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Theft of vital equipment at PG hospital stops ENT operations

By Staff Correspondent

The Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) department of the PG Hospital now cannot perform any operations as it is yet to have fresh supply of a number of vital equipment stolen from the sterilisation section of the hospital on September 20, according to hospital sources.

Emergency ENT patients, including children, are now passing their days in agony because of such a situation.

A highly placed source in the hospital, who did not want to be named, said that some 40 equipment required for ENT operations were 'mysteriously' stolen from the sterilisation section of the hospital causing instant suspension of all ENT operations. He, however, could not confirm how costly the equipment were.

Following the theft, the hospital authorities tried in vain to get the replacement of the equipment, a hospital official said.

"We have sent several requisitions to the relevant departments but more than 14 days have passed and nothing has been done as yet in this regard," he added.

The ENT department, at one point, asked the Central Medical Store for the equipment. But it was told that the Store could not offer any because all its equipment were meant for the thana health complexes, the official said.

He pointed out that the ENT section usually performs at least six operations a week.



ENT patients at the PG Hospital requiring surgical operations are passing their days in agony following suspension of operation due to stealing of equipment. — Star photo

Prices of food items up

By Staff Correspondent

Prices of perishable food items like fish and vegetables and some varieties of spices have gone up in the city markets compared to their prices about a month back.

Prices of rice, wheat, flour and oil however remained by and large stable.

Both wholesalers and retailers in some of the city markets told this correspondent yesterday that although prices of fish and vegetables had been showing an uptrend, their sudden rise was due to floods and the opposition's 32-hour hartal call.

Korola was selling at Tk 18 to 20 per kg compared to Tk 12 to 15 a month back. Brinjal was sold at Tk 22 to

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Series of programmes throughout Oct

32-hr hartal begins

By Staff Correspondent

The major opposition parties — Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami — will go for a 32-hour hartal from 6:00 am today in five divisional headquarters of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet to press their demand for dissolution of Parliament and holding of elections under a neutral caretaker government.

Rajshahi was exempted from the hartal in view of the floods in the northern region.

In a bid to drum up public support in favour of the hartal, the three parties brought out torch processions and staged rallies in the city yesterday.

Awami League brought out torch processions in almost all the city wards. Its youth front Jubo League held a rally in front of the AL central office at Bangabandhu Avenue.

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The rally, presided over by Jubo League president Fazlul Karim Selim was addressed by AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman, Mufazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and Nurul Fazal Bulbul.

The JP brought out torch processions in different thanas of the city, led by senior party leaders. Party General Secretary Anwar Hossain Manju led a procession from Asad Gate.

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina in a statement urged the people to observe 32-hour hartal from today to press resignation of the 'corrupt and vote dacoit regime' of the BNP for elections under a neutral caretaker authority.

She also called for joining today's hartal to protest price-hike of essential commodities.

Hartals, strikes, barricades and other agitation

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Rafsanjani's visit: Advance team due today

By Staff Correspondent

A 20-member advance delegation is due to arrive in the city today in connection with the forthcoming visit of Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The delegation comprising high officials belonging to different ministries of Iran is expected to visit Chittagong also.

President Rafsanjani is due to arrive on a 4-day official visit to Bangladesh on October 10. He will be accompanied by a 90-member entourage. Besides, a 45-member trade delegation will accompany the Iranian President.

Hasina threatens sit-in in front of PM's house

RAJSHAHI, Oct 6: Awami League president Sheikh Hasina today threatened to wage continuous agitation programme if the demand for a neutral caretaker government to conduct elections was not met even after the 96-hour countrywide shutdown, reports UNB.

"In that case we will be compelled to go for non-stop agitation to realise the people's demand," she told a group of reporters at Rajshahi airport today before departure for Dhaka.

The Awami League chief came here on a two-day visit to the flood affected areas of Rajshahi, Natore and Pabna districts. During the visit, she talked to the flood victims and distributed relief among them.

Hasina said the programmes after the 96-hour hartal might envisage sit-in demonstration in front of the Prime Minister's residence and the sit-in would continue till the demand was realised.

She, however, added that there would be neither hartal nor agitation if the ruling party accepted the demand for a neutral caretaker government.

The opposition leader

See Page 12 Col 1

Diarrhoea spreads in two dists Flood situation improving

By Staff Correspondent

More than 10 people died of diarrhoea yesterday and about 1,270 were attacked with the disease in the flood-hit Gaibandha and Naogaon districts.

