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STOCK MARKET

DSE price index	773.30 (-1.27%)
Market capital Tk	47.89 billion
Transactions in volume	90479
Transactions in value Tk	14.44 million

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NEWS BRIEFS

AL special council Sept 11

By Staff Correspondent
 A special council session of the Awami League will be held on September 11 at the auditorium of the Institution of Engineers to discuss the country's political situation. Party chief Sheikh Hasina will preside, says an AL press release.

Telelink with US restored

Direct telecommunications between Bangladesh and the USA were fully restored yesterday by repairing the Digital Circuit Multiplication Equipment hardware of Magbazar International Exchange. Some technical problems developed in the DCME's hardware on August 12 causing interruption of 90 circuits out of 120 working with AT&T of USA, reports UNB.

Law Asia confce begins in China

BEIJING, Aug 19: Chief Justice of Bangladesh Justice A T M Afzal and Justice Latifur Rahman of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court attended the inaugural ceremony of the 14th Law Asia Biennial conference here yesterday. President of the People's Republic of China Jiang Zemin and the President of the People's Supreme Court of China Ren Jian Xin spoke on the occasion among others, reports BSS.

NHK TV documentary on disaster

NHK Television of Japan is making a documentary on disaster preparedness in Bangladesh. A four-member team from the national television company of Japan is now in the city in connection with the documentary programme, reports UNB.

BNP's fresh move for dialogue Salam Talukdar assigned to contact Opposition

By Nazmul Ashraf

The ruling BNP, in a fresh bid to resolve the long-drawn political impasse, has assigned party Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukdar to contact the Opposition for a dialogue.

"I have been assigned to contact the Opposition on the issue," Talukdar said while talking to The Daily Star at his party office last night.

The BNP is still prepared to sit for a dialogue with the opposition parties to end the crisis on the basis of the Prime Minister's earlier proposal that she and her cabinet would resign 30 days ahead of the next general elections, he said.

Talukdar, however, regretted that his Awami League counterpart Zillur Rahman did not respond to his earlier invitation for a dialogue. "Let them come forward this time if they are sincere about a way out."

Asked when he would communicate with the Opposition, the BNP leader said, "Wait. Time will speak. Where there is a problem, there is a solution too." But everything has to go through a system, he said, adding that his party would go only by the Constitution.

When his attention was drawn to the Opposition's rigidity on its demand for a caretaker government to

conduct the elections, the ruling party secretary general asked whether there was any constitutional way to implement the demand. He also ruled out any possibility of amending the Constitution to accommodate the caretaker government issue.

Salam Talukdar, who is also the LGRD minister, did not agree that his party would confront the opposition parties on the streets as the later had already announced agitation programmes including hartals to compel the government to accept their demand. "We'll never confront. At best, we can go to the people (to seek

See Page 12 Col 5

JP postpones writ filing on JS legitimacy

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Party presidium member Moudud Ahmed has said the filing of a writ petition challenging the legitimacy of the present Parliament has been 'postponed' till a final decision is taken by the Jatiya Party.

The Awami League, at a meeting of its presidium Friday, decided that it would not file any writ challenging the legitimacy of this Parliament because it thought that political issues should not be settled by the court.

"Considering the views expressed by the Awami League and in the interest of maintaining the unity of the Opposition and the current movement, the decision to

See Page 12 Col 7

'Simple JS majority can scrap Indemnity Ordn'

Noted jurists and intellectuals yesterday argued that the Indemnity Ordinance that blocked the trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman can be scrapped by a simple majority in Parliament, reports UNB.

They termed the Ordinance as contrary to Constitution and fundamental human rights, saying that the support of simple majority in the House is enough to cancel the law.

