



Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina waves to supporters while boarding the Karnaphuli Express at the city's Kamalapur railway station on the second leg of her "train march" to Chittagong. — Star photo

**Hasina**

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Awami League chief told her slogan-chanting supporters on the station's platform. She sought blessings of the people for the success of her mission.

The Karnaphuli Express carrying Hasina steamed off the Kamalapur station at 11:25 am on its 346-kilometre journey on the Chittagong route. The train is scheduled to stop at 36 stations.

The compartment in which Hasina is travelling has been decorated with the national and party flags, banners and five loudspeakers.

Besides her party colleagues, a host of journalists and press photographers from national and international media accompanied the Opposition leader.

Addressing a huge gathering at Narsingdi railway station yesterday afternoon on her way to Chittagong, Sheikh Hasina said they would shortly start an agitation for toppling the government if it does not introduce a caretaker government Bill in Parliament.

"If the government does not take steps for bringing in a Bill for a caretaker government, we will launch from September 27 a one-point movement for the fall of the government," the Opposition leader said.

She demanded of the government to bring back the boycotting Opposition to Parliament by introducing a caretaker government Bill.

**Afroj Bakht murder case: Judgement today**

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 25: The judgement in the sensational murder case of Juba League leader and noted businessman, Afroj Bakht, will be given tomorrow. Sunil Chandra Paul, Additional District and Sessions Judge, First Court, will pass the judgement.

Afroj Bakht was shot dead at Hotel Gulshan of Sylhet town in the early hours of May 17, 1990.

Police submitted a charge-sheet against five persons — the then Jatiya Party MP Gousuddin, hotel owner Mainuddin and three other businessmen — Arun Chowdhury, Akiam Hossain and Gousul Alam Gedu. The accused Gousuddin MP and Arun Chowdhury have been absconding while the other accused persons are in bail. The court heard 52 witnesses from the prosecution and one from the defence.

**10 Haitians**

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building by Sunday morning, officials said, although it wasn't immediately clear what happened to the two holdouts. Outside the building, Marines spent the morning washing down the blood on the street.

Major Steve Little, a Marine spokesman, said 10 Haitians were killed. Another Haitian who was seriously wounded was flown to the USS Wasp, a helicopter assault ship, for treatment. Two 38-caliber handguns and an M1 assault rifle were seized.

An E-3 Navy seaman apprentice serving as an interpreter received a flesh wound in the leg and was also evacuated to the USS Wasp early Sunday morning, said Marine Gunnery Sgt. Terri Allen, a military spokeswoman in Port-au-Prince.

**Shilpakala**

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upward arrow mark with the word 'top' on them for convenience of projection.

For every work there should be separate description, in Bangla or English, giving 1) artist's name, address, date of birth 2) title, medium, year and size 3) if for sale — the amount in words and numbers and mentioning 4) whether for competition or not.

The original works — for paintings and prints — size must not exceed 180x180cm. Sculptures should be within 180x180x120 cm.

List of the selected works will be given at the Academy notice board on November one. Letters will also be issued to the artists concerned informing them of their eligibility.

The selected original works with proper framing must be submitted to cultural officers of the regional offices of the Academy in Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna on November 10. In Dhaka, the works must reach the Academy's fine arts department on November 12.

The authorities will accept works for display at the Eleventh National Art Exhibition in the following media: a) Fine Art — oil, water colour, acrylic, gouache, pastel and mixed media b) Prints — any medium c) Sculpture — wood, cement, stone, metal, plaster, ceramic etc.

Meanwhile, the authorities have announced 'Bangladesh Shilpakala Puraskar-1994' — Tk 50,000 for the best works in each of the three media. Besides, there will be three prizes of honour — Tk 10,000 each, according to official sources.

**Plague: Steps being taken to face situation**

Civil Surgeons in the country particularly in the bordering districts would be asked to take appropriate steps to cope with any situation in case of an outbreak of plague in the country, reports BSS.

This was decided at the 23rd Parliamentary Standing Committee meeting of the Health and Family Welfare Ministry at the Jatiya Sangsad bhaban yesterday.

The meeting was chaired by Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf discussed the recent outbreak of plague in Surat, India.

The standing committee felt that the general people should be made aware of its symptoms and precautionary measures through mass media. Sufficient stock of medicines should be made available to cope with any situation, the meeting decided.

The meeting, however, appealed to the people not to become panicky as all preventive measures are being taken by the government.

The on-going strike called by the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) at the government hospitals and health complexes also came up for discussion during the meeting.

The committee appealed to the doctors to join their duties for the greater interest of the nation and mitigating human suffering.

