

Two villagers protest outside a polling station before Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten turns out to cast his ballot yesterday. The two Hong Kong residents who leave in remote areas lost their rights to vote in the last legislative elections under British rule since their addresses were not recognised by the polling authority.

-AFP/UNB photo

α China vows to annul Hong Kong polls

Young and old, Chinese and foreigners, men and women - for many voters — Hong Kong's last election under British rule today was a last chance to be heard before China takes over in 1997, reports AP.

"It's the last chance be-Salam Talukdar

From Page 1

how to run the state through constitutional process and hold proper elections after the prime minister resigns.

He said the government would not hesitate to accept legal and logical suggestions and recommendations of the Opposition. "But they are not ready to talk," he alleged.

The BNP secretary general asked whether the Opposition wanted a solution when they make a precondition that they would only discuss the issue if their demand was met.

Refuting the Opposition claim of a successful hartal, the BNP Secretary General wanted to know whether it was the first successful hartal in Bangladesh as cars. baby taxis, and trucks did not ply in big cities and towns and most of the shops

remained closed. Talukdar in another statement also condemned the stripping off clothes of government officials and employees during hartal.

"We have no words to condemn the perverted mentality of stripping the government officials and employees in broad day light by the supporters of the hartals in front of many people," he

HONG KONG, Sept 17: cause we don't know what will happen after 1997," said Rochi Hotwani, an Indian import-exporter who has lived in Hong Kong's raffish Wanchai nightclub district for 15 years.

"Last chance" was a phrase heard frequently as voters trooped to schools, post offices and community halls, some alone, some with children in tow, to elect Hong Kong's legislature.

Their misgivings were reinforced when, just after voting started. China renewed its vow to annul the elections because of reforms introduced by Gov Chris Patten Because of the reforms

this is the first time all 60 legislators are being elected. directly or indirectly.

Some feared China's threat made the election seem futile and would result in a low turnout. But many who voted said they did so precisely because they did not know whether they would be heard after 1997.

The main battle in the legislative election is between candidates pledging to work closely with China and those who stress standing up to Beijing to defend Hong Kong's freedoms after the 1997 change of sovereignty. A record 138 candidates

are running for the 60member Legislative Council Analysts expect pro-democracy candidates to garner about 25 seats, falling short of a majority. Polling stations opened at 7:30 am (2330 GMT Saturday) and first results were expected a few hours after the polls close 15 hours later.

Dinajpur outbursts

the body there. Surprisingly only two out of the three cops were present at the time. The one, who had sat with Yasmin at the back of the van never bothered to report. Instead, he directly went to the outpost "to rest after the night duty," Mahtab, a young sub-inspector present on the scene revealed.

In the meantime, a village Daffadar arrived at the thana to tell the police of a body lying by the BRAC office. He recorded an unnatural death case in this connection. Mahtab said that at the same time the police super, who was at his residence, was alerted. He advised him to carry on according to normal procedure.

The duty-officer, ASI Jahangir, along with constables Akram Ali and Amjad went to fetch the body. On their way, they met Sub-Inspector (SI) Shapan Kumar Chakrabarty on his motorbike and asked him to go along with them. By now a lot of people had gathered around the deadbody.

At Dosh-Mile the people who had asked the policemen to give Yasmin a lift early morning that day had identified the body.

On arriving on the scene at around 10:00 am SI Shapan did the inquest on Yasmin's body by taking off her salwar and checking the sexual organs with the help of a stick before the eyes of onlookers.

The body was then placed on top of a rickshaw van, uncovered, and constables Akram and Amjad followed it through the town to the Sadar Medical College for the so-called autopsy.

At the hospital, the autopsy was done exactly according to the police specification and at a surprising speed, medical sources said.

