



Hartal observed in city's Lalbagh area

A half-day hartal protesting attack on a City Awami League leader during Tuesday's rail-road barricade programme was observed in Lalbagh area of the city yesterday, reports UNB.

City AL Vice President Abdul Aziz was injured in a cracker blast while leading a procession in Lalbagh. He was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Shops, business establishments and educational institutions in the area were closed during the dawn-to-noon hartal. All sorts of motor vehicles were off the road.

Awami League supporters brought out a number of small processions and held a rally in the area protesting Tuesday's violence.



Employees of the Bangladesh Television demonstrating in front of the TV Bhaban at Rampura in the city yesterday protesting cancellation of the general manager's appointment. — Star photo

TV employees

President and the Prime Minister.

A source in the seven-man action committee which is spearheading the agitation, told The Daily Star last night that the employees' meeting had also resolved to suspend all editing and recording of programmes. Besides, the names of the artists and technicians would not be shown after any programme. However, transmission would continue uninterrupted.

Meanwhile, a high official in the Director General's office told this correspondent that information Minister Nazmul Huda last night met the leaders of the action committee at the Rampura TV Bhaban and told them flatly there would be no compromise on the issue. He also said that a new general manager would be appointed soon.

The Midnight File

US Senators for closer ties with Taiwan

WASHINGTON, Sept 28: Several senators Tuesday called for closer US ties with Taiwan and said recent administration policy changes did not go far enough. "On a number of critical issues, Taiwan is outside of the tent when it should be inside," Virginia Democrat Charles Robb said at a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on the September 7 policy adjustments, reports Reuter.

Mexico's ruling party Secy-Gen shot dead

MEXICO CITY, Sept 28: The secretary-general of Mexico's ruling party, Francisco Ruiz Massieu, died today after being shot by a lone gunman as he left a downtown hotel meeting with party officials, doctors said. "He arrived at the hospital in critical condition with a bullet in the left side of the neck... he was declared dead at 10:30 in the morning," Dr Felipe Maldonado Campos of the Hospital Espanol told reporters, reports Reuter.

CAB condemns Docs reject

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The Consumers' Association of Bangladesh (CAB) in a statement Wednesday, expressed grave concern at the suffering of the people because of the indefinite strike by the government doctors.

The statement termed the strike 'immoral, inhuman and illogical' and urged the government to make necessary provisions in the forthcoming national health policy restricting doctors' rights to strike work.

Show cause issued on BMA chief

A 24-hour show cause notice has been served upon Bangladesh Medical Association President Prof M A Mazid and Secretary General Dr Gazi Abdul Hoque as to why they shall not be restrained by a temporary injunction from continuing the BMA's illegal strike, reports UNB.

Children's rights

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The programmes of the ministry include seminars, cultural functions, art and essay competitions for the children, colourful processions of the children and film shows.

PM in Ctg

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The BNP chairperson said while a political party was once in power famine broke out in the country in 1974 and all foreign aids and internal resources were looted by its corrupt activists.

Showcause notice on BAIRA

Upon a writ petition filed by one Khorshed Alam, the High Court has ordered the Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA) to show cause within six weeks why the ballot papers of its recent election should not be recounted.

JP rally

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The acting JP chief said that since the combined opposition has been campaigning for the issue, the matter would be resolved unaided.

Agitation plans

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mass procession in the capital on October 20, mass contact by launch on October 21-23, another mass procession in the capital on October 26 and grand rally on November 1.

Plague: How to tackle

The Microsoft Encarta, a computer encyclopaedia, contains the following information on the dreaded disease known as Plague:

Definition of Plague
The term plague applied indiscriminately in the Middle Ages to all fatal epidemic diseases is now restricted to an acute, infectious, contagious disease of rodents and humans, caused by a short, thick gram-negative bacillus, *Yersinia pestis*.

In humans plague occurs in three forms: bubonic plague, pneumonic plague, and septicemic plague.

