

Countrywide hartal observed

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attack a brick fell on Tareq's head injuring him seriously.

Near the Ittefaq Bhaban, at 1 pm, a journalist of the Dainik Lal Sabuj, Kibria Chowdhury, received bomb injuries in the lower part of his body when some miscreants hurled cocktails at random.

Another clash took place between the activists of JCD and BCL at around 12.15 noon at the Titumir College premises. None was however, injured.

At around 9 am, hand-bombs were hurled at a group of pro-hartal demonstrators at Farm Gate. Witnesses said that the bombs were thrown from a running minibus which was carrying a group of armed youths.

AL leaders Begum Matia Chowdhury and Shahjahan Khan were present among the demonstrators at the spot.

Pro-hartal and anti-hartal activists also clashed at Rampura at 7.30 am leaving at least three persons injured.

A young man, identified as Enamul Huq, was seriously injured when a bomb exploded at Topkhana crossing at about 1 pm while a procession of Jatiya Party was passing through the area.

Motor vehicles were off the roads in the capital during hartal hours except a few minibuses and BRTC double deckers which were seen plying in an 'unusual route' under police escort.

Rickshaws were seen plying freely in the city in the afternoon since the hartal organisers exempted those from 12 noon.

Government offices were open, but attendance was thin. Private offices, business enterprises, shops, and educational institutions remained closed during the hartal.

The AL, the JP and the Jamaat brought out separate processions in the city yesterday chanting anti-government slogans.

Our DMCH Correspondent reports: At least 16 people injured in different incidents during the hartal were admitted to the DMCH. Two of the injured suffered bullet injuries while 6 were hit by splinters of crackers, one was stabbed and the rest were injured in brick-batting.

BCL leader Mehdi Hasan Shawkat was also admitted to the DMCH.

The injured people are: Jahangir, Amir Hossain, Anwarul Kibria Chowdhury, Shawkat, Tareq Ibne Shams, Sattar, Saiful Bachchu, Ruhul Amin, Delwar Hossain, Babul, Yusuf, Amal and Ruhul Amin.

Our correspondent in Narayanganj reports: A dawn-to-dusk hartal was observed peacefully in all the seven thanas of the district. In Narayanganj town, some crackers were exploded injuring one person. Production in the industrial areas was affected.

ected. The authorities of the Adamjee Jute Mills however, aimed that the mills operated normally.

Our staff correspondent in Chittagong adds: Yesterday's dawn-to-dusk hartal paralysed normal life in this port city and surrounding areas. There were sporadic blasts of cocktails.

Most of the vehicles, including rickshaws, were off the roads. Only after 12 noon, rickshaws were allowed to ply. Railway sources said, train service here was normal.

City markets and shopping centres remained closed. Offices and banks could not function because of thin attendance.

Mills and factories at Nasirabad, Kalurghat, Sitakunda and Patenga could not operate causing loss of production.

Chittagong port sources said, delivery of goods to and from the port was suspended though cargo handling was as usual inside the jetties.

Rallies were also organised by opposition parties.

Our staff correspondent in Sylhet reports: A hartal was observed in all the four districts of greater Sylhet region yesterday. Five persons were injured during chase and counter chase between the activists of the Awami League and the BNP at Biswanath thana headquarters.

All shops and offices were closed in Sylhet town. No classes were held in the educational institutions.

All the trains, including the express and inter-city ones, moved in time. Railway official said.

The District Awami League held a meeting its president Syed Abu Nosor in the chair. The district Jatiya Party also held a meeting.

Hartal was also observed peacefully in Sunamganj, Habiganj and Moulvibazar districts. There was no report of any untoward incident.

Our staff correspondent in Rajshahi adds: A full-day hartal was observed in the city peacefully.

No classes or examinations were held at the Rajshahi University. The AL backed Chhatra League and the Islami Chhatra Shibir brought out processions in support of the hartal.

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal also brought out a procession opposing the hartal.