According to reports received in the capital, the overall flood situation in most areas in the northern region of the country continued to improve yesterday.

All the rivers in the region, except the Jamuna, were flowing below their respective danger levels. The Jamuna at Naogaon was flowing 9 cm above the danger mark, said a bulletin of the Flood Information Centre.

The bulletin forecast that the flood situation in greater Rangpur, Dinajpur, Bogra and

Pabna districts would improve further by 6:00 am today (Saturday).

The Brahmaputra and the Ganges continued to fall at all points while the rivers in the Meghna and the South Eastern Hill basins recorded rise at some points and fall at other point till yesterday evening.

Our Rajshahi Correspondent reports: The flood situation in Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj districts remained unchanged but fresh flood waters entered Naogaon town yesterday as Chhoto Jamuna showed a little rise. The town areas were still under about four feet water.

According to district administration sources in Naogaon, four persons died of diarrhoea yesterday raising the death toll to eight in last two days. About 270 people attacked with diarrhoeal diseases have been admitted to hospital.

UNB adds: The diarrhoea situation in the flood-hit areas of Gaibandha district took a serious turn as the waterborne disease claimed seven lives and attacked about 1,000 people in 24 hours till yesterday (Friday) noon.

According to official sources, about 7,000 people have been attacked with diarrhoea in the district in the last seven days.

The district hospital and

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See Page 12 Col 8

'Unscrupulous cos will be dropped from CSE list'

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Oct 6: The Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) will introduce a system of scrutinizing the listed companies after every six months or one year to detect any violation of rules. Its chief executive AGM Shamsul Kamal told The Daily Star today.

"Any company or organisation found involved in unscrupulous dealing will be dropped from the CSE list to ensure a healthy trading atmosphere here," he stressed.

"Shares of unscrupulous companies will not be traded in the CSE."

"We want to maintain absolutely fair and transparent trading in the CSE."

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PM assures flood victims of fresh loan, HB grants

BOGRA, Oct 6: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today extensively visited the flood-battered areas of Bogra, Chapainawabganj and Naogaon districts and distributed relief materials among the people in distress, reports UNB.

During her day-long tour of the worst affected areas, she distributed rice, chira, biscuit, saree, lungi and other relief goods among the flood-hit people.

While distributing relief, Begum Zia told the flood affected people, "We are very much with you at the hour of your suffering."

She said ministers, MPs, officials and members of the Army are working round the clock to provide all necessary help to the flood victims.

Begum Zia said the affected people will continue to receive relief until they are rehabilitated and start their life anew.

The Prime Minister said her government has undertaken all steps to rehabilitate the affected people after recession of flood water. Farmers will be given fresh credit and other government assistance and the poor will be provided with house building grants and other materials to enable them to quickly return to normal life.

She said Army have been given the responsibility to distribute relief properly. The army has already started distribution of relief through coordination with the ministers who have been assigned to look after 14 northern flood-affected districts and local officials.

After the Jumma prayers

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Only 96 foreign buyers visit BATEXPO '95

By Staff Correspondent

Only 96 foreign buyers visited the Bangladesh Apparel and Textile Expo (BATEXPO) this year compared to last year's 260, according to the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), the organiser of the exhibition.

"Due to the political situation many of our valued foreign clients cancelled their scheduled visit the BATEXPO-95, said a BGMEA press release here yesterday.

However, spot orders worth 25 million US dollars were received during the 3-

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Snatching of Tk 16 lakh pre-planned, police suspect

By Staff Correspondent

Police suspect that the incident of snatching of Tk 16.2 lakh of a Beximco firm from in front of Dhanmondi branch of IFIC Bank Thursday was pre-planned and information of drawing the cash was passed from inside the company.

Four armed men snatched the amount by stopping a microbus moments after it came out of the bank branch at about 10:30 am Thursday.

Detective police arrested the driver of the microbus, Badal, 25, yesterday and released the two accounts officials of Beximco and the guard of IFIC Bank. The four were pricked up by police from the spot after the incident. Police also picked up a commercial assistant of Beximco for interrogation yesterday, police said.

Badal was produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) court yesterday. Badal joined Beximco in December last year, according to sources in the company.

