

BB to take action

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and return all its savings, deposits and other credits to its members and depositors within December 31.
Jubok failed to comply with the BB directives and applied to extend the time up to March this year.
The BB approved Jubok's appeal and extended the time which expires tomorrow.
Sources said Jubok applied for another six months' extension of time. The BB did not take decision on it as of yesterday.
The BB will also investigate if Jubok has stopped its activities of collecting savings, deposits and credits from people and members.
According to Jubok statements sent to the BB, the NGO has so far collected about Tk 110 crore from people and returned Tk 40.42 crore of it.
In its investigation, the central bank will verify the information.
But sources in the finance ministry said many people lodged complaints against Jubok saying the NGO has not returned their money.
Meanwhile, sources said Jubok has recently applied for becoming a microcredit organisation under the Microcredit Regulatory Authority Act, 2006. It was learnt that the matter will be considered depending on the BB investigation.
Jubok Executive Director Hossain Al Masum could not be contacted for comments despite repeated

Arabs relaunch ME blueprint for peace

Israel trashes proposal

AFP, Riyadh

Arab leaders have formally relaunched a five-year-old blueprint for peace in the Middle East, but Israel rejected the plan as it stands, saying yesterday that it needs negotiation.
The heads of state, on the first day of their two-day summit in Riyadh on Wednesday, adopted a resolution reaffirming their commitment to the Saudi-inspired plan.
The proposal offers Israel peace and normal ties if it withdraws from all land seized in the 1967 war, allows the creation of a Palestinian state and the return of Palestinian refugees.
The heads of state reaffirmed the "commitment of all Arab states to the Arab peace initiative as approved at the Beirut summit in 2002 in all its elements."
They also reaffirmed "their call to the government of Israel and all Israelis to accept the Arab peace initiative and seize the opportunity to resume the process of direct and serious negotiations on all tracks."

On Thursday, however, Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres rejected the initiative as it currently stands and said negotiations were needed.
"There is only one way to overcome our differences, and that is negotiation," Peres told Israeli public radio. "It's impossible to say: you must take what we offer you as is."
"With a diktat neither the Palestinians, nor the Arabs nor us will achieve a solution," he added.
Israel rejected the proposal when it was first made, but its leaders have recently spoken of it as a starting point for talks.
The obstacle is the insistence on the right of return of those Palestinians who fled or were driven from their homes during the violence that surrounded the creation of Israel in 1948, and of their descendants.
According to the United Nations, there are now more than four million Palestinian refugees, living mostly in the Palestinian territories, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Libya.
Israel fiercely opposes allowing their return, arguing that the influx would effectively erase the Jewish character of the state.
US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice had appealed to Arab states to "begin reaching out to Israel" by building on the 2002 plan.
However, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal warned in an interview with a British newspaper that Israel should not expect any further diplomatic overtures.

Windies 177

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Oram for nine while Chris Gayle had reached 44, his best score of the tournament when he was clean-bowled by the same bowler after finding an inside edge in the 23rd over.
The New Zealand bowlers whittled away, and after 25 overs West Indies at 81 for four were in more than a spot of bother.
West Indies skipper Brian Lara tried to mend the damages putting on 47 runs for the fifth wicket with Dwayne Bravo. But Bond returned to dismiss the latter, who offered a regulation catch behind the wicket after scoring 18.
Lara also perished after making a 49-ball 37 that contained only one hit to the rope. He was brilliantly taken by McCullum, who was outstanding behind the wicket with four catches.
They made one change from that match, with Lendl Simmons coming in for fast bowler Jerome Taylor whose 10 wicketless overs against Australia cost 67 runs.
This is New Zealand's first Super Eight match.
The Black Caps were without batsman Lou Vincent who was forced out of the World Cup on Sunday after having his wrist broken, batting in the nets against fast bowler Bond.
Peter Fulton moved up to open in his place alongside Fleming with Hamish Marshall drafted into the top order barely two days after arriving in Antigua.

