



**Nazrul's death anniversary today**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The 30th death anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam will be observed today. The day's programme will begin with the placing of wreaths at the

**State office used again, street closed**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The ruling BNP yesterday held the National Executive Committee meeting at Prodhannontri Bhaban instead of its central office, continuing the practice of using state facilities and amenities for party purposes.

**Prayer Timing**  
August 27

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-33	6-36
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

**BB to start fresh probe into Jubok activities**

**REJAUL KARIM BYRON**  
Bangladesh Bank (BB) is going to launch fresh investigation into the illegal deposit collection and loan disbursement by Jubok Karmasangsthan Society (Jubok) flouting the central bank's order. The BB has received a number of complaints recently about illegal banking by Jubok though the central bank had asked it in July to stop such activities, BB sources said. "We have formed 20 inspection teams to investigate the complaints and the teams will soon visit the places where Jubok has been operating," a senior BB official said yesterday.

Stern action will be taken against Jubok if the fresh investigation finds that the organisation continues to collect deposits from commoners despite the BB order, the official said. In July, the BB asked Jubok to return all savings and deposits to its members and depositors by December this year. It also asked Jubok to immediately stop collecting deposits from people in any form for the sake of public interest. The BB also made public announcement in the media about Jubok's illegal banking and asked people not to make any transaction with it. But the organisation, report-

edly backed by a number of influential ruling alliance men, is still running the illegal activities across the country, sources said. The finance ministry recently notified the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) about the actions against Jubok. Following a query, the finance ministry informed the PMO of the illegal financial activities and said Jubok has invested deposits, collected from commoners, for commercial purposes, which is against the existing rules and regulations. Sources in the banking sector,

**SHIBIR'S DEATH THREAT Writer Hasan Azizul files GD with police**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi**  
Eminent litterateur Hasan Azizul Haque, also a professor of Rajshahi University (RU), yesterday filed a general diary (GD) with Motihar Police Station in Rajshahi seeking security measures for himself and his family members. In the GD, Hasan said Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of the ruling Jamaat-e-Islami, under the banner of Sachetan Chhatra Samaj staged demonstration on RU campus and threatened to kill him. "My family and I feel insecure under the present circumstances. I urge you [police] to take necessary actions," Prof Hasan said in the GD.

**Iran defies UN, opens nuclear reactor**

**US may freeze Iranian assets and restrict trade, reports LA Times**

**AP, REUTERS, Khondab/ Washington**  
An Iranian plant that produces heavy water officially went into operation yesterday, despite UN demands that Tehran stop the activity because it can be used to develop a nuclear bomb. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad inaugurated the plant, which Tehran says is for peaceful purposes. The announcement comes days before Thursday's UN deadline for Iran to stop uranium enrichment

which also can be used to create nuclear weapons or face economic and political sanctions. Tehran has called the UN Security Council resolution "illegal" and said it won't stop enrichment as a precondition to negotiations. Mohammed Saeedi, the deputy head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, said the heavy water plant is "one of the biggest nuclear projects" in the country, state-run television reported. He said the plant will be used in the pharmaceutical field and in diagnos-

ing cancer. The plant's top official, Manouchehr Madadi, said the facility has the ability to produce up to 16 tons of heavy water a year. Iran has been building a heavy water reactor near the plant for two years, but the reactor is not scheduled for completion until 2009. Nuclear weapons can be produced using either plutonium or highly enriched uranium as the explosive core. Either substance can be produced in the process of

**Israel wants troops from selective Muslim nations**

**AP, Jerusalem**  
Israel said yesterday it was encouraging some Muslim countries to send peacekeepers to southern Lebanon, a contribution that would lend credibility to the heavily European force. EU nations pledged 6,900 troops Friday, dispelling concerns that the peacekeeping force might not materialize because of reluctance to send troops without clear instructions or authorization to use their weapons. But the force was still far short of the 15,000 troops envisioned under

a resolution that stopped a month of fighting between Israel and the Islamic Hezbollah guerrillas. The EU and UN agree the peacekeeping mission must have a strong Muslim component to give it credibility. Israel, however, objects to nations that do not recognize the Jewish state, saying such troops would make it impossible for Jerusalem to share intelligence with the UN force. That would exclude Indonesia, Bangladesh and Malaysia, which have offered troops. But Israel said it has been in

**Hasina sits with 14-party leaders to intensify reforms agitation**

**HASAN JAHID TUSHER**  
Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina today sits separately with top leaders of the 14-party opposition combine and her party's joint and organising secretaries with the final round of agitation to compel the government to accept electoral reforms topping the agenda. The next course of opposition politics, major challenges before it and sharing of seats in the next parliamentary polls might also figure at the meeting of top leaders of the 14-party to be held at the AL's Dhanmondi office. The other meeting will also be



**Rab personnel stand next to the pools of blood and gore at Chowbaria in Naogaon yesterday. Outlaws killed five including four policemen there on Friday.**

**Hartal observed in Jessore to protest attack on AL leader**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore**  
A half-day strike enforced by a faction of the district Awami League (AL) in Jessore yesterday to protest the attack on former minister and AL leader Khaledur Rahman Tito passed off peacefully. Shops and business outlets remained closed and vehicles, including rickshaws, were off the roads during the 6:00am-2:00pm strike. The followers of Tito brought out processions and held rallies in town during the last two days in support of the strike. They also accused Kazi Nabi Ahmed, a central AL leader, of the attack.