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## Opposition announces month-long agitation plan

Hartal on Mar 27

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The mainstream opposition parties yesterday announced a series of identical agitation programmes, including a dawn-to-dusk hartal on March 27, demanding resignation of the government and tackling the extremist groups.

The Awami League (AL), left 11-party alliance and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) yesterday announced the next course of their anti-government agitation from separate rallies in the capital.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

## Cops, BNP attack AL activists

60 hurt; many barred from joining rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police and BNP activists yesterday attacked leaders and activists of the Awami League (AL) and its front organisations in the capital and elsewhere on their way to attend a party rally at Paltan Maidan, leaving about 60 injured.

Police fired blank shots and clubbed AL leaders and activists at Nababganj in Dhaka district. The AL adherents turned violent and damaged four vehicles after police

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## Form action bodies to end govt misrule

Hasina asks people from Paltan rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked people to form action committees with pro-liberation and progressive forces across the country and fight unitedly against the coalition govern-

ment to end its 'misrule.'

"Resist this failed and repressive government of BNP and Jamaat," Hasina said addressing a grand rally at Paltan Maidan in the capital. "Ousting this government, people's power will be given back to people."

Hasina, also the president of the main opposition Awami League (AL), urged the police and other law enforcement agencies to work neutrally and stop atrocities on the opposition leaders and workers.

"You are the employees of the state...not of BNP and Jamaat. Don't

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, inset, waves to the thousands of party leaders, activists and supporters gathered at the AL rally yesterday, turning the city's Paltan Maidan and its adjoining areas into a human sea.

## Malaysian Crackdown 8 Bangladeshis rounded up

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Eight Bangladeshi nationals were arrested in the nationwide 'Ops Tegas' crackdown on illegal immigrants by the Malaysian government.

Malaysian news agency Bernama from Putrajaya yesterday reported 563 foreigners including the eight Bangladeshis were arrested in the crackdown.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## Army scraps landmines

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Army has destroyed its stockpile of anti-personnel mines within the 2005 deadline as a signatory to the Anti-personnel Mine (APM) Ban Convention.

The Bangladesh Army in the last four months has destroyed 1,88,227 APMs, the cheapest offensive weapon against aggressors, army sources said.

The force started destroying its stock on November 2 last year and accomplished the goal on February 28, the sources added.

The APMs were brought to the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

## 'Gittu' Nasir, 2 others killed in 'crossfire'

Death toll rises to 240

STAR REPORT

Notorious Shibir cadre Gittu Nasir and listed criminal Apu Kumar Nath were killed in Chittagong and outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML-Lal Potaka) operative Manjur Rahman Sardar died in Rajshahi in three alleged incidents of crossfire between their associates and law enforcers in early hours yesterday.

With these, the death toll in 'crossfire' has risen to 240 since June last.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered an AK-47 assault rifle with a magazine and 77 bullets, a sophisticated revolver, six cartridges and three guns hidden by Gittu Nasir and his gang in Khondakia and Charia Hathazari upazila in Chittagong.

A significant fact in these three incidents is Bagmara police in

Rajshahi implicated the PBCP operative killed in 'crossfire' yesterday in four murders that had earlier been reported to take place at Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMB) camps or by its cadres.

GITTU NASIR'S DEATH

Our staff correspondent in Chittagong reports: Mohammad Nasiruddin alias Gittu Nasir, 36, a top linchpin of Chittagong underworld, was killed in alleged 'crossfire' between his gang and a Rab-7 team at Chaira Havilderpara village in Hathazari at around 2:15am yesterday.

Gittu Nasir was arrested at a Jatrabari slum in the capital by a special team of Rab-7 of Chittagong with assistance of Rab-3 of Dhaka on Monday night or, as a Rab press release mentioned, at 4:30am Tuesday.

Gittu was brought to Rab-7

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## Ex-Bac staff ignores govt order, signs as ACC director

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Flouting a government prohibition, the former director administration of the now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac) yesterday issued an office order designating himself as director administration and establishment of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

The government on several times ordered the Bac staff not to work for the ACC or to use any ACC designation until they are appointed at the commission through a screening.