"What has been happening traditionally is that the police, whenever they want us to carry out an autopsy, would specify the nature of it. For example, in case of rape, accident, suicide, murder or any other unnatural death, police would come a tell us what had occurred. In Yasmin's case we just did the autopsy of an unnatural death according to police specification," said Deputy Civil Surgeon of the Sadar hospital. It was learnt that one Dr Mohsin carried out the au-

topsy on Yasmin. That day the SP had to attend the monthly Police-Magistrate meeting at the court area. A magistrate who attended the meeting up to 4:00 pm reported to this correspondent that the SP never mentioned the incident to anyone during the

nearly day-long meeting. But things were boiling at Dosh-Mile. In the morning of August 25, the people there brought out a procession accusing police of rape and murder. The news spread quickly in the town. (Tomorrow - Part II)

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Question paper leakage: VC's clarification

The Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University vesterday issued a rejoinder to a news item published in the September 17 issue of The Daily Star under the headline Question paper leakage Some DU teachers involved

The rejoinder, signed by the Public Relations Officer of DU, said the VC did not say that some teachers of Dhaka University were involved in the recent leakage of admission test question papers

In fact, what the Vice-Chancellor said was that reportedly some teachers of the university are involved with some coaching centres in the city and some coaching centres were alleged to have been involved in the leakage of question papers.

Humiliation From Page 1

BCS (Admin)

This is total abuse of hu man rights. It is an unfortunate and condemnable act. said M Asafuddowlah, presi dent of the BCS (Admn) As sociation.

"We earnestly hope that human respect and dignity be maintained in public life," he

Govt employees

Convener and membersecretary of Bangladesh Government Employees Coordination and Solidarity Council Syed Mohiuddin and Salehuddin demanded of the government to ensure security of the government employees during the hartal hours.

In a statement, the leaders also called upon the political parties to refrain from assaulting government employees during hartal.

They said that the government employees are not partisan. They also said that they have no words to condemn the shameless conduct of a section of the opposition activists.

Secretariat Staff

President of Bangladesh Secretariat Fourth Class Government Employees Associa tion Ali Ahmed and general secretary Mohammad Araz Ali strongly condemned the incidents of manhandling and assaulting the government employees and officials at different places on the first day of the three-day 72-hour har-

Govt Employees Assoc

President and joint secre tary of Bangladesh Class Fourth Government Employees Association Fazal Mia and M A Awal called upon all concerned not to repeat the indecent. They condemned the incident of humiliation of the government employees, reminding all that the government employees and officers are servants of the people, and they are always respectful to laws.

Senior vice-president and secretary general of the Bangladesh Secondary and Higher Secondary Government Employees Coordination Council appealed to the government to ensure security of the government officials during the hartal hours.

Secretary general of Krishibid Institution of Bangladesh Mr Jabed Iqbal strongly condemned the inhuman acts and demanded exemplary punishment to the persons involved in the inci-

DU Teachers

"We are very much mortified to see in several dailies today (Sunday) the news and picture of stripping of aged pedestrians as well as assault on women and other indecent and uncivilised activities during the hartal on Saturday," said a statement signed by 39 teachers of Dhaka University yesterday.

They said obstructing people from leading their social life in the name of hartal is against democracy and human rights.

"We feel, in our democratic society, hartal does not mean curbing people's democratic right, oppression on people, nor making their life miserable and insecure, the statement said.

"Hartal is an important means of placing political programmes before the people," the teachers said. "But it is desirable that such hartals are observed spontaneously through people's support, and not through any form of coercion."

Signatories to the statement, included Prof A F M Yusuf Haroon, Prof Anwar Hossain, Mohammad Asaduzzaman, Prof Mustafizur Rahman, Prof Abu Yusuf, Prof Anisur Rahman, Dil Roushan Zinnat Ara Naznin, Dr Mizanur Rahman, Dr A K M Nazrul Islam, Farida Begum, Dr Anwarul Islam, Belayet Hossain, Dr Moslehuddin Tareq, Mohammad Nurul Amin, Ferdous Hossain, Arif Billah, Lutfar Rahman, Yarul Kabii and B R Barua.