NBR starts drive

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present while visiting the 226 shops out of the total 1,600 shops at the mega shopping mall.
They handed over survey forms to the employees of these shops and briefed them on the rules for filling those up. The team also made them aware of the obligation of paying taxes.
Talking to the reporters, Asheque said that they have come to identify the new taxpayers. If any individual or groups who are running shops, offices or business houses are identified as taxpayers, they would have to pay tax from the FY 2007-08, he said.
Khorshed said that they would conduct the survey carefully to avoid all sorts of harassment of any taxpayers during the survey time.
The 15-month survey starts initially in Dhaka and will spread across the country gradually from the next fiscal year. Eight survey teams, each comprising three members, will conduct the survey in the capital.
The sectors to be covered in the NBR survey are: 1. clinics and diagnostic centres, 2. community centres, residential hotels and restaurants, Chinese restaurants and fast food shops, sweetmeat, bakery and confectionery shops, 3. commercially run English/Bangla medium schools and coaching centres, 4. internet and computer centres, 5. beauty parlours, fitness centres and physiotherapy centres, 6. firms of lawyers, physicians, engineers, tax lawyers, chartered accountants, cost and management accountants, and architects, 7. book stalls, book binding shops, printing presses, travel agencies, and advertising firms, 8. machinery shops, grocery shops, general stores, retail shops, and department stores, 9. shopping malls and super markets, 10. thread producers, thread dying, finishing, coning and weaving houses, textiles manufacturers, 11. real estate companies and developers, 12. saw mills, rice mills, flour mills, oil mills, and timber traders, 13. tailoring, laundry and sanitary ware shops, and 14. phone-fax and laminating centres, cassette-CD shops etc.

ACC sues Abbas
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already allowed Rajuk to initiate measures to sell the abandoned houses. Rajuk published an auction notice in different daily newspapers on April 5, 2006 for selling 10 abandoned house, sources said.
Violating the authorities' direction for selling 18 abandoned government houses, they sold the houses on a "fake" auction at much lower prices that resulted in the government's loss of Tk 127 crore 64 lakh and 29 thousand.
ACC Assistant Director Mohammad Shafiqul Alam yesterday filed the case with Motijheel Police Station, accusing the 12 of embezzling government money.
The Rajuk officials are incumbent Chief Engineer Reazul Manir, Secretary Mir Mosharraf Hossain, former directors Humayun Khan and Golam Nabi, former Rajuk member and present Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary Shahid Alam, and officials Md Emdadul Hossain and Mohammad Ali.
The PWD officials are former engineer Syed Mahfuz Ahmed, former secretary SM Jafurullah, official Ziauddin Ahmed and Director of Purbachal Project Abdus Sadeque.
During his tenure as housing minister, Abbas was vocal against using residential plots for commercial purposes but remained silent when his relatives illegally committed the same offence.
In response to a lawmaker's question in parliament, Abbas on June 7, 2006 said there is a legal provision for taking punitive action if anyone uses residential plots for commercial purposes.
But relatives of Abbas built automobile workshops on a large piece of land at Shahajapur allotted to Abbas' family for residential purpose.
Abbas allegedly influenced the Rajuk authorities in 1996 to divide a children's park into plots and allot them to his brothers, sisters and other relatives as persons affected earlier by different government development projects elsewhere in the city.

Air Commodore

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issued by the Ministry of Defence yesterday, he replaces Air Vice-Marshal Fakhru Azam.
"Air Vice-Marshal Fakhru Azam, ndc, psc, will go into retirement with effect from the afternoon of April 7," said another notification issued by the ministry.
For his elevation to the air chief, Air Commodore Ziaur Rahaman has been promoted to air vice-marshal with effect from the forenoon of April 8.

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Free
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been the source of the fire, said Dhanshagor Station Officer M Golam Mostafa.
Mohammad Mohidullah, divisional forest officer of Sundarban Forest Division (SFD) east wing, said, a number of tube wells are being installed in different parts of the forest to better handle situations like this.
According to eyewitnesses and SFD sources, Tuesday night's fire went out of control as no water was available in the vicinity upto two kilometres.
On March 19, trees and animal habitats of around 250 acres of the forestland were destroyed by another fire.

14th Saarc summit

FROM PAGE 1
Zhaoxing, Japanese Foreign Minister Tarō Aso, South Korean Foreign and Trade Minister Song Min-soon, US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Richard Boucher and the EU by its New Delhi-based envoy will represent their countries at the summit.
Each of the observers, who would be attending a Saarc summit for the first time, would be allowed to deliver a four-minute speech in the presence of the heads of state or government at the inaugural function on Tuesday.
Sources said a number of observer countries are likely to play a more proactive role in economically engaging the region and may put pressure on the Saarc for more competition and integration.
Bangladesh has welcomed the external powers in Saarc and the five major countries got the observer status and Afghanistan as new member under the chair of Bangladesh in the 13th Saarc Summit in Dhaka.
Foreign ministry officials said major countries and economic powers have shown their interest to be associated with the South Asian region and it is also a fact that Saarc would benefit from these external linkages.
They said the Saarc member countries would call for a collective fight against terrorism and push for greater economic integration and connectivity in South Asia. There will be special focus on the South Asia Free Trade Agreement (Safta).
The focus would also be on making the grouping a more efficient organisation and move it towards implementing some of the crucial regional projects that have been under discussion for long.
The dream of a South Asian University (SAU) would move a step closer to reality at the summit when leaders will discuss the details of the project to make the proposed university—a large part of which will be based in India.
An inter-governmental agreement would be signed first to form the university before the details are