Speaking at a discussion at the Supreme Court Bar Association premises, former Chief Justice Kemal Uddin Hossain said the Ordinance had been abrogated from the day the Constitution became operative after withdrawal of the Martial Law proclaimed

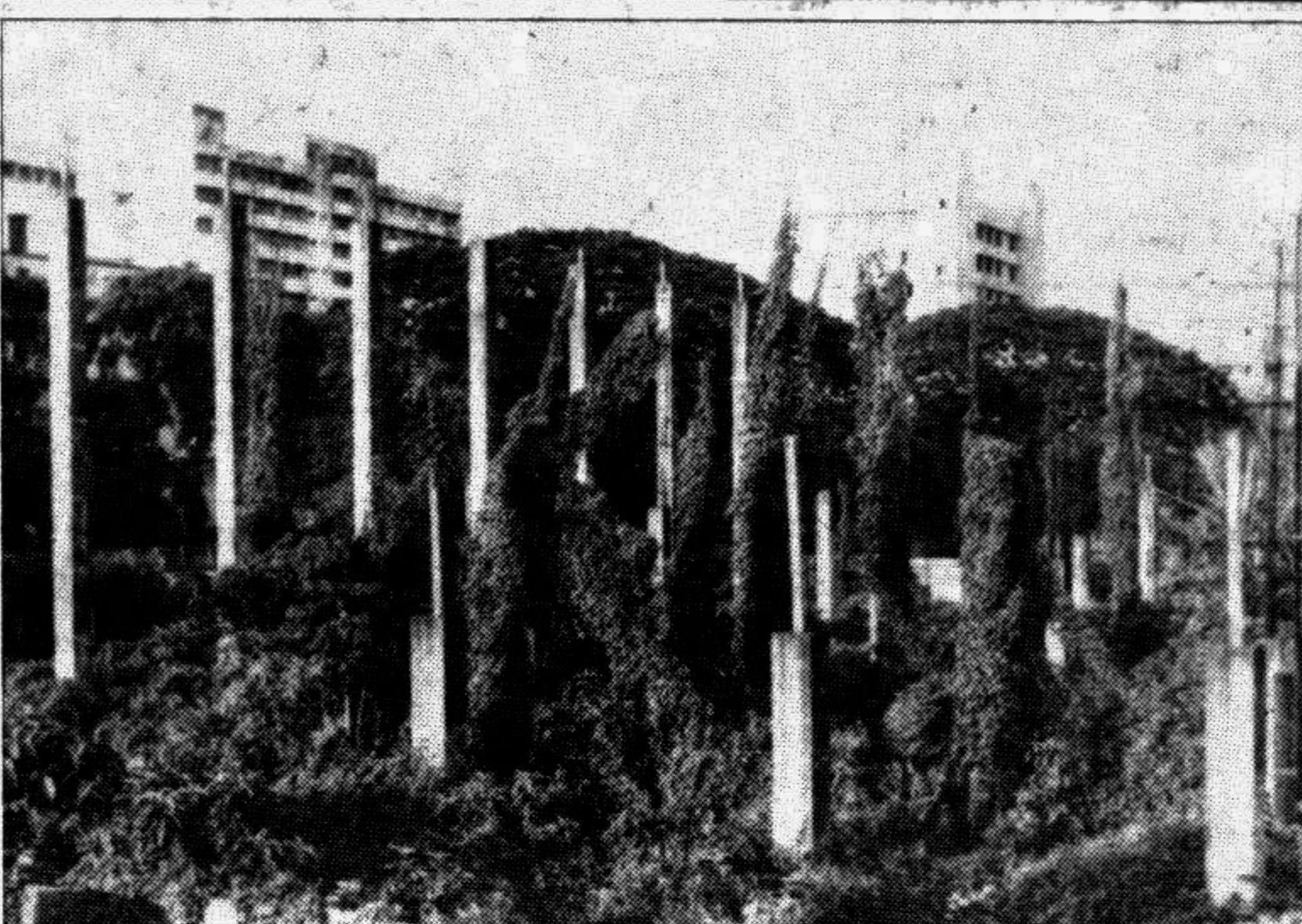
by Khandker Mustaque Ahmed.

