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NEWS BRIEFS

**Malaysian plane
 crash: PM shocked**
 Prime Minister Begum
 Khaleda Zia yesterday
 expressed deep shock at the
 tragic crash of a Malaysian
 airliner with 50 passengers
 on board. In a condolence
 message sent to Malaysian
 Prime Minister Dr Mahathir
 Bin Mohammad she said "I,
 on behalf of the Bangladesh
 government and on my per-
 sonal behalf convey our
 heartfelt condolences at the
 loss of lives," reports BSS.

**IA Dhaka-Calcutta
 flights cancelled**
 Indian Airlines has can-
 celled its IC-723/724 Cal-
 cutta-Dhaka-Calcutta flights
 on September 16 and 18. A
 press release of the airlines
 said that the flights were
 cancelled due to unavoidable
 reasons, reports BSS.

**15pc DA for Indian
 journalists**
 NEW DELHI, Sept 15:
 Journalists and employees of
 the newspaper industry will
 get a 15 per cent interim re-
 lief with effect from April 20
 this year, the wage board
 headed by Justice R K Man-
 nisana Singh recommended
 today. The decision on the
 interim relief was taken by
 majority at a meeting of the
 wage board today. Justice
 Singh told PTI adding that
 formal recommendations to
 the government would be
 submitted by the first week
 of next month, reports PTI.

**Anti-terrorism body
 member shot dead**
 KHULNA, Sept 15:
 Unidentified assailants shot
 dead a member of a locally
 formed anti-terrorism com-
 mittee in the city today. Po-
 lice said Ayub Hossain, 27,
 was called out by some mis-
 creants from his house at
 Aronghata in Daulatpur
 thana in the morning. They
 shot him dead and left his
 body in a roadside drain, re-
 ports UNB.

Beijing women's confce concludes Declaration, Platform of Action adopted

BEIJING, Sept 15: The members of the United Nations adopted today a solemn declaration and a far-reaching charter aimed at tackling discrimination and violence against women and empowering them in their sexuality, reports AFP.

"The message of this conference is that women's issues are global and universal," UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in a closing speech to crown the marathon Fourth World Conference on Women.

"Deeply entrenched attitudes and practices perpetuate inequality and discrimina-

tion against women, in public and private life, on a daily basis, in all parts of the world," he said in the speech read in his absence.

"The fundamental linkages between the three objectives of the conference — equality, development and peace — are now recognised by all."

The 12-day conference, the first in 10 years, ended with a massive document, the Platform for Action, as well as a final declaration, both of which proved to be political battlefields.

The two documents were formally adopted by a consensus of 181 members states.

The platform— proclaimed as a blueprint for measures over the next decade — ranges from general statements on human rights and discrimination against women to micro-issues such as the problems of landmines and provision of non-sexist schoolbooks.

Its main points:
 (a) It defines women's sexual rights, the first time any UN conference has sought to approach such a thorny issue.
 (b) Violence against wom-

40 bodies recovered Malaysian plane with 50 aboard crashes

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 15: Rescuers recovered 40 bodies today after a Malaysian airline system plane careered off a runway and ploughed into squatter houses near the Sabah town of Tawau, officials said, reports Reuter.

The Mas Fokker 50 plane, with 50 passengers and four crew members on board, was landing in the Sabah town of Tawau when it overshot the runway, causing the national carrier's worst accident in nearly two decades.

Earlier reports said 47 people were feared dead, all of whom were believed to have been aboard the plane, there was no information about casualties on the ground.

The national news agency, Bernama, said at least 10

KL meet agrees on summit on Bosnia

The OIC contact group on Bosnia in its special ministerial session in Kuala Lumpur has agreed to ask the Secretary General of OIC to contact King Hassan of Morocco and request him to consult with other countries in order to convene a summit meeting soon, reports BSS.

The agreement came at the end of the meeting and was included as a part of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration Thursday, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had proposed an OIC summit on Bosnia recently in a letter to all OIC heads of state and government.

