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STRANDED BANGLADESHIS
Dipu Moni visits camps on border

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday saw off the first batch of stranded Bangladeshis who were leaving Alexandria by the first repatriation flight of Bangladesh Biman.

The flight was scheduled to arrive at Hazrat Shahjalal
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SANAULLAH MURDER
HC rule on 11 accused on bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A High Court bench yesterday issued a suo moto rule asking 11 accused in a case filed for killing Natore's Boraigram upazila chairman Sanaullah Noor Babu to explain within two weeks why their bail should not be cancelled.

Pirates shoot at fishermen, loot trawlers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali
Pirates looted five fishing trawlers, nets and hilsa worth Tk 60 lakh and fired shots at fishermen injuring six early yesterday on the river Meghna in Hatiya upazila of the district.
They wounded fishermen: Amir Hossain, 38,
SEE PAGE 13 COL 8

PRAYER TIMING March 14

Azan	5:05	5:40
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



A girl wrapping herself in a blanket looks at the devastation at Ishinomaki city in Miyagi prefecture of Japan yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Power-grab seditious

Preamble of charter to include declaration of independence by Bangabandhu, proclamation of independence by Mujibnagar gov; JS special session on constitution amendment soon

SHAKHAWAT LITON
The parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendment yesterday decided in principle to include a clause in the country's supreme charter with a provision for stringent punishment for extra-constitutional takeover of state power and suspension of the constitution. Such activities will be considered as treacherous and seditious offence, and those who will assist the usurpers in ratifying the illegal acts will also be held equally responsible, according to the decision. The committee took the decision based on repeated experiences of extra-constitutional takeover of state power, and suspension of the constitution. The parliamentary special body at a meeting held in Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban also decided to include in the preamble of the constitution the declaration of independence by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on
SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

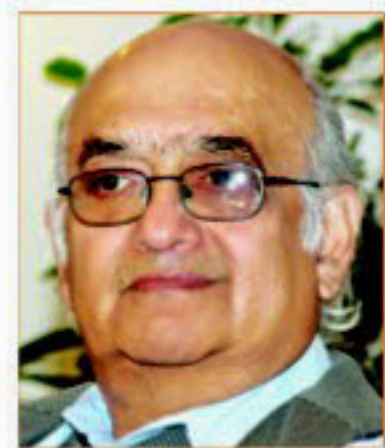
AL won't back candidates in UP polls

HASAN JAHD TUSHER
Ruling Awami League decided not to back candidates in the upcoming union parishad elections responding to an Election Commission call to keep the UP polls free from partisan politics. The Awami League has also urged all political parties and people not to back or vote for any "corrupt people, criminals and war criminals." "We won't support any candidates in the UP elections in line with the election commission's call," Awami League Organising Secretary AFM Bahauddin Nasim told The Daily Star yesterday. "Local body elections are always non-partisan and we want them to be free from partisan influence," said Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahabubul Alam Hanif. Party insiders said the decision was made to avert squabbling in the party grassroots witnessed during the recently concluded municipality elections. Sources said if a candidate is backed by Awami League central, a few other party candidates stand against him or her triggering a rift in the party's local units. The party had to take organisational actions against these rebels.
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Listen to 80 lakh owners

Rehman Sobhan urges govt about Grameen Bank at micro-credit roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government should heed the calls of 80 lakh Grameen Bank shareholders and let a democratic process determine how the organisation will be run, eminent economist Rehman Sobhan said yesterday. "If you respect democracy, the prime ownership rests with the principal shareholders of the organisation. This is the simple proposition you have to keep in your mind -- what do 80 lakh owners want in the organisation," he said. "Address their needs. Are they complaining about how the organisation is being run? Let the democratic process decide how the activities of the organisation should be conducted." "All organisations respond to democratic mandate through the instrument of ownership and accountability, with the principal accountability comes through the process of who own it. The whole thing has to be done through the democratisation of ownership," Sobhan said. He made the remarks at a
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RELATED STORY ON PAGE B1



Yunus is a political victim

Say some British MPs, academics
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
Lord Avebury, vice-chair of the UK Parliamentary Human Rights Group, has said the removal of Grameen founder Prof Muhammad Yunus by the government from his post raises serious concerns
SEE PAGE 13 COL 8



Vessels carrying heavy equipment for a power plant in Agartala of India arrive at the Ashuganj river port in Brahmanbaria. The transshipment of the equipment was agreed upon during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's last visit to India. PHOTO: STAR

Equipment from India arrives

Road route not ready yet to take those to power plant site
SHEIKH MD SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Brahmanbaria
Two ships carrying eight heavy equipment for the proposed Palatana Power Plant in Indian state of Tripura have arrived at Ashuganj River Port from Kolkata. The equipment will be transhipped to the Tripura's state capital Agartala by Ashuganj-Akhaura road. However, the transit
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ONLINE POLL

Despite the famous win against England on Friday, are you satisfied with Bangladesh cricket team's performance in the ongoing cricket world cup?

Yes (39.4%)
No (56.9%)
No Comments (3.7%)
TOTAL VOTES : 469

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Lord Avebury, vice-chair of the UK Parliamentary Human Rights Group that Prof Muhammad Yunus is a political victim?

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