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### NEWS BRIEFS

#### DUCSU demands trial

The leaders of DUCSU Sunday night demanded trial after judicial probe of the persons responsible for the attack on journalists at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. In a statement DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman and GS Khairul Kabir Khokan said even the journalists on duties could not escape the untoward incident which happened before the Press Club centering yesterday's strike, reports BSS.

#### JCD shocked

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) last night expressed deep shock at the sudden attack on the journalists while they were on professional duties before the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. In a statement signed by Chhatradal President Rizvi Ahmed and General Secretary Ilias Ali and Organising Secretary Abdul Malek expressed profound sympathy to the injured journalists while the leaders visited them in the hospital. The JCD leaders also demanded trial of the persons responsible for the incident through judicial probe, reports BSS.

#### Ramos meets Imelda

MANILA, June 21: President Corazon Aquino's apparent successor, Fidel Ramos, met Sunday with Imelda Marcos for what was to be a reconciliation meeting between the former first lady and a key figure in the ouster of her late husband. Mrs Marcos arrived at about 7:45 p.m. (11:45 GMT) at the home of Rep. Jose de Venecia in a military convoy with her son, Ferdinand Jr, daughter Imee Manotoc and sister-in-law Fortuna Barba, reports AP.

#### Yeltsin to visit South Korea

SEOUL, June 21: Russian President Boris Yeltsin will arrive in South Korea on September 16 for a three-day visit to sign a friendship treaty, the State Korea Broadcasting System (KBS) radio said today, reports Reuter.



Police chasing people outside National Press Club yesterday evening.

— Star photo

## Countrywide newsmen's strike today: Govt apology, Home Minister's resignation demanded

# Police storm National Press Club, assault journalists

By Staff Correspondent

Police in full riot gear stormed the Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday, firing grape-shot from shotguns and a barrage of teargas shells at the end of a day-long hartal. Scores of people were injured including journalists as police went on the rampage in the Club premises beating people indiscriminately and damaging vehicles parked nearby. The Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) leaders at an impromptu meeting in front

of the Club announced a day-long strike today (Monday) to protest the police assault on the journalists and the storming of the Club. The dawn-to-dusk hartal was called across the country to press for execution of the 'death sentence' on Jamaat chief Golam Azam, a ban on the politics of Jamaat-e-Islami and withdrawal of the cases against the 24 organisers of the March 26 Public Trial. Speaking at the meeting, the DUJ President Shahjahan

Miah condemned the police atrocities and demanded immediate resignation of the Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury and removal of the Inspector General of Police and the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner. Miah also demanded an unconditional apology from the government for assault on the newsmen. He announced that no government press note on the incident would be published in the newspapers today.

"We will report on what we have seen here and how we have suffered," the DUJ chief said. It was all smoke from the teargas canisters screams of the male and female journalists, shouts and the noise of the furniture being crushed in the Press Club at 6-25 pm. Window panes of the lobby of the Club were shattered as policemen opened fire at point-blank range. See Page 12 Col 2



The hawkers' shops during yesterday's hartal hours.

— Star photo

## Clashes mark hartal : 200 hurt

By Staff Correspondent

Sporadic clashes between police, hartal supporters and opponents marked the dawn-to-dusk hartal yesterday (Sunday) which was observed spontaneously in the capital and all over the country. At least 200 people were injured, some of them by rubber bullets, in police action and clashes in Dhaka, Chittagong, Narayanganj, Mymensingh and Sylhet. "Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Samanyee Committee" called the hartal demanding trial of controversial Jamaat-e-Islami chief Golam Azam and withdrawal of 'false' cases

against the 24 'people's court' organisers. The hartal was backed by major opposition parties including the Awami League, Five-Party Alliance, and Patriotic Democratic Front (PDF). In the capital the situation was normal until 5.50 pm when two cocktails were blasted in the lane beside HBFC building. Nirmul Committee supporters attending at a post hartal rally in the area alleged that the cocktails were blasted by Jubo Command workers and urged the police to nab them.

Several hundred committee supporters tried to march towards the lane but were restrained by some of their leaders and police. As police delayed going into action against the Jubo Command workers, the agitated Committee activists pelted stones at the police. It continued for about half-an-hour and then police resorted to baton charges and tear gassed the agitating hartal supporters. Numerous teargas shells were lobbed in Paltan, GPO, Topkhana, and Bijoynagar areas. See Page 12 Col 2

## BTV sees, hears, speaks no evil

By Sabir Mustafa

Bangladesh Television (BTV), the electronic medium controlled by the state and financed by tax-payers' money, has lately become the three proverbial monkeys. One monkey sees no evil; another hears no evil; and the third monkey speaks no evil. If we go by the 8 o'clock and 10 o'clock news on BTV last night, then we have to assume that the television authorities did not see or hear anything, and therefore did See Page 12 Col 8

## Heavy fighting near Kabul

KABUL, June 21: Preliminary reports of heavy clashes in Afghanistan's north reached Kabul today but the warring sides said here they were awaiting details from the areas of fighting, reports AFP. The reports said guerrillas of holdout Mujahideen leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar had clashed with pro-government Uzbek militia in the country's north, which is under the control of a powerful military coalition of regional factions. Some travellers said Uzbek militia General Abdul Rashid Dostum had ousted the Hezbe-Islami fighters of Hekmatyar from the province of Kunduz, a former stronghold of the holdout leader, and were fighting them elsewhere in the region. "We have received news of

the fighting, and it is not clear who is fighting up there... we have sent a message and will learn soon," said a Hezbe-Islami spokesman. The reports said Dostum's tough fighters were defending the two of Pulu Khumri, the bastion of Ismaili troops who are also part of the northern military combine. Reports on Saturday had said Hekmatyar had despatched 6,000 fighters to the northern sector for a confrontation with Dostum's militia and the military coalition he heads. AP adds: A week before the leadership of the Islamic government is to change hands, rebel commanders on Sunday threatened to wage a holy war against anyone who opposes

caretaker President Sibghatullah Mojaddedi. First, however, they sought to persuade the 70-year-old Mojaddedi to seek a long-term stay in office. Dozens of turbaned religious scholars and tribal leaders sat cross-legged on the floor of the Presidential Palace and listened attentively as rebel commanders paraded one-by-one across a stage and before the cameras of state-run Afghan Television, calling for Mojaddedi to remain in office for as long as five more years. "We have sacrificed a lot for this government. We don't want anyone to destroy it," said Sayeed Khalil Pacha, a commander in eastern Nangarhar province.

## Hasina condemns police action on journalists

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has expressed her indignation at the dastardly police assault on journalists Sunday and demanded punishment to those responsible for the attack, after a neutral investigation, reports UNB. Immediately after she heard the news of police attack on working journalists, Hasina, also Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital Sunday evening with leaders of different opposition parties. "I've no words to condemn such heinous attack on journalists by the police force let loose by pseudo-democratic See Page 12 Col 7

## BCL factions resume gunfight on campus

Violence erupted once again on the Dhaka University campus as two factions of the pro-Awami League Chhatra League fought each other yesterday, reports UNB. Witnesses said more than 30 gunshots were traded in half an hour between Gopalganj and Barisal groups who fell apart from an intraparty alliance within BCL. Witnesses said the gunfight was triggered at about 6 pm with shooting from Salimullah Hall, the stronghold of the Gopalganj group. The Barisal faction responded sharply from Jagannath Hall and marched towards Salimullah Hall. Its activists took position

on the Fuller Road while their rivals fired from the rooftops of Salimullah Hall. Militants of both the groups were seen triggering cut-rifle and stengun. At present, there are three groupings in the Chhatra League — Gopalganj, Barisal and Montu groups — staying in Salimullah, Jagannath and Zahurul Huq halls respectively. Earlier, the Barisal-Gopalganj combine used to work together and drove away the Montu faction from the campus on January 9. But their entente crumbled over the last few days. A triangular conflict now started, with the Montu faction still fighting the two groups.

## Mandela condemns De Klerk, breaks off Tuesday's talks

EVATON (South Africa), June 21: Nelson Mandela said Sunday the African National Congress had temporarily broken off black-white political talks because the government was 'murdering our people,' reports AP. "The negotiation process is completely in tatters," Mandela told 25,000 supporters at an emotional rally in Evaton, near the Boipatong black township where 42 people died in a massacre last week.