Untreated bubonic plague is fatal in 30 to 75 per cent of all cases, pneumonic plague 95 per cent of the time, and septicemic plague almost invariably. Mortality in treated cases is 5 to 10 per cent.

In bubonic plague, the first symptoms are headache, nausea, vomiting, aching joints and a general feeling of ill health. The lymph nodes of the groin or neck, suddenly become painful and swollen. In fatal cases death results in about five days.

Opposition team for talks

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conduct general elections 'very unhappy'.

The AL, however, quickly acted on the issue deciding that their (JP-Jamaat) representatives would be included in the team for the proposed dialogue.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the opposition parties in Parliament are scheduled to meet this afternoon to discuss their strategies for the dialogue. Besides, leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina is likely to inform her colleagues in the JP and Jamaat about her discussions with the Commonwealth Secretary General during his recent visit to Bangladesh.

Opposition sources indicated that today's meeting is likely to decide on a tentative

Hasina addresses rally

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Ahmed.

Referring to her recent talks with Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emaka Anyaoku, she said she had explained her party's views on the government offer for a dialogue to end the current political standoff.

About the much-talked dialogue, Hasina further said it was she who first proposed a debate on the caretaker government issue with the Prime Minister. But she (PM) refused to accept the proposal, Hasina added.

"We are always for discussions to resolve political issues. We are not opposed to such democratic practice," she said.

The AL leader said elections under a caretaker government has become a popular demand because the people want to vote freely and it is not possible with the 'vote-dacot' BNP government continuing in power. "Even the lives of the voters are not safe in the hands of the BNP".

Hasina accused the government of conspiring to foil the Opposition agitation for a caretaker administration since, she said, the ruling party was now afraid of seeking public support after its three and half-year misrule.

Terminating the BNP government a pledge-breaker, the Opposition leader said people of all walks of life were agitating against it, because it did not fulfil its commitments to the opposition parties, professionals, workers, farmers, students and all others.

Hasina said that the people had been deprived of their

All but 7 entry points sealed

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health official of Jessore confirmed.

Health Minister Choudhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, accompanied by Director General of Health Services Prof Nurun Nabi, boarded an incoming Biman flight from Calcutta at around 12.30 pm and informed the passengers of the mandatory test. The cabin was sprayed with disinfectants before the minister boarded the aircraft.

About a dozen specialist physicians have been posted at a temporary medical camp set up at ZIA by the Infectious Diseases Hospital. The doctors would be working in shifts and would be available throughout the day to screen incoming passengers from India.

Anyone with positive plague symptoms will be shifted to the Infectious Disease Hospital at Mohakhali for treatment under quarantine, said Dr Abdul Rob at the airport medical camp.

The hospital with 50 beds has been kept ready for treating plague patients. Besides, all district hospitals and thana health complexes have been instructed to keep seats reserved for possible plague patients.

Talking to reporters at the airport, the health minister said the government has taken all precautionary measures to prevent any outbreak of plague in the country. "We have

enough stock of medicine to treat plague patients and if necessary, we will go for mass production of those medicine".

Doctors and health workers in all bordering villages have been asked to take precautionary measures while health complexes have been kept on high alert, he said.

The Immigration and Customs personnel at the airport said, they had been asked by the authorities to wear nose-guards while clearing passengers from India. They have also been advised to take tetracycline capsules as a preventive measure.

Doctors wearing face masks screened all passengers coming from India while immigration officials checked their "plague free" certificates.

Meanwhile, Biman Bangladesh Airlines has taken up some precautionary measures to prevent the outbreak of plague in Bangladesh.

According to a Biman press release, all aircraft coming from India or having touched any points in India will be sprayed after landing at the airports with the passengers on board.

Free medical check-up will also be provided as soon as the passengers disembark and enter the terminal building.

After the passengers have disembarked, the entire aircraft including the cargo hold will be fumigated, the press release added.

Ferry disaster

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phony, said Harry M. A Swedes and about 200 Estonians. The nationalities of the other passengers and crew were not immediately known.

The Estonia was built in 1980 in Germany, and had room for 2,000 passengers and 460 cars.

