

The Daily Star

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TO
People's Right to Know

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Moudud detained in night-long raid

Case filed under Narcotics Control Act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The joint forces yesterday detained influential BNP leader and former law minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed raiding his Gulshan residence in the capital.

The crack forces also seized 220 saris which police said are of government relief fund for the poor, 32 cans of beer and 16 bottles of other alcoholic beverages from his bedroom, and some documents including money receipts for different items. The seized items were kept at Gulshan police station.

Gulshan police filed a case against Moudud, a member of the BNP standing committee, under the



Narcotics Control Act.

Moudud was taken into custody by the joint forces and led away from his house in a jeep at 9:40am. He was not handed over to police till filing of this report at 8:30 yesterday evening.

Moudud Ahmed served as a minister in three cabinets since the independence of the country in 1971. He served autocrat Hussain Muhammad Ershad's government both as the prime minister and vice-president.

Staffers of Moudud's house said the army-led joint forces arrived at his Gulshan Avenue residence at 10:45pm on Thursday, 15 minutes

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8 Hizbut Touhid militants held in Meherpur

Arms, bomb-making materials seized

AMANUR AMAN, from Meherpur

The police arrested Anisur Rahman, Meherpur unit chief of militant outfit Hizbut Touhid, early yesterday while the Rab picked up seven more at Gangni upazila last night.

Raiding Anis' house at Harbhanga village at around 4:30am, police also recovered firearms, bomb-making materials and a sword, and seized books on Jihad.

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'CA's speech reflects people's desire'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lauding the speech of Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed, different political parties, civil society leaders, and former advisers to the caretaker government yesterday said the speech was tuned to people's desire as the uncertainty over holding of the next election has been dispelled.

Political parties, however, expressed concern as the CA said nothing about the lifting of ban on political activities.

They urged declaration of a more specific timeframe of election.

Fakhruddin Ahmed in his address to the nation on Thursday outlined the road maps of his government. He categorically said that the next parliamentary election would be held before the end of 2008.

Welcoming the chief adviser for setting the timeframe for the next election, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said some aspects of his speech are positive.

He lauded the government's steps for political reforms and strengthening constitutional and

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Onus on the Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's fifth match in the World Cup Super Eights in Barbados against debutants Ireland tomorrow will be a different kind of mission than what the Tigers have faced against the top-ranked sides earlier in the competition.

Anything but a victory against the ICC associate members would not simply take the gloss off their fairytale run in the game's showpiece event in the Caribbean, but

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9 killed as truck skids off road in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Nine people died and four others were injured in a road accident on the Tangail-Mymensingh highway at Pouli under Kalihati upazila early yesterday.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred when a Gaibandha-bound cement-laden truck from Dhaka skidded off the highway and fell into a ditch at around 5:00am, killing nine labourers on the spot and injuring four others.

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PHOTO: STAR

Rapid Action Battalion conducts a thorough search yesterday at Ramna Batamul stage in the capital for Bangla New Year celebration.

Bangalee's biggest carnival today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the sunrise ushering in Pahela Baishakh, people from all walks of life will welcome Bangla New Year 1414 today all over the country while most residents of the capital will throng Ramna Batomul to take part in the biggest carnival of the Bangalees.

Men in panjabi and pyjama, women in sari, and children in colourful dress—all will gather at

traditional Baishakhi Mela (fair)—a major feature of the celebration of the first day of Bangla New Year. The celebrations also feature cultural functions at Ramna Udyan, Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University (DU), and other places in the capital and elsewhere.

The festivity starts off early in the morning with the gathering of thousands of people under the banyan tree at Ramna Udyan where artistes of cultural organisation Chhayanaut

will sing the traditional Pahela Baishakh song of Rabindranath Tagore—"Esho hey Baishakh"—to welcome the day.

Mangal Shobhajatra, a procession seeking well-being of all, will start from the Institute of Fine Arts in the morning.

People will be gorging themselves on delicacies—Panta Bhat (rice soaked in water), hilsha fry, lentil and smoked chilli—at home

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Greetings



The Daily Star wishes its valued readers, patrons, well-wishers and advertisers a happy Bangla New Year.

Security stepped up to ensure peaceful celebrations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Security has been stepped up to ensure that law and order is properly maintained as the nation today celebrates the advent of Bengali new year, popularly called Pahela Baishakh.

Superintendents of police of all the districts have been ordered to take necessary measures to avert any untoward incidents in their respective districts on the day.

In the capital, around 7,000 security personnel drawn from the police, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) have been deployed in and around the main venue of the new year celebrations — Ramna Batamul—to ensure foolproof security.

Of them, over 5,500 police

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Holiday

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh, the first day of Bangla New Year. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow.

Today's issue includes an 8-page special supplement on the occasion.