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Police patrol the streets near Purana Paltan intersection in the city during the hartal hours yesterday. — Star photo

## 150 injured in stray incidents Hartal paralyses life

By Staff Correspondent

At least 150 people, including 25 policemen were injured, in clashes at several places and in an attack on a passenger train at Narayanganj as a 72-hour country-wide hartal, called by the major opposition parties, began at 6 am yesterday.

The Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami called the hartal as part of their agitation to press the demands for immediate dissolution of parliament and holding of general elections under a caretaker government. JSD (Rab) and other smaller parties also supported the hartal call.

The hartal coincided with a three-day strike and road barricade by the workers of jute and textile mills to press their demands including implementation of the Wages Commission award.

Some 25 passengers and the driver of train from Dhaka were injured as pro-hartal activists attacked the train with stones at Gate Number 2 near Narayanganj station at about 7.30 in the morning. Twenty-five others were injured in clashes between pro and anti-hartal activists in the town.

Our Chandpur Correspondent reports: At least 50 people, including 25 policemen, were injured in the clash between pro-hartal activists and police near the local BNP office at Stand Road.

Of the injured policemen, constable Zakir Hossain was shifted to Comilla General Hospital while 10 others were under treatment at the Chandpur Sadar Hospital. A tense situation was prevailing in the town.

Our Khulna Correspondent adds: Eight persons were injured in bomb explosions and clashes on the first day of the 3-day hartal yesterday.

Of the injured, two are school students.

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### Nobody deserves to be so humiliated

By Staff Correspondent

Pro-hartal pickets stripped a government official of his clothes on his way to office at the Doel Chattar on the Dhaka University campus yesterday morning, eyewitnesses said.

A group of youth, engaged in picketing there, stopped the pedestrian at about 9.45 am and asked him where he was walking to.

As he disclosed that he was walking to his office in the Secretariat the youths ordered him to take off his clothes. All his pleas and requests went in vain. The youths forced the man to suffer the most humiliating experience of being made naked in public.

At one stage, when the youths had forcibly stripped him, police rushed to the spot to rescue him. The pickets left him completely naked, throwing off his clothes nearby.

Later, he was seen picking

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### Hartal relaxed for rickshawpullers

By Staff Correspondent

The 72-hour hartal has been relaxed from evening to midnight tonight for rickshawpullers.

The decision was taken considering the sufferings of rickshawpullers, separate press releases issued by Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami said

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## Question paper leakage Some DU teachers involved: VC

Star Report

Some teachers of the Dhaka University were involved in the recent leaking out of admission test question papers through coaching centres, with which they are personally attached, charged Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, Vice Chancellor of the university.

"Although the probe committee, formed to investigate the affair, could not gather any recorded documents, there are overwhelming evidence to believe that some teachers of the university leaked the test papers through the coaching centres they themselves work for," the VC claimed while talking to The Daily Star.

Dhaka University first year honours 'Kha' unit admission test held on April 21 last was declared "null and void" by a six-member probe committee after allegations that the question papers for the said exam had been leaked. The university authorities had to re-arrange the test on May 2.

Asked why action was not taken against the people involved, Prof Emajuddin said that to take action against any

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## One dies in police custody

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Sept 16: One person died at Tala thana early today allegedly due to torture by police.

The victim was identified as Rahmat Ali Biswas, 22, son of Tamejuddin of Dewanipara village under Tala thana, around 36 km from Satkhira town.

Police had arrested Rahmat alias Comrade Alok and Keshatapada and Haider Ali of Keshmotana village on September 14 on a charge of killing of a Biplobi Communist Party activist. A pipe gun and 12 rounds of bullets were also recovered from their possession.

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## Accept people's demand: Hasina 'Hartal clear verdict for caretaker govt'

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday said people had expressed no-confidence in the BNP government and gave clear verdict for a neutral caretaker administration by observing hartal spontaneously, reports UNB.

In a statement after the first day of the Opposition sponsored 72-hour country-wide hartal, she said people had joined the hartal to establish their freedom of voting and ensure their right to food.

Hasina said people also voiced their demand for resignation of the "killer, corrupt and vote dacoit regime" and elections under a caretaker government headed by the Chief Justice.

