

INDEPENDENCE AWARD
Rab, Betar on revised list of nominees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The cabinet committee on national award yesterday sent a revised list of this year's nominees for the Independence Award for the prime minister's approval that included two new candidates, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and Bangladesh Betar.
Rab's successful operation that
SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Niko accepts govt price offer for Feni gas
Says energy adviser

UNB, Dhaka
Energy Adviser Mahmudur Rahman yesterday said Niko Resources has accepted the government's price offer of \$ 1.75 per unit of gas from the Feni gas field.
Emerging from a meeting with Niko officials, the adviser said the Canadian operator is interested to
SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

BOMB ATTACK CASE
Complainant rejects second charge sheet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna
Rejecting the second charge sheet, complainant of a bomb attack case involving militant kingpin Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai filed a narajj (no-confidence) petition on Sunday to Bagerhat Magistrate's Court.
The names of those who
SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

BOMB ATTACK CASE
Bogra court denies Galib bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra
A court in Bogra rejected Ahle Hadith Andolon chief Assadullah-Al-Galib's petition for bail in a case of a bomb attack on January 14 last year at Laxmipur Village under Shahjanpur upazila in the district.
The court however accepted a
SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

DIALOGUE ON REFORM

Chief whip seeks PM's advice to invite AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Declining to invite the main opposition Awami League (AL) to a dialogue on reforms in the caretaker government system and Election Commission, Chief Whip of parliament Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday sought the prime minister's advice on the issue.
BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan on Sunday night asked the chief whip to invite the AL in writing for talks.
The PM in her wrap up speech in parliament two weeks ago offered formation of a committee on the opposition-proposed reforms.
Mannan Bhuiyan asked for inviting the AL following a meeting between the PM and BNP chairperson and three senior ministers including him.
But the chief whip thought he needed clarification on whether the proposed committee will be a parliamentary body or a party-level one. If it is to be a party-level committee, he

should not invite the AL, he felt, sources said.
Bhuiyan left for Singapore on Sunday night for treatment while other BNP policymakers could not explain the matter.
In this context, Delwar asked for the PM's suggestion.
BNP sources said some senior leaders of the ruling party do not favour forming a parliamentary committee as that would bring together only the main opposition parties. They want any dialogue to be attended also by smaller parties which have no representation in parliament. BNP leaders have a strong influence on these parties.
Sources close to the chief whip yesterday said he got confused as the PM's offer did not specify what kind of committee would be formed.
Delwar then discussed the issue with Parliamentary Affairs Adviser to the PM Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury and Whip Ashraf Hossain. They advised him to ask for the PM's decision in this regard.
When contacted, Delwar said the

PM will take a decision.
Meanwhile Foreign Minister Morshed Khan briefing foreign diplomats in Dhaka last week gave the impression that formation of the proposed committee was almost complete. The PM already made a list of BNP nominees for the body and names of those from the opposition would be sought very soon, he said.
Asked about this, some policymakers of the BNP however said they were not aware of any such development.
"Whether the proposed committee will come to exist or not depends on the willingness of the Awami League to participate in it," said one policymaker on condition of anonymity. "The AL president's speeches do not reflect her party's interest in the formation of any committee."
Before leaving for Singapore, Mannan Bhuiyan told The Daily
SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

100 injured in hartal clashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Clashes between pro-hartal picketers, law enforcers, and anti-hartal demonstrators during the Jubo League enforced eight-hour hartal yesterday left at least 85 people injured.
Two female pro-hartal picketers were injured critically during the clashes and police picked up at least 100 people during the hartal.
Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) also enforced a hartal protesting the police attack on its president Hasanul Haque Inu on March 12.
Ruling BNP activists attacked a Jubo League procession near Chasrakhali AL office in Netrokona leaving at least 30 Jubo League activists injured and a clash between the pro-hartal supporters and police left 25 more injured in Savar.
SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Policewomen club a Jubo Mohila League activist while their male colleague tries to grab her on Panthapath in the capital during hartal yesterday.