The former Chief Justice said since today's Parliament cannot pass any such law according to Article 7 of the Constitution, it cannot also sustain such Ordinance.

The Supreme Court Bar Association unit of the Bangabandhu Parishad arranged the discussion on 'Indemnity Ordinance, Human Rights, Bangabandhu, and Bangladesh' to mark the 20th anniversary of death of country's first President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina, general secretary Zillur Rahman and other senior leaders of the party were present.

Former Justice K M



All is now covered with bush after Tk 2.5 crore was spent for construction of the National Auditorium inside the Shilpakala Academy complex in the city. Work has been stopped for some years now on the plea that the plan was faulty!
 — Star photo

6 killed, 4 hurt in Ctg road accident

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 19: At least six persons were killed and three others injured in a collision between a tempo and a truck at Mirersarai this afternoon.

Four passengers of the tempo died on the spot and two others succumbed to their injuries on way to hospital, police said. The identities of the deceased could not be known immediately. The injured were admitted to the local health complex.

The mishap occurred when a Feni-bound tempo from Mirersarai collided head-on with a Chittagong-bound truck.

Export earning over \$3b for first time

By Rafiq Hasan

The country's export earnings for the first time exceeded three billion US dollars in the first 11 months of the last fiscal.

According to data available from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), the lone export monitoring organisation, the country's export earning was 3182.45 million dollars during the July-May period of 1994-95.

The export earnings in 1993-94, 1992-93 and 1991-92 were 2346, 2138 and 1904 million dollars respectively.

In the previous three fiscal, the export earnings increased at the rate of 12.3, 9.8 and 6.34 per cent respectively, while during the

last fiscal the earning increased by 36.09 per cent over that of 1993-94.

The export earnings during the first 11 months of 1994-95 also crossed the target of 2841.67 million dollars for the period by 840.78 million dollars.

During the corresponding period in the previous fiscal, the export figure was 2338.46 million dollars.

The export earnings increased in every sector during the period compared to that in the corresponding period of 1993-94, the export bulletin of the EPB noted.

Frozen goods, leather, raw jute, jute goods, knitwear and

See Page 12 Col 6

EC distributing voter registration counterfoils

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission (EC) has started distribution of the counterfoils of voter registration forms among the voters throughout the country, a press release said yesterday.

Supervisors of the EC are distributing those in their respective areas.

The three-part forms were filled up with particulars of voters during their registration from May 25 to June 15 for preparation of a new electoral roll.

The EC has requested the voters to preserve the counterfoils because those will be required to be produced during taking of photograph for preparation of identity (ID) cards.

The EC is scheduled to publish the final electoral roll on October 7. Work of making ID cards will begin after the publication.

87 pc immunised in less than 10 years

By Staff Correspondent

RAJENDRAPUR (Gazipur), Aug 19: Bangladesh has raised immunisation coverage from two per cent to 87 per cent in less than a decade since 1985, which is doing "a near miracle" in preventing neonatal diseases, reports UNB.

The evaluation came from researchers, and social and medical scientists at an international conference that began here today.

"Not more than a decade ago, over 75 million children contracted measles each year, and 2.5 million of them died. Today, measles cases have been reduced to about 25 million a year, and deaths have been cut to just over a million," BRAC adviser Faruq A Chowdhury told the meet.

International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) has organised the five-day con-

ference, dubbed Research Planning Conference on Social Science and Immunisation, at the BRAC Centre for Development Management.

The objective of the conference is to enhance the sustainability and coverage of immunisation programmes by improving understanding of their socio-cultural aspects.

Addressing the inaugural session Director General of Health Services Prof A K Shamsuddin Siddiquey said this conference has a great potential towards contributing in respect of pinpointing the areas of special focus in achieving the desired sustainability of EPI (Expanded Programme of Immunisation) efforts.