She also asked the government to give up the way of anarchy and confrontation and accept the demand of the people to mitigate their sufferings.

The Awami League President said police force and terrorist backed by the government attacked the hartal supporters at different parts of the country.

"The government has failed to face the current mass agitation politically and chosen the way of torture to suppress the will of the people," she said.

The opposition leader claimed, at least 25 people, including her party leaders and workers were injured at different places.

Hasina thanked the people for observing the first day of the hartal successfully and requested them to continue it for next two days to make the 72-hour hartal a complete success.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: Awami League leaders yesterday expressed their firm determination to gear

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## BNP's days are numbered: JP

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Party leaders yesterday said, they would announce a tougher programme to intensify the on-going anti-government agitation to realise the demand for elections under a caretaker government.

At a rally at Mahakhali, Moudud Ahmed, a senior JP leader and presidium member said, the BNP will be forced out of power by the Opposition-led agitation. Criticising the government for its alleged failures in various fields, Moudud said, "Their days in power are numbered."

Kazi Zafar Ahmed, another presidium member, said the people have expressed their support to the opposition parties by observing a successful hartal throughout the country. "We have reached the final stage to dislodge this government," he asserted.

Shah Moazzam Ahmed, presidium member, alleged

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**Where Do Those Bottles Come From** Page 3

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Biswas assents to 6 Bills**

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday assented to six Bills passed by the Jatiya Sangsad. The bills are: The Chittagong Port Authority (Amendment) Bill, 1995, the Mongla Port Authority (Amendment) Bill, 1995, the Ansar-VDP Unnayan Bill, 1995, the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (Amendment) Bill, 1995, the President's Pension (Amendment) Bill, 1995 and the Companies Profits (Workers Participation) (Amendment) Bill, 1995, reports BSS.

