

# Hartal observed in Yusufganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 12: A full-day hartal was observed today in Yusufganj village under Rugganj 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 Brahmanikhal 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 Pashihar 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 Rugganj Thana OC, Saiful Huda and Sub-Inspectors Moyeen and Hannan, alleging that they were responsible for the inci-

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.

# 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 extortionists.

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

From Page 1 Col 5

Dressed in a bright blue silk 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 Sri Lanka met. Twelve years later as prime minister he was assassinated.

Sirima Bandaranaike, the widow who replaced him to become the world's first woman prime minister, was there to watch her daughter create history by becoming the nation's fourth president and the first woman to hold the post.

"I take this opportunity to pay homage to my father and to my mother for teaching me that honesty, sincerity and commitment to other people of our land was worth much more than all that money could buy," Kumaratunga said.

It is widely expected that Kumaratunga, who became prime minister after national polls in August, will choose her mother to replace her as prime minister, giving the 78-year-old politician her third term at that office.

Kumaratunga, a 49-year-old mother of two, won Wednesday's presidential polls by two million votes, receiving 4.7 million votes or 62.28 per cent, on a campaign pledge to bring peace to the war-ravaged country.



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

Star photo

# Hartal observed

From Page 1 Col 4

Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami have separately given calls for a country-wide hartal today. Once again, rickshaws will be allowed on the streets, after 1 pm.

Officials of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police said they had received no reports of any untoward incidents during the hartal hours.

However, one autorickshaw carrying journalists of The Daily Bangla was damaged near Kawan Bazar at about 8:45 am. The driver was injured.

In the morning, several state-run BRTC double-deckers were stoned by picketers near the Farm Gate. Several rickshaws were also damaged at Gulistan, Purana Paltan, Malibagh, Maghbazar and at Mahakhali.

Railway officials at Kamalapur said, all trains left the station on time and arrived on schedule. According to Sadarghat terminal sources, launch services operated normally during the hartal hours.

Biman officials said a number of flights were cancelled.

# Hartal today

From Page 1 Col 5

response to and participation in agitation time and again proved the justification of the demand," the Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition said in a statement after a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the city yesterday.

Hasina asserted that the agitation for establishing the people's right to vote and food must succeed and called upon the people to observe a nationwide general strike today to press for election under a neutral, non-partisan caretaker government.

The Awami League chief made a fervent call for the people to intensify the ongoing agitation for resignation of the "corrupt, terrorist and vote-buying government" and Parliament elections under a caretaker government as well as for solving other problems, including price hike, facing the countrymen.

The peace process is on course and I hope it stays on course," said Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew.

He said there were reasonable suspicions that the shooting of postal worker Frank Kerr during a robbery in

# Roof collapse kills 2 in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 12: Two people died and 10 others were injured when the tin-roof of a school building collapsed at Sonargaon at around 5:30 pm yesterday.

The accident occurred when Abul Hossain, 24, and Monir Hossain, 25, climbed on to the roof of the Sonargaon Pancharhat Primary School building along with many others to watch a game of badminton.

As the crowd on the roof grew in numbers suddenly the tin-roof collapsed killing Abul Hossain on the spot.

Monir was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries.

Ten other injured persons were given first aid. A case has been lodged with the Sonargaon thana.

# Towards a consensus or conflict?

From Page 1 Col 4

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

At the initiative of Sir Ninian, seven formal meetings of the two sides were held until October 29 when the talks around, 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

# Saifur urges Opposition

# Shun politics of hartal for the sake of investment

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday made an appeal to the Opposition leaders to shun their politics of disruption and instability for the sake of peace and investment in the country, reports BSS.

Replying to a series of supplementary questions on foreign credit and investment at the Jatiya Sangsad, the finance minister said: "We first have to get rid of the prevailing unstable political situation in the country for development and progress, otherwise we have to depend on foreign aid forever."

He pointed out that the present government had taken up the best of policies for investment and development in the country, but the present unstable political situation was eroding all potentials and prospects for development and self-reliance.

Referring to his recent tour of Singapore where he addressed a seminar on development and investment opportunities in Bangladesh, the finance minister said Singaporean investors had shown keen interest in investment in Bangladesh, but they were not doing so due to

political disturbances.

He said that the Prime Minister of Singapore had appreciated the policies of the government describing them as good but expressed his apprehension that the Singaporean investors might not like to go to Bangladesh due to political disturbances. The Singaporean investors might go to Vietnam, Myanmar, Malaysia and even China because of their stable political situation, the Singaporean Prime Minister noted.

The finance minister identified the Opposition agitation and disruptive programmes as the worst enemy of the pragmatic development policies and programmes of the government and said the fruits of the relentless endeavours of the government for the last three years were being foiled by the irresponsible and illogical activities of the Opposition parties.

Earlier, the finance minister told Hanunur Rashid Khan (BNP) that Bangladesh had received Taka 277.37 crore as foreign loan during the 1994-95 fiscal year till August 31 of 1994.

