

Galib taken to Naogan for framing of charges

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha
The investigation officer (IO) in the Mohimaganj Brac office bomb blast incident has pressed charges against Ahle Hadith chief Asadullah Al Galib and sent them to the Monitoring Cell of the home ministry. Galib was brought yesterday from the Naogan jail to be produced before the Gaibandha Session's Judge Court in connection with a bomb blast at a Takier bazar opera stage drama at Palashbari. Galib could not be produced in court yesterday due to a government holiday, but will be produced today. A bail petition for Galib will be submitted to the court today, Galib's lawyer said. About 7 persons were critically injured on December 24 last year when four bombs exploded at the open stage drama at Takier bazar, Palashbari. Si Hirendra Noth, the IO in the case, submitted a charge sheet on April 23 accusing six persons, including Galib.

UN slates US abuse of Afghan detainees

Karzai demands watch on military operations

REUTERS, Kabul
A report of US military abuse of detainees in Afghanistan is deeply disturbing and those involved should be punished, the United Nations said yesterday. The abuse, including details of the deaths of two inmates at an Afghan detention centre, took place in 2002 and emerged from a nearly 2,000-page file of US Army investigators, The New York Times said on Friday. Afghan President Hamid Karzai, speaking before leaving on a US trip, said on Saturday he was shocked and was demanding action against the culprits as well as custody of Afghan prisoners and supervision of US military searches. Jean Arnault, special representative of the UN secretary-general in Afghanistan, said the abuse reported in the New York Times was unacceptable and an affront to everything the international community stood for. "The gravity of these abuses calls for the punishment of all those involved in such inexcusable crimes, as demanded by President Karzai," Arnault said in a statement. Arnault said steps taken since 2002 to eradicate mistreatment and improve conditions should be made public. Complaints that continue to be made of arbitrary arrest and detention without charge should be fully addressed, he said. The United States commands a foreign force in Afghanistan of about 18,300, most of them American, fighting Taliban insurgents and hunting militant leaders, including Osama bin Laden. The United States is holding more than 500 prisoners from its war on terrorism at the Guantanamo Bay naval base on Cuba. Many of them were detained in Afghanistan after the Taliban overthrow in late 2001. US forces are also believed to be holding several hundred Afghans in Afghanistan. The New York Times said US army report centres on the death of a 22-year-old taxi driver known only as Dilawar and that of another detainee, Habibullah, who died at the US base at Bagram, north of Kabul, in December 2002. According to the report, Dilawar was chained by his wrists to the top of his cell for several days before he died and his legs had been pummeled by guards. "The file depicts young, poorly trained soldiers in repeated incidents of abuse. The harsh treatment, which has resulted in criminal charges against seven soldiers, went well beyond the two deaths," the newspaper said. In sworn statements to army investigators, soldiers described



Devotees pray in Kamalapur Buddha Bihar yesterday on the occasion of Buddha Purnima, the biggest religious festival of Buddhists.



Pedestrians slosh through near knee-deep water on a Naya Paltan road after yesterday afternoon's heavy down-pour in the capital.

Bangla-Pak JEC meet June 4

BDNEWS, Dhaka
A two-day meeting of the Bangladesh-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission (JEC) begins in Dhaka on June 4, while the dates of the JEC meets with Saudi Arabia and India are yet to be determined. SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

AL to stage nationwide rallies today

BDNEWS, Dhaka
The Awami League (AL) will stage countrywide demonstration rallies today to protest against the government repression on opposition leaders and activists, and arrest during Saturday's countrywide hartal. AL General Secretary Abdul Jaill declared the programme at a press briefing at the party's Dhanmondi office at the end of hartal Saturday. Awami Jubo League, on the other hand, will hold protest rallies at all district headquarters and upazila sadars of the country on May 23 and 24.

14 abducted in Khagrachhari

BDNEWS, Khagrachhari
Tension runs high in Khagrachhari over June 7 rally of anti-peace treaty United People's Democratic Front as it alleged Parbatya Chattagram Janasanghati Samity (PCJSS) cadres abducted 14 UPDF supporters to foil the meeting. The PCJSS denied the allegation and said its leader Shimul Tripura (23) was injured by bullets when UPDF members opened fire on him in broad daylight at Mahajanpara in the town on Sunday.

Japan may tag human security string on aid

Visiting minister tells The Daily Star



Shuzen Tanigawa

SHARIER KHAN
The veteran Japanese politician adds, Bangladesh should help itself while Japan remains open to helping Bangladesh in this regard. As the country's biggest bilateral donor, Japan's aid in Bangladesh had traditionally focused on infrastructure building. Japan's future assistance will not only come as hardware support, but also as institutional support, he quips. "In the future) Human security will get emphasis (in Japanese aid). Besides there will be emphasis on cultural exchange," Tanigawa adds. Bangladesh is currently negotiating a deal with Japan on policy

NARSINGDI BY-POLLS AL nominates Asaduzzaman

BDNEWS, Narsingdi
The main opposition Awami League has selected Advocate Asaduzzaman as its candidate for the Narsingdi-1 by-polls on June 22. The ruling coalition is yet to pick its candidate. The seat fell vacant after the death of BNP MP Shamsuddin Eshak on March 27. Mia Mohammad Selim, Mezbahuddin Iran, Rashid Nawsher, former Ducusu GS Khairul Kabir Khokan and son of Eshak are lobbying for the BNP nomination.