Second day of hartal

From Page 1 the injured boy to a hospital. As he refused, the angry people set fire to the vehicle. witnesses said. None was however, injured in the inci dent. Another ambulance was also damaged by pickets at the same spot later. Faisal (13) was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Police said, a clash between activists of the Awami League and the BNP left some 10 people injured in Katchukhet Bazar at around noon yesterday.

The clash took place when two processions of the two parties came face to face near the bazar and began throwing brickbats at each other. The activists also exploded some cocktails. The clash ended as police intervened.

In another incident, some eight persons were injured when pro and anti-hartal groups clashed at Demra in the morning.

A small number of rickshaws and rickshawvans were seen carrying people in different areas of the capital in day time. The opposition parties exempted rickshaws from hartal after 6 pm till midnight.

The opposition parties brought out processions in different parts of the city chanting anti-government slogans. The AL, JP and Jamaat-e-Islami held rallies in different areas, including the Press Club area.

Attendance in government offices including the Secretariat was very thin. Attendance of workers in different mills and factories, including those in the export processing zone in Savar, was also very thin.

Shops, private offices, banks and educational institutions in major cities in the country remained closed for the second consecutive day yesterday.

Railway communication was disrupted as jute and textile workers put up barricades on rail roads at different points in the country. Only one train left the city's Kamalapur station for Mymensingh yesterday morning, but it was stopped at "Dhirasram" by pickets, Railway sources said.

Some international flights were rescheduled due to the

hartal but some other flights arrived and left Zia International Airport vesterday. Biman sources said. However, nine out of 11 domestic flights were can celled.

The Sadarghat launch terminal looked deserted during the day and inter-district and city bus services remained totally suspended. In Narayanganj. 20 per

sons were injured in some incidents yesterday. In one incident, some unidentified youths hurled cocktails on two processions of the JPbacked Juba Sanghati and Chhatra Samaj in Kalibazar area near BB Road at around 10 am. The attack left 18 processionists injured. Of them six were taken to different clinics and hospitals in serious condition.

In Pirojpur district, 50 persons including three policemen were injured, nine of them seriously when AL and JP activists and supporters clashed with BNP activists and police in Inderhat bazar area under Swarupkathi

Police said, the clashes began when BNP activists tried to forcibly open some shops in the bazar and AL and JP activists resist them. Over 50 cocktails were exploded and 10 guns shots fired during the clashes. The three policemen were injured while they tried to disperse the clashing groups.

In Rajbari, clashes be tween pro-hartal and antihartal activists left 12 persons injured in the last two days. The authorities imposed Section 144 at Pangsha thana sadar yesterday afternoon. The AL office in Pangsha came under attack by BNP activists

Saturday night. In Courtchandpur thana in Jhenidah, eight persons were injured in a clash between activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP yesterday evening.

Later, the AL, JP and Jamaat activists brought out a joint procession at 8:)0 pm. Three vehicles and five shops were damaged by the processionists. According to reports,

hartal was observed peacefully in Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Sylhet and Jessore. There was no report of any untoward incident.

right) was manhandled by pickets near the north gate of Baitul

Mukarram mosque in the city for going by rickshaw at about 4:00 pm yesterday.

fire by a group of agitated people in College Gate area the driver of the ambulance front of the Pangu Hospital minutes earlier. Star photo

Chandra Swamy's arrest protested

NEW DELHI. Sept 17 Scores of sadhus and saints, supporters of controversial godman Chandra Swamy staged a demonstration here today protesting against former minister of state for home, Rajesh Pilot's decision to order the arrest of Chandra Swamy, reports PTI.

The sadhus who came also demanded Pilot's arrest

the sadhus alleged that Pilot now shifted to Environment and Forests Ministry, was involved in the abduction of the Swamy The demonstrators who

street police station.

Hasina

position parties.