UNB reports from Manikganj: At least 50 gun shots were fired and several crackers exploded injuring more than 20 people in a clash between BNP and Awami League supporters in the town yesterday evening.

Witnesses said the clash ensued when BNP supporters attacked the local Awami League office after a cracker was hurled on a BNP procession near Uttara Bank.

The BNP brought out the procession to protest Monday's

incident in which Awami League supporters ransacked the BNP office and allegedly looted a shop.

Police fired two rounds of tear gas shells to disperse the rival groups.

Organising Secretary of local BNP Advocate Azad Hossain Khan in a statement said 12 BNP workers were injured in the clash.

In Pabna, at least 15 people were injured in a clash between supporters of BNP and Awami League at South Raghapur at about 11 am. Five of them were admitted to Pabna Sadar Hospital.

Those admitted to the hospital were identified as Shamim (25) and Asad (27) of AL and Mamun (30), Azad (25) and Shamsuzzaman Manir (32) of BNP.

About 30 rounds of gunshots were fired and 10 hand-made bombs exploded during the clash that continued until police intervened and brought the situation under control.

Shops, banks and educational institutions were closed during the hartal. All modes of transports except a few rickshaws were off the roads.

The Awami League and the BNP brought out processions in the town for and against the hartal.

Our correspondents in Brahmanbaria, Kishoreganj and Sherpur also reported observation of the hartal in the districts.



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday visited injured Mehdi Hasan, president of the Motijheel thana BCL (S-P) at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. — Star photo

Hasina calls for all-out

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are being used by the government as their paternal property.

Repeating to another question regarding the prudence or propriety of any Opposition MP accompanying official Bangladesh parliamentary delegation abroad at this juncture of national politics, Sheikh Hasina said, "The trip is not financed by the government; the invitation came from the International Parliamentary Union."

The question was in reference to the inclusion of AL MP Mohiuddin Ahmed and Jatiya Party MP Fazole Rabbi in the five-member Bangladesh delegation to the Congress of the IPU now being held in the Danish capital Copenhagen. Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali is heading the team.

Among others, party general secretary Zillur Rahman, deputy leader of the Parliament, Abdus Samad Azad, Tofael Ahmed, Amir Hossain Amu, Matiya Chowdhury, Rahmat Ali, Abdul Mannan, Sudhanshu Shekhar Halder, Nurul Islam Nahid, KM Jahangir, Sahera Khatun, Kamruzzaman were present at the press conference.

White House plane crash a suicide?

PERRY POINT, Maryland, Sept 13: His marriage had just fallen apart, his father had died of cancer and he had problems with drugs and alcohol — and he had talked of suicide.

These circumstances caused Frank Corder's relatives to say it was not politics but a determination to end his life that motivated him to steal a small plane in the middle of the night, fly it to Washington and crash it on the White House lawn, reports AP.

"He did this to destroy himself," said an aunt, Edith Dishman.

"Frank has been down on drugs and alcohol before. He told me that sometimes ... he just wished he had a gun," added a cousin, Dee George.

Corder, 38, who worked as a self-employed freight truck driver and had a student pilot licence, died in the crash.

John Corder, of Aberdeen, Maryland, said his brother may have been trying to emulate Mathias Rust, a 19-year-old German pilot who landed a small plane in Red Square in Moscow on May 28, 1987.

"One time he mentioned about the guy that landed in Red Square and how that guy made a big thing for himself and everything landing in Red Square, and the Kremlin," John Corder said.

On the other hand, the Washington Post quoted John Corder as saying his brother had spoken in a phone call a year ago of a desire to crash a plane into the White House.

'Hartals cause export loss of Tk 450cr'

Hartals for three days have dealt a severe blow to the country's exports — particularly garments exports — causing a loss of about Tk 450 crore, reports UNB.

Giving this estimate of losses in a statement yesterday, Redwan Ahmed MP, president of the Exporters' Association of Bangladesh (EAB), cautioned frequent strikes would hit hard the exports upsetting the objectives of export-led growth in the country.

"Readymade garments sector alone is sitting on a finished products of Tk 156 crore," the statement said with a note of warning that foreign buyers who once shifted from Sri Lanka to Bangladesh would divert again to other countries in Africa and Latin America.

Shipment of a large volume of finished leather worth about Tk 25 crore is also being delayed, said the statement. Other export sub-sectors too are having similar problems, it added.

Redwan said that the unrest would 'tarnish' the national image abroad, scaring away the foreign investment.

The EAB president appealed to the political parties to settle political issues through negotiations, so that the production and exports could go uninterrupted.

Mostafiz's retort

Did any one hear President Clinton and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia speak over telephone? Did Kibria hear their conversation? Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman has asked.

The foreign minister said this when his attention was drawn to a clarification issued by SAMS Kibria, a senior advisor to the Awami League president, reports UNB.

The minister also urged that quarters concerned should refrain from implicating the US President in the internal political polemics in Bangladesh.

He parried a question concerning a US Embassy official's assertion that President Clinton's call was in no way concerned with the events of September 10 in Dhaka.

In reply to a question from the UNB, Mostafiz asked did the official concerned hear the conversation between the two leaders?

Invasion of Haiti will set dangerous precedent: Gaddafi

TUNIS, Sept 13: Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, who fears the West may attack Libya over Lockerbie, said today a US invasion of Haiti would set a dangerous precedent, reports Reuters.

"If the invasion of Haiti is carried out... it will confirm what we have already said about the United States, its tyranny, its dangerousness for the whole of humanity, and will confirm also that the United States is a state without conscience nor morality," Gaddafi said in a statement.

Jamaat

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not be taken lightly because it was proved in 1991 that a fair and impartial election was possible only under a neutral caretaker government and not under the party in power.

He hoped that without wasting time the government would initiate a bill on a caretaker government.

The press briefing was also attended among others by Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, Mohammad Qamaruzzaman and Sheikh Ansar Ali MP.

Cairo confce okays plan

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say it carries a 'moral weight' and gives new ammunition to politicians and private groups to lobby for change.

The approved 14-chapter Cairo Document will now be placed before the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) for consideration.

The ICPD Plenary over, the mood in the corridors at the Cairo International Conference Centre was light with members of some delegations and women activists seen warmly hugging each other after Chairman of the Plenary, Egypt's Health Minister Dr Maher Mahran announced the Conference closed.

"It's been a great victory for the women," said a beaming woman activist, the conference has been successful in charting a women-centred agenda.

"Women have been the engine of this document," said Bella Abzug, a doyen of the Women's Caucus Group at the ICPD.

However, a cautious reaction came from M Fazlur Rahman, who was leading the Bangladesh delegation to the ICPD.

"It is a great experience for us, he said as The Daily Star approached him for his immediate reaction on the plan will be binding on the nations of the world. But delegates

The Midnight File

Israel arrests 11 Palestinian security agents

JERUSALEM, Sept 13: Israel has arrested 11 Palestinian security agents in Jerusalem and the West Bank, according to Jibril Rajoub, preventive security chief in Jericho. "This is a blow below the belt aimed at creating a state of depression among the Palestinian Nation," Rajoub told Tuesday's Al Quds newspaper, reports AFP.

Abiola appears in court

ABUJA, Sept 13: Nigerian opposition leader Moshood Abiola, looking frail, appeared in court for the first time in almost a month today as his treason trial resumed. His lawyer Gabriel Ajayi told the court that Abiola, who is widely believed to have won last year's annulled presidential poll, was being held in unhealthy conditions bound to worsen his health. Justice Chris Senglog adjourned the hearing to September 21, reports Reuter.

Japan won't give in to US demands for trade pact

TOKYO, Sept 13: Japan won't give in to American demands at the last moment before a US-imposed September 30 deadline for a trade pact, despite Washington's expectation it will do so, a senior Japanese official said Tuesday, reports AP.

The official said Japan will continue to refuse US efforts to include numerical targets for greater foreign penetration of Japan's market.

