

Hartal : 2 killed, 100 hurt

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cluded two press photographers.

Police arrested 38 people from different areas.

The main gates of most of the government and non-government offices, banks, business establishments, schools, and colleges were closed during hartal hours but work continued with limited number of staff.

Major transport services were paralysed during the period.

The brickbats started in the Paltan areas at around 9-30 am when some hartal supporters pelted stones at a group of Nirmul Committee supporters standing in front of the Committee office at Tophkhana.

They also hurled several cocktails injuring several people including a number of Committee supporters. A Committee leader said that four Committee supporters were sent to hospital from the spot.

The Nirmul Committee supporters, numbering fewer than the hartal supporters, reacted turning the area into a battlefield with both sides using mainly bricks as weapons.

Crackers were blasted at a regular intervals during the clash.

Police looked on during the incident which continued for about two hours with the hartal supporters taking up positions at Purana Paltan Square and the Committee supporters in front of their office.

At a stage when the situation turned worse and both the groups were about to start a hand-to-hand battle, a senior police official asked his men to go into action.

Police then lobbed tear-gas shells and used batons indiscriminately to clear up the area. Later police entered different lanes at Tophkhana where Nirmul Committee supporters took shelter and beat them up.

Chief co-ordinator of Nirmul Committee Col (ret) Kazi Nuruzzaman and Workers Party General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon were assaulted by police there, witnesses said.

Police also fired several tear-gas shells inside the lane that fell in the premises of some houses in the area. Women and children in those houses were affected by the gas.

Two photographers of Ajker Kagaj and a BSD (Khalequ) leader were hit by stay bricks and police batons.

Later the dispersed hartal supporters reorganised in front of Baitul Mokarram gate and picketed until 12-30 pm.

Clashes also occurred in Mirpur and Kawanbazar areas.

Some rickshaws plied helping the office goers to reach their destinations. Tempo and autorickshaw services were almost normal in Farmgate-Mahakhal route. Long distance buses stayed parked at the three inter-district bus terminals while train services were as usual although one or two came under attack at the Magbazar crossing by the hartal supporters.

The organisers claimed that the hartal was a success.

Eyewitnesses said that the hartal supporters started picketing at different points, known to be the strongholds of Jamaat and Shibir, and blasted series of crackers to terrorise the areas.

The pickets damaged several rickshaws around the capital.

The hartal supporters detained a number of newspaper vehicles and made journalists show their identity cards. They allegedly beat some of the drivers as they (drivers) had no identity cards.

Dhaka Medical College Hospital correspondent says that seven people were admitted to the hospital with injuries received during the hartal hours in the capital.

The injured were identified as Abdus Salam (30), Abul Hossain (30), Mostafa Faruk, Momtunul Hasan (30), Dulal (19), Arif (22) and Rani (17).

Our Faridpur Correspondent reports: Unidentified people hacked to death the organising secretary of Jamaat-e-Islami Md Sanwar Hossain (52) at Madhukhali Upazila Saturday.

Witnesses said a teacher of Ashapur Senior Madrasa at the upazila, Hossain was attacked by a group of armed people at about 9-30 Saturday morning in front of the Madhukhali Sugar Mills. He died on the spot.

Five other people were injured in the incident with one seriously.

Later, the body of the Jamaat leader was brought to Faridpur Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Sanwar Hossain was buried at his home village at Madhukhali.

A case was lodged with Madhukhali police.

The Superintendent of Police in Faridpur district visited the spot.

Jamaat-e-Islami claimed that Sanwar Hossain was killed by the activists of Nirmul Committee.

Jamaat chief Abbas Ali Khan in a statement condemned the killing and demanded arrest of those involved in it.

Another report from the district says that the hartal was rejected at Faridpur town and other parts of the district as the people defied the call.

Except the inter-district buses, rickshaws and local buses and other modes of vehicles plied normally in the district.

Our Staff Correspondent in Chittagong says that sporadic cracker blasts marked the hartal in the port city.