NEWS BRIEFS

Hasina to visit flood-hit dists

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will visit flood-hit northern districts of Rajshahi, Naogaon, Joypurhat, Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Bogra, Sirajganj and Pabna. She will undertake the 4-day trip from October 9, reports UNB.

Diarrhoea claims 4 in B'baria

BRAHMANBARIA, Oct 6: Diarrhoea claimed four lives and attacked more than 1000 people at Jarua village in sadar thana in one month. The dead were identified as Kohinoor, 8, Helim Khan, 13, Kulsom Begum, 24, and her three-year-old son, unofficial sources said. The waterborne disease broke out at Sharifpur, Aratishida and Khaisar villages in an epidemic form, they said, reports UNB.

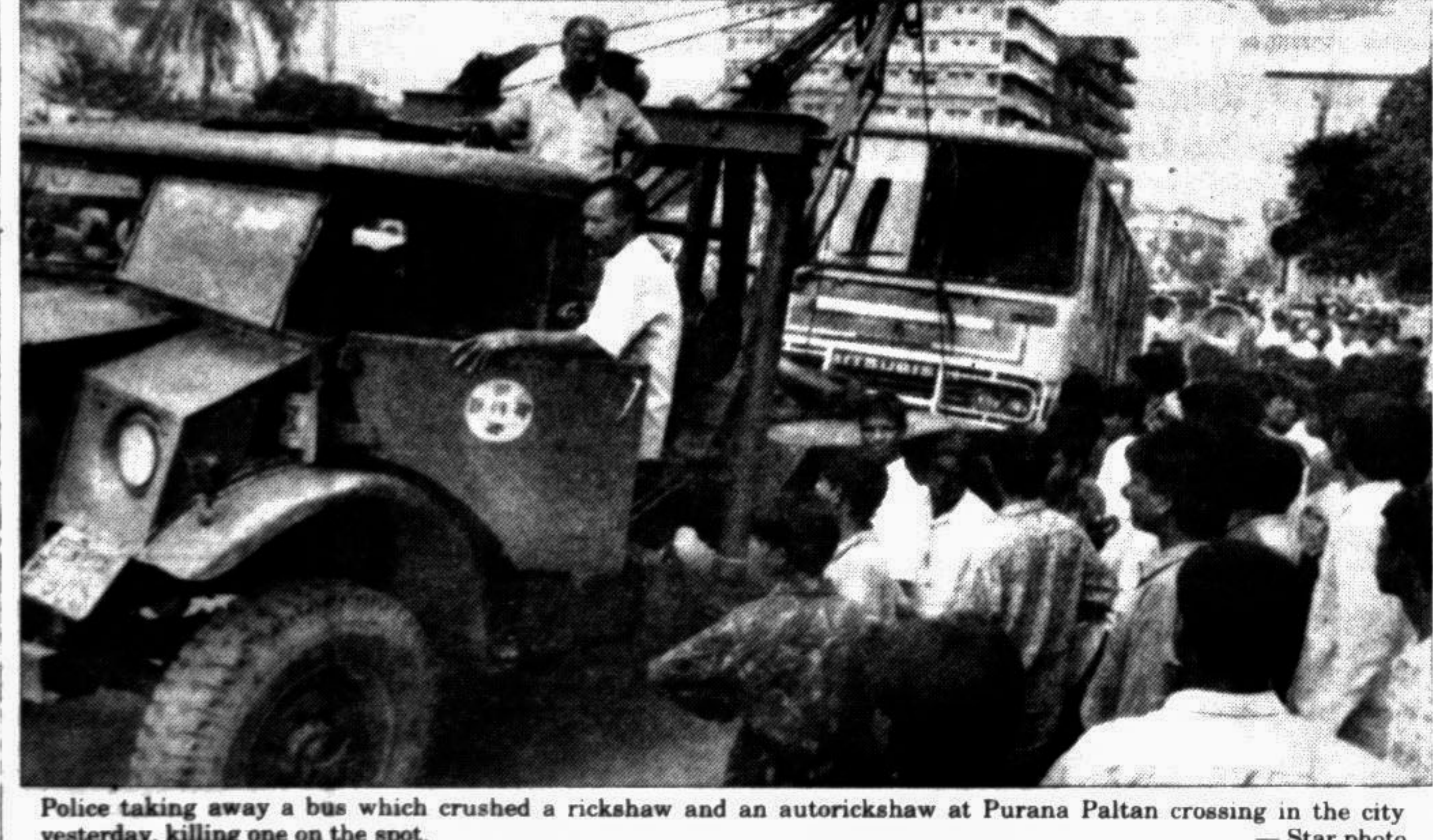
30 hurt in clash at Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 6: At least 30 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups in Mirpur and Malsapara areas of the town this morning. Of the injured, one Abdur Rahman, 40, was rushed to Dhaka with fatal bomb injuries while four others were admitted to Sadar Hospital here.