"It is to identify mechanisms to accelerate the coverage and sustainability of im-

See Page 12 Col 7



Bosnian Croat soldiers in a jeep heading to the front close to Serb-held western Bosnian town of Drvar yesterday. Croatian troops have injected more manpower to the area as they push forward attacking the Bosnian Serb troops.
 — AFP photo

Bosnian president announces 12-point peace proposal

SARAJEVO, Aug 19: Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic issued a 12-point peace proposal on Friday in what amounted to the first official government response to a US sponsored plan to end 40 months of war, reports Reuter.

Details of the US proposals have not been made public, although some parts of the plan have leaked out. It calls for territorial swaps and mutual recognition by the former Yugoslav republics of

Croatia Serbia and Bosnia.

Izetbegovic's programme, read out on Bosnian radio and television, staked out his governments public bargaining position after it was briefed on the broad outlines of the US initiative.

His 12 proposals were:

1. an affirmation that peace must be based on Bosnia's sovereignty and territorial integrity and that Serbia should accept the mutual recognition of all former Yugoslav republics.

2. an affirmation that the 1994 contact group peace plan, including its maps should remain the basis for any settlement.

We accepted from the beginning slight modifications in the plan and we still do, considering that the (contact group) map of the internal borders couldn't be worse for US than it is now, Izetbegovic's statement said.

3. a rejection of the notion that Sarajevo, the

See Page 12 Col 3

3 US diplomats killed in road accident

SARAJEVO, Aug 19: Three US diplomats headed for peace talks in Sarajevo were killed Saturday when their convoy tumbled off a road and hit two land mines. Six other people were injured, reports AP.

The dead were Robert Frasure, a deputy assistant secretary of state, Joseph Krugel, deputy assistant secretary of defence for European and NATO affairs, and Nelson Drew, a National Security Council aide, according to US and UN

See Page 12 Col 2

Flood situation worsens in nine districts

By Staff Correspondent

The flood situation in different districts further worsened yesterday with the swelling of rivers. More areas in and around the capital, Munshiganj district, and northern and southern regions may go under flood waters today, a forecast said.

The Flood Information Centre forecast yesterday that more areas in the Sadar and Shiberah thanas of Madaripur district, Daulatpur, Shibalaya and Harirampur thanas of Manikganj, Bhagyalak, Sinagar and Louhajang

of Munshiganj, Saghata and Gobindaganj of Gaibandha and Bhuapur and Nagarpur thanas of Tangail are likely to be inundated by flood waters.

In a bulletin, the centre said the flood situation in Lalpur thana of Natore district, Sujanagar, Bera and Chatmahar of Pabna, Sonatola and Sariakandi of Bogra and Kazipur, Tarash, Belkuchi and Shahjadar thanas of Sirajganj may remain unchanged.

The Buriganga at Dhaka is

See Page 12 Col 1

Robin Raphael arrives Sept 4

American Assistant Secretary of State Robin Lynn Raphael's visit to Bangladesh in the first week of September aims at reviewing the Dhaka-Washington relations against the backdrop of global changes, officials said yesterday, reports UNB.

Raphael, in charge of the South Asian Affairs, is scheduled to arrive here September 4 from Pakistan. She is due to leave Dhaka for Colombo on September 7, concluding her three-day visit here.

The senior officials of the two countries, in course of their deliberations, are expected to discuss the political situation in Bangladesh, particularly the process for giving democracy an institutional shape, as Washington supports democratisation process everywhere.

Her planned trip is seen here as important, as the

See Page 12 Col 8

JS body condemns 'Miss Bangladesh' contest

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Cultural Affairs condemned the 'Miss Bangladesh' contest held at a local hotel recently, an official handout said in the city last night, reports BSS.

The meeting called upon the persons concerned to refrain from arranging such type of beauty contests which are against the traditional cultural heritage of Bangladesh.

The meeting also urged the eminent persons and intellectuals not to involve themselves in these programmes, the handout said.