Operations in the Chittagong Port were normal with loading and off-loading of goods. But delivery could not take place due to lack of transports.

No vehicles plied on the city streets while shops at new Market, Chawk Bazar, Agrabad, Dewan Bazar and Kadamtali areas in the city remained shut.

All educational institutions in the city remained closed while attendance in most of the offices was thin.

None was injured or arrested during the hartal hours, according to the police.

Our Staff Correspondent from Khulna writes: the half-day hartal was observed peacefully in the port city.

No untoward incident took place during the hartal hours.

All vehicles remained off the streets of Khulna and the shops shut down.

However, mills and factories in the Khalishpur industrial belt operated normally.

Mongla Port activities were normal but delivery of goods from port to other parts could not take place.

In Rajshahi, hartal was held amid sporadic clashes between the organisers and the people, which left at least 15 injured.

All shops, business and commercial houses and educational institutions were closed while transport remained off the streets. Trains did not operate.

According to witnesses, a clash between the activists of Jubo Command and people at Kazla area in the city at about 9-30 am left 10 injured.

Police picked up 32 picketers from different parts of the city during the hartal hours.

Jubo Command leaders held a post hartal rally near the Sahab Bazar area of the city in which speakers demanded trial of the organisers of the March 26 public trial in Dhaka.

Our Rajbari Correspondent adds: Four people were injured in a clash between the hartal organisers and the activists of the Nirmul Committee at Pangsha upazila of the district during the hartal hours, police said.

Ferry movement between the Aricha-Dhulaidia ghats remained suspended during the hartal hours.

Our Bogra Correspondent says that hartal was partially observed in the city amid blasts of crackers and crude bombs.

Five people were injured in the explosions.

Police arrested 25 pickets including the local Bharatiya Dalal Protirodh Committee President Mirza Selim Reza from different parts of the town during the hartal hours.

Witnesses said that the hartal organisers created panic at Sath Matha colony, Gohali Road and Khandar areas of the town.

All shops, business and commercial establishments except at Sath Matha and its adjoining areas remained open during the hartal hours.

Attendance in the government and private offices was satisfactory while transactions in the banks were normal.