Hasina said people were responding to hartal calls to press the demand for resignation of the "corrupt, killer and vote-dacoit government, dissolution of Parliament and elections under a caretaker government headed by the Chief Justice.

People were also registering protest against price-hike and atrocities of the government through this hartal, she said, adding that the police force and "terrorists of BNP" attacked the people at different places across the country during hartal hours.

said by observing hartal for the second consecutive day people again expressed their no-confidence in the government. She also urged the people

to continue the shutdown for third day to make the 72hour hartal a complete suc-

Pickets assault old man By Staff Correspondent

Pro-hartal pickets yesterday assaulted an old man and tried to strip him of his clothes near the north gate of the Baitul Mukarram mosque at 4 pm, witnesses said.

A group of youths forced the witnesses said

the PG Hospital was set on of the city yesterday after turned down their request to take the child (In the arms left) who was run over by another ambulance in

An ambulance (Above) of

from Mathura, Brindavan, Haridwar, Rishikesh and several other north Indian towns for his alleged role in the abduction of Swamy Dasheragiri of Haridwar.

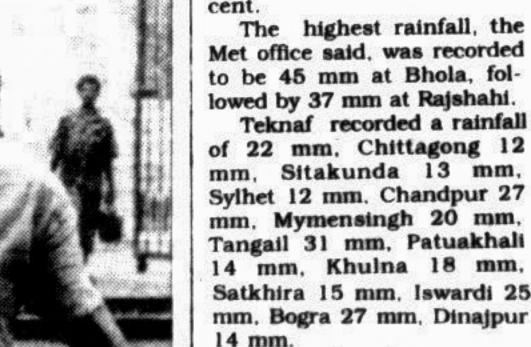
In a memorandum to the Home Minister, S B Chavan.

gathered near Jantar Mantar and took out a march were stopped near the parliament

From Page 1

The Awami League chief

the old man to get down from the rickshaw and started assaulting him. At one stage they tried to strip him of his clothes. The old man escaped by fleeing suddenly,



recorded rainfall below 10

The Met office forecast that under the influence of active monsoon over the country, occasional moderate to moderately heavy rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty and squally wind are likely to occur at most places in Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions and at many places in Chittagong and Sylhet divi-

The Midnight Kile

NATO, UN still undecided over airstrikes on Serbs

ZAGREB, Sept 17: NATO and the United Nations have not yet decided whether to order more airstrikes on Bosnian Serb positions, the United Nations said late today. "The decision has not been made yet," said UN spokesman Philip Arnold, reports AFP.

Arafat, Peres fail to agree on Hebron

TABA (Egypt). Sept 17 Israel offered today to share control of Hebron with the Palestinians, but the PLO held out for a deal that would grant it complete sovereignty over the tense West Bank town, reports AP.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO leader Yasser Arafat met for eight hours in this Red Sea resort, but failed to agree on who would rule Hebron

29 die in Pak bus accidents

ISLAMABAD, Sept 17: At least 29 people were killed including 18 members of a wedding party, in two sepa rate bus accidents in Pakistan today, police officials and hospital sources said, reports AFP

Mother, son

From Page

juries later.

A neighbour, Zainob Bibi. was also seriously injured when she tried to prevent Bashir. She was admitted at the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital

Bashir was apprehended local people and was handed over to the police. The police also recovered two daos from the spot

A case was filed with the Fulbaria thana. Police said Bashir admitted that he had committed the murders.

N'ganj clash

Evewitnesses said, the clash started at about 11 am as sequel to a long-standing dispute over establishing domination in the area.

The first round of clashes continued upto 12:30 pm. The rival groups again clashed from 2 to 4 pm, and lastly from 6:15 to 7:30 pm.

Both groups used cut-rifles, pistols, bombs, hockey sticks and other lethal weapons. Police rushed to the spot at about 3 pm, but were

forced to retreat following

stiff resistance of the warring

groups. Pabna: 2 held

From Page 1

A tense situation is prevailing in the Navnamati area where activists of the rival JCD groups were allegedly roaming around in search of opponents.

