



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.

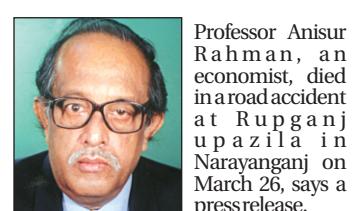
## BNP plans big to head off anti-govt agitation

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 Rupganj 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 Bashar 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, Maminnesa College and Dhaka College.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

His quirkhani will be held at JMC Plaza, House # 8/A/9, Dhamondi, 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 meeting 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 Abdu Salam told The Daily Star yesterday that the party has planned a massive campaign and last year.

The court on a separate petition granted anticipatory bail for three months to Shamim Islam, son of Babul, in connection with the murder of a 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 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.

### 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.

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## 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.

Basant 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.



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

## Remain vigilant against premeditated 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 premeditated gruesome murders committed to create panic in society.

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

### Haji Selim, 23 AL activists get anticipatory bail

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail for three months to 24 Awami League leaders and activists including former MP Haji Selim in connection with cases of vandalism and explosion during hartal of businessmen in the old city on March 23 protesting criminal activities.

The court passed the order upon petitions filed by Selim and others who appeared before it and sought anticipatory bail to avert arrest.

Advocate Abdul Baset Majumder appeared for the petitioners.

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.

Qurankhwa ni, 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 Moitri, 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

demanded 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, Dhamondi.

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