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Satellite in space by 2013

Targets telecoms minister

UNB, Dhaka Post and Telecommunications Minister Razi Uddin Ahmed Raju yesterday said Bangladesh will launch satellite into space by 2013 for development of the country's telecommu-

nications sector. "The homemade laptop computer worth Tk 15,000 will be available by June next," he said at a seminar at Mirpur cantonment in the capital in the afternoon.

Military Institute of **SEE PAGE 7 COL 5**

CASE BACKLOG Judiciary choking

Says law minister STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's judicial system has almost reached a breaking point due to huge backlog of thousands of unsettled cases, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said yesterday.

"Each year cases are piling up in the courts. Nobody knows where they will end up. It takes five to 10 years to settle a case in the Supreme Court," he said while **SEE PAGE 7 COL 2**



ONE-DAY CRICKET SERIES

Aussies hand 60-run defeat

BISHWAJIT ROY

Michael Clarke began his journey as Australia's full-time captain in the best possible way. He led from the front with a scintillating hundred to guide a new-look Australia to a 60-run victory over Bangladesh in the first match of the three-ODI series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The former world champions put in a clinical display to win the match comfortably, but it was also the Tigers' purposeless batting that enabled the Aussies to come up with flying colours after a disappointing World Cup cam-

Clarke's 101-run knock gave the impression that the responsibility inspired the right-hander to anchor the innings after his side lost three wickets in 14 overs after being sent in on a good batting pitch. His classy effort helped Australia put up a strong total of 270 for seven, even though Bangladesh's slow bowlers, riding on Sohrawardi Shuvo's three-wicket haul, did their job.

In reply Bangladesh, who have only twice before successfully chased totals of that size against teams like Zimbabwe and the depleted West Indies, were never in a SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



New Australia captain Michael Clarke sits on his knees as he executes a lofted cover-drive on way to hammering 101 in the first ODI against Bangladesh at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Mobs kill 6 'robbers' in Gazipur, Habiganj

PHILIPS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six alleged robbers were beaten to death and five injured by mobs in Kapasia of Gazipur and Lakhai of Habiganj yesterday.

In Kapasia, villagers at Dighirkandi of Kurihata union caught nine robbers at around 8:30pm. They killed four before

police could reach the spot. The five others were rescued critically injured and rushed to local hospital, said Kapasia police.

Of the dead, only one--Masud, 35, of Mymensingh--could be identified.

The gang was preparing to commit robbery in the houses of Monir and **SEE PAGE 19 COL 4**

Fine slapped on 3 Sylhet realtors

Environment drive finds 79 acres wetlands already filled up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Department of Environment yesterday fined three housing companies for filling up water bodies and cutting hills at Dakshin Surma, Fenchuganj Road and Tamabil Bypass.

A team led by Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, director (Monitoring and Enforcement) of the DoE, asked Ruposhi Bangla Housing at South Surma, Al-Baraka Housing on Tamabil Bypass and Royal City Housing at Lalmatia and Parairchak on Fenchuganj Road to stop their activities.

of wetlands, canals and lowlands have already been filled up, which has affected the environment and biodiversity of the area as natural water receding system has been blocked.

During the drive, the officials found a seven feet deep water body being filled.

Such activities also caused huge loss to agricultural farming and fishing, DoE director told The Daily Star. None of the companies obtained permission from the district administration or from the DoE for their activities, he added.

The DoE penalised Ruposhi Bangla Housing Tk 8.7 lakh, Al-Baraka Housing Tk 10.88 lakh and Royal City Housing Tk 14.8 lakh and asked them to pay the sums by April 10. The team also seized four The team discovered that over 79 acres bulldozers, excavators, 65 bags of cement and 800 kg of iron rods during the drive.

> Moreover, DoE would ask the authorities of Bangladesh Bank, Jalalabad Gas **SEE PAGE 19 COL 1**

Schoolgirl killed after gang rape

Stalkers accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A school girl was strangulated to death reportedly after being violated by a gang of stalkers at Shimulia village in Charghat upazila of Rajshahi district yesterday.

Police recovered the body of the victim, a class X student of Shimulia High School, from a lichi orchard -some 250 yards of her house at around 9:00am.

"A scarf was wound around her neck. The neck was broken in such a way that led us to believe that she was SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

4-day hunger strike

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

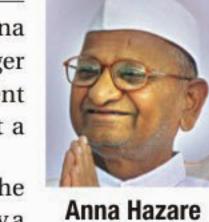
One-man crusade

Indian govt agrees on tougher

anti-graft law after Hazare's

India's anti-corruption crusader Anna Hazare ended his four-day hunger strike yesterday after the government accepted his demand to help enact a tougher anti-graft law.

Hazare, 72, broke his fast in the morning with a sip of water offered by a child at the Jantar Mantar landmark in downtown here.



SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

CROWN TO CEMENT



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের **মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা**–এর নিকট থেকে রপ্তানীর মাধ্যমে জাতীয় অর্থনীতিতে উল্লেখযোগ্য অবদানের স্বীকৃতিস্বরুপ ২০০৮-২০০৯ ইং অর্থ বছরের জাতীয় রপ্তানী ট্রফি (স্বর্ণ) গ্রহণ করছেন এম.আই. সিমেন্ট ফ্যাক্টরী'র চেয়ারম্যান **মোহাম্মদ জাহাঙ্গীর আলম**।

> এই অসামান্য প্রাপ্তির অংশীদার হতে পেরে আমরা গর্বিত ক্রাউন সিমেন্ট পরিবার

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> একটু অপেক্ষা করুন, শিগগিরই পাওয়া যাবে সারা দেশে।

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