

Hartal in Rajshahi tomorrow

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi Gas Andolon Parishad will now observe dawn-to-dusk hartal tomorrow instead of today.

Earlier, the Parishad called the hartal on April 17 demanding supply of natural gas through pipeline before end of the tenure of the present government.

It was decided at a meeting of the Parishad at the Rajshahi public library yesterday.

The Parishad convener Mahatab Uddin at a press conference said the date has been shifted due to the Mujib Nagar Day today.



PHOTO: STAR
Members of scout feed polio vaccine to a child in front of the Sangsad Bhaban in the city yesterday on the first day of the special nationwide immunisation drive.

TORTURE BY POLICE

Shanta submits *naraji* petition

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Shahin Sultana Shanta, victim of police brutality during a protest programme by the 14-party opposition alliance on March 12, yesterday filed a *naraji* (no-confidence) petition against the opinion of a magistrate.

Shanta filed the petition with the Fourth Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka against the opinion of Metropolitan Magistrate Shafique Anwar submitted on April 2.

"Shafique Anwar after recording statements of Shanta and nine others opined that the beating up of Shanta by the police on March 12 was proved but such activities of police are a punishable crime under Bangladesh Penal Code" Shanta mentioned in her petition.

She mentioned in her *naraji* petition that the charges of women and children repression against the accused were proved on the basis of statements of witnesses, circumstantial evidences, medical certificate and footages of barbaric torture on her.

So the charges against the accused should be brought under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, Shanta said.

After the hearing, Judge Kaniz Akhter Nasrina Khanam fixed April 20 for order on the issue.

On March 14, Shanta filed the first case with the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Dhaka against two deputy commissioners of police, a constable and 14 other unnamed policemen and policewomen. The inspector general of police is investigating the case.

Shanta filed another case under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act with the First Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka on March 19 where she also accused the same policemen of attempting to violate her. The court ordered a judicial probe into her allegation the same day.

1,169 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,169 people on various charges from different parts of the country in the last 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.

During the drive, the law-enforcers also seized three firearms and three bullets.