

Hartal observed in Yusufganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 12: A full-day hartal was observed today in Yusufganj village under Rupganj thana in protest against the killing of one villager in police firing.

One Sirajul Islam was killed and 200 others were injured in clashes between the villagers and the police Friday. The violence ensued when police tried to foil a meeting of the Yusufganj Upashahar Resistance Committee on the Brahmankhali Janata High School premises in the village.

All shops in the village market remained closed and vehicles were off the roads from dawn to dusk today.

Angry villagers held a protest rally at the Pashiharar Bari Primary School premises at around 2 pm. President of the resistance committee, Sabeth Ali Mollah, presided over the rally.

The speakers demanded immediate suspension of the Rupganj Thana OC, Saiful Huda and Sub-Inspectors Moyeen and Hannan, alleging that they were responsible for the incidents.

Savimbi to sign peace treaty Nov 15

LUANDA, Nov 12: Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi reportedly assured a US diplomat that he will sign a treaty ending 19 years of war despite a government offensive that overran his headquarters.

Savimbi on Friday called Madeleine Albright, the US ambassador to the United Nations, and told her he would be going to Lusaka, Zambia, for the treaty signing on Tuesday, Albright told The Associated Press.

Asked whether Savimbi actually would sign the document, Albright declined comment. But UNITA rebel spokesman Marcos Samondo told the Portuguese news agency LUSA that Savimbi had assured Albright he will sign the treaty.

The treaty, to be co-signed by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, caps 11 months of painstaking negotiations.

Transport strike in southern dists to continue till tomorrow

JESSORE, Nov 12: The Bangladesh Road Transport Workers' Federation has extended the period of their strike by another 48 hours till Monday midnight, reports UNB.

The transport workers went on strike in all routes of the southern districts since Friday morning to press for their 10-point demand and protesting harassment by police and extortions.

The demands include stoppage of illegal toll collection, security of transport workers, and construction of a bridge over the river Padma connecting Khulna with the capital.

The federation today warned the government that if their demands were not met by Monday they would go for further action programme.

Meanwhile, the indefinite strike of the bus and truck owners entered its third day today. All transports were withdrawn from the Dhaka-Khulna route since Thursday.

Kumaratunga sworn in

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Dressed in a bright blue sari and flanked by her armed service chiefs, she took the oath of office from Chief Justice G P S De Silva before invited guests at the presidential secretariat.

"I have no words to express appropriately how deeply touched and overwhelmed I am and how humbled at the expression of the immense confidence and faith the nation has shown in me and my government," she said.

"...whatever strength of mind, heart and will I possess are entirely at the service of the nation," Kumaratunga said.

The main road to the secretariat in central Colombo was lined with police, blue flags, banners and pictures of Kumaratunga.

Hundreds stood in the pouring rain to watch as gunboats patrolled the sea offshore near the British-built brown stone building, once the island's parliament.

It was here in 1948 that Kumaratunga's father, Solomon Dias Bandaranaike, spoke as leader of the House when the first parliament of indepen-