worked out. The SAU is expected to be established in the Indian capital New Delhi.
The decision to have the first SAU in India was taken at a meeting of the university regulatory bodies of the Saarc countries and would now be ratified by the ministerial meeting on April 2.
Guhar Rizvi, a Bangladeshi national of Harvard University, prepared the concept note of SAU. The proposed SAU would witness free flow of students as well as faculty from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
Sources said it would take another two to three years before SAU becomes a reality. The SAU would be a modern university and be developed as a centre of excellence on the lines of American Ivy League universities.
Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh proposed the establishment of SAU during the 13th Saarc Summit in Dhaka in 2005 with the objective to provide world-class facilities and professional faculty to students and researchers drawn from every Saarc country.
Other important intra-regional projects that would be discussed include Saarc Development Fund, Regional Telemedicine Network and Regional Food Bank.
Promoting greater connectivity—physical, economic and people to people—in the region would be the key theme of the summit.
According to an official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the 14th Saarc Summit will adopt a declaration establishing the Saarc Food Bank and the SAU.
Before the Saarc Summit on April 3-4, the meeting of the Saarc Council of Ministers will be held on April 2, the meeting of the Foreign Secretary level Standing Committee tomorrow and April 1 and the meeting of the Program Committee today.

Mohiuddin's deportation

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uncertain... We don't perceive any impediment," he told a press briefing at the foreign ministry.
At the briefing, DG Nazmul Kawnain said the Bangladesh mission in Washington and the consulate in Los Angeles maintain constant touch with the US Homeland Security and the State Department about the deportation of Mohiuddin.
He said the government is likely to get updates on the matter next week.
On Iran's proposal to become Saarc observer, the foreign affairs adviser said, "We're looking at Iran's proposal positively. The Saarc Council of Ministers will take the decision on it."
Asked if there is any pressure for not granting observer status to Iran because of Tehran-Washington nuclear row, he said in diplomacy there is the possibility of pressure tactics but "here we don't see any reflection of that."
Iftekhar Chowdhury said: "We're favourably disposed towards it. We consider Iran as an active member in the international scene."
He, however, said the Saarc takes decision on the basis of consensus. If any member state raises objection, it will not be possible.
At Delhi summit, Afghanistan will join as eighth member of the Saarc. Afghanistan was given full membership of the regional forum at the 13th summit in Dhaka in 2005.
Besides, US, China, Japan, South Korea and European Union will participate in the 14th Saarc summit as observers. The countries will be represented at the ministerial level.
Asked if Saarc will lose its South Asian character with the induction of so many observers, the foreign

27th BCS exams

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not victimised, they said.
The allegations were made at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium in the capital.
Claiming that most PSC members are corrupt, they urged the government to investigate all irregularities in PSC.
Asst Prof Sheikh Hafizur Rahman Karzon of Law Department of Dhaka University (DU) said although 'successful' BCS candidates of the 27th BCS were not invited to the March 25 view-exchanging meeting on PSC, many of them were present.
He suggested that if the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) interrogates the BCS 27th candidates present at that view-exchanging meeting, it (ACC) would be able to unearth valuable leads of gross irregularities in the PSC.
A master's student at DU, Abdul Kuddus said the PSC did not admit question paper leakage of the 27th BCS exam when everyone knew about it. As a result, bright candidates were screened out and inferior ones scored high with the help of the leaked question paper.
Kuddus also alleged that the PSC members were directly involved in irregularities during written and viva voce exams.
Commenting on 'freedom fighters' children quota' in BCS recruitment, Hamidul Hossain Tareq Bir Bikram said freedom fighters of the country did not fight for their own benefit. There are many other ways to recognise the contribution of the freedom fighters. Their children should not be awarded any prerogative for their ancestors' contribution to the nation.
He also said so far there is no national list of freedom fighters. Successive governments made their own 'freedom fighters' list. "Since there is no [national] list of freedom fighters, the freedom fighters' quota is insignificant."
Rejvi Ahmed, another master's student at DU, urged the government to reserve five percent quota for the tribal and disadvantaged people and repeal all other quotas.
Sheikh Hafizur Rahman Karzon read out a written statement at the conference where a good number of DU students were also present.

