

JUICE
JAM
PICKLE
KETCHUP
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STQ

SQUASH
VINEGAR
KEWRA-
WATER
ROSE-
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PRAN for Health STQ

The Daily Star

Day or Night

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Announcement

The Daily Star Sport introduces from today a weekly column on football by one of the most prolific players and a successful coach of this country. Golam Sarwar Tipu shall enlighten readers on the state of the art through Tipu's Tuesday Tips.

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NEWS BRIEFS

BNP groups clash in Pabna, 14 hurt

PABNA, Sept 18: A fierce gunbattle between two feuding groups of ruling BNP at Ishwardi town today left at least 14 people injured. Police said the fight erupted at about 11:30 am in Dashedia area of the town as a sequel to the dispute between Jinnah and Tuhin groups. Both the groups used deadly weapons, including cut-rifles and pipe-guns in their two-hour long battle and traded at least 50 rounds of gunshots.

Tornado lashes 4 villages in N'ganj

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 17: A tornado lashed four villages of Bandar thana today, razing some 200 houses and injuring at least 25 people. More than 25,000 people were affected by the one-minute elemental fury which swept Noabandha, Bakhtarkandi, Choupara and Purba Nabiganj villages.

Transport strike called in Pabna

From Our Correspondent
PABNA, Sept 18: The Pabna transport workers union and the transport owners association have jointly called a transport strike for an indefinite period from 6 am tomorrow. The strike has been called to protest police inaction regarding terrorist acts against the truck and bus drivers in Ishwardi during the last few months. It will affect the inter-district and local services.

Fresh programmes likely today 72-hour hartal ends

By Staff Correspondent

The rain-soaked last day of the three-day countryside hartal passed off by and large peacefully yesterday, barring some stray incidents of bomb explosions and clashes in the city, Narayanganj and Rajshahi.

The hartal ends at 6 this morning. About a dozen people including two police constables were injured in sporadic bomb explosions in the city, while at least 10 people were injured in Rajshahi and 20 in Narayanganj yesterday.

Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami called the hartal, that began Saturday morning at 6, to press their demand for immediate dissolution of Parliament and general elections under a

caretaker government. The three major opposition parties are expected to announce fresh agitation programmes from separate public meetings today. The workers of jute and textile mills also observed a three-day strike and rail-road barricade programme, coinciding with the hartal, to press their demands.

Life in the city as well as in other parts of the country was paralysed due to the hartal and rain as well yesterday. The number of pickets on the city streets was less. In some areas, however, leaders and workers of the three parties brought out processions braving rain.

All modes of transports, except a small number of

rickshaw and rickshaw vans remained off the city roads. A large number of rickshaws, however, came out on the roads after 3 pm as hartal was relaxed for rickshaws from that time.

Police picked up 14 persons from different parts of the city during the hartal. Police said, one constable, Akhteruzzaman, received bomb injuries at Kazla under Demra thana in the morning while another policeman, Ibrahim Khalil, was injured at Motijheel at about 12:30 pm.

Seven persons with bomb injuries were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. Dolly Kabir, a female ward commissioner of Dhaka City
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Some pickets hurled cocktail at police at Farmgate in the city during hartal yesterday. — Star photo

Samad Azad tells rally in city Stripping reflects public anger

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League presidium member Abdus Samad Azad yesterday said people have become so agitated against the BNP rule that 'sad incidents' like stripping government officials of clothes for 'violating' hartal took place.

Addressing a rally in the afternoon in front of the Awami League office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city, he urged the government officers and employees to join the 'people's movement' saying, 'you are ser-

vants of the state, not of BNP.'

Presided over by AL city unit general secretary Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, the rally was addressed by among others the party secretary general Zillur Rahman, and party leaders Amir Hossain Amu, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Barrister Shawkat Ali, Nurul Fazal Bulbul and Ishaq Ali Khan Panna.

Pabna violence Arrest of 'killers' of 3 children demanded

PABNA, Sept 18: Different political parties and district Bar Association held protest rallies here today demanding arrest of the 'killers' of three children, reports UNB.

Arzu, 7, died on the spot during violence in the town on Friday while Lupa, 8, and Roksana, 8, succumbed to their injuries at the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital
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Samad Azad urged the BNP government to hand over power to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for holding of general elections. 'Don't kill time. We don't want anarchy or confrontation,' he said. The AL leader said law and order has deteriorated and the government has failed to ensure security to people. He mentioned the Dinajpur incident and said there is no law and order in the country. 'We can't remain a silent spectator in such a situation.'

