

# Over 100 hurt

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at Park Avenue at around 11:45 am.

AL workers picketing at the different points in the city damaged several vehicles with stones during the hartal hours.

Vehicles, excluding a few rickshaws, BRTC and private buses went off the roads from 6:00 am to 2:00 pm yesterday.

Witnesses said that the BRTC and private buses plying were escorted by police and plain-clothes armed men.

During the hartal hours almost all the city markets, shops and private business centres stayed closed. Government and semi-government offices were open but attendance was thin.

Classes in all the educational institutions including the Dhaka University, Engineering University, Sir Salimullah Medical College and Dhaka Medical College remained suspended yesterday.

Transactions at the city's private and government banks came almost to a standstill because of the thin attendance of both clients and officials.

Our DMCH Correspondent reports: Jahangir, Halim, Harun, Elahi, Humayun Kabir, Shaheen, Mohsin, Salam, Wajidullah, Anwar Hossain, Akter Hossain, Biplob, Tajul and Jahangir were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with bullet injuries. The victims were aged between 15 and 30.

Around 15 people were given first aid at the hospital.

Our Jessore Correspondent reports: Dawn to dusk hartal was observed peacefully here yesterday.

After 2 pm hartal was again observed in Jessore in response to another call by the Awami League, Five Party Alliance and Jatiya Party demanding re-election in Jessore pourashava.

Our Correspondents from Chittagong, Narayanjan, Gazipur, Tongi, Barisal, Jhalokathi, Perozpur, Borguna,

Patuakhali and Bhola reported that eight-hour hartal was observed peacefully in those places.

Meanwhile, the Awami League (AL) leaders yesterday denounced the BNP government for what they said unleashing armed musclemen to attack AL office in Bangabandhu Avenue. At least 20 persons were injured in the attack during the hartal hours.

In a post hartal rally held in front of AL Bangabandhu Avenue office at 2:20 pm yesterday AL presidium member Abdur Razzak MP said, "Democracy can not be safe unless the government of Khaleda Zia is toppled."

Presided over by Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya the meeting was addressed by Mohiuddin Ahmed MP and Zillur Rahman.

In the brief rally which ended amid fear of another attack Mohiuddin Ahmed said, "Where do these musclemen get these bullets, we want to know!"

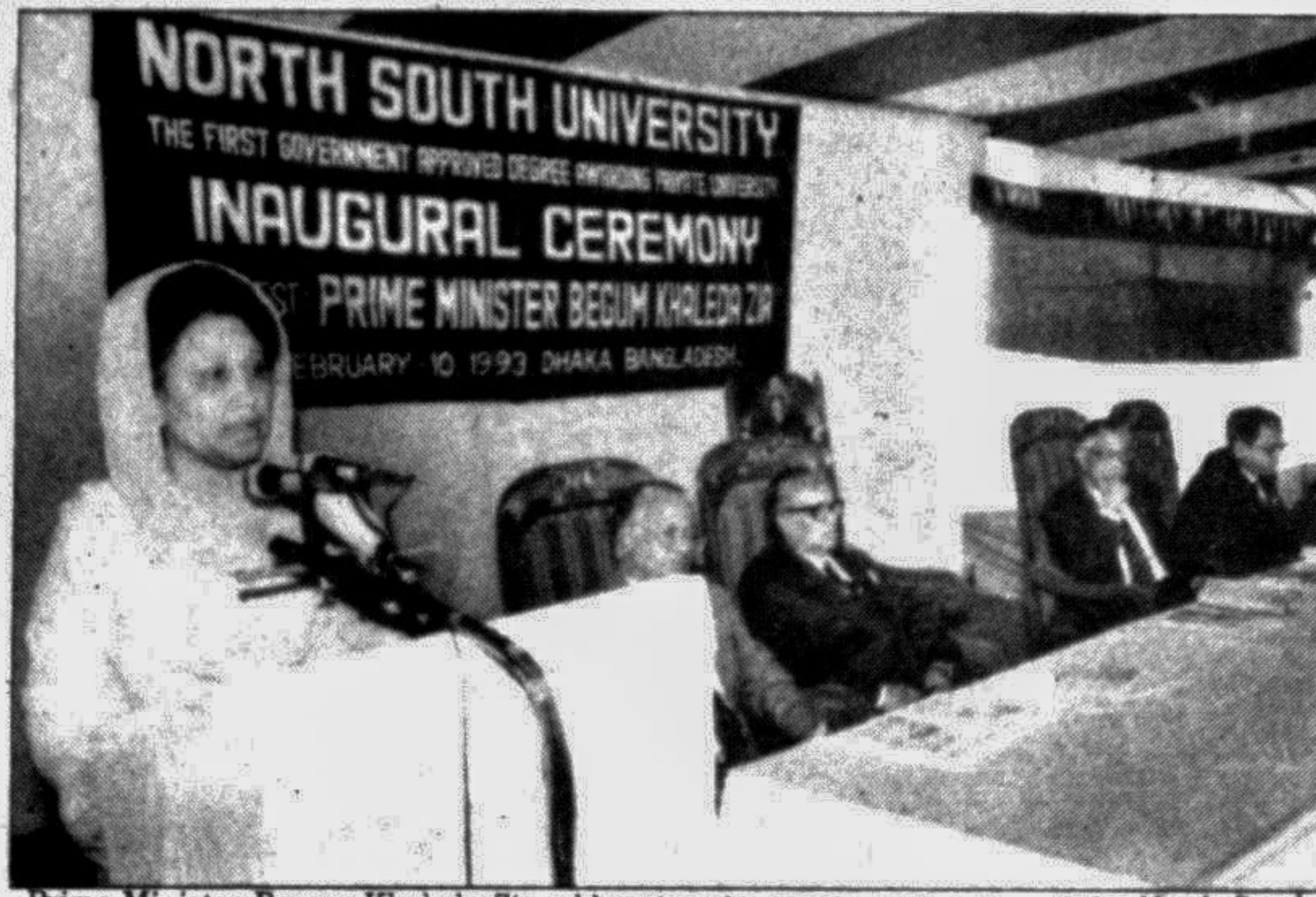
Termining the BNP government "bandits" he said that these bandits were out to foil democracy.

Earlier, during the hartal at 12 noon the AL held another rally in front of the National Press Club in protest of police atrocities yesterday.

This rally too was presided over by Maya and was addressed by Akhtar Hossain, Shaifiqu, Alam Shaifiqu, Kazi Abdul Hai, Jubo League leaders Amir Hossain Gazi and Prof Fazlul Haq.

The leaders said that the government's attitude was to follow the footsteps of Ershad. They said BNP which also called hartals during Ershad days was now playing the tyrannical role.

Thanking the people for making the hartal a success, the AL leaders said, "Success of the hartal has given the verdict against the Mirpur by-election results."



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the inaugural function of the North-South University in city yesterday. — PID photo

## PM : Private varsity

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terrestrial standard of education," she said.

Begum Zia also stressed the need for maintaining congenial academic atmosphere on the campus and said terrorism had bred session-jam and unemployment.

She called for united efforts in eradicating the menace of terrorism from national life.

The Prime Minister said the present government aims to build a self-esteem nation and thus put education high on its agenda. She mentioned different programmes, including compulsory primary education, mass education and education for girls.

Education Minister Zamiruddin Siraz, Chairman of the NSU Board of Governors Iftakharul Alam, NSU President Muschuddin Ahmad and Board Member M A Kashem also addressed the inaugural function.

Ministers, MPs, diplomats, guardians of the students and senior civil officers were present on the occasion.

## Matin under fire

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Referring to the demand of imposing ban on the Jamaat, Nizam told the House that those incapable of combatting the Jamaat ideologically could raise such a terrorist demand.

The Jamaat leader regretted that the State Minister for Law Aminul Hoque who visited the campus after the incident had met all the injured excluding those who belonged to the Shibir.

UNB adds: Acting Deputy Leader of the House and Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control M Majidul Haq asked if it was proper to discuss a subjudice matter.

"The tone and tenor of the debate causes concern in my mind without showing me the light of peace," he said taking part in a debate in the House on the Rajshahi University situation.

The Minister said the government had appointed a judicial commission and instituted 4 cases on the Rajshahi University incident.

He asked if our discussion would not prejudice the enquiry.

He repudiated the allegation of Opposition members that the ruling BNP had unleashed "democratic terrorism".

He advised the Opposition to abjure the politics of opposition and help give the hard-earned democracy a fair trial.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury gave an account of the police action to bring the situation in Rajshahi University campus under control.

He shrugged off the charge that the anti-terrorism law was enacted to suppress the Opposition parties. He said 400 cases had been instituted under the Anti-terrorism Act.

The judicial commission appointed by the government to enquire into the incident at Rajshahi University is headed by a retired Supreme Court Judge.

Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah called for a consensus of all political parties and groups for combatting terrorism in the country.

Participating in the debate on the adjournment motion, the Works Minister expressed his condolence for the dead in Rajshahi University incident on February 6 and said that the persons responsible for the tragic incident would be taken to task.

He said terrorism in the educational institutions or for that matter in any part of the country was not desirable.

Barrister Rafique said firmly that the present government under Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia would not tolerate any sort of terrorism and punish the culprits.

The Minister called upon all not to make any irrelevant references to what had happened in the past.

He said the greatest terrorism had happened during the Awami League rule when one party Bakal was introduced curtailing all democratic rights of the people. The Minister also alleged that thousands of freedom fighters were killed during the Awami League rule.

Suranjit Sengupta of the Gonoantr Party (GP) demanding ban on the Jamaat said that the whole world was now identifying the fundamentalist forces as the number one enemy of democracy.

The GP leader also wanted to know the reason for the government's, especially Matin Chowdhury's showing weakness to the Jamaat.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed of the Jatiya Party told the House that the Rajshahi incident should not be considered an isolated incident of terrorism. With the BNP's taking over state, power terrorism had gripped the whole society, Moudud observed.

The JP leader accused the government, especially the Home Minister, of applying the Anti-terrorism Act to silence the political opponents.

Matin Rahman Nizami, the sole Jamaat MP who deliberated on the issue, defended the student wing of his party saying that it did not play the role of the attacker in the Rajshahi incident.

"When the Shibir is attacked by others, it has the right to adopt any means to protect itself", Nizami argued.

## Mostafiz starts S Arabia, Qatar tour Feb 14

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman will pay a week-long official visit to Saudi Arabia and Qatar beginning February 14, reports UNB.

Foreign office sources said the visit will take place at the invitation of Foreign Ministers of the two countries.

The Bangladesh Foreign Minister will carry messages for King Fahad Bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia and Ameer Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar from Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

During the visit, Mostafiz will discuss with Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Bin Faisal and Foreign Minister of Qatar Sheikh Hamad Bin Jabar Al Thani bilateral interest, regional issues, particularly the problems facing the Muslim Ummah, the sources said.

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## The Midnight File

### Car bomb blast kills 14 in Colombia

BOGOTA, Feb 10: An exploding car bomb killed 14 people and wounded 13 others Wednesday in the central Colombian city of Barrancabermeja, the RCN radio network reported. The car, estimated to contain 80 kilograms (175 pounds) of explosive, detonated near a auto mechanics' shop on the outskirts of the Magdalena River Port, about 155 miles (250 kilometres) north of Bogota, reports AP.

### Romania, Bulgaria ask UN to help enforce embargo on Yslavia

BUCHAREST, Feb 10: Romania and Bulgaria are asking the United Nations to help enforce the embargo against Yugoslavia, officials said Wednesday. Foreign Ministry spokesman Dan Oloana told The Associated Press that if potential violators "had to deal with the world body directly rather than with Romanians, Bulgarians or Ukrainians, it would be much more persuasive," reports AP.

### 'No decision to sack govt employees'

The government has no decision to retrench officials or employees in government or semi-government institutions, the Parliament was told yesterday, reports UNB.

State Minister for Establishment Mohammed Nurul Huda said this replying to Sheikh Fazlul Karim Seltm of Awami League during the question hour.

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## Uthan

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was out of the script and it was motivated, the artistes said in the statement adding that it had happened beyond their knowledge.

"History-based dramas surely deserve compliments. But such dramas must not reflect partial or distorted history. We want to present factual history. History of Liberation War could not be complete ignoring Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, the 1970 general election, non-cooperation movement and the March 7 historic speech," they said.

"It was nakedly displayed that the TV drama-serial was politically motivated when the fifth part of the drama, based on 69-71 national history and telecast Tuesday, did not reflect historic events including the 70 general election and the March 7 speech by Bangabandhu, totally ignored Bangabandhu and partially telecast the Declaration of Independence by Ziaur Rahman," the statement signed by the Sangsad General Secretary Jamaluddin Hossain said.

It noted that the bid to distort history and use the national media for partisan interests had caused resentment among the artistes, cultural activists and TV viewers.

The Sangsad demanded that the TV authorities and the government explain the matter and portray the history of the Liberation War in its true form in the next part of the drama serial. Otherwise, it warned, the artistes and the cultural activists would not sit idle until the conspiracy to convert the mass media into a media of any individual or party was stopped.

The statement further warned that the artistes and cultural activists would restart a movement to ensure independence, neutrality and autonomy to the mass media as they did during the autocratic regime in '87 and '90.

That the demand by a certain quarter to stop the TV drama on the plea of resisting alien culture was nothing but a blue-print to telecast distorted history discarding the contribution of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to the Liberation War had been proved after Tuesday's part of the drama was telecast, the statement commented.

The signatories to the statement by the artistes included: Ferdousi Majumder, Tariq Anam, Toufir Ahmed, Shoumi Kaiser, Shanta Islam, Shahidul Islam and Rehana Samad.

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## 20 hurt as JCD, Shibir activists clash at Kalaroa

SATKHIRA, Feb 10: At least 20 people were injured, seven seriously, in continued fighting between Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal and Shibir activists at Kalaroa Government College in backwash to the Rajshahi University violence, reports UNB.

According to the account of the event as presented by him, the clashes took place not between JCD and Shibir, but between the All-Party Students Unity and the Shibir. This contradicts almost all the news reports. Significantly he did not say that Shibir attacked the Students Unity procession but that violence gradually broke out as two opposing processions were crossing each other.

The differences of views within the BNP surfaced when two state ministers of the government, Fazlur Rahman Patal and Kabir Hossain, directly blamed Shibir for the violence and accused it of being responsible for the death of JCD and other student activists. The other speakers from the BNP Amrul Huq, Rafiqul Islam Miah and the Acting Deputy Leader of the House Gen (Retd) Majidul Huq, all spoke with tremendous circumspection on the ground that an incident under investigation of a judicial inquiry commission should not be freely commented upon.

Majidul Huq, who has a very sophisticated and polished manner of speaking, was definitely not at his best, or anywhere near it, while speaking on behalf of the ruling party. The only point he made, and made well, was to question the wisdom of debating something under investigation. However, knowing that the Speaker had allowed the debate, he should have come better prepared.

As for the Opposition, Shibir was, as expected, the target of the relentless attack. Several participants demanded banning of Jamaat and its student wing. Many speakers recalled Jamaat's role during the Liberation War, and its recent activities in Chittagong and elsewhere.

However, the Opposition failed to put forward a comprehensive and elaborate picture of Jamaat's activities justifying the demand, made by several speakers, for the banning of Jamaat and Shibir.

A few Treasury bench speakers wanted a national consensus to fight terrorism. Well, this newspaper has suggested this numerous times. Maybe the Rajshahi University experience will make all political parties, especially the BNP and the AL, aware that a national consensus against terrorism is the only way to fight it.

But then, will they genuinely work toward it? If the parliamentary debate of yesterday was any indication, not very likely.

Today's Bangla Academy programme : Discussion on "Recitation practice in Bangladesh" at 4 pm at the Academy premises. Discussants are: Syed Hasan Imam, Golam Mostafa, Naren Biswas, Kazi Abu Zafar Siddiqi and Nasim Ahmad. Recitation by eminent artistes will follow the discussion meeting.

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## Gallery

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