The six-page toughly worded Kuala Lumpur Declaration reiterated the OIC's



An over-loaded bus leaving the city yesterday, the day before the 3-day countrywide hartal.

Many leave city, prices of essentials up

By Staff Correspondent

A large number of people left the city on the eve of the opposition-called 72-hour countrywide hartal.

Buses, train and launches leaving the city since Thursday afternoon were seen jam-packed with people going to their village homes.

Sources in the airport also said that flights to nearby overseas destinations were 'capacity-booked' in the last couple of days.

Meanwhile, prices of perishable food items like vegetables, fish and meat shot up by 20 to 40 per cent in city markets. Many shops remained open till late night yesterday.

The rickshawpullers and auto-rickshaw drivers realised extra fare from passengers to make up their

72-hour countrywide hartal from today

By Staff Correspondent

The hartal, called by the political parties, coincides with a three-day hartal and rail-road barricade programme, called by the workers and employees of jute and textile mills to press their demands including implementation of the Wages Commission award.

Opposition sources said, ambulance, fire brigade, water and electricity services, medicine and food shops and newspapers vehicles will remain exempted from the hartal.

Addressing the Awami League rally at the Bangabandhu Avenue, its leaders blamed the government for taking the hartal issue to court and said no such tactics would be of any use.

Jamaat held its rally at the

75 injured in clashes on the eve of hartal

By Staff Correspondent

At least 75 people including 25 policemen were injured in clashes between pro-hartal and anti-hartal activists and between police and hartal supporters in Chandpur, Bhola and Khulna yesterday.

A 72 hour countrywide hartal at the call of the major opposition parties is scheduled to begin this morning.

Our Chandpur Correspondent reports: At least 50 people including 25 policemen were injured in a clash between police and pro-hartal activists in the district town yesterday afternoon.

Of the injured, 13 policemen and a boy were admitted to the Chandpur

3 killed, 30 injured in Pabna clashes

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Sept 15: Three people, including a minor boy were killed and at least 30 injured in three separate incidents of clashes in the town today.

Two factions of Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of BNP, traded gun shots and bombs at Naynamati leaving a child dead and at least five youths injured.

Arju, 8, injured seriously in a bomb explosion died on way to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH). After the clash, both the groups brought out separate processions during which some shops were ransacked and looted. Activists of the groups clashed again on the Edward College campus having four others injured.

Citizens' rally on 'Save Dhaka, Clean Dhaka'



Inhabitants of Dhaka witnessed a unique "Citizens Rally" yesterday on "Save Dhaka, Clean Dhaka". Photo shows a section of the colourful procession, following the rally, which was led by eminent citizens including Mayor Md Hanif, Prof M A Bari, Vice-Chancellor of the National University; Prof M Shahjahan, Vice-Chancellor of the BUET; Manzurul Karim, Chief National Commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts; Kamrul Hasan Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner, DMP and Ahab Ahmed, Secretary, Ministry of Youth; State Minister Sadek Hossain Khoka (not in the picture) joined the procession later.

By Staff Correspondent

More than two thousand people including scouts and clubs, boys and girls, women, youths, members of different socio-cultural organisations, NGO activists, journalists and eminent citizens yesterday marched through different thoroughfares of the capital with a pledge to keep Dhaka city clean.

The Bangladesh Scouts, the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), the Youth Ministry, the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and The Daily Star jointly organised the citizens' rally on "Save Dhaka, Clean Dhaka," followed by a procession, with a view to raising public awareness and motivating citizens to participate in the campaign.

The rally precedes the area-wise city cleaning campaign which starts on Friday next (September 22) at 9 am under the coordination of the scouts. The cleaning drive will also take place on September 29 and on every alternate Friday for the next several months.