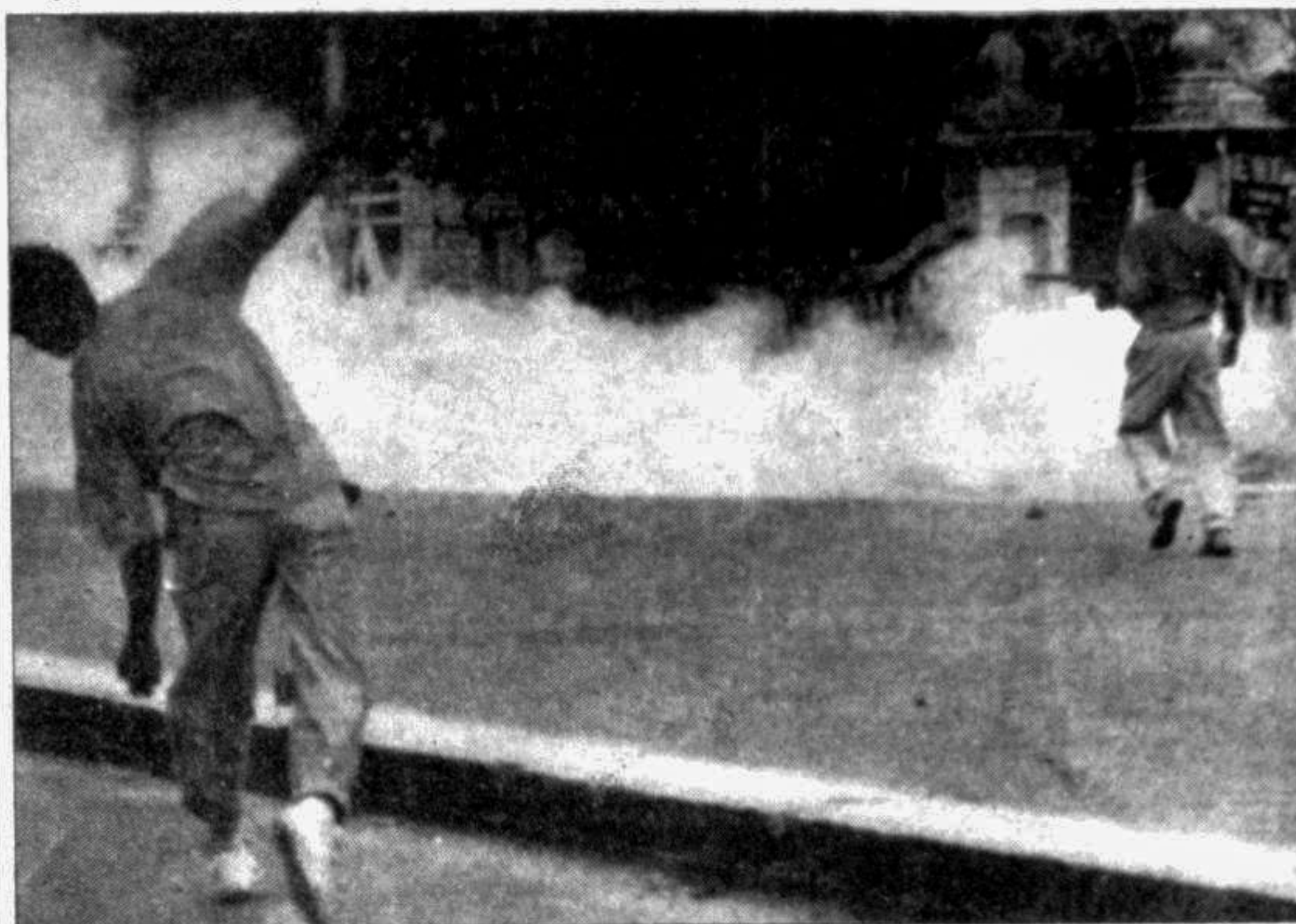
Activists of the Nirmul Committee held a rally in the town where speakers demanded punishment to the arrested president of the Dalal Protirodh Committee.

Earlier, they also brought out a procession and paraded the streets of the town.

In Jhenidah, the half-day hartal was observed partially throughout the district.



Nirmul Committee men led by Jahanara Imam in a torch procession last evening in support of today's dawn-to-dusk hartal. — Star photo



Supporters of yesterday's hartal hurling bombs at the Nirmul Committee office at Segunbagicha. — Star photo

Hartal violence : 5-party blames Home Minister

Leaders of the Five-Party Alliance have blasted the government for what they said deploying police to support Jamaat-Shibir in enforcing the half-day hartal Saturday in the city through violence and terrorism, reports UNB.

"The country may plunge into a state of confrontation, if the government continues to back the anti-liberation Jamaat-Shibir clique", warned alliance leader Rashed Khan Menon during a press briefing Saturday afternoon.

Alliance leaders Nirmul Sen, Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan, Sahir Nurul Ambia, Mainuddin Khan Badal, AFM Mahbubul Haq, Haider Akbar Khan Rono, Abdullah Sarker, Bimal Biswas and Naim Jahangir were present at the briefing at the Workers' Party office.

During the hartal Menon alleged, police attacked the offices of BSD, NAP, Sramik Krishak Samajbadi Dal and the Nirmul Committee, lobbed tear gas shells and charged batons on their workers.

He said the activists of Jubo Command, Jamaat-e-Islami and Freedom Party used cut rifles and exploded bombs in the presence of police who also joined the pro-hartal groups.

Narrating the incidents, Menon alleged that police at one stage entered into different houses and shops in Tophkhana area and beat the people indiscriminately.

"The way police sheltered the Jamaat-Shibir and Freedom Party Saturday", he said, "our workers dubbed them as Jatiyatabadi Police Dal".