RMP chief stand released

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sohrab Hasan was stand-released yesterday and asked to report to the Police Headquarters in Dhaka.
Sources said the government's decision to remove him came after he allegedly gave verbal instructions to restrict Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel's entry into four police stations in Rajshahi.
The sources said joint forces had arrested an official of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) on charges of corruption a month ago when information of his arrest was allegedly leaked from the police department prior to his arrest. On March 21, Rab arrested two policemen of Boalia Police Station inside station in connection with taking bribes.
The police commissioner then allegedly gave the verbal instructions, sources said.
Policemen were even seen checking the Rab vehicles at different intersections in Rajshahi, they added.

Joydevpur-Sealdah

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where Bangladesh will hand over its chair to India.
Fakhruddin will have a number of bilateral talks at the sideline of the summit. He will have bilateral talks with Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh on the first day of his four-day visit when entire issues of bilateral relations will be discussed.
On the much-talked-about Joydevpur-Sealdah passenger train service, Fahim Munaim said a three-year agreement regarding the service was first signed on July 12, 2001 and it was extended again in 2004. The agreement expires in July this year.
He said India is eager to further extend the agreement up to 2010 and start the train service on a regular basis. He further said that possibly one passenger train was operated in the last seven years on an experimental basis, but the service has been out of operation since then due to lack of adequate infrastructure.
"Basically it will not be a new agreement... It will be a renewal of the existing one," Munaim said, adding that goods train service with India is in operation although irregularly.
He said both the countries are eager to introduce the passenger and goods train service and officials of both the countries will meet soon to review the condition of the train line, how to remove the infrastructure problem and other technical aspects.
In reply to a question, he said Bangladesh will definitely seriously examine whether the train service will be beneficial for the country or not. India wants renewal of the agreement before its expiry.
On the Saarc, the press secretary said "connectivity" will be the main theme of the 14th summit, which is highly important as a new member will be formally included in the grouping and five observers will be present at the event.
Fahim Munaim said the chief adviser is due to hold bilateral meetings with the Indian prime minister and Sri Lankan president on Monday, presidents of Afghanistan and the Maldives on Tuesday, and the prime ministers of Pakistan, Nepal and Bhutan on Wednesday.

RMG accessories
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a search at the warehouses.
Army personnel took Anman Group Managing Director Kazi Shawkat Zaman Romel into custody for interrogation.
The seized accessories including carton, hanger, label, backboard, sticker and sewing thread were imported through back to back LC and stored in the warehouses for sale at high prices in local market, sources said.
Army and police were deployed at the godowns.

Yunus
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was jointly organised by the Skoll Forum and the Oxford School of Business. The awards recognise innovative initiatives by social entrepreneurs in social change.
Among the awardees in 2007 was Kashf Foundation, a leading micro-finance institution in Pakistan reaching more than 100,000 poor families. This was initiated with support from Grameen Trust in 1996.
This year, the forum brought together more than 650 social entrepreneurs from around the world.
Yunus urged the audience to have faith in the possibility of creating a world without poverty and advocated for the creation of social business to address specific social problems.
The Nobel laureate will appear in a current affairs programme on Norwegian TV to discuss climate change and sustainable development with Al Gore and former Norwegian prime minister Gro Harlem Brundtland during his visit to Oslo.
He will attend a conference on sustainable development in Oslo organised by the Norwegian government.