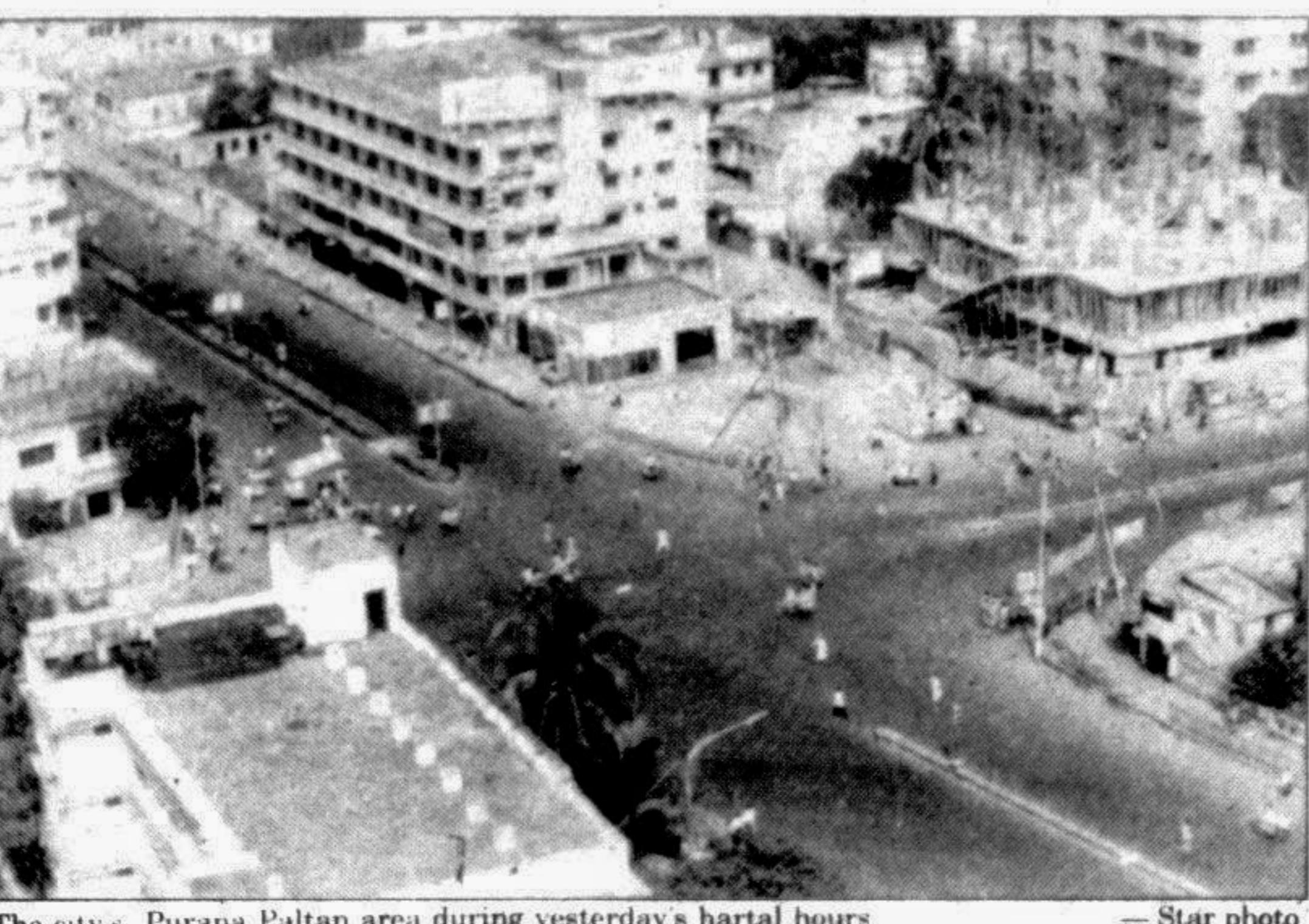
dent. They also demanded punishment of those responsible for yesterday's incident.

Since last night, police raided several houses in the village to pick up young people. However, many villagers had left the area apprehending police action.

The body of Sirajul Islam had not yet arrived at the village from the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where it was taken yesterday for autopsy.

The government is planning to establish a satellite town in Yusufganj, but the villagers are opposing the plan saying the compensation proposed to be given by the government for the acquired lands was much below the current market price.

After the suburban land acquisition resistance committee was formed earlier this year, police tried to ban its activities several times and arrested some of its activists. In a violent clash between the police and the villagers late last month, some 50 persons were injured.



The city's Purana Paltan area during yesterday's hartal hours

Corruption: Seven Mongla Port officials sued

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 12: Two corruption cases were filed Thursday here against 7 officials of the Mongla Port Authority alleging misappropriation of over Tk 13 lakh.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau, Bagerhat in its FIR has stated that the accused misappropriated Tk 13 lakh against purchase of fuel in October 1990.

The FIR further stated that the accused lifted 11,996 litres of diesel and 7,220 litres of mobil oil from Khulna depot of Meghna Petroleum Company for two vessels 'Agni Prohari' and 'Sarahi' of the port authority.

