



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina addressing a public rally at Khulna Circuit House Maidan yesterday.

3 months over, not a single most wanted criminal caught

SHAIKH NAZRUL ISLAM

The much-talked-about move of the present government to arrest 23 'most wanted terrorists' has apparently failed.

The government neither constituted any special squad nor carried out any special drive to nab those terrorists even in more than three months of announcement of a list of the criminals.

The BNP-led coalition government which came to the power pledging to improve law and order in the country announced the list of 23 top terrorists on December 24 last. The initiative seems to have made little headway as even their photographs are still to be collected.

The authorities only provided information to the press and announced awards for those who would help arrest the criminals.

The home ministry and police now claim that some of the most wanted terrorists have left the country and some have gone into hiding. So, they could not be arrested.

"All this clearly seems to be a political stunt of the ruling party," said a top police official seeking anonymity. "Most of the listed terrorists have strong links with the ruling alliance and police naturally hesitate to arrest them."

Asked about widespread allegations of corruption, inefficiency and failure of police to discharge their duties properly, top police officials claimed that law and order is not improving due to 'political links' of the terrorists. The situation would not change unless political leaders stop giving 'shelter to terrorists,' they said.

Moreover, in many cases police were 'demoralised' due to large-scale transfers in three phases. 'Major reshuffles' in the police administration at the fag end of Awami League rule, during the caretaker government's tenure and then during the first months of the present government made them feel 'quite shaky,' the officials noted.

"All the successive governments brought changes in the police admin

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Befitting reply at suitable time, warns Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Opposition leader and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday warned the government of "serious consequences" of removing the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibar Rahman because the country gained independence under his uncompromising leadership.

She asked the people to list those who want to remove Bangabandhu's portrait. They will be given a befitting reply at a suitable time, the daughter of Bangabandhu said addressing a big public meeting at the Circuit House Maidan here in the afternoon.

She said the four-party alliance government has ruined the country's economy and created a law and order situation. Murder, rape, extortion and atrocities have made people's life miserable.

Members of the "gigantic cabinet" and ruling party MPs are involved in corruption, tarnishing the image of the country abroad. Donors have given no green signal as regards disbursement of funds, Hasina said.

She said the country is in the grip of terrorists who are committing mu

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Fantasy Kingdom opens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All were seemingly lost in a world of entertainment and amusement as the Fantasy Kingdom was opened.

Fairy tales of Prince Ashu and Princess Lia were the main attractions for children at the country's biggest amusement park at Ashulia, some 35 kilometers from the city.

But some 5000 guests including foreign diplomats were captive viewers for hours when 20 'amusing

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

BCL activist killed in attack allegedly by JCD men

UNB, Mymensingh

A Chhatra League activist was killed and four others were injured in an attack allegedly by the activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal in Mohanganj upazila of Netrakona on Thursday night.

The dead was identified as Rafiqul Baki Khan, 25. He appeared in the degree examination this year from Mohanganj Degree College.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Murders of 10 newsmen in SW dists

Most alleged killers at large, no headway in 8 cases

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

Most of the alleged killers of journalists in southwestern districts are still at large.

Ten journalists were murdered in the last nine years and the verdicts of only two murder cases have so far been pronounced, while the remaining eight cases are yet to be disposed of due to slow pace of investigation, sources said.

The first such incident took place in 1994 with the killing of Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury, senior reporter of the Dainik Sphulingo in Jessore.

Although the FIR-named accused have been con-

victed, one of the alleged killers is still at large since he was not charged under political influence.

Faruque Ahmed, crime reporter of the Daily Runner in Jessore, was killed in 1995. Each of the four accused in the case has been sentenced to life-term.

Saiful Islam Mukul, editor of the Daily Runner, was shot dead on the night of August 30, 1998. A case was registered with Kotwali Police Station of Jessore on August 31. CID investigated the case and charged 22 accused. The case is now under trial, sources said.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7