He said the Prime Minister was talking about the Constitution but herself violated Article 70 of the Constitution by encouraging
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Public wrath most likely, says Manju

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Party Secretary General Anwar Hossain Manju said yesterday that government officials and employees would have to face public wrath if they continued to obey and cooperate with the present 'illegal government.'

'The government has lost its legitimacy and continued to stay in power. The civil servants should not get involved in its illegal activities,' he said while addressing a rally in the city.

Presided over by party's city unit general secretary Abdus Salam, the rally was
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One held with gun in Ctg BIT

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 18: Police in a pre-dawn raid into the south hostel of Shaheed Mohammad Shah Hall, Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Pahartoli arrested a first year engineering student Ripon Barua along with a rifle and some ammunitions.

He was identified as an activist of a student front of a major opposition political party, police said.
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Opposition rallies today

By Staff Correspondent

The main opposition parties — Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami — will announce fresh agitation programmes from their rallies today.

The Awami League will hold a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in the afternoon. The Jatiya Party and the Jamaat will hold rallies in front of the Jatiya Press Club and the north gate of Baitul Mukarram mosque respectively.

According to sources, the Opposition leaders maintained their liaison among them yesterday to chalk out the next action programmes. The programmes are likely to be finalised this morning.

Hasina thanks people

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina in a statement last night said, the government was tarnishing the image of the opposition parties in a planned way to cover up its failure to resolve the political crisis and fulfil the legitimate demands of the people.

She, however, congratulated the people on observing the 72-hour hartal through out the country despite provocations from various government quarters. She also urged the people to be on guard against any conspiracy.

Criticising the ruling party for its 'failure', she said the life and property of the people are not safe under this regime. She blamed the government for the rape and killing of Yasmin in Dinajpur.

She alleged that women demonstrators at the Farmgate, female students of Dhaka University and BM
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Hartal: Untold stories

By Staff Correspondent

For the five-member family of Ismail Hossain, a spare parts shop owner in Islampur area of the city, the three-day hartal was one of the rare occasions in a year to pack up their luggage and go for a holiday in their village home in Khulna.

For many in the city, specially the business community, the hartal came as a relief from their routine life because a holiday at this time of the year was somehow unthinkable.

But not everyone was as fortunate as the Ismail family in the capital. Near the Radio Station at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, rows of rickshaws were parked at the small roadside bazaar.

The rickshawpullers in the slum behind the bazaar sat idle and gossiping, sometimes arguing over hartal.

'I have money for today, I don't know what will happen tomorrow,' said a middle-aged man.

Others sitting around him suggested that he should go to the Opposition leaders and ask for help.

Some rickshawpullers who came out on the streets during the hartal had to pay dearly. Their rickshaws were either smashed or burnt whenever pickets got hold of those.
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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a huge public meeting at Shibchar in Madaripur district yesterday. — PID photo

PM rejects demand for '90-style govt

SHIBCHAR (Madaripur), Sept 18: The Prime Minister today rejected the Opposition plea for '90-style caretaker government and reprimanded them for resorting to hartal and violence to press the demand, reports UNB.

'There is no such provision in the Constitution... There is a gulf of difference between 1990 and 1995,' Begum Khaleda Zia said referring to the Opposition demand for a neutral caretaker administration to conduct next general elections.

Addressing a mammoth public meeting at Hatirbagan grounds in Shibchar thana, she said in 1990, when the Ershad government was toppled in a mass agitation, there was constitutional provision for appointing an un-

elected person as Vice-President, and 'we nominated the then Chief Justice, Shahabuddin Ahmed, as the Vice-President.' Then the autocratic President handed over power to the Vice-President, she added.

'This was done under the constitutional framework, but now there is no such provision in our Constitution as we switched over to parliamentary system through the 12th Amendment to the Constitution which clearly provides that elected people will run the country.'

'We have unitedly switched over the parliamentary system. So, I cannot go beyond the bounds of the Constitution, because the countrymen have not given me mandate to violate the
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50th UNGA session opens today

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 18: Facing a depleted budget and a dwindling diplomatic role in former Yugoslavia, the UN General Assembly of 185 nations opens its 50th session this week, reports AP.

The General Assembly convenes tomorrow to elect Diogo Freitas de Amaral, a former Portuguese vice-prime minister and foreign minister, to the largely ceremonial post of president.

More than 100 foreign ministers are expected in town the next week when the General Assembly opens three weeks of speeches by members outlining their foreign policy goals.

One highlight of the session will be Pope John Paul II's address to the General Assembly on October 5. The
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DSE listed companies Losses by 28 offset profit by others

By Staff Correspondent

Since the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) opened in 1976, the shareholders incurred a cumulative loss of Tk 351.52 crore in an investment of about Tk 1430 crore till June 1995, according to a paper released recently.

