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

Rab's successful operation that SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

#### Niko accepts govt price offer for Feni gas

Says energy adviser

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 involvina militant kinapin Siddiaul Islam alias Bangla Bhai filed a naraji (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 Shahianpur 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

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

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

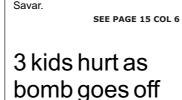
with Parliamentary Affairs Adviser to the PM Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury and Whip Ashraf Hossain. They advised him to ask for the PM's decision in this regard. When contacted, Delwar said the

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

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

Before leaving for Singapore Mannan Bhuiyan told The Daily SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



100 injured in

hartal clashes

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

Two female pro-hartal picketers

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD)

were injured critically during the

clashes and police picked up at

also enforced a hartal protesting the

police attack on its president

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

Hasanul Haque Inu on March 12.

least 100 people during the hartal.

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

Police said the boys found ar 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 combs 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

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



capital during hartal yesterday.

# Sedition cases against BANGLA BHAI'S JMB top brass in a week Even police not spared

Says Babar; anti-terror ordinance mulled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman 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 "The militants have committed

seditious acts against the state, and 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

careful so that the militants cannot take any benefit of rashness, he

The government is preparing the cases in a way to ensure that the militant leaders get punishment. "It's because you know there is no instance of awarding capital punishment in sedition cases.

ANTI-TERROR ORDINANCE Law Minister Moudud Ahmed

said the government may promulgate ordinance on new anti-terrorist law if it considers it urgent to curb The proposed law was sched-

uled to be tabled at yesterday's cabinet meeting and will be finalised after the cabinet approves it. It needs to be passed in parliament before enactment. "But if it is felt that the law needs

to be enacted very urgently, we need not wait for passing it at the next parliament session," Moudud reporters after an told SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

# for defying his 'order' STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

'Bangla Bhai grabbed Subinspector 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

dormitory yesterday.

### 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 facto-

They suggested that a practice of implementing existing factory and safety laws should start first before forming a new set of laws. They also

# 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 Majlish-e-Sura member Abdul Awal gave important information on the countrywide blasts last year.

case, in his forwarding report.

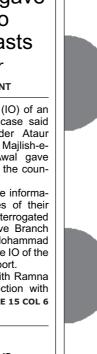
Police Station in connection with

# Sunny, Awal gave

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

They will provide more information and disclose names of their accomplices if they are interrogated intensively, said Detective Branch (DB) Inspector Shah Mohammad Moshiur Rahman, also the IO of the

The case was filed with Ramna 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

Afghanistan has detected five cases of the H5 type of bird flu virus and there is a high risk it is the

underscored the need for reviewing

the existing laws regarding factory

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 econo-

mist Professor Rehman Sobhan

chaired the session held in CIRDAP

briefly described the situation of

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

auditorium.

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,

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.

spokesman for the Ministry of

Pakistan is investigating a possible second outbreak of bird flu after poultry farmers threw around SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

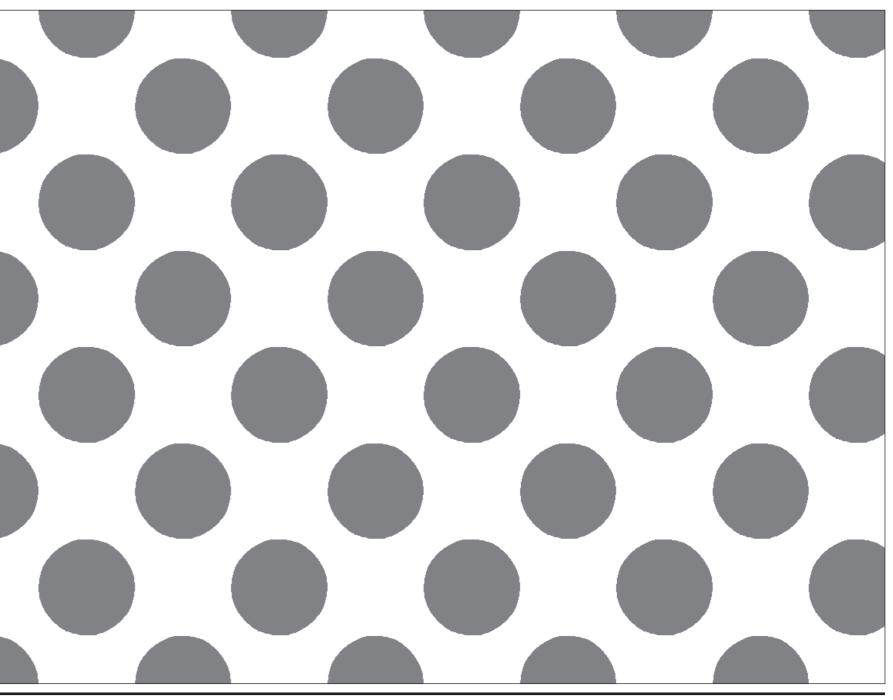
# Strict watch on Myanmar border

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

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

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		

Prayer Timing



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