3 kids hurt as bomb goes off

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia
Three children were severely injured in a bomb explosion at a village in Gangni upazila in Meherpur yesterday.
They are -- Tariqul Islam, 7, son of Keramat Ali, Wasim Ali, 6, son of Shomser Ali and Rahim, 7, son of Akmol Hossain of the Bhomordah village.
Police said the boys found an abandoned polythene bag under a mango tree of the village at about 10:00am. While they were trying to find out what was in the bag, the bombs inside went off.
Eyes and left leg of Tariqul and ribs and left hand of Wasim were blown up in the blast, while Rahim received splinter injuries.
SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Eden College closed sine die

DU CORRESPONDENT
The authorities of Eden University College yesterday suspended its classes for an indefinite period and asked the resident students to vacate the dormitory by 9:00am today.
In protest at the authorities' decision the students, who have been demonstrating since March 8 against the eviction of more than 20 students from Khodeza Khatun Hall, took to the street in front of the college and disrupted traffic for hours since 4:00pm yesterday.
During the blockade, they chanted slogans against the
SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Students of Eden University College block the street in front of their college protesting the notice to vacate their dormitory yesterday.

Sedition cases against JMB top brass in a week
Says Babar; anti-terror ordinance mullied

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar yesterday said the government is going to file sedition cases in a week against the country's top militant leaders.
Meantime, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed said the government may promulgate an ordinance on new anti-terrorist act, if it thinks it very urgent for curbing militancy, before enacting the law in parliament.
Moudud also said new tribunals would be set up for trying militants if the existing nine Speedy Trial Tribunals cannot deal with all the cases filed in connection with their terrorist acts.
"The militants have committed seditious acts against the state, and it is very important to bring sedition charges against them," Babar told reporters at his office.
"The cases are almost ready... I think we'll be able to file the cases in a week," he added.
But the law enforcers need to be

BANGLA BHAI'S TORTURE
Even police not spared for defying his 'order'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
"Bangla Bhai grabbed Sub-inspector Siraj by his collar and slapped his face just before us inside Bagmara Police Station (PS)," Prothom Alo staff correspondent in Rajshahi Anu Mostafa said, narrating an incident on May 9 2004 when he met Bangla Bhai.
"Bangla Bhai yanked him by his uniform and badges. Siraj could only go silently out of the police station wiping tears from his eyes," Mostafa added.
Siraj's fault was non-compliance with Bangla Bhai's 'orders' of arrest of Malek, who was profusely bleeding as a result of Bangla Bhai's torture. And when Bangla Bhai asked where the officer-in-charge (OC) of the PS was, Siraj replied that the OC had gone home.
Bangla Bhai went to the OC's residence near the PS and started kicking the door shouting. As the OC did not appear, he talked to
SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Strict compliance with laws must for safety
Say experts at CPD roundtable on workers' safety

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Speakers at a roundtable suggested formation of an Industry Commission and a monitoring committee including workers, owners, and people from the civil society and the government to ensure workplace safety for workers and to prevent accidents in factories.
They suggested that a practice of implementing existing factory and safety laws should start first before forming a new set of laws. They also

underscored the need for reviewing the existing laws regarding factory safety.
The speakers were voicing their views at a roundtable meeting on "Workplace safety for the industrial workers: cant we do anything?" organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). Eminent economist Professor Rehman Sobhan chaired the session held in CIRDP auditorium.
Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya briefly described the situation of
SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Sunny, Awal gave important info on Aug 17 blasts
Says investigator

COURT CORRESPONDENT
The investigation officer (IO) of an August 17 bomb blast case said JMB military commander Ataur Rahman Sunny and its Majlis-e-Sura member Abdul Awal gave important information on the countrywide blasts last year.
They will provide more information and disclose names of their accomplices if they are interrogated intensively, said Detective Branch (DB) Inspector Shah Mohammad Moshir Rahman, also the IO of the case, in his forwarding report.
The case was filed with Ramna Police Station in connection with
SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Myanmar reports first bird flu case

AGENCIES, Yangon
Myanmar reported its first case of the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu yesterday, a day after the virus gained new ground in Europe, Asia and Africa.
Lab tests confirmed the outbreak in northern Myanmar after 112 chickens died, said Laurence Gleeson, a senior official at the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, citing a report from the Myanmar government.
Afghanistan has detected five cases of the H5 type of bird flu virus and there is a high risk it is the

deadly H5N1 strain, United Nations and Afghan officials said Monday.
Three cases of H5 bird flu were detected in the capital Kabul and two in the eastern province of Nangarhar, said Azizullah Osmani, spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry.
"Some samples we tested yesterday are positive for H5 but to determine the sub-type the samples have been sent to Italy," Osmani said at a press conference.
Pakistan is investigating a possible second outbreak of bird flu after poultry farmers threw around
SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Strict watch on Myanmar border

BSS, Dhaka
The government yesterday ordered an intensified vigil against entry of poultry birds and products from Myanmar hours after Yangon reported outbreak of avian flu in its central region.
SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Prayer Timing		
March 14		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-05	5-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-12	6-15
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