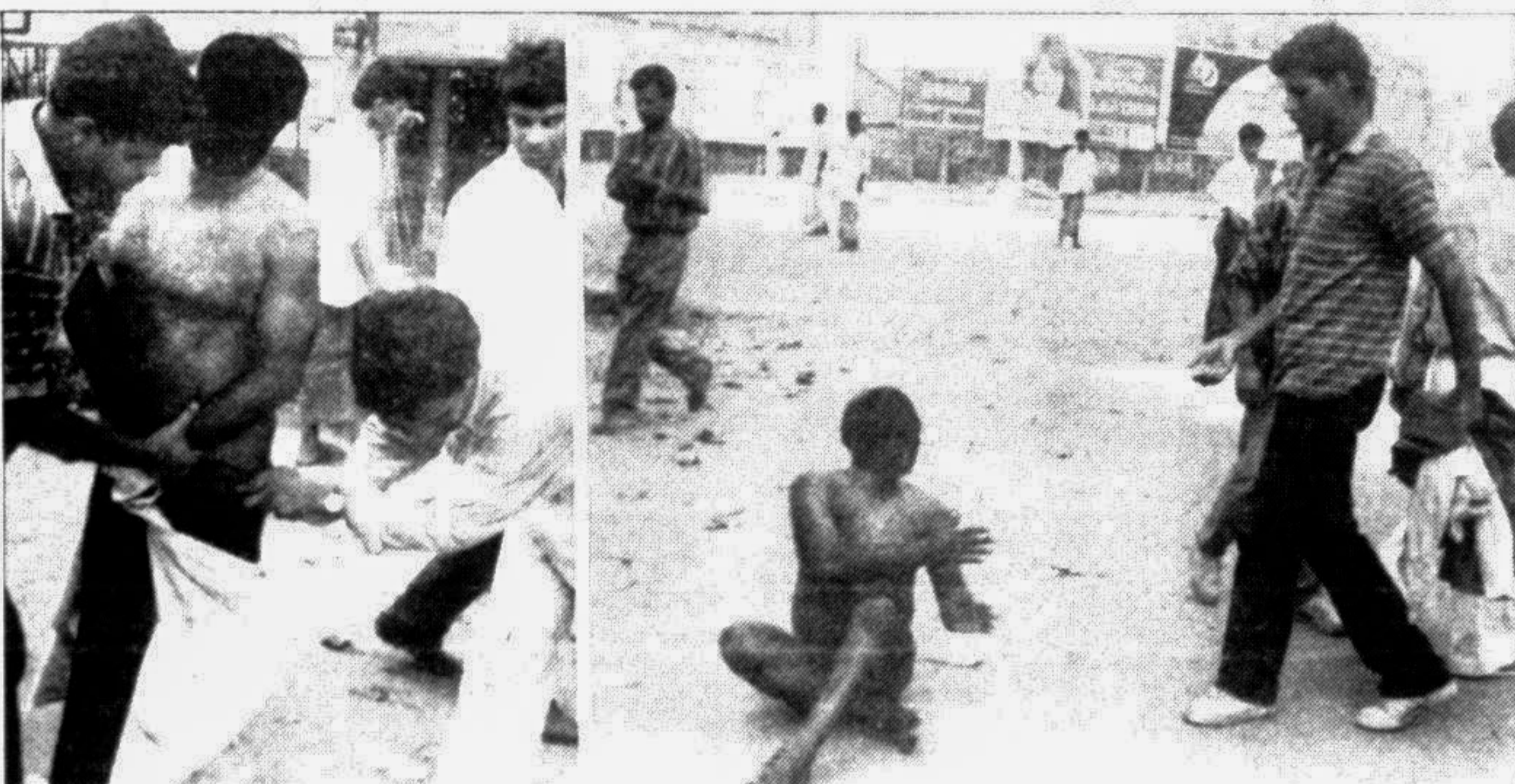
**3 SB branches to receive revenues**

Three Sonali Bank branches in the city have been entrusted to receive revenue and all sorts of payments to the government for taxpayers' convenience. A Bangladesh Bank press release said yesterday the branches are Fakirpool Branch, Gulshan New North Circle Branch and Jatrabari Branch. These branches have been receiving revenues and payments to the government through chalan since last July 15, reports UNB.

**Father kills stepson**

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 16: A father allegedly strangled his eight-year-old stepson in the village Babohati under Sadar thana last night. Police arrested the father, Anwar Hossain.



Pickets taking off the clothes of a government official near the Doyel Square in the city during hartal yesterday (left). The victim appealing to the pickets to return his clothes. The victim's face has been blurred in the photograph to conceal his identity. — Star photo

## Chittagong Port to have two more modern berths

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Sept 16: Two more multi-purpose berths (MPB) will be constructed at Chittagong Port shortly to cope with the growing pressure of container cargo as well as to ease the 'traffic-jam' of ships, official sources said.

This was decided at a meeting at the Shipping Ministry Thursday, chaired by Shipping Secretary Wailul Islam and attended by officials of the Planning Commission, External Resources Division (ERD) and Chittagong Port, the sources added.

The meeting also decided to provide the MPBs with sophisticated equipment including ship-to-shore gantry crane and straddle carriers of high stacking capacity to expedite handling of both import and export cargo. All formalities for engagement of consultants will be completed by December 31 to prepare the design and estimates for the two MPBs.

The two existing MPBs built at a cost of Tk 400 crore came into operation in 1993.

The meeting was convened against the backdrop of recent 'traffic-jam' of foreign cargo vessels at Chittagong Port jetties and its outer anchorage that delayed their turn around period, officials said.

Port officials said the congestion was mainly created due to arrival of more food-grains carrying ships in recent months. Besides, container cargo has recorded a growth by 30 per cent in recent years causing congestion here," said a senior port official.

Meanwhile, the foreign shipping lines and feeder vessel operators imposed

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## JCD factions' clash 2 minor girls succumb to bomb injuries

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Sept 16: Two minor girls, injured with bomb splinters during a gunfight between two factions of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) in the town yesterday died at the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital this morning.

With this, the death toll in the clash rose to three. Another eight-year-old boy, Arju, was killed in the clash at Naynamati in the town that left at least ten others injured.

Sources said that the vic-

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## Junta seizes Suu Kyi's aid for partymen

BANGKOK, Sept 16: The government of Myanmar has seized blankets, medicines and other assistance sent by pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi to political prisoners still languishing in the nation's jails, a dissident students' group said today, reports AP.

There are more than 3,000 political prisoners still being detained in various prisons throughout the country, said a statement from the All Burma Students' Democratic Front.