It was informed in the meeting that the government was implementing the Nazrul Institute Development and Expansion Project at a cost of Taka 6 crore and 63 lakh.

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50 injured in N'ganj clash

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 19: About 50 people were injured in an armed clash between two groups of local youths in Baliapara Bridge area under Bandar thana today. Twelve of them sustained bullet injuries.

Of the injured, Abdul Matin, 28, was sent to the Dhaka Islamia Hospital and Roman, 16, and Ujjal, 18, to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Majid, 28, Abdul Gafur, 20, Hashem Miah, 40, Sohel, 20, Hossain, 20, Agur, 30, Biplob, 20, Abdul, 20, Ali, Hossain, 28, and Jane Alam, 22, were admitted local hospitals and clinics.

The clash between the youths of Farajgandha and Madanganj started at about 2:00 pm over establishing domination in the Baliapara Bridge area.

During the three-hour long fight, both groups used fire arms, cocktails, hockey sticks and sharp weapons. Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Gunmen loot bazar in Ctg: 1 killed, 40 hurt

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 19: A shop employee was gunned down and at least 40 people were injured when a gang of armed dacoits looted a local bazar. Sikdar Hat under Awaraha thana last night, police said here today.

The dacoits swooped on the bazar, fired shots indis-

See Page 12 Col 8

MQM ready to resume talks with govt

KARACHI, Aug 19: The main opposition group in this violence-plagued Pakistani city said today it would resume peace talks with the government, while 10 killings were reported here in the past 24 hours.

"There is no condition from our side and we are ready to hold talks any time," the chief negotiator of Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), Ajmal Delvi, told AFP.

A member of the government's negotiating team, Zuhari Akram Nadeem, said the talks, which broke down late last month after four unproductive rounds, could resume "within a week."

Opinion poll: Over 60 pc women unaware of Beijing confce

By Staff Correspondent

Although the Beijing Women Conference seems to have evoked considerable interest in the country, a survey shows that the processes and the approaches towards it are marked by a distinct urban tilt.

In an opinion poll covering 2,161 voting-age men and women, 63.3 per cent women and 61 per cent men said they did not know anything about the conference, due to be held in the Chinese capital next month.

Of those who said they were aware of the confer-

ence, 54.5 per cent were from urban areas and a mere 29.6 per cent from rural areas. The survey, conducted in 60 districts by the Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) was released yesterday.

Some 28 per cent of those polled were from urban areas and 72 per cent from rural areas.

Of the total respondents, males accounted for 57.2 per cent and females for 42.8 per cent in rural areas and the ratio was 55.5 per cent and 44.5 per cent respectively in urban areas.

The survey, follow-up of an opinion survey conducted in January-February this year by the same research organisation, covered other issues like wages, education, health and investment.

On sources of information about the conference, 42.6 per cent said they got it from newspapers. Only 5.2 per cent learnt about it through different organisations.

"Evidently, both public and private institutions seem to have failed to play the important role expected of them in this regard, espe-

cially in the matter of disseminating information among people in the rural areas," commented the BUP survey.

Asked whether, in their opinion, the womenfolk in Bangladesh would benefit from the Beijing conference, 44.3 per cent responded in the affirmative while 41 per cent refrained from giving any opinion.

An overwhelming 83 per cent of the respondents favoured women's employment in productive and income-generating activities.

This will make the family financially better-off, they maintained.

Some 51 per cent of those polled said the efforts by the government and the NGOs were sufficient to remove illiteracy while 48.3 per cent said the measures were not enough.

More than 97 per cent said they knew about the government measures to reduce child mortality by checking polio, diphtheria, diarrhoeal diseases and measles through immunisation.

82.4 pc against hartals

By Staff Correspondent

An overwhelming 82.4 per cent of the respondents in an opinion survey, covering a sample size of 2,161 from 60 districts according to population, are against hartals as a method to look for solutions of the nation's problems.

According to the survey, conducted by a local think-tank Bangladesh Unnayan

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