Court to decide

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Gulshan and Kafrul police stations on March 26.
The IOs of the cases sought a 21-day remand to interrogate Mamun about the whereabouts of his absconding accomplices and to find out vital clues about the extortions.
After scrutinising the case docket (CD) and other relevant documents, Metropolitan Magistrate Abdur Rouf Khan of the Speedy Trial Court-2 set the date for hearing of the charge framing.
Tarique was produced before the court yesterday at 11:15am under tight security measures. He was silent at court and while he was moved to and from there.
Moving for the petition challenging the legality of the investigation officer (IO) of the case submitting the charge sheet, Advocate ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul argued that the submission of the charge sheet by the IO was illegal as per provision of the Speedy Trial Act 2000.
The act says that if any person was caught red-handed under the act, the IO has to submit the charge sheet against him or her within seven days from the day the "offence" was committed.
The case was filed on March 8 even though the "offence" took place on January 4. So, the process of submitting the charge sheet violated the provision of the act, the lawyer added.
Opposing the petition, General Recording Officer (GRO) Sub-inspector (SI) Shahjahan Miah told the court that the process of submitting the charge sheet was done in accordance with the act.
On March 18, the IO submitted the charge sheet against Tarique and Apu before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) showing 12 people as prosecution witnesses.
The joint forces arrested Tarique at his mother's cantonment home on March 8.
Later, he was taken on a four-day remand to interrogate him for finding out the vital clues about the extortion case.
He is now serving a month's detention in Dhaka Central Jail.
Mamun was arrested at his DOHS house in Banani on March 26 and the law enforcers also recovered a revolver with eight bullets from there. Later, he was taken on a five-day remand and is being interrogated about the firearm and the ammunition.
Hearing on the 21-day remand prayer would take place on April 1 after Tarique is produced before the court on completion of his five-day remand.
NAZMUL HUDA REMANDED
A Dhaka court yesterday placed detained former minister barrister Nazmul Huda on a four-day remand in a money laundering case.
Metropolitan Magistrate Abdur Rouf Khan passed the remand order after Huda was produced before the court at 12:20pm under tight security measures.
The defence lawyers submitted a petition seeking cancellation of the remand prayer saying that their client was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him.
The case was filed with Dhanmondi Police Station on March 1 in connection with using fake registration number on his luxury sports utility vehicle (SUV).
On February 25, police had seized Huda's luxurious Cadillac Escalade bearing registration number Dhaka

Ex-deputy minister Pintu's SUV seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Joint forces in the early hours yesterday seized a luxury sport utility vehicle (SUV)—a Lincoln Navigator—owned by former deputy information minister and BNP leader Abdus Salam Pintu.
The forces handed over the SUV (Dhaka Metro Gha 14-1360) to Dhanmondi police after seizing it from Dhanmondi Road 28 in the capital as its owner did not have valid documents, said Dhanmondi police.
Lincoln Navigator is retailed at \$46,575 to \$52,475 in the US market.

3 more graft

FROM PAGE 1
wealth statements within 72 hours. The commission categorically instructed those who were not in jail to submit those in person.
Fifteen out of the 50 people did not submit their statements, and some of them sought the HC's directive to allow them to submit those through their representatives.
Till yesterday, seven persons out of the 15 submitted wealth statements as per the HC's order.
Earlier, former AL lawmakers Hazi Selim, Abul Hasnat Abdullah, M a k u b H o s s a i n and Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu had submitted wealth statements through representatives.
Meanwhile, ACC Commissioner Abul Hasan Manzoor Mannan at a press briefing yesterday said the commission would once again conduct a screening of the now-defunct Bureau of Anti Corruption (Bac) staffs to resolve problems created in it (ACC) due to previous screening.
Since the formation of the ACC in 2004, the then chairman and members absorbed 741 ex-Bac staffs including 85 officers and the rest 263 staffs were screened out.
The screening process created a controversy in the ACC due to widespread allegations that a number of competent and honest officers were screened out while many incompetent ones were absorbed in the commission.
This time all those who were absorbed and who were not would come under the screening process again, said Mannan. "We are fine tuning the commission organogram."
Mannan said they are also working on ways of increasing ACC manpower since it is too difficult to continue the massive drive to combat corruption.
He mentioned that ACC is examining wealth statements of some five of the 50 listed graft suspects to see whether there is any mismatch between their legal source of income and their acquired wealth.
Mannan however declined to give their names.

Telenor offered

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At the current market prices, this 13 percent stake would be worth 2.6 billion Nkr, according to the report.
"We don't ask for charity or donations," Yunus was quoted as saying. "We want to pay Telenor the full market price for the shares."
Telenor's controlling stake in GrameenPhone has long been a contentious issue with Yunus having regularly said he wants GrameenPhone to be owned by the poor women of Bangladesh.
GrameenPhone was formed in 1996 by Telenor along with Grameen Telecom, a division of Grameen Bank.
Telenor chief executive Jon Frederik Baksaas is scheduled to have a meeting with Yunus today in Oslo, AFX News Limited, an online website, run the report referring to the Norwegian daily.