The ANC President said he ordered the cancellation of a meeting with the government scheduled for Tuesday. He said the ANC's top leadership would meet instead to discuss its options. "I can no longer explain to our people why we continue to talk to the regime which is murdering our people," Mandela said in an hour-long speech that harshly condemned President F.W. de Klerk.

"We are now convinced that (de Klerk's) method of bringing about a solution in this country is war." It was the toughest language Mandela has used in an escalating clash of wills with de Klerk, who freed him from prison and launched negotiations with the black majority on ending apartheid. Mandela said the massacre Wednesday night in Boipatong, where residents blamed police and members of the Zulu-

dominated Inkatha Freedom Party, had changed the nation forever. "The gulf between the oppressed and the oppressor has overnight become unbridgeable," he said. At another point, he repeated a comparison between the white minority government and Nazi Germany, saying both killed people only for religious or racial reasons. The crowd shouted "We want arms," and one sign read,

"Mandela give us permission to kill our enemies." Mandela, however, made no mention of returning to the largely ineffective armed struggle the ANC suspended in August 1990. He said the groups campaign of strikes and protests launched last week would continue. He also said he would ask the United Nations Security Council to hold a special session on the "massacres committed by de Klerk and his

regime." Earlier, Boipatong residents welcomed him with songs and cheers a day after they chased away de Klerk and clashed with police. "I am convinced we are no longer dealing with civil human beings, but animals," Mandela told about 4,000 people packed in bleachers at a township soccer field. "We will not forget what de Klerk... and the Inkatha Freedom Party have done to our people. I have never seen such cruelty."

## BNP, Opposition meet not held

By Staff Correspondent  
Despite agreements, the meeting between the leaders of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) did not take place last night. The meeting was convened in the chamber of the Speaker at 9 am following consultations between the rivals in a bid to break the impasse over the boycott of the sessions of JS by members of Opposition barring the Jamaat-i-Islami. The BNP side was represented by Barrister Salam Talukder, Secretary General of the party and Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Chief Whip. The Opposition agreed to be represented by Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad and others. The Opposition leaders, however, regretted their non-participation by informing the BNP leaders that they were boycotting the meeting to protest the 'police atrocities' against the journalist last evening. The Speaker was available to mediate between the treasury bench and the Opposition.

## Steps being taken to hand over Tinbigha

It is expected that 'Tinbigha' corridor will be handed over to Bangladesh on June 26 in accordance with the agreement between Bangladesh and India, reports BSS. A Foreign Office spokesman yesterday said that Indian government is making necessary arrangements for implementation of the agreement. UNB from Lalmonirhat adds: Works on construction of a road in Tinbigha corridor and erection of barbed wire fencing along it have been completed Sunday, BDR sources said. The Indian authorities are scheduled to hand over the corridor to Bangladesh on June 26 to provide direct passage to the people of Dahagram and Angarpota enclaves to their mainland.

## Transport workers go on indefinite strike today

By Staff Correspondent  
Transport workers go on strike today all over the country as talks between the government and Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation ended in a failure late last night. The workers have called for an indefinite strike to press home their 11-point demand. UNB adds: Communications Minister Oli Ahmed told UNB at the end of the meeting that the demands raised by trans- See Page 12 Col 6

## Public meeting against police atrocities today

By Staff Correspondent  
Yesterday's hartal callers have decided to hold a public meeting at the South gate of Baitul Mokarram today (Monday) at 4 pm to protest the atrocities by police and anti-hartal elements backed by Jamaat and Freedom parties during yesterday's hartal. Briefing the newsmen after the dawn-to-dusk hartal at Taher Auditorium at the JSD office, they also announced countrywide demonstrations tomorrow (Tuesday) and a march towards the Jatiya Sangsad on June 30. The National Coordination Committee for Realisation of the Spirit of the Liberation War See Page 12 Col 7

## Democratic Forum forms 48-man convening body

By Staff Correspondent  
A 48-member convening committee of Bangladesh Democratic Forum has been formed with Dr Kamal Hossain as its convenor. The Forum, an organisation pledged to work for a greater national consensus on pressing problems facing the nation and to strengthen democracy, was launched last Friday in Dhaka. The Forum groups intellectu- See Page 12 Col 1