City govt to involve residents

Says Mohiuddin
City government will be implemented to bring about desired development of the city involving the city-dwellers with the development process, said newly elected Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury. "The concept of city-government

1 killed, 6 hurt as BDR van falls into ditch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
An official of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) was killed and six other members were critically injured in a road accident at Bolihar of Monigram union in Bagha upazila early yesterday. Khatish Chandra Sarkar, 55, deputy assistant director of BDR 10 Battalion, succumbed to his injuries at Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital (RMCH). Injured Mahmud, Liton Kanti Dev, Anisur Rahman, Mubarak, Shariful Islam and Mustaqe (driver) were admitted to RMCH. Later Mahmud and Liton Kanti Dev were sent to Dhaka for better treatment. The accident occurred at around 4:30am when driver of the BDR jeep carrying the seven on their way to

Govt has made army men killers: Hasina Slams it for extra-judicial killings involving Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina has once again slammed the government for the extra-judicial killings involving the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and said the government has turned members of a disciplined force like the army into killers. "The prime minister herself is responsible for all the killings without trial in the name of crossfire," Hasina, also Awami League (AL) president, told the family of slain AL leader Mafizul Islam Dud Mia at her Sudha Sadan residence in Dhanmondi yesterday. Meghna Thana AL leader Mafizul Islam Dud Mia was killed in 'crossfire' with Rab in Keraniganj on May 3. The AL chief consoled the bereaved family members, including Dud Mia's parents, wife, four daughters and one son. The AL chief said every citizen has the right to seek justice even if they are criminals. "The court will try the criminals, not the government or any force," she said. Referring to the assassination of her father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and other family

Dr Kamal for unity to fight evils

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said unity among the countrymen could bring about a positive change in the country by defeating all the evils. "Chittagong City Corporation polls, where we all worked together under the banner of Nagarik Committee, is a good example of the strength of unity," said the noted jurist. He was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of correspondents' conference of BDNEWS, a private news agency, at National Press Club yesterday. Dr Kamal, also convener of Jatiya Oikya Mancha, said, "Only unity and awakening of conscience can make us rise to the challenges that Bangladesh is now faced with." Singling out 'division' and 'unrestrained greed' as the main diseases of the country, he said these two are destroying the society as well as the politics. "According to a United Nations survey report, Aids is the most deadly disease in the world, but for us I think the dangerous diseases are 'division' and 'greed'," he observed. Dr Kamal said some quarters are out to create an 'artificial divide' among the people just to reap personal benefits. He said the existing unhealthy politics, which allows arms and money to be handed out to the students, is ruining their [students'] lives. Dr Kamal urged the journalists to unearth the rot and publish the truth and crusade against corruption, by ignoring all kinds of threats. Journalists must play a robust role through their writings to shield the country's democratic institutions, he observed. Besides, he gave the journalists community assurance of providing, like in the past, legal assistance to protect their rights in future as well. Addressing the inaugural session, Alamgir Hossain, Editor-in-Chief of BDNEWS, cited Dr Kamal

Police foil Satkhira bigots' rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira
Police yesterday prevented religious bigots from holding a rally planned to garner support for anti-Ahmadiyya campaign in Kaliyaganj of Satkhira district. They demolished the podium erected for the rally at Moitala intersection and seized microphones and other equipment from

Criminals gun down tobacco company staff

OUR STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia
A group of armed criminals stormed into the house of a tobacco company employee and shot him dead in front of his wife yesterday. The group fired point-blank while Akhtar Hossain, an employee of Perfect Tobacco in Kushtia, was sleeping in his room at noon, according to witnesses. Three bullets hit his head and

Sudan-bound troops to live up to billing

Promises mission commander
SHAKHAWAT LITON
Bangladeshi troops will live up to their billing as outstanding peacekeepers and play a significant role in the challenging UN Mission in Sudan to restore peace there, Force Commander of the mission Major General Fazle Elahi Akbar said recently. In an online interview with The Daily Star, Akbar focused on several aspects of the mission dubbed most challenging as the UN itself for the first time in its over 50 years of peacekeeping history established an Advance Mission in Sudan (UNAMIS) prior to the current mission in line with Security Council Resolution 1590. He said politically, the parties have signed a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) encompassing power, wealth, security and resolution of conflict in three contested areas. The issues are very complex, yet time-bound. This makes the implementation of the agreement all the more difficult. Besides, the country is as big as Europe in size, with almost no infrastructure in place. The 21 years of war have prevented any development from taking place there. The hostile climate associated with excessive rains in the south of the country between May and September and high risk of contracting diseases like malaria and guinea worms make sustenance of troops very costly. Asked what role Bangladeshi troops preparing to head for Sudan will play in the mission, Akbar said



Major Gen Fazle Elahi Akbar

'UNWANTED' DECLARATION Dr Kamal says Forum has no authority

BDNEWS, Dhaka
Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum has no jurisdiction to declare the vice-chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council, and president and secretary of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) unwanted on the court premises. He termed "regrettable" the declaration of the Forum, a platform of ruling BNP-backed lawyers. "The words my lawyer friends uttered about the vice chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council, and president and secretary of the SCBA at their meeting are very regrettable," he told the private news agency. The Supreme Court chapter of the Forum at a meeting Saturday declared Bar Council Vice-chairman Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud, and SCBA President A d v o c a t e

