

It's all because of a caretaker chief



1. Workers of 14-party combine try to rush a wounded fellow worker to hospital after he was shot in the head near Paltan intersection yesterday during a clash with Jamaat-e-Islami. The man died later. 2. 14-party men destroy a foundation stone recently unveiled by BNP leader M Saifur Rahman in Sylhet. 3. President Iajuddin Ahmed, centre, talks to BNP Secretary General Abdul Manna Bhuiyan, left, and Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil at Bangabhaban in the afternoon. 4. Police charge truncheons on high-ranking Awami League leaders during a rally at the south gate of Baitul Mokarram Mosque. 5. A man lay unconscious on a pavement at Phulbaria near Gulistan after police severely beat him up. 6. Fourteen-party men set fire to shops on the pavement at Phulbaria. 7. Jamaat men bring in bricks to be hurled at 14-party activists near the north gate of Baitul Mokarram Mosque. 8. A Jamaat man injured during yesterday's clash with 14-party men near Paltan intersection. 9. ntv Cameraman Abdullah Al Hossain Milu after being injured near Paltan intersection during a police attack yesterday. 10. 14-party men occupy Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Kanchpur in the city as part of their Dhaka siege programme. 11. 14-party men rob a policeman of his pants near Paltan intersection.

Ctg port chokes with container congestion

Political unrest makes matter worse; 30 ships waiting for loading, unloading

RAFIQ HASAN
Life at the port city Chittagong came to a standstill due to Awami League (AL) led 14-party combine's blockade programme started yesterday. With 30 ships waiting for loading and unloading, the country's premier Chittagong seaport is also facing the most awful congestion in the recent time due to the volatile political situation in the country. The 14-party combine enforced a continuous siege programme in the capital and Chittagong and Mongla seaports from yesterday demanding implementation of their reforms agenda. At a rally on Thursday, Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury also

declared a rail and road blockade programme in the port city yesterday and continuous hartal from today obstructing transport of goods from and to Chittagong. Due to the blockade, few vehicles plied while mills and factories remained closed. Loading and unloading at the port came to a minimum level. It is feared that the congestion at the port will increase further as addition of the waiting ships will further enhance the turn around time. Every day five to seven ships arrive at the port for loading and unloading goods, sources said. Twenty-three container vessels have been waiting at the outer anchorage of the port while another

seven ships are at the port jetty, port sources said. Of the 23 ships waiting at the outer anchorage, 19 are container vessels and four bulk carriers. Some 19,000 TEU containers are now stockpiled at the port yard having capacity of 13,000 TEUs and it adds to the huge congestion there, sources said, adding that there is hardly any space left at the port yard for keeping newly arrived containers. Due to heavy congestion at the port a ship has to wait at least seven to ten days at the outer anchorage to get permission for entering the port channel. The feeder vessel operators already threatened to impose an additional surcharge of \$50 per TEU

(twenty equivalent unit) on all Chittagong bound cargo due to heavy congestion at the port. Business leaders have expressed concern that the country's economy is going to face another onslaught due to uncertainty in the political arena. "We are worried and buyers are inquiring into what is happening in our country faced with a volatile political situation," said SM Fazlul Haque, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA). Expressing hope that the political parties would keep the export-import sector out of the purview of their agitation programme, the

Top businesses concerned as politics goes downhill

STAR REPORT
Top business leaders in a joint statement yesterday expressed deep concern over the prevailing political crisis and breaking out of violence across the country, urging all political leaders and activists to maintain a peaceful coexistence for the sake of the economy. The law and order situation has

Ershad observing course of politics

UNB, Dhaka
Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad said he is now observing the political situation and will take his decision to join any alliance after his party's meeting on November 5. JP Secretary General Ruhul Amin Hawladar told the news agency over telephone that the party chief is now observing the political situation and yet to make up his mind whether to join the four-party alliance.

Politically divided doctors, students clash

DU CORRESPONDENT
At least five people were injured at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) yesterday after two doctors' organisations clashed with each other over holding rallies. Meanwhile, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) beat up two Jubo Mahila League leaders, exploded bombs, fired shots in the air and drove Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men out of DU campus yesterday. In BSMMU, two doctors' organisations clashed over occupying Bot Tala where both the organisations had declared to hold rallies on the same day and at the same time. Witnesses said Awami League (AL)-backed Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad (SCP) was holding a rally chaired by its President Mohammad Arsenol and General Secretary Sharif Uddin at Bot Tala around 11:30am yesterday. The BNP-backed Doctors' Association of Bangladesh (Dab) led by its President ZM Jahid Hasan and General Secretary Abdus Salam approached the spot triggering the clash. The two doctors' bodies pelted bricks at each other that left five injured. A number of windowpanes

DMCH struggles to supply blood to injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) was packed yesterday afternoon with over a hundred patients hurt in the clashes at Paltan and Baitul Mokarram in the capital between the activists of Awami League (AL)-led 14-party opposition combine and the four-party alliance, especially from BNP and Jamaat. On duty doctors at DMCH said

Take action against corrupt ministers, MPs

LDP asks president UNB, Dhaka
Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leaders yesterday urged the president to take action against the corrupt ministers and MPs of the alliance government in the greater interest of the country. "Hawa Bhaban was the center point of all corruption during the last five years and people have

Cops beat up 8 journo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Police beatings injured several journalists yesterday during the protests by Awami League (AL) activists at Gulistan in the capital. Even after informing the police of their identity, they beat up and injured at least eight photojournalists and camera crew belonging to electronic and print media. The police also damaged camera equipments during the rampage. The injured are Amran Hossain and Shawkat Jamil of The Daily Star, Farzana Godhuli from AFP, Pintu from ATN Bangla, Milu from ntv, Mir Ahmed Miru from the



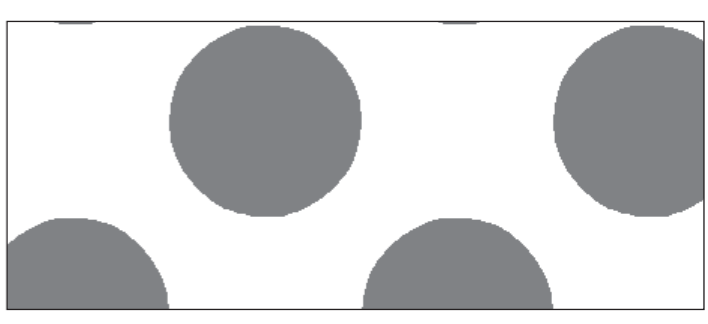
Doctors of the pro-Awami League Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad yesterday attack a nurse belonging to pro-BNP Doctors' Association of Bangladesh at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in the city.

N Korea preparing for another N-test

Fear US, S Korea
AP, Seoul
South Korean and US officials are monitoring the construction of a new building and other activities at a suspected North Korean nuclear site, trying to determine if the communist country is planning a second test detonation, news reports said yesterday. South Korea is keeping a close watch on the movement of trucks and soldiers at the Punggye-ri site in the North Korea's remote northeast, Yonhap news agency reported, citing several unidentified military officials. One official, however, said a second test was "not believed to be imminent." "We are closely monitoring to see if these are preparations for a second nuclear test," another official was quoted as saying. South Korea has also detected a new building being erected at the site, the JoongAng Ilbo newspaper reported, citing unidentified government officials. Separate US and South Korean studies have detected abnormal radiation in air samples, confirming the North has conducted a nuclear test. The South Korean government has pointed to Punggye-ri as a place where the North most likely have conducted the underground blast. "Intelligence agencies from South Korea and the United States are trying to confirm whether this new building is connected to another nuclear test," an official was quoted as saying. It was not immediately clear how military officials first spotted the activities at the site. However, the United States and South Korea generally share intelligence information from satellite images. South Korea's Defence Ministry said it could not confirm the reports.

2 outlaws killed in gunfight with Rab

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia
Two members of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddho) were killed during a fierce gunfight between the outlaws and the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Mirpur upazila of the district on Friday night. The dead were identified as Abir Hasan, 36, operations commander and the general secretary of the outlawed outfit, and his cohort, Taizal. According to a Rab-12 state-



Prayer Timing		
October 29		
	Azan	
Fajr	4-50	5-25
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-32	5-35
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation