adding that often the high-ups

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

### BANGLA BHAI CASES

## Babar irked by slow progress

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar yesterday expressed dissatisfaction over the slow progress of three cases filed in Mymensingh after JMB linchpin Siddiqui Islam Bangla Bhai's capture.

Speaking at a meeting that reviewed the progress of cases filed in connection with militant attacks

across the country, Babar also said the progress of the cases filed for suicide bomb attacks in Gazipur is not satisfactory.

The minister asked the additional inspector general of police and Gazipur superintendent of police to iron out the problems and expedite the cases.

The meeting, attended by secretaries of the home and law ministries, inspector general of police,

director general of Rapid Action Battalion, SPs of different districts and public prosecutors, also asked the investigators to conduct with caution the investigation of the cases filed against Rahman in Sylhet.

Attaching priority on the cases filed for militant attacks that claimed lives, Babar said investigation should be done in a way that

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

### OWNERS' STRIKE

## 500 trucks stuck on Dinajpur highway

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A 48-hour strike by Dinajpur Truck Owners Association, which started yesterday, stranded at least 500 goods laden trucks from different districts on the Dinajpur highway.

Outgoing and incoming trucks and oil tankers at Thakurgaon and Panchagarh were also stranded due to the strike.

Dinajpur Tank-lorry Owners

Association also went into a 48-hour strike from yesterday expressing solidarity with the truck owners protesting rampant hijacking of rice laden trucks and killings of at least two persons in Dinajpur in the last eleven days.

Due to the strike at least 500 trucks loaded with various commodities including oil tankers were stranded on the side of the highway.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

### AFC CHALLENGE CUP

## Bangladesh in quarterfinals

SPORTS REPORTER

Two late goals by midfielder Abul Hossain saw Bangladesh scratch a face saving 3-0 win over world's lowest ranked team Guam in their second match of the AFC Challenge Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Monday.

The win meant that Bangladesh joined Palestine in the quarterfinals from Group C with maximum six

points. After a frustrating first half, which ended goalless, Emily opened the scoring in the 49th minute while Abul, who had spoiled a sitter in first-half stoppage time, added his brace in the 83 and 85 minutes.

A drizzle before the match cooled the weather but Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

### Islamist group threatens to foil charity concert

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Tension is running high in Sylhet city over an Islamic group's threat to foil a charity concert at Sylhet Stadium at 3:00pm today.

Anjumane Talamije Islamia vowed to lay a siege to the venue to thwart the concert meant for raising

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## Iran test-fires underwater missile

AFP, Tehran

Iran successfully test-fired on Sunday a new high-speed underwater missile capable of destroying huge warships and submarines, a top military commander announced.

"Today we have successfully test-fired a high-speed underwater missile with a speed of 100 meters per second, which is able to overcome the enemy's sonar and radar," Rear Admiral Ali Fadavi, the deputy commander of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards naval force, told state television.

Fadavi claimed the underwater missile was the fastest in the world,

with the exception of a missile developed in another country. He did not provide the other nation's name.

The commander said that even if the missile is detected by a ship's defence systems, "with its high speed, the warships and submarines cannot escape it."

He touted the missile's capabilities.

"Its powerful warhead is capable of destroying large warships and submarines, and the missile itself can be launched from any launching pad," he said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

### New US envoy arrives in city

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

New US ambassador to Bangladesh Patricia A Butenis arrived here yesterday morning to take up her new diplomatic assignment.

She was sworn in on March 17 after being confirmed by the US Senate as ambassador to Bangladesh on February 16.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

### Court dismisses case against IGP

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday dismissed three criminal cases filed by Jubo Mahila League on March 21 against the inspector general of police (IGP) and 14 police officials due to lack of government approbation.

Metropolitan Magistrate Syed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

Children head for school with umbrellas during the season's first shower in Dhaka yesterday morning. The light rain came much to the relief of city dwellers after a long dry spell and heatwave.

### METRO RAIL

## Local firm forms consortium with Sena Kalyan for logistic support

RAFIQ HASAN

Local firm Contech Ltd, the pre-qualified bidder for construction of a 52-kilometre metro rail system in Dhaka city, formed a consortium with Bangladesh Sena Kalyan Sangstha for logistic support.

The consortium was formed with the Sangstha to facilitate financial matters, security, high quality operation and proper maintenance of the system during the entire BOT (built, operate and transfer) period, said Contech Managing Director engineer Masud Reza.

The consortium has been formed after approval from the army headquarters, a high official of the Sangstha said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Prayer Timing		
April 4		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-40	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-21	6-24
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation