

INTERCONTINENTAL RETURNS Agrees to take over Ruposhi Bangla

The UK foreign secretary fears "a new cold war"

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IRAN'S NUKE AMBITION

BANGLA ACADEMY Awards go to 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangla Academy yesterday announced its literary award for 2011 in nine fields of literature.

Dr Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of the academy, named the 10 winners of Bangla Academy Sahitya Award 2011 at its premises.

The awardees are **SEE PAGE 19 COL 8**



Progressive politics on the move SYED BADRUL AHSAN

After February 22, events moved with remarkable

speed. On April 26, 1952, as Abul Maal Abdul Muhith remaks in his State Language Movement in East Bengal 1947-1956, a non-communal organization called East Pakistan Students' Union was established. Additionally, leading progressive Bengali intellectuals came **SEE PAGE 6 COL 3**

Big parties Help try war backing extortion

FALGUN 7, 1418 BS

Transport sector crime pushes up prices of essentials; minister, businesses share frustration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The big political parties are encouraging extortion in the transport sector in their own interest, Commerce Minister GM Quader said yesterday.

"Extortion at different places and under different names is on and it is causing prices [of essential commodities] to go up," he said speaking at a seminar on modernisation of agriculture and acceleration of farm produce exports.

Quader, a presidium member of the Jatiya Party, a key component of the Awami League-led ruling alliance, said, "Big political parties are encouraging it [informal payments and extortion] more than discouraging it."

He said political parties do not go tough on this kind of extortion since they need people to get votes for them. Extortion in the transport sector has become a norm and people involved in it consider it their legal business and their right.

Now there is an effort to "legalise" this extortion.

Quader's remarks came a week after Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan along with some transport leaders demanded before a parliamentary sub-committee that extortion in the transport sector be made legal to "stop corruption in the transport sector".

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criminals

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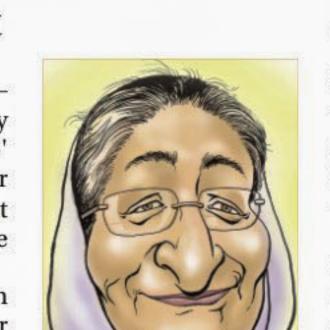
Hasina urges Khaleda; slams her for threatening govt

UNB, Sandwip, Ctg

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday alleged that the BNP chief's 'Dhaka Cholo' programme is "designed to protect the war criminals" facing trial for their involvement in killings, plundering and rapes during the LiberationWar.

"Trial of war criminals is our election pledge. It must be accomplished. I want your cooperation," she told a huge rally at a ground close to Sandwip Haji AB College yesterday afternoon.

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Restore caretaker or quit power

Khaleda tells govt; warns of tougher agitation after Mar 12 rally

STAR REPORT

The ruling party must ensure that the next general election is held under a non-party government or it has to step down, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has said.

"The ball is now in their [government] court. They must take measures to hold the general election under a neutral and nonparty government. It does not matter whether the name of that government is caretaker or something else," Khaleda said at a huge rally on the Adarsha Samad School **SEE PAGE 7 COL 4**



STALEMATE OVER CARETAKER

AL, BNP shift a little, show some hope

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Both the ruling Awami League and the main opposition BNP now appear open to breaking the deadlock over ways to hold the next parliamentary elections.

Sources said the two archrivals have primarily discussed at their respective party forums the issue of installing an interim government. They, however, want

to look further into it before coming up with a formal proposal.

AL is ready to discuss the matter, provided the opposition places a proposal in parliament to that end, said a senior leader of the party.

Until early this month, both the parties stuck to their stance on the caretaker government system. BNP was saying it SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

SIR NINIAN FORMULA

NEWS ANALYSIS

Rejected then, reviewed now

SHAKHAWAT LITON

To break the political stalemate, Awami League now seems to prefer an interim administration comprised of members from the ruling and opposition parties for holding the next parliamentary polls.

Back in 1994, the AL had rejected this very formula **SEE PAGE 19 COL 5**

Star pledges for youths

Celebrates its 21st anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star yesterday celebrated its 21st anniversary with a pledge to promote the country's youth and be a part of their endeavours in taking Bangladesh to new heights.

In a colourful ceremony at the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, the English daily shared its joy of success with its readers, writers, well wishers and patrons.

"More than 70 per cent of the country's population is below 40," Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of the daily, told the gathering. "This makes us perhaps the youngest population of the world."

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The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam introduces to the audience 16 young leaders, who are aged below 35 and regarded as change makers in their domain, during the newspaper's 21st anniversary celebrations at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday evening.

PHOTO: STAR

Yunus banks on youths

Says they will change politics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday called for an alternative political stream in the country, saying politicians were failing to fulfil the aspirations of the people.

He said frustration over politics was deepening among the people. "People are not satisfied with the politicians. So, politics has to be pursued

in new ways. Alternative political stream has to be introduced," said the microcredit pioneer.

The Nobel laureate's observations came at a gettogether of development activists at the Gonoshasthaya Kendra in Savar.

Forty NGOs have organised the three-day event to mark 40 years of the nation's independence and the anniversary of Gonoshasthaya Kendra (Peoples Health Centre). On the first day yesterday, they accorded a reception to 40 distinguished individuals for their

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