But, Lt Col Abdul Hannan Mridha yesterday signed the office order after forming a 12-member committee to facilitate ACC Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan and an advisory committee during its courtesy visit today in screening Bac officials for appointment at the ACC.

Mridha is one of the former Bac staffers who had been working at the ACC on deputation until February 17, when the commission decided not to attach any such Bac staff with it and asked the government to withdraw five former Bac directors including Mridha from it.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## Investigators raid Galib's house, office, madrasa

Gather 'evidence trove'; probe implicates unnamed Islamist group in grenade attack on Rangpur Brac office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Investigators from the Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC) in Dhaka, allied with police from Rajshahi, Bogra and Gopalganj, seized a huge trove of evidence during a raid on the house and madrasa of militant kingpin Muhammad Asadullah Al Galib at Naodapara yesterday.

Galib himself remains under questioning by JIC in Dhaka but details could not be obtained.

In other developments, an unnamed Islamist militant group has been implicated by a three-member probe body investigating the February 16 grenade attack on a Brac office at Darsana, Rangpur.

Amid tight security, the law enforcers raided the offices of monthly At-Tahreek at Galib's home and of Ahle Hadith Jubo Sangha (AHS), Salafi Madrasa and its student hostels for three hours beginning at 2:00pm.

A well-placed source in the police said Galib gets a huge foreign donation with which he runs around 600 mosques, madrasas and health centres.

Intelligence officials have already checked Galib's bank account and might freeze it soon.

During interrogation by JIC, Galib is giving confusing statements about the attacks on NGOs and cultural functions saying only that all these could be done by Moulana

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Investigators from the Joint Interrogation Cell, Dhaka search a madrasa of Islamist militant kingpin Muhammad Asadullah Al Galib at Naodapara in Rajshahi yesterday under a tight police guard.

## Bhutan's new Saarc secy gen takes charge

PTI, Kathmandu

New Saarc Secretary General, Chenkyab Dorji of Bhutan, has assumed the office for the next three years, replacing QAMA Rahim of Bangladesh whose tenure has expired.

62-year-old Dorji, who was appointed as head of the regional grouping for the next three years by the 25th Session of the Council of Ministers in July 2004 in Islamabad, took charge at the Saarc Secretariat

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

## Kibria family begins unique protest today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria today formally launches a peaceful programme titled 'Shantir Pokkhe Nileema' (blue for peace) demanding trial of Kibria's killers and perpetrators of all the grenade and bomb attacks in the previous years across the country.

The programme will begin with parade at 4:00pm at Kibria's

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

## ISLAMIST MILITANTS

## PM to explain govt stance at Sangsad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will explain her government position on the Islamist militants in her winding up speech of the current session of parliament, she assured an opposition lawmaker in the House yesterday.

When Krishak Samik Janata League lawmaker Abdul Quader Siddiqi threw a question on the issue to the premier, she said: "I will respond to the query, but not today. I will speak on the issue in my valedictory speech."

The current session of the 8th Jatiya Sangsad is likely to be prorogued on March 15 next and the prime minister (PM) will deliver the speech on that day.

Raising the issue during the PM's question-answer session, Siddiqi

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

## Dhabi group offers \$2b investment

Plan includes Dhaka-Ctg expressway, power plant, 5-star hotel

STAR REPORT

An Abu Dhabi-based group has come up with the second largest investment plan offered by any single investor in the country, surpassed only by Tata Group. The plan includes upgrading the Dhaka

Chittagong highway into an expressway and setting up a 500MW power plant and a five-star hotel in Cox's Bazar.

If the government approves, Dhabi Group, the largest business conglomerate of United Arab Emirates also has shown real inter-

est to get involved in the country's international telephone call traffic management.

In a meeting with Board of Investment (BoI) Executive Chairman Mahmudur Rahman yesterday, a five-member delegation

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

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