DMCH staff strike work for 4 hrs

By Staff Correspondent
Employees of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday observed a four-hour strike to protest the alleged assault on a hospital staff by some Awami League men on Tuesday.

All the Class Three and Class Four Employees of DMCH abstained from their duties from 8 am to 12 noon.

According to a hospital source, a rent collector, Rafiqul Islam, was assaulted by some AL men, including Dr. Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, a central AL leader.

He said, the trouble started when the AL men forced the rent collector to admit City AL vice president M A Aziz — injured during opposition barricade programme — without paying advance cabin-rent, as required under hospital rules.

The rent-collector said he was beaten up by AL men when he demanded advance cabin rent for ten days.

Later, the workers arranged a protest rally after the strike but Professor Muddasser Ali and Dr Kazi Shahidul Haq intervened and settled the matter.

Plague cases

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which is south of the city of Surat where the outbreak erupted last week and surrounds Bombay, with its population of about 13 million.

In a development that officials said was especially worrisome, seven confirmed plague victims surfaced in Calcutta and the surrounding region — 1,600 km northeast of Surat. Another 13 had plague symptoms.

The Health Minister of West Bengal state, where Calcutta is located, said three men had recently died in the region of plague-like symptoms like high fever. One of the men died near the border with Bangladesh, Prasant Sur said.

Autopsies were being conducted to determine if the men, all of whom had recently been to Surat, had died of plague.

AP from Berlin, Germany adds: A man with symptoms like those of pneumonic plague has been admitted to a Berlin hospital and placed in quarantine for observation, the city's free University clinic said today.

If the case is confirmed it would be the first reported in Europe since the plague broke out in India earlier this month.

Students damage vehicles

The movement of traffic on the city's Mirpur Road near the Bangladesh Agricultural Institute at Sher-e-Banglanagar was suspended for over an hour as its students demonstrated damaging vehicles yesterday morning. Some five vehicles were damaged.

20 faint at PM's Ctg rally

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Sept 28: At least 20 persons, including two women, fainted in a stampede at today's mammoth public meeting addressed by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the local Lalight Maidan.

With people continuously pushing forward, those nearer to the dais came under tremendous pressure.

Girl violated

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an on-duty Ansar and Dulal, the launch supervisor, during Tuesday night in a cabin of the vessel.

A devastated, dumbfounded Poly was recovered from the city's Sadarghat terminal by Kotwali police early yesterday morning after two of her relatives who were travelling with her informed the police of the incident when the launch reached Dhaka.

Hafeza Khatoun and Khalil, distant relatives of the poor girl who work at a city garments factory, were allegedly confined inside a cabin by accused Sohrab, who then took away Poly to another cabin where he and his accomplice Dulal raped her by turn.

Poly, from Toriki in Gournadi, was sent to hospital for medical examination.

The two accused, who denied the charges during initial police interrogation, are likely to be produced before court today.

Despite her shattered mental and physical condition Poly identified her violators before the police, thana sources said.

Jamaat

From Page 1 Col 6
government, and introduction of blasphemy law and said Jamaat would launch a greater movement if their demands were not met immediately.

The Jamaat leader also announced the party's next course of action programme that included a march towards the Prime Minister's Secretariat on November 9.

Other programmes, almost identical with Awami League and Jatiya Party, are: Protest day on October 1, march towards Dhaka on October 9, mass contact October 16-18, mass procession in Dhaka October 21-23, mass procession in Dhaka on November 1.

Wednesday's rally organised by City Jamaat was also addressed by Jamaat leader, Nizam MP, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, Abdul Kader Mollah, Advocate Jasimuddin Sarkar and Saiful Alam Khan. Jamaat City Ameer ATM Azharul Islam presided.

About the mediation of the Commonwealth Secretary General for a government-opposition dialogue, Abbas Ali Khan said it constituted "an unwarranted interference" in the internal affairs of the country.

"We are enough to break the deadlock on the question of caretaker government," he said. "There was no need to invite a foreign guest to arrange dialogue between the government and the opposition."