



PHOTO: STAR

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addresses a meeting organised by the Awami League at the Institution of Engineers Bangladesh Auditorium in the city yesterday to mark the Independence Day.

## BNP plans big to head off anti-govt agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has taken up month-long programmes beginning April 1 to head off hartals and other anti-government programmes in view of opposition's April 30 deadline to overthrow the government.

The programmes also aim to activate party activists and highlight the successes the BNP-led four-party coalition government

## Prof. Anisur Rahman dies in road accident



Professor Anisur Rahman, an economist, died in a road accident at Rugganj upazila in Narayanganj on March 26, says a press release.

He along with a relative, Rajan, was travelling in a car that veered off the road and plunged into a ditch, leaving him dead.

Driver Abdul Bashir died in a clinic and Rajan is now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Author of many books on economics, Prof. Anisur Rahman served at Comilla Victoria College, Maminunessa College and Dhaka College.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

His quikhwani will be held at JMC Plaza, House # 8/A/9, Dhanmondi, after Maghrib prayers today.

has achieved in the last two and a half years.

Under the programmes, the BNP and its different front organisations will hold rallies and bring out processions in each ward of the capital. BNP policymakers, ministers and senior leaders will take part in the programmes.

The party high command has instructed leaders and activists up to ward level to stay alert and all thana- and ward-level leaders to keep close contact with party's city and central offices.

Prime Minister and BNP chief Khaleda Zia will address a public meeting on April 10 at Dhanmondi-Mohammadpur constituency. As part of holding meetings in each of the parliamentary constituencies of the city, she already held meetings at Jatrabari, Bashabo, Lalbagh, Badda and Mirpur.

Several BNP policymakers admitted that the month-long programmes were taken in the wake of main opposition Awami League's (AL) April 30 deadline to dislodge the government. They fear that the AL might try to create a law and order situation.

City BNP General Secretary Abdus Salam told The Daily Star yesterday that the party has planned a massive campaign and

## Over 1800 held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,818 people, including three listed criminals, during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday.

They also recovered five firearms and four other arms and filed four cases against six people.

mass contact across the city to politically face the AL.

He said the party will hold a massive public meeting at Paltan Maidan on May 1, a day after the expiry of the AL deadline, to give the AL a befitting reply.

## RAPE CASE AGAINST BABUL

## HC issues rule on govt

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday issued rule upon the government, returnable in three days, to explain why the records of rape case against Nurul Islam Babul should not be called for so that it may satisfy that the accused is not harassed illegally.

Division bench comprising Justice M Awlad Ali and Justice Abdul Awal passed the order upon hearing of the bail petition of Babul, chairman of Jamuna Group of Industries and owner of leading daily Jugantor, accused in an attempt to rape case.

The court on a separate petition granted anticipatory bail for three months to Shamim Islam, son of Babul, in connection with the murder of dredging worker Alam Promanik at Badda in September last year.

Police arrested Babul on March 20 in connection with a murder case. He was granted bail but shown arrest in a rape case before he could secure release from the prison.

Meanwhile, Chamber Judge of the Supreme Court yesterday set March 31 for hearing by the regular bench of the government petition seeking stay of Babul's bail order.

## Ashtami Snan begins at Langalbandh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Ashtami Snan, a religious festival of the Hindu, began at Langalbandh in Narayanganj yesterday.

Hundreds of devotees from home and abroad have assembled on the bank of the river Brahmaputra to take the holy bath for purification.

A total of 13 ghats have been set up along the river to facilitate the snan.

The snan, which started at 2:00pm, is scheduled to end this

evening.

"Brahmaputra, please purify my body," chanted the devotees while having a dip in the river.

Basanti Puja is also being held at the site of the snan.

Different religious organisations have been providing food for the devotees. These include Sadhu Nan, Sriguru Sangha, Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Samaj and Ramkrishna Mission.

A three-day fair has also been organised to mark the occasion.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Thailand exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of a three-day Thailand Exhibition 2004 will be held. FBCCI President Abdul Awal Minto will inaugurate. Venue: Sheraton Hotel.

Time: 10.00am. The exhibition will remain open from 10.00am to 6.00pm daily.

### Discussion

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote organises a discussion and cultural function in observance of the Independence and National Day. Venue: Bishwasahitya Kendra auditorium, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Time: 3.00pm.

### Mohila Sramik League conference

A conference of Mohila Sramik League will be held with Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10.00am.

### Discussion

Jatiya Chhatra Samaj organises a discussion and cultural function to mark its 21st founding anniversary with Jatiya Party Chairman Hussain Mohammad Ershad as chief guest. Venue: Mohanagar Natya Mancha, Gulistan. Time: 3.00pm.

### Roundtable

Dhaka Reporters Unity organises a roundtable on 'Risk in journalism and Bangladesh perspective' with Communications Minister Nazmul Huda as chief guest. Venue: CIRDP auditorium, Topkhana Road. Time: 10.00am.