Nirmul Sen had telephoned the Home Minister requesting him to ask the police to refrain from attacking their party offices and workers but the Home Minister denied the involvement of police, Menon said.

Replying to a question, the Five-Party Alliance leader held the Home Minister responsible for using the police in support of Saturday's hartal.

The outcome will be serious, he warned, if the government tries to foil the Nirmul Committee hartal today (Sunday) by using the police force.

Menon alleged that the workers of the city BNP also were active in support of Saturday's hartal, saying that some BNP workers led by Labloo, threatened bus drivers at Sayedabad bus terminal Saturday morning and asked them to stay away from the streets.

He said the authorities discouraged the employees from plying state-owned BRTC buses and sale of tickets at Kamalapur railway station.

Convict dies in custody

By DMCH Correspondent

A convict, Amin Matbor, 60, was found dead in Ward no-2 in the Dhaka Central Jail early Saturday, according to a jail source.

Amin Matbor was sentenced to suffer rigorous imprisonment for committing a murder.

The convict went to sleep Friday night as usual, but his inmates, when tried to wake him up in the early morning, found him dead.

The body of Amin Matbor was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for post mortem and an unnatural death (UD) case was registered with Lalbag police in this connection.

106 more tribals back home

RANGAMATI, June 20: Some 106 tribal people have returned here in the last three days after passing three months of subhuman life in Mizoram State of India, reports UNB.

PM in Parshuram

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her government had proposed a budget for ameliorating the condition of the people. She hoped that with the passage of the budget, prices of almost all essentials would be reduced.

In this connection, she mentioned reduction in the rate of taxation housing materials, educational implements and some other necessary items.

The Prime Minister said the quarter which was rejected by the people because of its conspiracy to sell the country wanted to create hindrance in the process of development. This quarter does not want welfare of the nation, she said.

Begum Zia said, the BNP government had successfully brought about positive impacts on different sectors of development including electricity, education and agriculture. She also mentioned the canal digging programme initiated for the uplift of the people. She said the national production has already shown increase.

She expressed her firm determination that her government would achieve all development targets with the help of the people.

The Prime Minister said the government had exempted agricultural loan up to Taka 5000 and for this it had to give Taka 2200 crore. She said the age limit for government jobs had been increased to 30 years.

She said her government continued to give top priority to the education sector.

Begum Zia said we also give equal importance to agriculture sector as our government believes in the rural based uplift. Begum detailed the steps taken by her government for the improvement of the farming community.

She also underscored the need for industrialisation of the rural areas for solving the unemployment problems. She called upon all to take the facilities created by her government for setting up industries, particularly in the rural areas.

In this connection, she stressed the need for checking smuggling with the cooperation of the people for smooth industrialisation of the country.

The Prime Minister announced the nationalisation of local degree college and high school.

Dhaka-Riyadh

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JEC held its last meeting in Riyadh in December, 1988.

Saudi Arabia has been providing assistance to Bangladesh for different development projects, including railway rehabilitation, Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Factory, irrigation projects, gas and oil drilling projects, Teesta barrage projects and rural electrification and East-West interconnector.

Blacks chase De Klerk out of massacre township

BOIPATONG (South Africa), June 20: President F W De Klerk was chased out of a squatter camp today by hundreds of blacks accusing him of complicity in the worst massacre in South Africa's post-apartheid era, reports Reuters.

De Klerk, seated in the back of a grey BMW saloon, looked terrified as hundreds of angry youths surrounded the car yelling "Go away murder".

"Shoot, shoot" they yelled as policemen waved automatic rifles in a fruitless attempt to prevent the crowd from hammering on the doors and roof of the President's car.

The tour of this squalid shanty town south of Johannesburg was meant to be a show of compassion for families of 39 men, women and children butchered on Wednesday night by 200 rampaging men.

But the visit, the first by a South African President to the scene of a black township massacre, lasted only 10 minutes.

As De Klerk's car was jammed in a dusty lane a man held up a placard in front of the window saying "to hell with De Klerk". Women leaned out of tin and wood shacks yelling.

His spokesman Caspar Venter, surrounded briefly by the mob, escaped safely.

Nelson Mandela's African National Congress said a middle-aged black man was shot dead by police as De Klerk left the township but there was no immediate confirmation by police.

The ANC accuses the government of complicity in the worst township massacre since De Klerk began to dismantle apartheid and legalise black political activity two years ago.

The ANC condemned the visit as a public relations bid and accused De Klerk of trying to counter its mass action campaign begun this week to force the white government from power.

"It seems that his insensitivity to the grief of our people knows no bounds," an ANC statement said.

"De Klerk will try to enter Boipatong on a wave of bloodshed, fear and intimidation. He is not welcome. We demand action, not De Klerk's crocodile tears."

Tinbigha

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development of the people of the areas.

The Press Note said that the life and property of the people of Kuchlibari and Mekhliganj were entirely safe and they had no reason to feel frightened.

Meanwhile, there had been a 'mischievous propaganda' by some interested quarters, including a few communal groups that the people of Kuchlibari and Mekhliganj would face difficulties after the implementation of the Tinbigha agreement, it said.

Another report says: With only five days left for the leasing of Tinbigha corridor to Bangladesh, the Coochbehar district administration is making renewed efforts to instil confidence among the local people.

In an appeal, published in the local Morningstar in Siliguri today, the Coochbehar district magistrate, Gopal Krishna, appealed to the people who had left their houses during the past few days to return to their respective villages around Kuchlibari, Bagdogra and Fulkadabri. He assured the villagers of total security and supply of essentials to ensure normal life.

The chairman of Mekhliganj Municipality, Pranhari Singha Sarkar, alleged that over 10,000 people, mostly women with kids, had shifted from villages around Tinbigha to Mekhliganj for safety and food.

AFP from Delhi adds: Indian police Saturday arrested six opposition politicians marching on the Tin Bigha corridor, PTI said.

The six included Mahant Aavdayanath, a Federal MP from the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is spearheading a campaign against the perpetual lease, PTI said.

They were held about 20 kilometres (12 miles) from Tin Bigha for breaking a ban on public assemblies after they tried "desperately" to march on to the narrow strip of land, the news agency said.

The arrests came as administrators in the tense Indian border district of Cooch-Behar appealed for the return of an estimated 10,000 locals who shifted out fearing violence at the time of Tin Bigha's handover June 26, PTI said.

The Midnight File

State of war declared in Bosnia-Herzegovina

BELOGRADE, June 20: The Bosnian Presidency declared a state of war in Bosnia-Herzegovina today, Sarajevo radio said. Sources at the radio told Reuters the move would give the government. The right to declare total mobilisation, reports Reuters.

Janata Dal proposes Christian Prof as presidential candidate

NEW DELHI, June 20: India's chief centrist opposition party formally proposed a Christian Professor of tribal origin from the remote northeast today as the common opposition candidate in the July 13 presidential election. The Janata Dal (people's party) said George Gilbert Swell, 67, former Lower House Speaker and diplomat, was the "appropriate choice" for the nation's highest office, reports AFP.

Sufia Kamal 2 Jubo Dal men stabbed

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Parishad Vice-President Meh- crunessa Islam was in the chair.

Ayesha Khanam, General Secretary of the Parishad, demanded that the Bangla Academy publish all the writings of poet Sufia Kamal.

Dr Sanjida Khatun spoke on Sufia Kamal's contribution in founding Chhayanaat, now a leading cultural institution of the country.

Noorjahan Begum regretted that Sufia Kamal's contribution in the movement for women's rights and in the field of culture were not properly evaluated.

Lutfunnessa Abbas noted that Sufia Kamal maintained a close coordination between her family life and her struggles outside it.

Dr Abdullah al-Muti Sharfuddin described how Sufia Kamal distinguished herself as a poet in the Bangla language in a backward society where the use of Bangla was very uncommon.