Deputy Minister for Health Sirajul Hoque, Dr A K M Quamruzzaman MP, Dr Habibur Rahman MP, Khandakar Aminul Islam (Hira Miah) MP attended the meeting.

**Goods train**

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immediately diverted via Bhairab, a long detour. As a result almost all trains to and from have been delayed by nearly three to four hours.

The inter-city Ekota and Jamuna express trains from Dhaka reached here via Bhairab. However, the Dhaka-bound 212 Down train which left here around noon returned to Mymensingh from Moshakhali station.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: The central railway control room in Dhaka told this correspondent last night that two relief trains, one each from Dhaka and Mymensingh, had reached the spot and were trying to clear the tracks.

A team headed by Divisional Railway Manager Sheikh Habibullah was working non-stop and hoped to restore normal communication on the important line by early Monday morning.

**Malaysia**

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Earlier in the morning, the Malaysian minister called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas, Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and the home minister.

Dato Megat, who arrived in Dhaka Saturday night, leaves for Singapore Tuesday.

BSS adds: The Malaysian Deputy Minister for Home Affairs visited Bangladesh police headquarters yesterday evening.

Inspector General of Police ASM Shahjahan received the visiting minister at the police headquarters and briefed him on the activities of Bangladesh police.

Additional Inspectors General of police and senior police officials were present on the occasion.

**9 vying for FBCCI presidentship**

By Staff Correspondent

Nine businessmen are contesting for the post of the president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), the apex body of the country's chambers and trade associations, in its election on October 17.

The number of contestants for the post of Vice President is four and for the 30 executive committee member posts is 98.

As per the constitution of the FBCCI, the President and Vice President posts are rotated among the members of the chamber and association groups each year and the 30 EC member posts are also shared among the two groups equally.

This year, the FBCCI President is supposed to be elected from the association group while the Vice President from the chamber group.

Those contesting for the post of the President include Salman F Rahman of the Bangladesh Oushadh Shilpa Samity, Alhaj Akram Hossain of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Owners' Association, MA Quasem of the Bangladesh Jute Spinners' Association, Md Nurul Islam of the Bangladesh Cold Storage Association, Redwan Ahmed, MP, of the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers' and Exporters' Association, Mirza Abu Mansur of the Bangladesh Hardware and Machinery Merchants Association, MA Hannan of the Bangladesh Major and Compact Flour Mills Association, SIM Mohsin of Bangladesh Thikader Samity and the incumbent Vice President of the FBCCI Kazi Md Shaiful Islam.

The Vice President candidates are Rashiduzzaman Duda of the Kushtia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Lutfar Rahman Khan of the Madaripur Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Md Ali Sarder of the Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Abdul Latif Siddiqi of the Tangail Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Of the total 98 candidates for the EC member posts, 31 candidates are from the chamber group and 67 from the association group. Some 13 businessmen filed nomination papers for the post of the Vice President and 8 for the Vice President post on the 10th of this month. Later, on September 24, four candidates withdrew their nomination papers.

**UAE takes step to prevent plague**

ABU DHABI, Sept 25: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is taking steps to prevent a plague from spreading to this Gulf state from India, officials said today, reports AFP.

The Health Ministry is to prepare antibiotics in case pneumonic plague surfaces here and monitoring will be increased at the country's sea and airports, a ministry spokesman told UAE newspapers.

**Border fencing**

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homes and farmland lie between the fence and the international border. In order to instill confidence in them gates have been built for such pockets, PWD officials said.

The fencing has three rows. The first row on the Bangladesh side is nine feet high, while the one of the Indian side is five feet high. In between is a two feet high roll of metal coil with multiple spikes. The road is eight feet wide.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia handed over cheques of government grants to 67 non-government youth organisations under the self-employment programme of the Youth Ministry at the International Conference Centre in the city yesterday. — PID photo

**Non-gazetted staff's action programme**

Non-gazetted government employees will observe three-hour token strike on October 5 and 6 as part of their agitation programme to press home their 15-point demands, reports UNB.

The programme was announced yesterday at a councillors' meeting of the Bangladesh Sarkari Karmachari Oikyajote, representing some eight lakh 3rd and 4th class employees, at Engineers' Institution auditorium in the city.

The demands include 30 per cent dearness allowance, introduction of festival bonus, free gas and electricity up to 120 unit for the employees, trade union right, increased medical and conveyance allowances.

The Oikyajote will hold district and thana-level meetings from October 7 to 15 and also observe four-hour work abstention on October 16 and 17.

There will be a grand rally in the city October 17 where next course of action will be announced.

The Oikyajote consists of Bangladesh Audit and Accounts Parishad, Bangladesh Ministerial Karmachari Samity, Bangladesh Ganu Karmachari

**BNP response**

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Khandaker Debar Hossain and some senior ministers were present at the meeting.

