

Save Dhaka, Clean Dhaka



A few shots of the cleanliness drives under the "Save Dhaka, Clean Dhaka" campaign carried out yesterday in Faridabad-Gandaria area of the old part of the city. Hundreds of scouts, school children, youth leaders and local volunteers participated in the drive. — Star photo

Hartal can't solve crisis

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Several hundred hawkers led by Wajed Ali and Alhaj Delwar Hossain, President and General Secretary respectively of the Dhaka Newspaper Hawkers Multipurpose Cooperative Society joined the BNP by expressing their allegiance to the ideals and programmes of the ruling party and leadership of BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia.

She said people do not expect any good except hartal from the parties which had failed to ensure food and clothes to the people while they were in power. "People no more believe in the tall talks and falsehood of the Opposition."

Referring to the Opposition sponsored hartal and strike, the Prime Minister said it is not possible to resolve the current political problems by calling hartal.

"You (Opposition) will have to sit across the table to find out a peaceful solution of the current political crisis created by yourself," she said. "Come and sit together to work out a solution to the problem within the framework of the Constitution."

Begum Zia said people are now more conscious and educated and can well understand which is right and which is wrong. This is why people are with the BNP because it (BNP) always moves in right track.

Welcoming the hawkers to her party, Begum Zia said her government is for the downtrodden people and it will continue to work for their welfare.

She said the programmes and policies of the BNP government are aimed at welfare of the people.

Hasina

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hazef led by Maulana Mohammad Shahidul Islam and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad joined the Awami League.

Hasina said the Opposition was compelled to go for agitation to protect the rights of the people in the face of unbridled corruption, misrule, terrorism and politicisation by the ruling party.

"We are on the movement for a long time against the misrule of the BNP government for establishing people's right to vote and food."

The AL chief blamed the government for violating the Constitution by snatching fundamental rights of the people.

She alleged that the government had tried to foil Awami League's grand rally at Manik Mia Avenue on Thursday. "Its mastans and terrorists attacked and injured many Awami League workers," she claimed.

Hasina also alleged that the government is conspiring to destroy the country's economic prospect by turning Bangladesh into a market of foreign goods. She called for resisting such move unitedly.

Save Dhaka

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A lively procession of school students, scouts, youth leaders and people was led by local MP and Minister for Youth and Sports, Sadek Hossain. Starting from Faridabad High School, the large and colourful procession went through some of the most dirty parts of the area, motivating people to keep their areas clean.

After the main procession, the volunteers split into four groups and did road cleaning in Mill Barak, Alanganj, Bahadurpur Lane, NC Goshwami Road and L. Poddar Road in Faridabad lane and Goshabarighat.

At Faridabad High School field the volunteers also staged an open-stage drama to motivate people to keep the city clean. The volunteers also distributed leaflets visiting people door to door urging for cleanliness.

Secretary, Ministry of Youth, Ahab Ahmed and DG, Youth Affairs, Fazlul Huq, Mahfuz Anam editor of The Daily Star and Rafiqul Islam Sarkar, chief of BTV news participated in the campaign.

Similar cleanliness work under the "Save Dhaka, Clean Dhaka" campaign were carried out in Lalbagh, Hazaribagh, Malibagh, Shambagh, Gopibagh, Azimpur, New market area, Palasy, Mirpur 14, Mohammadpur Ringroad and Railway colony area of the city.

The Chinno Mukto Scout group who carried out cleanliness programme at Azimpur area will construct dustbins in the locality with donations from the residents of the area. Scout sources said. Every household will donate Tk. 20 for the project, they said.

The "Save Dhaka, Clean Dhaka" campaign was launched jointly by the Bangladesh Scouts, BUET, DCC, Youth Ministry and The Daily Star newspaper on September 15, with the idea of organising cleaning campaign on every Friday from 9 am to 11 am. The Daily Star launched the idea.

JU teachers

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and condemned the recent terrorist activities on the campus.

Earlier on Tuesday, the two factions of the JU JCD clashed on the campus leaving 10 persons injured.

