

## Khaleda drops visit to nat'l mausoleum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson and immediate-past prime minister Khaleda Zia will not take part in Independence Day programmes today even though she is in the capital, sources said.

According to the source, Khaleda Zia cancelled her programmes to pay tribute to the martyrs of Liberation War at the National Memorial due to the prevailing situation. The BNP, however, did not say anything officially in this regard.

Khaleda also dropped the programme of offering fateha at late president Ziaur Rahman's grave. According to her previous schedule, Khaleda was supposed to visit both the places today.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



A mobile court at Sadarghat in the capital seizes a huge quantity of Jatka (hilsa fry) at a launch from Barisal yesterday.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY

# Security beefed up fearing militant attack

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The government has beefed up security all over the country in apprehension of bomb attacks by militants on the Independence Day.

A large number of police and members of various intelligence agencies were deployed yesterday at key installations across the country. The law enforcers are also conducting more strict body and vehicle searches at almost 300 temporary check posts set up around the capital.

"A threat was issued by JMB [Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh]

on the occasion of the Independence Day. As such, we have taken foolproof measures to avert any incident," Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Naim Ahmed told the Daily Star last night.

He however said it was very common for countries all over the world to receive such threats ahead of their independence or national days.

Apart from 4,500 DMP members, members from intelligence agencies and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) will remain on guard at different places in the capital to thwart any unwanted incident, said the

DMP chief.

As part of the security measures, the law enforcers in the last couple of days started conducting raids at residential hotels, slums and residential houses.

During the last 24 hours till 6:00am yesterday, around 2,069 people were arrested by police, said a police press release.

The DMP commissioner said police have set up around 250 to 300 temporary check posts all over the city. Besides, traffic police, the Detective Branch (DB) and Rab have also set up check posts on different sensitive points in the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## 8 killed in Sirajganj road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

At least eight people were killed and 12 others were injured in a fatal road accident on the Dhaka-Rangpur Highway in Sirajganj yesterday morning.

Police and witnesses said a Rangpur-bound cement-laden truck with 20 to 22 labourers from Dhaka hit a tree and fell into a roadside ditch at Horgati area in Raniganj upazila at around 5:00am, killing seven on the spot.

Another man succumbed to his injuries at hospital.

Three of the dead were identified as Rahidul Islam, 40, of Barkona village in Saghata upazila of Gaibandha, Thandu, 35, of Bagra Colony in Sherpur upazila of Bogra and Haider Ali, 28, of Borguna in Barisal. The identities of the rest could not be known immediately.

The injured were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital. Three of them are in a critical condition.

Police recovered the bodies and sent those to hospital morgue for autopsy.

## Seminar calls for mass awareness against graft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday said corruption in the country might not be curbed successfully without ensuring stern punishment for corruption and regular monitoring.

They said redesigning of existing salary structure or increasing pay scale for government employees would not work effectively to check corruption, rather they emphasised mass awareness about it.

People must know that they will

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## INDEPENDENCE DAY AWARD GIVEN CA for hunger-free Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said that the nation would have to join anew a great struggle for building a forward-looking democratic Bangladesh free from hunger,

poverty and exploitation.

This overdue national task has to be accomplished to attain the objectives of independence, by accepting temporary suffering's

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Mobile court seizes 2,800 kg Jatka: 21 jailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Joint forces led by a mobile court yesterday seized 2,800 kg of Jatka (Hilsa fry), sentenced 21 people to one year's imprisonment each and issued arrest warrants against ten jatka suppliers.

The same court also sentenced three people to three years two

months' imprisonment under BSTI Ordinance and Pure Food Ordinance for counterfeiting renowned drink mix Tang.

The mobile court of Metropolitan Magistrate Rokon Ud-Doula conducted the first drive at Sadarghat launch terminal from 3:30am to 10:00 a.m. The court

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## UN slaps tougher sanctions on Iran

AP, United Nations

The UN Security Council unanimously voted Saturday to impose additional sanctions against Iran for its refusal to stop enriching uranium a move intended to show Tehran that defiance will leave it increasingly isolated.

Iran immediately rejected the sanctions and said it had no intention of suspending its enrichment programme, prompting the United States to warn of even tougher penalties.

"The world must know and it

does that even the harshest political and economic sanctions or other threats are far too weak to coerce the Iranian nation to retreat from their legal and legitimate demands," Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki told the Security Council after the vote. "Suspension is neither an option nor a solution."

The moderately tougher sanctions include banning Iranian arms exports, and freezing the assets of 28 people and organisations involved in Iran's nuclear and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## Govt to import 12,500 tonnes of fertiliser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The advisers' committee on purchase yesterday approved a proposal for importing 12,500 tonnes of fertiliser to meet the demands of the current boro season.

The committee, headed by Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam, also decided in principle to import another 37,500 tonnes of fertiliser and tender for this will be floated on April 2 as the industry ministry placed a proposal to import a total of 50,000 tonnes of fertiliser.

The purchase committee, however, did not approve a Tk 35 crore proposal of the water resources ministry to appoint foreign consultants for the feasibility study and detailed engineering plan for Ganges barrage project.

## Gun, military uniforms found in CHT

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachari

The army yesterday recovered a home-made gun and military uniforms of four countries including Bangladesh from remote Sumburapara village under Panchhara upazila in the district.

Sources said acting on a tip-off, a group of army led by Panchhara zone Major Imtiaz raided the village at 5:30pm and recovered the gun and the uniforms of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar armies.

None was held in this connection.

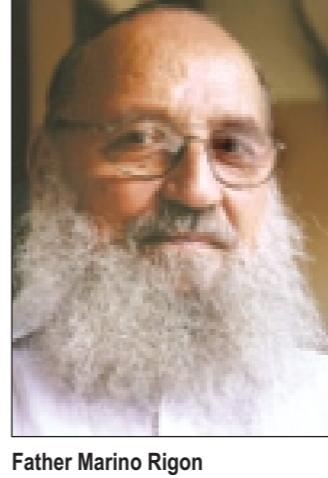
### Prayer Timing

March 26

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:45	5:20
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:45	5:00
Maghrib	6:20	6:25
Esha	7:45	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

## A friend of a nation fighting for freedom



MOON MOON SULTANA and SHEIKH SABIHA ALAM

Father Marino Rigon, a humble Italian priest of a Catholic church, arranged treatment and food for the valiant freedom fighters during the liberation war in 1971, becoming a very important source of support for the dangerously living guerrillas of the time.

His diary, written during the war, is now on display in the Liberation War Museum in the capital along with a photograph of four freedom fighters, taken by him.

His church at Baniarchar in Faridpur played an outstanding

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

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