Those facing the charges are senior pilot S M A Momen, member of Port Management Board Zahiruddin Mahmud, lower division assistant Zahiruddin, typist Hossain Ali, accounts officer Sardar Hossain, deputy chief accounts officer Abdus Salam and senior officer Khurshid Hasan.

JCD-Shibir clash leaves 20 hurt in Sitakundu

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 12: At least 20 persons were reportedly injured in a clash that erupted this evening between the supporters of the Chhatra Dal and Chhatra Shibir at Sitakundu bazar, 25 miles from here.

The injured have been admitted to local clinics.

Additional police have been sent to the spot along with a magistrate as Sitakundu thana police failed to disperse the clashing supporters, police officials said.

Police said, the trouble started when a rally, organised by the Chhatra Dal to protest the killing of its CU leader Musa, came under attack.

Supporters of the two groups used lethal weapons and brick-bats. Traffic movement on the Sitakundu road came to a halt.

Attack on AL procession at Natore: 15 hurt

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Nov 12: At least 15 workers of Awami League and its front organisations were injured when gunshots were fired and crackers hurled at a procession brought out in the town today to drum up support for tomorrow's opposition-called nationwide hartal.

The organisation said that the attack was retaliation against the murder of one of its leader Hani Abed last week, who was killed by a car bomb outside the university where he taught. The organisation accused Israeli security service of the killing.

Li a leaflet issued Friday

Anti-Terrorism (spl provision) Ordn tabled

Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz yesterday tabled Anti-Terrorism (special provision) Ordinance 1994 in Parliament.

The executions began about 1 am at Freetown's maximum security prison and continued hourly. The soldiers, convicted in a special court-martial that convened in September 1992, ranged in rank from private to a 77-year-old warrant officer.

AL's rally

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Obaibul Kader said Khaleda Zia had become isolated from the people. Urging the people to intensify the current agitation, he said the days of the present government were numbered and the people would soon topple it.

Najibul Bashar Maizbhandari, MP, alleged the opposition legislators were barred to speak for the people in Parliament.

"That's why, we don't feel the necessity to attend Parliament sessions," he said, referring to the opposition boycott of the House.

Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, the AL's city unit general secretary, accused the BNP men of trying to foil yesterday's peaceful hartal in the city and warned that such attempts would be strongly dealt with during today's general strike.

Aktherul Alam criticised Begum Zia for not agreeing to the opposition demand despite some of her party leaders' support for it.

In his presidential speech, Reazuddin Ahmed claimed that their agitation was aimed at establishing the people's voting right through polls under a non-party, caretaker government.

"We will not leave the streets unless our demand is met," he declared.

NATO

From Page 1 Col 6

Clinton has ordered US ships to stop enforcing the Bosnia arms embargo at midnight today, inflaming a dispute with allies even though US officials say the order may have little effect.

European allies said they were worried Clinton's action, ordered by Congress, would expand fighting in Bosnia and jeopardise their UN peace-keeping troops there.

NATO said it will continue to fully enforce the UN embargo on arms shipments to the Bosnian government's mostly Muslim forces despite the US decision.

But US officials said Clinton's order may have little effect because only three ships have been caught carrying arms to Bosnia since the embargo began in November 1992, out of 42,000 challenged and 3,200 boarded.

The order would take effect at midnight EST today (0800 GMT Sunday).

The Midnight File

Jacques Chirac quits as party chief

PARIS, Nov 12: Presidential hopeful Jacques Chirac quit as head of the conservative Rally for the Republic party today to concentrate on his presidential bid, a campaign that is increasingly splitting the governing right wing. Several senior RPR members were absent from the Gaullist party's meeting in Paris, including Premier Edouard Balladur, Interior Minister Charles Pasqua and National Assembly Speaker Philippe Seguin, reports AP.

Clinton in Philippines

MANILA, Nov 12: US President Bill Clinton arrived in the Philippines today for a 22-hour visit en route to the Asia-Pacific summit in Indonesia. Clinton's flight touched down just before 11:45 pm on the first visit by a US president to this former American colony for 19 years, reports Reuter.

