

AL's countrywide mass-contact campaign starts on Sept 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Frontline leaders of the main opposition Awami League (AL) will begin a four-day countrywide in 15 teams from September 25 to in an attempt to mobilise public support for its movement to overthrow the coalition government.

The leaders will go to the districts and upazilas with the one-point demand and also urge people to join the planned grand rally at Paltan Maidan on October 3 which Leader of the Opposition and party President Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to address.

During the mass-contact campaign, the AL leaders will also protest the August 21 assassination attempt on opposition leader and killing of 20 people.

Abdul Jalil, Sajeda Chowdhury, SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia talks to visiting Saudi Arabian Health Minister Dr Hamad Bin Abdullah Al-Manea at her office yesterday.

AmEX packing up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The American Express (AmEx) Bank is winding up its operations in Bangladesh and is in talks with two other foreign banks to sell off its stakes.

A three-member AmEx delegation met Bangladesh Bank Governor Fakhruddin Ahmed and Deputy Governor Nazrul Huda

yesterday and informed them of the wind-up plan.

The management also briefed the staff of the bank in the afternoon about how they plan to go about winding down the operations. The bank told its staff that it would stop all operations except for correspondent banking and travel related services (TRS). The staff were assured that preference

would be given on upholding their interests.

Robert D Welch, executive director of the bank's headquarters in New York, Charles Nelligan, executive director of the bank's Singapore office, and Qamar Hussain, chief executive officer of the bank's Bangladesh operations met the central bank officials.

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Iran refuses to stop nuke plan

AFP, Tehran

Iran said yesterday it would not accept any limitations on its nuclear activities and threatened to stop allowing tough UN inspections if the issue was referred to the Security Council.

"Iran will not accept any obligations concerning the suspension of enrichment," Iran's top nuclear official Hassan Rowhani said at a

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SUTRAPUR EXPLOSION Police point to gas leak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) suspects gas leakage was the cause of Saturday's blast in a five-storey house in Sutrapur but does not rule out any other possibilities.

"We have not found any explosive substance on the spot that might have caused the blast. However, we'll come to a conclusion after investigation," DMP Commissioner Ashraful Huda told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said the nature of injury the building's caretaker suffered indicates it was not a bomb blast.

Kamrul Sheikh, caretaker of the

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Dozen Turkish drivers killed or kidnapped

2 GIs die in car bomb blast, 3 Iraqis in US tank fire

AFP, Samarra

About a dozen Turkish truck drivers have been either killed or abducted in Sunni Muslim strongholds north of Baghdad over the past 24 hours, Iraqi police sources said yesterday.

"Four trucks with Turkish number plates were destroyed this morning at 10:00 am (0600 GMT) at Balad bridge," Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Hassan from the Balad police, told AFP.

"They were on the main highway between Baghdad and Mosul and all those inside were killed," he said, without confirming the number and

identities of the dead.

Separately, three Turkish trucks were ambushed late Saturday in the town of Dujail, which has become notorious for attacks on US vehicles and convoys of foreign contractors working for coalition troops, police Major Adel Ibrahim said.

"There were trucks with a total of three drivers and three helpers. One of the drivers was shot dead on the spot and the five other people were abducted," said 36-year-old Ahmed Hussein Kadhem, who sells cigarettes by the road.

"Two civilian cars ambushed the

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Police gun-battle with criminals in Raozan

2 cops wounded; 4 arrested with arms from Fatikhchhari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two cops and an alleged criminal were injured in a shoot-out with a criminal gang in a remote rubber garden in Raozan upazila yesterday morning.

The gunfight ensued at about 9:00am when a contingent from Raozan Police Station aided by detective branch members from Chittagong raided the area to nab Jane Alam, a top criminal on police list and ringleader of "Jane Alam Bahini."

During the hour-long gunfight at least 100 gunshots were traded

leaving Sub-Inspector Sugat Chakma, Constable Sunil Chakma and a member of the criminal gang, Mohammad Rafique, 22, wounded. Police arrested him bullet-hit in his right leg.

"We raided the area after getting information that Jane Alam and other members of the notorious gang were hiding there," said a police official. "But when we cordoned off the area the criminals opened fire and we retaliated with 20 gunshots."

Jane Alam and his other accomplices however managed to flee.

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2 extortionists maimed in mob beating

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A mob Saturday maimed two extortionists in the act of realising toll in Pabla under Daulatpur thana.

Rubel, 23, and Abu Hanif Tito, 24, were held when four extortionists went to a sweetmeat shop to realise Tk 5,000. The mob gouged out their eyes and left their hands and legs broken before handing them over to Rapid Action Battalion.

The extortionists are receiving treatment at Khulna Medical College Hospital under custody.

Evicted 300 indigenous people toil at shelter

Fearful still of anti-peace accord gunrunners' attack

MONIRUL ALAM, from Rangamati

At least 300 indigenous people, who have recently been evicted from their homes in Fatikhchhari of

Rangamati district, are living in subhuman conditions in a local community centre.

Most of those people hailed from

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Prayer Timing		
September 20		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-40	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-05	6-10
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation