

8 killed, 80 injured in road mishaps

At least 8 people were killed and 80 injured in two road accidents in Sirajganj and Gopalganj yesterday, reports UNB.

Six people were killed, 30 others injured, 24 seriously, when a night coach plunged into a ditch at Hallagati in Shahjadpur thana on the Bogra-Nagarbari highway yesterday, police said.

The accident occurred when the Kurigram-bound coach coming from Dhaka collided with a speedy truck coming from the opposite direction on Hallagati bridge killing six people on the spot.

The identities of the dead and injured could not be ascertained immediately. All the seriously injured were admitted to the Potolia Health Complex, police added.

The truck driver managed to escape with his vehicle and the bus driver and helper also fled the scene.

A case was filed with the police.

In another incident a man was killed after falling from the rooftop of a speedy bus near the Nalka bridge in Raiganj thana on the Sirajganj-

Bogra road Saturday night, police said.

The mishap occurred when the driver of the Sirajganj-bound bus coming from Bogra made a sudden break at the point. The unidentified man died on the spot.

A case was filed with the Raiganj police.

Another report from Gopalganj says: Two people were killed and 50 injured, 30 seriously, when a night coach skidded into a ditch from the Gopalganj-Takerhat highway at Karpara in sadar thana yesterday.

Police said the accident occurred when the driver of the Dhaka-bound bus from Khulna lost control.

The identities of the dead and the injured could not be ascertained immediately. Bodies were sent to the Gopalganj Hospital morgue.

The seriously injured were admitted to the Faridpur, Rajoir and Gopalganj hospitals, medical sources said.

The bus driver and helper fled the scene. A case was filed with the Gopalganj sadar thana in this connection.

Lebanon rejects talks with Israel

BEIRUT, June 12: Lebanon has rejected a US plea to resume peace talks with Israel in the absence of Syria, a government official said today, reports AFP.

The request was turned down by Prime Minister Rafic Hariri who is anxious to protect cooperation agreements with Syria and to reach a global Arab-Israeli peace settlement, said the official requesting anonymity.

Hariri publicly ruled out a separate peace deal with Israel late Saturday during a speech in Sidon and said Israeli attacks will not force us to sign a separate peace with Israel or even consider discussing such a deal.

Bilateral talks between Israel and Lebanon have been suspended since the Hebron Mosque massacre on February 25.

Hariri said Lebanon entered peace talks with Israel in coordination with Syria to secure a withdrawal from South Lebanon as well as the Golan Heights, which Israel seized

Extortionists clash with tempo workers in city

By DMCH Correspondent

A group of extortionists and tempo workers clashed near Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) gate No. 1, Lalbagh, over toll collection leaving at least a dozen of people injured.

The rival groups chased each other with lethal weapons and exploded crackers around 11 in the morning.

Of the injured, six tempo workers — Akbar, Jaker, Saber, Alam, Feruz, Badsha — were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Lalbagh police brought the situation under control. Police arrested one Kabir for his alleged involvement in the clash.

JCD, BCL clash in Sirajganj: 17 injured

SIRAJGANJ, June 12: The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and the Chhatra League supporters clashed at the Jamatul rail station in Kamarkhand thana at 10 last night, leaving at least 17 injured, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said Huda, Cultural Secretary of the JCD Hajji Korop Ali Memorial College unit, was admitted to the Sirajganj Hospital in critical condition.

The clash began allegedly over the sharing of toll collected from the contractors of building of Jamatul Girls High School.

A case has been lodged with the Kamarkhand police.

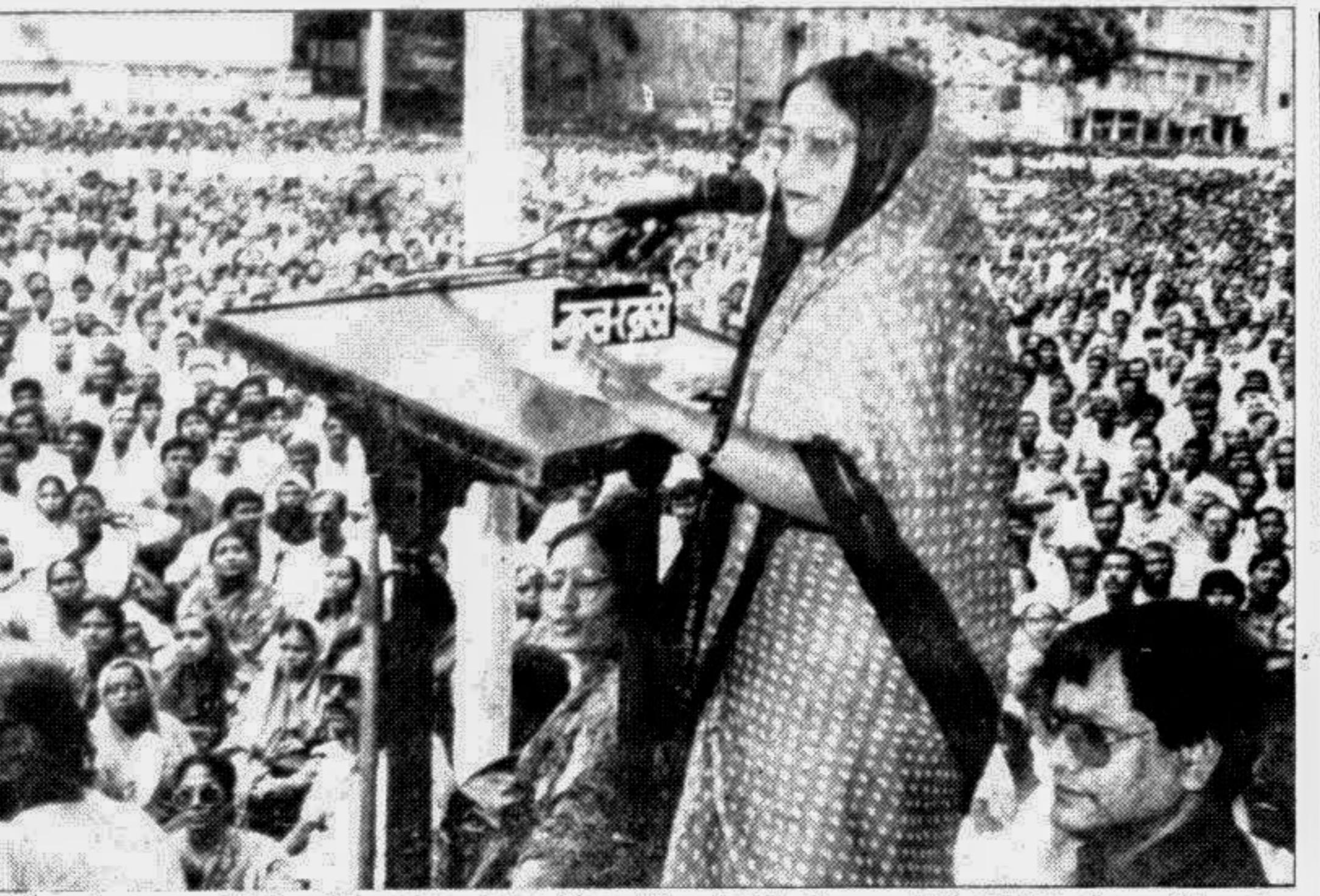
Southern dists motor workers call off strike

JHENIDAH, June 12: Road communication of 16 southern districts with the capital Dhaka has been restored from today after a day-long strike called by a thana-level motor workers union, reports UNB.

Inter-district road communication in Khulna and Barisal divisions was also restored following the call off.

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Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina addressing the striking non-government school and college teachers in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. — Star photo

Hartal: Teachers

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day yesterday to press home their demands including implementation of the national pay scale for the private schools and colleges.

Some 2.5 lakh teachers and employees of about 11,000 private schools and colleges have been continuing their strike since April 18 last.

The liaison committee after nearly a six-hour meeting also decided to continue the sit-in tomorrow.

After tomorrow's eight-hour hartal, the committee leaders would announce the next course of action at a rally at the sit-in venue at 3 pm.

The striking teachers and employees passed their second day of their sit-in by listening to the political leaders and the leaders of the liaison committee.

The demonstrators received several sack-loads of chira, muri and goor from the Awami League chief and the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina.

They also listened to songs and poetry recitations presented by teachers.

UNB adds: Jatiya Party has extended its support to the hartal called for Tuesday by non-government teachers of schools and colleges to press for their demands that include higher pay-scale.

In a statement, JP leader Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury last night criticised the government for not resolving the problem of the teachers through discussion.

The government's hard line has forced the teachers to go for an extreme programme like hartal, he said.

Kashmiri town under curfew

SRINAGAR, June 12: A curfew was enforced today in the Kashmiri town of Kishtwar after the slaying of a Hindu politician by suspected Muslim guerrillas heightened tension, the police said, reports AP.

The bench comprising Justice D M Ansaruddin and Justice Nurul Islam issued order that Khan be allowed free movement till disposal of the petition.

Khan himself appeared before the court with an anticipatory bail petition.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate had issued June 8 warrants of arrest against Khan and 3 other editors of the Janakantha upon a criminal case filed by Motijheel police. Following the order advisory editor Toab Khan and executive editor Borhanuddin Ahmed were arrested and sent to jail.

Opposition

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their leaders meet again this afternoon.

Meanwhile, Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim, briefing newsmen yesterday on behalf of the entire opposition, said that a bad precedence was being set in the history of the country's parliamentary democracy by placing the national budget and holding discussion on it in the House without the Opposition.

Nasim said that this was nothing but part of a conspiracy against the present Parliament as well as parliamentary democracy.

The Opposition Chief Whip also said that if the government had minimum respect for democracy, it should pave the way for the Opposition to enter the House by moving a bill seeking provisions for a caretaker administration.

"People will not accept the budget if it is passed by the House with its opposition benches empty," Nasim asserted.

The opposition parties are boycotting Parliament session to press home the demand for holding general elections under a caretaker administration.

The opposition leaders meeting yesterday was attended by, among others, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad, Tofail Ahmed, Khamat Ali and A K M Jahangir of the AL, Moudud Ahmed, Advocate Fazle Rabbi and Anwar Hossain of Jatiya Party, Maulana Abdus Sohan and Advocate Sheikh Anser Ali of Jamaat, Surjani Sengupta of the Ganatantri Party and Salauddin Kader Chowdhury of National Democratic Party (NDP).

FBCCI, Japanese discuss investment

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Haque, FBCCI President Mahbubur Rahman, MCCI President Latifur Rahman, other top business leaders, secretaries concerned and some senior government officials.

Opening the discussions, FBCCI President Mahbubur Rahman said Bangladesh presents itself in a most attractive framework in terms of government outlook to host foreign investment and socio-economic orientation of the vast workforce.

He informed the delegation that an exclusive industrial estate for Japanese investors as well as adequate infrastructural facilities to reach the estate had been offered to the Japanese investors.

Highlighting various fiscal and economic liberalisation measures, he said cheap labour force, currently comprising 35 million people, in addition to management personnel is another economic condition for investing in Bangladesh.

Rahman hoped that the Japanese investors would enter into the Bangladesh economic arena in a large and meaningful way and start an external trade-related manufacturing initiative in the country.

Referring to the government-level relations between the two countries, Morshed Khan said an excellent government-level relationship can create a vehicle for excellent relationship between private

AL to meet all demands

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the problems nor it had any feeling for the respected teachers.

The AL chief condemned the alleged repression on the agitating teachers and said no repressive measure could resolve any crisis.

She accused the BNP government of deceiving all sections of the society including the teachers, students, peasants, and workers and even the Opposition in Parliament.