100 activists of Islamic Jihad arrested in Gaza

JERUSALEM, Nov 12: The Palestinian police have arrested 100 activists of the Islamic Jihad in the wake of a suicide bombing attack Friday afternoon near the Netzarim Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip. Palestinian sources said this former American colony for 19 years, reports Reuter.

night, the Islamic Jihad said the attacker was 21-year-old Hisham Hamed, who was a student of Abed and a member of the group's military wing.

Hamed wrapped up large quantities of explosives around his body, rode a bicycle into an Israeli army post at the Netzarim junction which is 200 metres away from the Jewish settlement, and blew himself up.

This was the newest serious attack against Israelis since the Tel Aviv suicide bus bombing carried out by a Hamas activists on October 19, which killed 22 people.

Both Hamas and Islamic Jihad are extremist Islamic fundamentalist organisations which are opposed to the peace process between Israel and the PLO.

Following the incident, the Israel-PLO security liaison committee met Friday night and this morning at the Erez checkpoint and discussed ways and means to stop violent strikes.

12 soldiers executed in Sierra Leone

FREETOWN, Nov 12: Twelve soldiers were executed by hanging and firing squad today for crimes ranging from armed robbery to murder in the first such crackdown by the military government, reports AP.

The executions began about 1 am at Freetown's maximum security prison and continued hourly. The soldiers, convicted in a special court-martial that convened in September 1992, ranged in rank from private to a 77-year-old warrant officer.

The ordinance seeks to make legal provision for disposal of the cases filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act on or before the date of expiry of the short-term tough law, enacted to deal with growing acts of violence.

The anti-terrorism law was framed in 1992 primarily for two years. Earlier, the ruling party had decided not to extend the tenure of the controversial act which expired on November 5.

JS session

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absence of the Speaker or his deputy. The panel includes L K Siddiki, Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Hamida Khanam of the ruling BNP, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury of the Awami League and Mumtaz Sobhan of the Jamaat-e-Islami.

The question-answer session was held for an hour.

Leader of the House and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia attended yesterday's session.

Former information minister Nazmul Huda and Nurul Islam Moni, a ruling party MP, were conspicuous by their absence.

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In reply to another supplementary, the minister said private telephone companies working for rural telecommunications will install telephone exchanges in 70 thanas this year.

Towards a consensus or conflict?

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consensus and evolve an agreed formula to give nascent democracy a chance of taking root in this country.

At the initiative of Sir Ninian, seven formal meetings of the two sides were held until October 29 when the talks began again, due mainly to the intransigence of the two sides regarding the form of the interim administration to run the country leading up to the elections.

During the last two weeks, the ruling BNP and the Opposition exchanged through the good offices of Sir Ninian, their respective proposals on the issue. Both sides also modified their original plans to make them more acceptable to the other side. Yet, all these have so far failed to yield any positive result. The BNP and the main opposition Awami

League (AL) rejected each other's proposals outright, giving rise to considerable concern in the public mind.

The BNP has stuck to its proposition of keeping the incumbent Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia as head of the interim government during elections. Originally, the BNP had also offered four posts in a 10-member mini interim cabinet to the Opposition. Later, the ruling party reportedly modified its position and is likely to put forward a new proposal to induct a mutually acceptable neutral person in that mini-cabinet who would hold charge of some important portfolios.

While Sir Ninian is ceaselessly continuing discussions with both camps in an effort to bring them back to the negotiating table, the Opposition has been preparing to intensify

its agitation throughout the country by announcing fresh action programmes. The Opposition MPs have also threatened to resign from Parliament en masse, although the date for such a drastic action has not yet been fixed.

The BNP is also sitting idle. The party's high command has decided to start vigorous campaign against the Opposition's demand. Party leaders have often cautioned that they have not given up the streets. "We are also on the streets, we will face them (Opposition) there," top BNP leaders have repeatedly affirmed.

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