

## Foreign friends have deserted govt for misrule: AL

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League (AL) leaders warned the ruling BNP-Jamaat leaders that they would find no way to escape from the masses during the country-wide hartal on March 27.

The warning came from a meeting organised by Dhaka City AL marking the 86th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday.

Presided over by City AL President Mohammed Hanif, the meeting was addressed by AL Presidium Member Amir Hossain Amu, General Secretary Abdul Jalil, Mohammad Nasim, Obaidul Kader, Haji Mohammed Selim, Abdul Mannan and Faizuddin Mia.

The leaders called upon all party activists to come out on the streets on March 27 to protest the misrule of the alliance government and its patronage to fundamentalism and price-hikes of essentials.

Alleging that the alliance government came to power joining hands with foreign friends, they said even these powerful friends have now deserted them due to their unprecedented misrule.

Referring to the oppositions' demand for reforming the caretaker government system, Nasim said the demand originated from the government's motivated extension of the retirement age for the judges.

\*Judges never demanded extension of their retirement age. The government has done it with ulterior

motive to return to power in the next election," he said.

Despite our huge popularity, we will never be able to win the next election if it takes place under the prevailing system of caretaker government, Nasim added.

## AL Independence Day programmes

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Awami League (AL) will celebrate the Independence Day in a befitting manner.

AL working committee finalised the programmes at a meeting at the party office yesterday with presidium member Zillur Rahman in the chair.

It will bring out an independence day procession in Dhaka on March 26 at 3.00pm after holding a rally at the Bangabandhu Avenue.

The day's other programmes include, hoisting of the national flags at party offices at 5:45am, placing wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Bhaban at 6:30am and offering wreaths at Savar National Mausoleum at 7:30am.

Similar programmes will be arranged across the country.



PHOTO: STAR

The Embassy of Japan and Asia Bunka Kaikan Dosokai, Dhaka, organised a grand Ikebana contest and exhibition at the Spectra Convention Centre in the city yesterday to mark the 30 years of Ikebana in Bangladesh.

## Proshika launches health camps

Proshika, a leading NGO, launched health camps at five places as part of its country-wide programme to extend medicare services to disadvantaged and poor people, says a press release.

The health camps were inaugurated at Mohammadpur and Sabujbagh in the city, at Savar, Khalishpur in Khulna and Ramgati in Noakhali.

Proshika's Senior Vice-President Mahbulul Karim inaugu-

rated the camp at a simple ceremony at the Savar Area Development Centre.

Savar Pourashava Chairman Alhaj Refatullah, VERC village education resource centre Executive Director Abdul Halim, Proshika Principal Programme Coordinator Dulal Dey and Assistant Area Coordinator Mohammad Shaimul Haq spoke on the occasion with Deputy Director Sirajul Islam in the chair.

Child specialist Dr Salahuddin and medicine specialist Dr Nazimuddin attended the Savar camp where 157 patients took medicare help.

Mahbulul Karim also inaugurated a similar camp at Mohammadpur in the afternoon. Proshika Deputy Director Nargis Jahan Banu and Principal Programme Coordinator Abul Kashem Palash spoke. Seven physicians attended 110 patients in the centre.

## 'Muslim Ummah in Contemporary World' launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muslims must shun any form of terrorism and fanaticism as Islam does not allow such activities, said speakers at a book publication ceremony in the city.

The book titled 'Muslim Ummah in the Contemporary World' by Ahmed Farid, former ambassador and secretary, was launched at the Officers' Club on Thursday.

Speaking as the chief guest, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed said, "Islam is a peaceful and tolerant religion and we have to play a role to raise awareness about the essence of Islam across the world."

He said people of different faiths, including Hindus, Buddhists and Christians, are living together peacefully in Bangladesh for many years, but a quarter is trying to portray the country as a fundamentalist country.

Ahmed Farid, author of the book, said that Muslims have to solve their own problems. "Most Muslims live below poverty, which is unacceptable. We all have to work together to curb poverty."

Former secretary ABM Golam Mustafa, former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury,

former foreign secretary Mufleh R Osmani, former ambassador Rezaul Karim, Vice-President of Bangladesh-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry Md Nasir Baharoum, former army chief Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Nooruddin Khan, University Grants Commission Member Dr M Mahub Ullah also spoke.

Former secretary Kafiluddin Mahmud chaired the discussion.

## City BNP rally today

BSS, Dhaka

Dhaka city BNP will hold rallies and bring out processions in different thanas of the city today to protest against calling hartals, bomb attacks, creating anarchy, hindering development activities, release.