Sources yesterday termed the campus situation "explosive" and said that they were in fear of a fresh showdown.

Another JCD source told this correspondent that efforts are to reconcile the two rival groups.

Grand rally

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impasse. "There are many formulas, already published in the newspapers. We are ready to accommodate any of those if the Constitution permits," he said.

The meeting did not discuss renewing contact with opposition leaders for a dialogue, the minister said. He, however, added "We are always in favour of holding dialogue."

The Prime Minister had time and again called upon the Opposition to sit for a dialogue to resolve the political standoff. She also announced that she would resign 30 days ahead of the general elections.

The Opposition, however, rejected the call saying, a dialogue could be held only if the BNP accepted in principle the demand for a caretaker for holding elections. The Opposition has also demanded resignation of the Prime Minister 90 days ahead of elections.

Hazratbal

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ated after Raza's faction led a revolt against the Liberation Front's president, Yasin Malik, describing him as being pro-India. On Thursday, they ended a yearlong ceasefire that Malik had announced after he was released from an Indian prison. Malik has denied that charge of being soft on India.

Two killed, 16 injured in N'ganj incidents

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 29: Two people were killed and 16 others injured in two incidents here today — one in truck collision and another in wall collapse.

One stone crusher was killed and 15 others were injured when a wall beside the stone field of Jahed Enterprise at Dapa in Fatulla thana collapsed on them at around 8:30 am.

The dead was identified as Abdul Alim, 16. Among the injured, four persons — Majid, Tara, Samad and Moharuddin — were admitted to the Orthopaedics Hospital in Dhaka. Their conditions were stated to be critical.

Four others were admitted to Narayanganj General Hospital while the rest were released after first aid.

Loyalists retake Comoros airport from mercenaries

NAIROBI, Sept 29: At least seven people, including two white mercenaries, were killed after loyalist forces retook the main Comoros airport from mercenaries, residents said today.

The residents told Reuters by telephone from the Comoros that the other five dead were members of the gendarmeries which mounted a fierce counter-attack on the mercenaries led by Bob Denard. The battles taking place halfway between the airport and Moroni city, they said.

AFP adds: The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) today condemned the coup in the Comoro islands and called for the quick and unconditional reinstatement of the elected government.

"The OAU strongly condemns this act of destabilisation and the use of mercenaries in a member state, and calls for a rapid and unconditional restoration of the constitutional order in the Comoros," the Panafrikan body said in a statement released here.

"The OAU further calls for the release of President Said Mohamed Djohar and other government officials being held," the statement added.

In another incident, a truck driver was killed and another truck driver injured seriously when both the trucks collided head-on near Langalbandh on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at 4 am.

The dead was identified as Joinal Abedin, 42. The identity of the injured driver was not known immediately.

Hasina places wreath on Dhali's body

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina placed wreaths on the body of party activist Ahmed Ali Dhali at the AL central office in the city yesterday and prayed for salvation of his departed soul.

Dhali was killed when an AL procession from the party's grand rally at Manik Mia Avenue Thursday came under attack in Tejgaon industrial area.

AL in a press statement last night, blamed the ruling party for the attack and the killing of Dhali.

The namaz-e-janaza of Dhali was held at the Baitul Mukarram mosque after Asr prayers yesterday and he was buried at Juraine graveyard in the city.

Party leaders including Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Mohiuddin Ahmed, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak and Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya attended the janaza.

70 die in Bihar floods

NEW DELHI, Sept 29: About 70 people have been killed and thousands made homeless this week in floods caused by torrential rains in eastern India, officials and domestic news agencies said today, reports Reuter.

Some 50 people died in the past three days in the eastern state of Bihar, and more than 10,000 had been made homeless. Bihar's Relief and Rehabilitation Minister Raghuban Prasad Singh told reporters in Patna.

Rafiq: Hasina's speech

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people would be forced to go to her (PM's) house to realise the demand."