Mayor of Dhaka city Mohammad Hanif, Chief National Commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts Manzur ul Karim, Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology

DSE sees another week of trade boom

By Sharier Khan

Market capitalisation of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) reached a new height of Tk 5027 crore last week despite the uncertain political situation on the eve of the Opposition-called three-day hartal.

The market capitalisation rose by Tk 1.99 crore from the previous weeks' Tk 4828 crore.

Trading of shares and debentures as well as prices of most shares increased. The all share price index of the DSE also exceeded 800 points to 810 after more than six months.

Large volume of trading by foreign as well as local investors, triggered by speculations of better dividends caused the boom in the last two consecutive weeks, market operators said.

In addition, the call for a three-day country-wide hartal

Housewife shot by extortionists

By Staff Correspondent

Extortionists fired shots seriously injuring a housewife when they were refused payment of illegal toll by the owner of an under construction building at Nayatola in the city yesterday.

Police said a gang of more than five armed youths raided the under-construction four-storey building and demanded money from those at the site.

Local people said, the extortionists demanded Tk 20,000 from the house owner for constructing a house in their area.

When they were refused payment of toll, an altercation followed, drawing other people to the spot. The gang then fired pistol shots, injuring Anwara Begum, wife of the house owner and fed.

Anwara was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH)

Fresh areas in C'nawabganj Rajshahi inundated

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAH, Sept 15: The overall flood situation in Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj further worsened with fresh areas in the districts inundated during the last 24 hours.

Fifty more houses in Panka union of Shibpur thana and Narayanpur union of Sadar thana in Chapainawabganj were devoured by the Padma.

Fresh areas in Shibpur and Sadar thanas of Chapainawabganj and Gopagar and Paba thanas of Rajshahi went under flood waters during the last 24 hours. The Padma rose by 10 cm during the same period.

Several thousand people remained marooned in the char areas while hundreds took shelter along the different roads in Chapainawabganj district.

Six killed, 70 injured in road accidents

At least six persons including a minor girl were killed and 70 others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka and Gaibandha yesterday, reports UNB.

Four people were killed and 40 others were injured in two separate road mishaps in Dhamrai and Savar thanas yesterday, police and hospital sources said.

In Dhamrai, three people were killed and 20 others wounded when an Aricha bound mini-bus fell into a roadside ditch at Kalampur at 5 pm. Among the deceased, one was identified as Hajera, 20, and the rest of them could not be identified.

In Savar, an unidentified woman was killed and 20 others were injured after a mini-bus hit a stationary bulldozer at 6 pm. All the injured were admitted to local hospitals.

A 10-year-old boy was

Hand over power to CJ, Hasina asks govt

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the government to hand over power to her proposed caretaker government headed by the Chief Justice 90 days ahead of the general elections to ensure impartial voting, reports UNB.

Addressing the extended meeting of the Working Committee of the City Awami League, she requested the people to join the 72-hour hartal spontaneously from today (Saturday).

Hasina urged the public servants not to cooperate with this 'autocratic' government any more and requested them to keep down the shutters of all offices during the three days hartal.

The Awami League president asked her party workers to convince the officials and employees in the government, semi-government and autonomous establishments to observe the hartal.

The opposition will not take any responsibility if any untoward incident takes place, she cautioned.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Awami League yesterday held a rally in support of country-wide 72-hour hartal beginning this morning.

Caretaker govt headed by CJ extra-constitutional step, says Rafiq

A senior minister has called the proposed caretaker government headed by the Chief Justice an 'extra-constitutional' measure and said it will not be acceptable to the believers of Constitution and constitutional politics.

"The Constitution being in force will impede such extra-constitutional step," Housing and Public Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia said yesterday.

Talking to UNB, the minister said if any verbal or written agreement is reached by the government party and the Opposition on any such unconstitutional proposition, then those political parties would be considered as violators of the Constitution.

"Such consensus or agreement on caretaker government will have no legal and constitutional binding on any party," said Barrister Rafiq, a member of the BNP