Cumulative losses incurred by 28 companies out of a total 179 enlisted with the DSE in the 1994-95 fiscal offset all profits made by remaining companies. The net losses of the listed com-

Clashes leave 50 injured in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, Sept 18: More than 50 people were injured in clashes between rival groups of youths at Nanapara and Tatbari under Fatullah thana and at Mahmudnagar under Bandor thana today.

At least 30 people were injured, 18 with bullet or bomb splinters, when two local groups of youths clashed with pipe guns, pistols and
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panies stood at Tk 48.28 crore.

At a seminar on 'Scope of investment in shares, problems and solutions of investors and the role of Chittagong Stock Exchange in expanding share market' held in Chittagong earlier this month, it was revealed that the losses of shareholders sum up to 24.48 per cent of their issued capital.

The seminar brought together more than 500 investors, businessmen and economists.

During 1994-95, the listed banks have incurred net losses of Tk 201.25 crore which is 59.65 per cent of issued capital and the jute groups lost net Tk 10.30 crores which is 57.77 per cent of issued capital.

These losses offset profits made by other listed companies, said AKM Shamsuddin, Chairman of Chittagong Stock Investors Forum while presenting a paper at the seminar organised by Securities and Exchange Commission, Chittagong Stock Investors Forum and Chittagong Stock Exchange.
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12 fishing trawlers still missing

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 18: Six fishing trawlers — FB Gazi, FB Mariam, FB Jahanara, FB Sultana, FB Nasima and FB Hibzullah — are feared to have sunk in the Bay of Bengal during a stormy weather with 70 fishermen on board yesterday.

Another fishing trawler, FB Zulekha, was rescued by fishermen who were in separate trawler.

Fishermen on board the six missing trawlers are feared to be dead, the Trawlers Owners' Association of Patharghata of Barguna district said.

According to sources, the
See Page 12 Col 6

12 feared drowned in Jhalakathi

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 18: Twelve persons drowned when a trawler, ML Ma-Babar Doa sank in the Sugandha river near Jhalakathi town last night. Three others swam to safety.

Witnesses and police said, the trawler which was carrying over 15 metric tons of MS rod suddenly capsized and sank in the river due to over loading.

Seven, out of the 12 persons, were identified as Haider, 40, Babul, 26, Alam, 25, Delwar, 22, Sahid, 25, Harun, 20, and Faruq 32.

The Deputy Commissioner of Jhalakathi visited the spot. Search for the bodies is continuing.

RU reopens tomorrow

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Sept 18: The residential halls of Rajshahi University will reopen tomorrow and the classes resume from the next day. The university was closed following clashes between rival groups of students on July 22.

Meanwhile, on the eve of reopening of the university, the authorities have announced some rules under which each student will have to show his identity card and write down his particulars in the register book kept at the gate while entering the hall. Students attached to any hall have been advised to collect 'guest cards' from the hall authorities to reside in the hall as guests.

Where flood brings miseries for most, fortune for many

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, Sept 18: The severe floods which caused widespread damage in Jaintapur, Gowainghat and Companyganj thanas of Sylhet this year, also brought fortune for many. Huge quantities of stones from upstream from Khashia and Jaintia hills across the border rolled down along with the flood water.

'The quantity of boulders and gravels was much more this year than the previous years,' said Nuruddin, an elderly man in Jaflong. 'The gains from floods this year would be much higher than the losses it entailed,' said Faiz Ahmed of village Fatehpur in Jaintapur. Same is the opinion expressed by many old men in the areas.

Thousands of labourers engaged in extraction of stones from the quarries are also expecting a better earning this season.

Floods cause huge loss of crops and property almost every year but carry stones down the hills from the Indian state of Meghalaya. These have created a number of stone quarries in Gowainghat, Companyganj and Jaintapur thanas of Sylhet district. Thousands of people, most of whom are day labourers, earn their livelihood by collecting stones from the quarries in the riverbeds. Stone collection starts with the recession of waters and goes on for about 6 months. A poor labourer who works from dawn to dusk earns only

Taka 70 to Taka 100 per day.

There are 12 stone quarries in Gowainghat, Jaintapur and Companyganj thanas. The government earns about 50 lakh taka by leasing out these quarries to individuals every year.

People engaged in collection of stones are locally called 'Barki labourer' as they use small boats (locally called Barki) for loading and carrying the stones after extraction from the riverbeds. The stones are sent to different areas in the country mostly by trucks. Trucks carrying stones is a common scene in the 55-km Tamabil-Sylhet road.

About 50 thousand labourers are engaged in these
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Workers at a stone quarry in Jaflong. — Star photo by Iqbal Siddiquee