# Britain to continue talks with Sinn Fein

LONDON, Nov 12: Britain said Friday its talks with the IRA's political supporters will go ahead despite a killing that has raised doubts about the Irish Republican Army ceasefire, reports AP.

"The peace process is on course and I hope it stays on course," said Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew.

He said there were reasonable suspicions that the shooting of postal worker Frank Kerr during a robbery in

# Ninian's plans

From Page 1 Col 8

Begum Zia held a two-hour meeting with those representing the party in the dialogue at her Sangsad office following the adjournment of yesterday's inaugural Parliament session at 8:45 pm.

Ruling party sources said she discussed her meeting with Sir Ninian earlier in the day and also how the BNP should proceed in the next few days.

Two of the BNP negotiators reportedly met with Sir Ninian in the afternoon at the state guest house Meghna where the Commonwealth envoy has been staying. No independent source, however, could confirm the meeting.

The Leader of the Opposition held a similar meeting with top aides following her meeting with Sir Ninian.

The designated negotiators from both sides are likely to meet Sir Ninian today as a follow-up of yesterday's developments.

Northern Ireland Thursday was the work of the IRA, and thus a violation of the ceasefire that was a prerequisite to talks.

Ireland immediately cancelled controversial plans to free nine IRA prisoners before Christmas, and the justice minister, Maire Geohegan-Quinn, said, "The early releases were based on the premise that we had a ceasefire from the Provisional IRA."

The fatal shooting was the first in the British-ruled province since September, but the IRA denied breaking its 10-week-old truce and said it had called "a complete cessation of military operations."

"All our units were instructed accordingly. This position has not changed," it said Thursday.

# 27 hurt as BCL, JCD clash in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 12: Twenty-seven people were injured, two of them seriously, in clashes between the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Chhatra League activists at the Monsur Ali Government College in Kazipur thana today, reports UNB.

Zia Hasan, Vice-President of the college students' union was admitted to the Kazipur Health Complex while Saleem Reza, Cultural Secretary of the union, was brought to the Sirajganj General Hospital with severe injuries.

# 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 'Sarathi' 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 Helaluddin, typist Hossain Ali, accounts officer Sardar Hossain, deputy chief accounts officer Abulhas 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 here 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 local unit of AL has accused the BNP-backed 'terrorists' of attacking its procession.

The procession came under attack when it reached the Kaporipatti point after parading other parts of the town in the evening, witnesses said.

Of the injured, Jahangir, Kalam, Polash and Alam were admitted to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital while Masum, Shipon, Tapan, S M Firoz and Jamir were treated at the Natore Hospital.

Nobody was arrested till the filing of this report at 10 to night.

# JCD demands arrest of Munna's killers

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 12: The district unit of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) brought out a procession in the town today demanding immediate arrest of the killers of Enamul Haque Munna.

Munna, a local JCD leader, was stabbed to death on November 1.

The JCD later held a rally at the Court Point with district convener Faisal Ahmed Chowdhury in the chair. He threatened that a greater agitation would be launched if Munna's assassins were not held immediately.

# 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 Reuters.

# 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 today, reports Xinhua.

The sources said that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat ordered the arrests Friday night during a meeting of the Palestinian authority's high security council.

They also said that there was exchange of fire in the Gaza City Friday night as the Palestinian police raided homes of suspected Islamic Jihad militants.

However, Israeli reports from the Gaza Strip said that most of the Islamic Jihad leaders have gone underground and have not been arrested.

The Islamic Jihad took responsibility for the attack, which killed three Israeli soldiers and wounded six others and border policemen and eight Palestinians.

The organisation said that the attack was a 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.

In a leaflet issued Friday

# Anti-Terrorism (spl provision) Ordinance tabled

Law Minister Mirza Golam Haifz yesterday tabled Anti-Terrorism (special provision) Ordinance 1994 in Parliament, reports UNB.

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

From Page 1 Col 8

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 Maulana Abdus Sobhan of the Jamaat-e-Islami.

The question-answer session was held for an hour.

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

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

Major (Retd) Akhteruzzaman of the BNP who, like Huda and Moni made a controversial statement to the press recently, however, attended the sitting. All three have been asked by the party standing committee to explain their anti-party conduct.

The Speaker adjourned the House at 8:45 pm to resume at six this evening.

# Cellular phone

From Page 1 Col 8

the minister said. "It is unfortunate that the company went to court."

He said another foreign company had offered much less prices for cellular telephones than the prices charged by the private company. The minister hoped that it would be settled within six months and then people would get cellular telephone at a cost of Tk 15 to 20 thousand.

Replying to another question from K J Hamida Khanam, the minister said the government earned about Tk 16.73 crore from 776 cardphone booths installed in the country during the last fiscal.

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

night, the Islamic Jihad said the attacker was 21-year-old Hishan 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 activist 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 Israeli-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.

# AL's rally

From Page 1 Col 5

Obaidul Kader said Khaleida 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.

Akhterul 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 (0500 GMT Sunday).