That could put the two countries on a collision course as the deadline for the trade "framework" talks nears. Washington has said it will consider sanctions if the two nations don't reach agreement by the end of September.

Last week, negotiators made some progress in high-level talks in the United States, but there was no breakthrough, the senior Japanese official said.

The official, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity, said the US side appeared to agree to a Japanese proposal that they accept a series of partial agreements in the wide-ranging negotiations.

That would represent a shift in US policy. Last spring, US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor said the United States would refuse any incomplete settlement.

The negotiations have been stalemated for most of a year by the dispute over numerical targets. Washington has insisted on having a way to measure results, while Tokyo says specific targets would violate free trade.

To restart the talks, the United States said earlier this year it would not seek numerical goals. But the Japanese official said Washington has continued to press for arrangements that are tantamount to such targets.

The two countries are discussing four issues in the framework talks: autos and auto parts, insurance, government procurement of telecommunications and medical equipment, and US export competitiveness.

Separatists win polls in Quebec

MONTREAL, Sept 13: Quebec voters took what could be a renewed thrust toward independence by giving the separatist Parti Quebecois a solid majority in the decisive Canadian provincial election. Official results showed Jacques Parizeau's Parti Quebecois winning 77 seats Monday in the 125-seat legislature. Premier Daniel Johnson's Liberal Party won 47 and one seat was captured by the small, separatist Democratic Action Party.

Parizeau, 64, has promised that his government would hold a referendum within a year on whether the predominantly Francophone province should split from Anglophone Canada.

Johnson, 49, whose Liberals held power in Quebec for nine years, warned that independence would lead to upheaval and economic deterioration.

"This evening we have just been given a mandate for which we should show ourselves worthy," an exultant Parizeau told supporters in Quebec City.

In his concession speech, Johnson promised the Liberal Party would still play an important role in Quebec's future.

"We will be there ... to remind Quebecois that they already belong to a great country where we are occupying a greater and greater place," he said. "We will also remind people of the advantages and the guarantees of prosperity and of improving the future of all men and women in Quebec if we stay in Canada."

Many Quebec voters were fed up with the sagging economy and 12.2 per cent unemployment in this province of 7 million people and wanted to turn the Liberals out. But a vote for the Parti Quebecois is not necessarily a vote for separation.

A referendum on sovereignty in 1980 was voted down 60 per cent to 40 per cent and recent polls have indicated a new plebiscite would fail.

US carrier

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assisting American forces in the anticipated US-led invasion of Haiti, aimed at ousting Haiti's military rulers and restoring democracy.

They are to be followed Tuesday with 50 more soldiers from Trinidad and Tobago, and another group will be arriving for training by week's end, said US Army Maj Steve Pantone.

The US and Caribbean officers leading training emphasised that the force would focus on peacekeeping duties, rather than taking part in any invasion or immediate policing action thereafter.

Grameen Bank

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need immediate new funds which we will raise through the bonds. This is also a step towards achieving self-reliance for the GB."

The GB had lent about Tk 1200 crore last year and hopes to lend another Tk 1800 crore among the rural poor this year. The banks has very recently gone for equipment leasing programmes among its target group.

The GB has now about two million members who borrow from it for different projects. During the last one year, its membership increased by about three lakh, GB sources said.

South Korea for talks with North

SEOUL, Sept 13: South Korea, in a policy change, said Tuesday it would actively pursue dialogue with rival North Korea, including holding the first-ever summit meeting, reports AP.

In July, the two Koreas appeared to be heading for détente by agreeing to hold the first meeting of their presidents, but their relations suddenly chilled after the death of North Korean leader Kim Il Sung.

The 82-year-old Kim, who ruled North Korea for nearly a half century, died of a heart attack on July 8, less than three weeks before he was to have met South Korean President Kim Young-sam in the first inter-Korea summit.

Relations have subsequently strained, with Pyongyang openly voicing anger over Seoul's refusal to express condolences over Kim's death.