This government signed agreements with the Opposition industrial workers, teachers and others. But it violated all the accords," the Leader of the Opposition said and termed the BNP government a "pledge-breaker."

Turning to the issue of caretaker government, Hasina said she was ready to participate in a debate on the issue in Parliament provided the ruling party moved a bill for constitutional provisions for holding general elections under a caretaker administration.

Cypriot vessel poses oil-spill threat to Goa

NEW DELHI, June 12: A Cypriot-registered vessel grounded by strong gales is posing a major oil-spill threat to the tourist paradise of Goa in western India, news reports said Sunday.

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FBCCI, Japanese discuss investment

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sectors of the two countries.

Time has come to sort out something new for initiating a new horizon of private sector relationship," the special envoy said and called upon the Japanese investors to invest their surplus capital in Bangladesh.

Khan also mentioned that Bangladesh was enjoying the most favoured nation (MFN) status and generalised system of preference (GSP) facilities and said Japan could exploit the vast workforce.

The newspaper said the ecological damage to the marine flora and fauna would be immense.

Indian coast guard authorities have rescued the 31 crew of the vessel and sought help from a Singapore pollution control and disaster management company.

The authorities said efforts were being made to transfer the stricken vessel's cargo to storage containers.

Three other ships which drifted toward the Goa shore in last Sunday's squall have since been floated and anchored outside the harbour.

Businessman killed in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, June 12: Miscreants killed a young businessman and looted Tk 1.50 lakh from Ibhne Sina Flour Mills at Malgudam road in the town early today, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Abdul Latif Khan Alimas, 32, son of Abdul Hakim of Guntina village in Kalhati thana of Tangail district, who obtained MA from Dhaka University in 1993.

Police said a gang of miscreants broke into the mill, put a flour sack on his face and choked him to death before looting the money.

A case has been filed with the Sadar thana in this connection.

One shot dead in Jessore clash

JESSORE, June 12: A teenage boy was shot dead and several others wounded when rival groups fought in the heart of the town this evening, reports UNB.

Arman, 18, shot on the chest, died on way to hospital. Shahin and Enamul were admitted to hospital with gun shots. They are residents of city Collegepara Colony.

Police and witnesses said rival groups of Barandi Mollapara and Barandi Kadamtala engaged in the fighting over the share of goods smuggled into the town from across the border. They traded about 15 gun shots and 50 hand made bombs.

Some others injured in the fighting did not report to the hospital to avoid arrest.

In another incident in the town tonight, two young men with burn injuries from explosives were admitted to the hospital.

Police said Abdul Latif and Rahim Sheikh were injured in a clash at old Kashba area at 8 pm today over the sale of a motor cycle.

Export more

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sand metric tons annually.

"Our government has identified integrated shrimp farming industry as a very potential sector and has allowed a 9-year tax holiday period and is encouraging technology-based foreign investment in hatcheries, growouts and feed mills," Redwan said.

Kazuo Haruna told the local exporters that the relationship between Japan and Bangladesh at the government level was very strong and underlined the need for developing a strong relationship at the private sector level.

He pointed out that the trade gap between Bangladesh and Japan was huge and it should be reduced through mutual cooperation in trade and investment.

"We are here to understand the environment of investment and I believe there are needs to increase talks on private investment," Haruna said.

Members of the team which includes its deputy leaders Jiro Rokukawa and Kazuo Nukazawa, said that Japan imported textiles worth 13 billion dollars annually and the textiles were of very high quality.

"Recently there has been a change in the liking of the consumers in Japan. They look for cheap but fashionable clothes. I think, the Bangladeshi exporters should take this opportunity," said a member of the team.

Posto and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam, who is one of the negotiators from the government side, having talks with the leaders of the striking teachers, supplemented Sircar's statement and said the strike is politically motivated.

"We sat with them also on Friday. We agreed to raise the teachers' benefit by 5 per cent more to make it 75 per cent but they