Rafiq said Sheikh Hasina had once again proved that she did not have faith in democratic values and norms as demonstrated by her instigating speech of storming the residence of the country's democratically elected Prime Minister.

"Nobody has the right to take law in his or her own hands", he added. Turning down Sheikh Hasina's claim that the BNP government is "illegal", the minister said it was highly irresponsible and wrong to term the legally-elected government as "illegal."

Rafiq said nobody could challenge the authority of the legitimacy of the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia as she enjoys the confidence of the majority members of Parliament.

Rafiq reminded the Opposition that the BNP government was neither usurper of power nor came to power in a voterless election. The government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, he said, was working within the pervue of the Constitution.

Rejecting outright Sheikh Hasina's claims of the repeated violations of the Constitution by the Prime Minister, Rafiq categorically said the Prime Minister has in no way violated any provision of the Constitution.

Refuting the Awami League chief's claim that the Prime Minister had violated Article 70 of the Constitution by allowing Jatiya Party members of Parliament to join the BNP, he repeated that the Prime Minister had not violated the Constitution.

Interpreting the Article 70 of the Constitution he said according to this article, a member of Parliament shall vacate his seat if he resigns from that party or votes in Parliament against his party.

Explaining Article 70, the minister said the article bears that a member who abstains from voting or absent himself from any sitting of Parliament or votes against the will of his party will lose his seat.

He said that any member who wants to join a political party enjoys the freedom to do so and added it is ridiculous to blame the Prime Minister for anyone's joining her party.

So the question of violating Article 70 of the Constitution by the Prime Minister

does not arise at all, the minister said.

Rafiq also refuted Sheikh Hasina's allegations that the Prime Minister had violated the Articles 11, 22, 27, 29, 32 and 67 (2) of the Constitution.

About the alleged violation of the Article 11 of the Constitution Rafiq said that the BNP government had absolutely protected the fundamental rights, and freedom and dignity of the people.

Refuting the allegation of violation of the Article 22 the minister said that the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had ensured the independence of the judiciary.

He said nobody can cite a single instance of government's interference in judiciary.

Referring to a Bill moved by the Opposition in Parliament seeking separation of the judiciary from the administration Rafiq said that the opposition members had started boycotting Parliament while the Bill was under consideration.

The minister asserted that no citizen of the country has been denied his or her rights and everybody is enjoying equal protection of law as envisaged in Article 27 of the Constitution.

Turning down Sheikh Hasina's accusations of politicisation of administration and in the case of emsion employment Rafiq said that the BNP government had ensured equal opportunity for all citizens in respect of employment or office in the service as envisaged in Article 29.

In this regard, he mentioned a number of steps taken by the government to employ youths and women in various government services and self-employment projects.

About the allegation of Sheikh Hasina about not accepting the resignation letters of the Opposition MPs by the Speaker at the government's interference Rafiq said that the government in no way had influenced the Speaker.

The Prime Minister, he said, did not violate the Article 67 (2) of the Constitution and the Speaker had worked independently and fairly on the acceptance of resignations letters of the Opposition MPs.

Rafiq said nobody can blackmail the BNP by issuing any threats or by coercion.

The Midnight File

US refuses to okay plan backed by NATO members

BRUSSELS, Sept 29: The United States is refusing to endorse a plan backed by the other 15 members of the NATO alliance for the United Nations to oversee a planned multinational peacekeeping force for Bosnia, a diplomat said, reports AFP.



Wahidul Haq, a leading exponent of Tagore song, presenting a solo musical performance at the British Council auditorium, organised by the Sur Prangan in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Durga Puja from today

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Sidheswari and other places and last minute work for the decoration of puja mandaps were going on in full swing yesterday.

Over 100 puja mandaps have been erected in the city. The Mahanagar Sarbajanin Puja Committee has organised four-day Durga Puja celebrations at the Mahanagar Puja Mandap at Dhakeshwari Mandir.

The Committee has also organised a blood donation programme on the day of vijoy dashami on Tuesday. It will also bring out a 'vijoy procession' marking the immersion of the image of Durga.