Meanwhile, two other youths — Abdul Mannan and Amin Uddin, were arrested from Bharara, six miles from the town, in connection with another clash that also took place on Friday.

Rain comes

From Page

vesterday of the 72-hour hartal but the rainfall also interrupted picketing by the opposition activists. In many areas pickets were seen to be taking shelter under the shades of trees and roadside buildings.

The sky was overcast with clouds from Saturday morning, but the rain began in yesterday morning.

Rainfall in the city, according to the Met office was 31 mm. The highest temperature was 29.2 degrees Celsius and the lowest 26.2 degrees. In the morning, humidity was 86 per cent and in the evening 94 per

Met office said, was recorded to be 45 mm at Bhola, followed by 37 mm at Rajshahi.

of 22 mm. Chittagong 12 mm, Sitakunda 13 mm, Sylhet 12 mm, Chandpur 27 mm, Mymensingh 20 mm, Tangail 31 mm, Patuakhali 14 mm, Khulna 18 mm, Satkhira 15 mm, Iswardi 25 mm, Bogra 27 mm, Dinajpur 14 mm.

Some other district towns

- Star photol sions.

The two men are trying to reach an agreement in time for a White House signing ceremony Thursday. But control over Hebron - the only West Bank town with a Jewish settler population has proven to be the major obstacle holding up an accord on expanding autonomy. The delegation and the

people of Hebron will refuse any agreement which will not allow Hebron to be treated like the rest of the Palestinian towns," said Mustafa Natche, the Palestinian mayor of Hebron.

Peres and Arafat declined to comment after the talks adjourned. Israel has proposed declaring Hebron Palestinian

and gradually withdrawing troops until control over the city is worked out next May during talks on a final settlement, Israel's Maariv newspaper said Sunday. Palestinian sources at the

talks said Israel proposed keeping control over Jewish neighborhoods and the Tomb of the Patriarchs, the site of the 1994 mosque massacre. Israeli newspapers said Palestinian police would be allowed outside the shrine.

Bosnian army From Page 1

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic was quoted as saying

In an interview given in Banja Luka and reported in Moscow by Russia's Itar-Tass news agency, Karadzic also acknowledged that his forces had recently suffered 'serious losses' in fighting against Bosnian government and Croat forces.

"We have lost towns and land that had belonged to Serbs for centuries," he told the news agency.

UNGA session

From Page

Bosnian Serbs to lament that the United Nations has lost control over the operations to bring the Serbs into line, in what it calls a violation of UN Security Council func-

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic will speak before the General Assembly on September 26. On that day, the foreign ministers of the 15 countries represented at the UN Security Council will meet and adopt a joint decla-

Tokais active

ration, diplomats say.

From Page 1

talked to a number of tokai pickets, carrying sticks and chanting slogans in support of various opposition parties in different rallies.

Samrat, a tokai picketing

in one of the political rallies

in front of the Jatiya Press

Club, said he along with other tokais were participating in rallies since the beginning of the hartal. "They are taking care of our food," he added. Liton, another tokai, at Shyamoli said that they

brought sticks on instructions of the people "looking after" them. In some areas tokais were seen active braving the rain yesterday and demand-

ing cards from journalists

passing by. They totally ignored the red banner reading newspaper, saying "we want to see your card." On the other hand, in certain places local leaders were found addressing gatherings in which the undera-

ged tokais outnumbered the

adult activists of the parties

Nepali CJ

concerned

From Page 1 same consequences may re-

The aggrieved Communist Party is seeking to have the ruling overturned along with the court's opinion that a budget announced by royal ordinance in the absence of parliament constituted

"unparliamentary practice."

"We decided to register the impeachment motion against these two justices because they are incompetent. corrupt and have misused their posts," Madhav Kumar Nepal. Secretary-General of the NCP-UML, told journalists today.

"The constitution has given us rights to impeach them." he added