This was the second meeting of the ruling BNP high command on the issue, the first held Saturday.

BNP Secretary General and LGRD minister Abdus Salam Talukder was not present at the meeting because of indisposition. Doctor advised him rest, a source said.

Prof Chowdhury, the key BNP negotiator for a planned dialogue between the government and the Opposition, had been maintaining contacts with Opposition leaders, particularly Samad Azad to find ways of ending the impasse in the political arena following an indefinite boycott of Jatiya Sangsad proceedings by the major opposition parties from March 1 last.

People are fed up with the rule of BNP for its corruption and misuse for last three and a half year, and now they want to get rid of it," he said.

**PM distributes**

From Page 1 Col 3

tion of power and mentioned that the government had allocated Tk 131.34 crore for the development of youth.

The Prime Minister said the government had expanded the youth development activities in 64 districts from 30 districts and 230 thanas from 50 thanas. This programme will be further expanded to 230 more thanas.

The government had allocated Tk 50 crore as loan this year for the employment of youths, she added.

**People fed up with BNP rule, says Mizan**

CHITTAGONG, Sept 25: Jatiya Party acting chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury today said people have lost confidence in the BNP government, reports UNB.

Election under a neutral caretaker government is the only solution to the present political crisis, he told a rally at Aloka cinema hall premises at Pahartali in the morning.

"People are fed up with the rule of BNP for its corruption and misuse for last three and a half year, and now they want to get rid of it," he said.



Ward No 32 of the Casualty Department of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital seen yesterday on the fifth day of the country-wide doctors' strike. — Star photo

**OIC resents easing of sanctions on Serbia**

JEDDAH, Sept 25: The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) condemned the easing of the UN embargo against Serbia and Montenegro as a "reward to the Serb aggressors," in a statement issued here today, reports AFP.

OIC Secretary-General Hamid Algabid said he was "astonished" at the resolution adopted by the UN Security Council Friday.

The resolution followed the imposition of a total trade embargo by rump Yugoslavia, consisting of Serbia and Montenegro, on the self-styled Bosnian Serb republic on August 4.

The United Nations also voted to tighten sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs and condemned their forces for the "ethnic cleansing" carried out against Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"This resolution amounts to a reward to the Serb aggressors and deprives their Muslim victims of any assistance," Algabid said.

"The easing of sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro could undermine current efforts to restore peace, and endanger peace and security in the Balkans."

AP adds: Bosnian Serbs continued to put pressure on UN peacekeepers, but a late report indicated that the Serbs are loosening their grip on Sarajevo.

**Lankan govt names team to hold talks with Tamil rebels**

COLOMBO, Sept 25: The new socialist government has appointed a four-member team to hold talks with Tamil rebels fighting for a homeland, a newspaper reported Sunday, says AP.

Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga named the team in a letter to the rebel commander, the Sunday Leader newspaper reported. The prime minister's letter written Friday was sent to the rebels through the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The team is soon expected to begin exploratory talks with the rebel representatives. It consists of senior government officials and two civilians, the newspaper said.

The Tiger commander Velupillai Prabhakaran has urged the government to declare an unconditional ceasefire to create a suitable climate for peace talks.

**Docs' strike**

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removal of the health secretary etc.

Our SSMCH correspondent reports: six patients left the hospital voluntarily and 51 were discharged from the Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital (SSMCH) yesterday.

Nine emergency operations were performed but no scheduled operations. The number of patients at the hospital yesterday was 487 against the usual number of nearly 600.

**Plague**

From Page 1 Col 4

ment officials were prepared to say the plague outbreak was under control in Surat, and all of them said that India still faces the risk of a plague epidemic.

Pneumonic plague victims often suffer from colds, coughs and respiratory infections, sometimes spitting out blood. It can kill in three to four days.

**The Midnight File**

**Russia to give light water reactors to N Korea**

TOKYO, Sept 25: Russian Vice Foreign Minister A N Panov has met Kim Jong-il, heir-apparent to the late North Korean president Kim Il-Sung, and expressed Moscow's readiness to provide Pyongyang with light water reactors, a report said today. Panov, Russian President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy, met Kim and North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Young-Nam during a recent visit to Pyongyang, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said in a report monitored here, reports AFP.

**UN warns of food shortage in Sarajevo**

SARAJEVO, Sept 25: Sarajevo will run out of food in two weeks if the Bosnian Serbs continue blockading United Nations aid shipments by land and air, the main UN relief agency said today. "We have stocks of food for about two weeks," Kris Janowski, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR) in Sarajevo, told Reuters.

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