The programme of Ramkrishna Mission includes shasti puja today after 7:30 am, sampati puja tomorrow after 6:48 am, astami puja on Monday at 5:36 am, sadhi puja from 7:06 am to 7:54 am, nabami puja after 9 am and kumari puja at 11 am, dashami puja on Tuesday between 8:59 am and 9:58 am, aratrika (invocation) at 6:30 pm and immersion at 7:30 pm.

President of Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Parishad Prem Ranjan Deb, has conveyed his sincere greetings to all irrespective of religion, caste and creed on the occasion of Durga Puja.

In a statement yesterday, he appealed to all puja celebration committees to pray at the puja mandaps for peace, progress and prosperity of Bangladesh.

3 Tanbazar 'madams' still untraced

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 29: Police could not locate whereabouts of the three 'madams,' whose mysterious disappearance from Tanbazar red-light area in the town Tuesday last created tension in the brothel.

It was alleged that the three 'madams' — Ritha Khanam, Salma and Najma — were evicted by the brothel operators because they were vocal about rights of the inmates.

Meanwhile, a two-member team of Naripakka, a women's rights organisation, visited the red-light area yesterday and talked to the inmates of the brothel and police but could not meet the brothel operators.

Flood

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areas, were inundated due to incessant rains.

Official sources said some 300 villages of Kazipur, Belkuchi, Chowdhali, Shahzadpur, Tarash and Sadar thanas went under water affecting about 300,000 people.

Of the affected, nearly 150,000 people were marooned in the worst-hit Kazipur, Chowdhali, Shahzadpur, Belkuchi and sadar thanas.

The river Jamuna marked further rise due to torrential rain and on rushed water from the upstream and was flowing 5 cm above danger level.

Our Correspondent from Gaibandha says, the overall flood situation in district took a serious turn yesterday as 82 unions of all the seven thanas went under flood water.

Some 20,000 people were marooned in the worst hit Gobindaganj thana where 80 per cent crop land submerged.

The road link between Gobindaganj and Rangpur was cut off as flood water was flowing over the highway at three places.

Our Rajshahi Correspondent says, fresh areas of Naoaganj, Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Bogra and Joypurhat districts were flooded due to torrential rains in the last four days.

DSE trading

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The price of Beximco Pharma shares remained more or less static at around Tk 75 in the last three weeks. Many small investors told this correspondent at the DSE premises that they were stuck up with its shares. "We know Beximco Pharma shares deserve much better price than just Tk 75. But in the recent months, the image of the company has been damaged slightly, I believe," said Faruk, a small investor.

The daily average volume of trading rose by 2.29 lakh shares to 4.06 lakh last week from the previous week's 1.77 lakh.

The daily average value of trading rose by Tk 2.15 crores to Tk 4.99 crores from the previous week's Tk 2.84 crores.

A record total of 24,37,818.75 shares and debentures worth Tk 29,98,38,685.75 were traded last week against 5,32,580 shares and debentures worth Tk 8,54,21,140.75 in the previous 3-day week.

A total of 562 issues haven't traded 313 gainers and 222 losers were traded last week against 306 issues having 151 gainers and 120 losers in the previous week.

A sampling of 17 frequently traded issues shared that a dozen of issues marked rise in their prices while only two went down and three remained static.

The volume leader of the week include Bata Shoes, which sold over 51,000 shares, ACI — over 44,000 shares, Shine Pakur Holdings — 40,000, BOC — over 40,000, Eagle Star Textiles — over 34,000, newly enlisted 7th ICBMF — 31,338, Beximco Limited — over 28,000 and Meghna Cement, Purabi Insurance, Square Pharma and Ashraf Textiles.

Transport strike

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strike.

Meanwhile, a UNB reports said, bombs and cracker were blasted at the Syedabad bus terminal Thursday night and Friday morning to create terror to enforce the strike. Police said more than 400 bombs were exploded.

"We have to give police and BRTA people Tk 3,000 and mastans another Tk 6,000 per vehicle per month," UNB quoted a BSPS leader as claiming.