Ayesha Khanam in her speech narrated Sufia Kamal's struggles since the early days of this century and praised her dedication to the causes of women, children and the country's democratic and progressive movement.

In reply to the felicitations poet Sufia Kamal expressed her gratitude to those who had inspired and actively helped her.

She made a fervent call to all concerned especially the womenfolk to encourage the present and the future generations of women to become vocal and conscious about their rights.

Three people drowned in the Jamuna Saturday when a portion of its bank went down the gorge of the river along with them at village Haturia Nakania in Bera upazila, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Momtaj Khatun (8), daughter of Abdul Qudus of village Shahrashia, Matlu (12) and his mother Hafiza Khatun (35) of village Boalia.

Their bodies were spotted 2 km away from the scene after about three hours at 4 pm, villagers and officials said.

Meanwhile, erosion has intensified in the upazila as the mighty river started swelling with the monsoon showers, rendering about 400 families homeless in a week.

Hartal today

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by the Jamaat-e-Islami and other anti-liberation political parties and withdrawal of cases against the 24 sponsors of Golan Azam's public trial at a people's court on March 26.

Vehicles belonging to WASA, electricity authority, medicine shops, fire service, hospitals and newspapers will remain out of the purview of today's hartal.

Meanwhile, major political parties including the Awami League, CPB-led Patriotic Democratic Front, Five-Party Alliance, student fronts of the above-mentioned parties and alliances, various professional groups, trade union bodies and socio-cultural organisations have extended their all-out support to the hartal.

Political parties that have supported the hartal held separate public meetings in the city Friday calling upon the people to observe it peacefully.

Besides, torch processions were brought out yesterday by the Coordination Committee branches across the country in this regard.

Committee units in the capital paraded the city streets carrying torches and shouting slogans in support of the hartal yesterday evening. The processions were followed by brief rallies.

Reports of similar processions were also received from different parts of the country including Faridpur and Narayanganj.

Our Faridpur Correspondent said last night that the Coordination Committee unit there has shortened the hartal hours in the district from 12 hours to 6 hours as a full-day hartal was observed there after the Eid day protesting the killing of Atzul Islam Raju, a local leader of the Awami League.

Our Correspondent from Narayanganj reported that a torch procession followed by a rally at the Diamond Square was held yesterday evening to drum up support for the day-long hartal today.

Meanwhile, statements were issued last night by Ganatantrik Biplobi Jote, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, Bangabandhu Aijibbi Parishad, JSD (Rab), Projanma '71, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Patriotic Democratic Front, Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolon and Bangladesh Islami Biplobi Andolon urging all to make the countrywide hartal a success.

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attacked on the political parties' offices in front of the police on duty.

Moreover, police lobbed teargas shells to those who tried to resist the attackers, the meeting observed.

It further alleged that the armed workers of the ruling BNP stopped buses plying from the Sayedabad Bus Terminal at gun-point and harassed the common people.

The meeting called upon the people to observe today's hartal called by the National Coordination Committee for the Realisation of the Spirit of the Liberation War and Resistance to the Killers and Collaborators of 1971 throughout the country.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 5

These civil forces, the opposition leader said, launched armed attack and exploded bombs on the offices of progressive and democratic political parties and their public meetings. But the government refrained from taking any action against them, she added.

The Awami League chief said people are now united and determined to uphold the spirit and values of the liberation war by foiling all conspiracies and machinations.

People are also united to execute the March 26 verdict of the 'people's court' against Golan Azam, she said. "No conspiracy or terrorism will be able to frustrate the people's will... the killers of '71 and '75 must be eliminated."

Saturday's hartal

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one of their demands, and that 'implementation of the verdict against Golan Azam is the main demand'.

The 24, who include Jahanara Imam, Dr Anisuzzaman, playwright Syed Shamsul Haq, Qazul Haq among others, are accused of sedition and challenging the judiciary of the country by holding the People's Court, which found Azam guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in 1971.

The People's Court suggested that Azam's crimes were punishable by death under the penal code of Bangladesh.

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