The group operates along the Thai-Myanmar border, but says it has sources in Yangon.

At first, Col. Kyaw Win, who manages the day-today affairs of Myanmar's military intelligence, allowed the aid to be delivered, the students said. Yangon residents told the group that prison officials have now begun confiscating the aid packages.

Suu Kyi has also donated 5,000 kyat each to the families of political prisoners who have died in jail. At the official exchange rate 5,000 kyat equals about \$800.

Suu Kyi, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991, was released from six years of house arrest on July 10. She has been pressing the government for negotiations on the political future of the country.

## Jamaat warns of tough action programme

By Staff Correspondent

Jamaat-e-Islami leaders yesterday said, they would be compelled to come up with a tough action programme if the government did not accept their demand for immediate elections under a caretaker government.

Addressing a rally at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram mosque in the afternoon, Jamaat leaders also said, "the people have expressed their no-confidence in the present government by observing the hartal."

Presided over by Jamaat city unit ameer A T M Azharul Islam, the rally was addressed, among others, by party secretary general Moulana Matur Rahman Nizami, Advocate Sheikh Ansar Ali and Advocate Jasimuddin

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## Dacoits kill 2 in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Sept 16: Three persons were killed and 20 including a number of women injured in two separate incidents in the district last night.

Two persons, Asmat Ali, 40, and Abdur Rashid, 35, were shot dead when villagers rushed in and resisted a gang of about 25 dacoits who were committing dacoity in the house of one Taleb in Kishorinagar village in Daulatpur thana.

Five others — Hazi Abu Taleb, 55, Rezaul, 38, Kasimuddin, 42, Rizia Begum, 25, and Bibi Jan, 40 — seriously injured in the dacoits' indiscriminate firing, were admitted to hospital.

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## Serbs move only 12 of 200 big guns out of Sarajevo

SARAJEVO, Sept 16: UN officials pronounced themselves far from satisfied with the pace of a Bosnian Serb weapons withdrawal around Sarajevo today and revealed that only 12 of 200 big guns in the area had been pulled back, reports Reuters.

The United Nations has observed small numbers of Bosnian Serb weapons leaving the exclusion zone around Sarajevo," said UN spokesman Chirs Guinness.

"We remain sceptical about the Bosnian Serb commitment to honour to the full the undertakings they have made ... the movements we've seen are small scale," he said. "Much more still has to be achieved."

The Bosnian Serbs have until tomorrow evening to lift their three-and-a-half year siege of Sarajevo under an agreement between UN envoy Richard Holbrooke and the Bosnian Serb political and military leadership.

Western governments warned that NATO air strikes, which have already crippled Serb air defences and communications, could be unleashed again.

"Tomorrow night... a determination will be made whether adequate progress has been made or whether air strikes should be resumed," Guinness said.

UN monitors saw only four artillery pieces, three tanks and five mortars leave the exclusion zone despite a promise by Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic that everything would be withdrawn.

Holbrooke was due in Belgrade today for talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to maintain the momentum of peace talks seen as possibly yielding agreement within weeks.

US Defence Secretary William Perry said during a visit to Rome. "It might be a couple of months but if this process stays on track, I believe we will have a peace agreement this year."

He was confident enough to cancel a plan to send Stealth fighters to Italy in readiness for use against the Serbs.

But Bosnia Serbs blocked the opening of a key aid route into Sarajevo today when they objected to the use of Rapid Reaction Force troops and vehicles to secure the road, a UN source said.

"The Serbs objected to the use of 'green' vehicles along the route and the whole thing was postponed as a result," a UN official said.

UN vehicles are usually painted white but the combat oriented Rapid Reaction Force operate in traditional camouflage green.

Bosnian Serb officials pledged on Thursday to allow UN vehicles to use two aid routes into Sarajevo — one from Kiseljak and the other through Hadzici — in exchange for a suspension of NATO air strikes.

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## OIC, UN contact groups meet on Sept 28

A joint meeting of the OIC Contact Group and the UN Contact Group on Bosnia will be held on September 28 in New York during the 50th General Assembly session, reports UNB.

The eight-nation OIC Contact Group comprises Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Turkey, Pakistan, Iran, Malaysia, Morocco and Egypt.

The United States, the

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