### Seminar

The Institute of Chartered Accountants

of Bangladesh (ICAB) organises a seminar on 'Disclosure requirements of listed companies and responsibilities of auditors' with State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources A K M Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: ICAB auditorium, 100 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Time: 5.00pm.

### Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Sea of Love' (1989). Venue: Society auditorium, 21 /C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

## DHAKA TOMORROW

### Saarc festival

The inaugural ceremony of the second Saarc Cultural Festival 2004 will be held with Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan as chief guest. Venue: Osmani Memorial auditorium. Time: 7.00pm.

### Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an Indian film titled 'Bandi Queen' (1994). Venue: Society auditorium, 21 /C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

### Symposium

The opening ceremony of a two-day symposium titled 'Poverty and Population', organised by population sciences department of Dhaka University, will be held with Vice Chancellor S M A Faiz as chief guest. Venue: Auditorium of the Academy for Planning and Development, Nilkhet. Time: 10.30am.

### General meeting

A general meeting of Jalalabad Association, Dhaka will be held. Venue: Barc auditorium, Farmgate. Time: 4.00pm



PHOTO: STAR

State Minister-in-charge of home ministry Lutfozzaman Babar speaks at a meeting of the businessmen at Chwkbazar in the old city yesterday while local MP Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu looks on.

## Remain vigilant against premediated crimes

## Babar asks police officials

UNB, Dhaka

State Minister-in-charge of home ministry Lutfozzaman Babar yesterday urged the police officials to remain vigilant against organised and premediated gruesome murders committed to create panic in society.

Addressing a high-level meeting at the ministry he cautioned that "certain quarters were bent on

vitiation and destabilising the social and business environment by resorting to gruesome crimes".

The monitoring meeting on the law and order situation of Dhaka metropolis was held at the home ministry at a time when a spine-chilling news report of the grisly triple-murder of a wealthy businessman, his son and their car driver hit headlines yesterday.

Home Secretary Muhammad Omar Faruque, Inspector General of Police Shahudul Haque, DMP Commissioner Ashraf Huda and Additional Inspector General of Police in charge of the newly raised Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) Anwarul Iqbal were present.

The meeting reviewed the performance of civil teams, mobile courts and block raids carried out in various thanas in the city during the past three days.

The meeting was told that some enlisted criminals were arrested and a good quantity of ammunition and narcotic substances recovered in the latest special anti-crime drive.

"Besides, rigorous checks of motor vehicles were undertaken at various traffic points and some vehicles seized or recovered," says an official press release.

Some progress was also made with regard to solving the logistic, personnel, financial and transport problems of the civil teams, it observed.

Babar said 90 civil teams deployed in as many wards of the city "should gear up their activities in concert with" the respective police stations.

He called for constant monitoring and supervision in order to elicit accountability on the basis of outputs and outcomes.

The state minister urged the law-enforcing agencies to take "all-out measures for swift prevention, detection and investigation of crimes".

Babar put stress on adapting a 'carrot-and-stick' policy for rewarding achievement and punishing failures of the police personnel.

## Death anniversary

The fourth death anniversary of

Farah Amena Rashid (Faria), daughter of engineer Mamun Rashid, will be observed today, says a press release.

Qurankhwani, doa mahfil and distribution of food among the destitute have been arranged at WAPDA orphanage in Motijheel.



PHOTO: STAR

Police attach the properties of Kajol, a former leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, for his alleged involvement in the killing of businessman Shamsul Haq and his son Russel in the city yesterday.

## ATTACK ON AZAD Arrest of Saydee demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

Six student organisations in a statement yesterday accused Delwar Hossain Saydee MP of inciting the attack on eminent writer Humayun Azad and demanded his immediate arrest.

The organisations are Bangladesh Chhatra Moitry, Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal-backed BCL, Jatiya Chhatra Dhara and Samajbadi Chhatra Jote.

Terming Saydee a war criminal and collaborator of the Pakistani occupation forces, they

demand an immediate ban on programmes of Saydee on ATN Bangla. They said the student community was disappointed with his programme aired on the Independence Day.

AL-backed BCL at its national executive committee meeting yesterday decided to bring out a procession on the Dhaka University campus today to press for the demand. It will also bring out processions and hold rallies across the country on March 31 and form a human chain

on April 1.

Carrying black flags, JSD-backed BCL will bring out a procession towards ATN Bangla, a private TV channel, demanding ban on all programmes of Saydee. The BCL will announce fresh programmes today at a press conference at Madhu's canteen.

## Painting workshop for children

The Alliance Francaise is sponsoring a three-month painting workshop for children aged between 7 and 16 from next month, says a press release.

The admission test will be held at South Breeze School at 10:30am on April 2.

Artist Masuma Khan will conduct the workshop. Due to the renovation work of the Alliance Francaise, the workshop will be held at South Breeze School at Road #4, Dhanmondi.

For details, guardians are requested to contact Masuma Khan (Phone: 7114638).