Nari Samaj rallies at dists Oct 12

Sammilita Nari Samaj will hold rallies at district towns on October 12 demanding trial of those responsible for raping and killing Yasmin. The rallies will be organised at Tangail, Mymensingh, Barisal, Narayanganj, Khulna, Sherpur, Netrokona, Chittagong, Tangi (Gajipur), Rajshahi, Faridpur, Jhendsah, Kushtia, Jessore and Cox's Bazar. The programme in northern districts has been postponed because of flood, said a press release, reports UNB.



Police taking away a bus which crushed a rickshaw and an autorickshaw at Purana Paltan crossing in the city yesterday, killing one on the spot. — Star photo

11 killed in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

At least eleven people were killed and ten injured in road accidents in the city and in Chittagong, Narsindhi, Khulna and Sirajganj yesterday.

An unidentified man aged about 40 was killed on the spot when he was runover by a bus while crossing the road near Purana Paltan police box in the city at about 10:45 am. The bus also hit and injured an unidentified auto-rickshaw driver. The bus was seized but its driver managed to escape.

Our correspondent reports from Chittagong: At least five persons including a woman were killed and two injured when a Fenji-bound microbus from Chittagong collided head-on with a Chittagong-bound truck near Sitakundu health complex.

Of those killed, three were identified as Sarwar Alam, 32, Nasruddin, 28, and Lili, 40. Two other victims were the helpers of the vehicles but their names could not be known.

Our Narsingdhi correspondent reports: At least 3 persons were killed on the spot and 7 injured, 3 critically, when a bus hit by a truck, fell into a road side ditch at Belabo under Rujganj thana in Narsindhi.

Our Correspondent from Khulna reported that a young girl, Farzana Begum, 16, was crushed under the wheels of a truck at Shibbari intersection in Khulna yesterday. Police seized the truck but its driver fled away.

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Thousands of Croatian troops move toward Bihac

ZAGREB, Oct 6: The United Nations said today thousands of Croatian army troops have crossed the Bosnian border and moved toward Bihac town, held by Sarajevo government forces, over the past few days, reports Reuter.

"We assess there could be as many as 3,500 HV soldiers in the area," UN spokesman Chris Gunnus told reporters.

"We have observed the presence of an HV infantry battalion and an artillery battalion in the Bihac area,"

Gunnus told a Zagreb news briefing. "It is believed they crossed into Bosnia from Croatia in the past three days."

UN officials were unable to give further details and declined to speculate on the significance of the troops moves, which coincided with Thursday's agreement on a Bosnia-wide ceasefire to begin on October 10.

A Washington report says negotiations on Bosnia that were to start around October 25 in the United States have

Ittefaq incident: Renu remanded for 3 more days

By Staff Correspondent

Mohamad Hossain alias Renu, 40, arrested on charge of killing a young man inside Ittefaq Bhaban Sunday last, was taken yesterday on fresh remand for 3 more days.

Detective Branch police arrested Renu from a Nissan Patrol Jeep in front of Madhumita cinema in Motijheel area Tuesday afternoon.

Renu was produced before the court after the end of one-day remand yesterday, police said.

Five more killed in Karachi shootout

KARACHI, Pakistan, Oct 6: At least five people were killed in a shootout with police today in the southern port city of Karachi, police said.

Those killed included two workers of the Karachi-based ethnic Mohajir National Movement (MQM) who died in a gun battle lasting 30 minutes in eastern Korangi area.

Both of them were members of the MQM and wanted in several cases of terrorism, a police official told Reuters.

The MQM spokesman Shoaib Bukhari said: "We don't have any details about the incident at present and are trying to collect the information."

The MQM accuses the authorities of killing its workers in "fake encounters" and torture in police custody.

The party had observed a general strike on Sunday against the killing of three workers in police custody. The government says they were gunned down in an encounter.

26 feared drowned as boats sink in Mahananda

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Oct 6: Twenty-six people are feared drowned as two boats capsized in the river Mahananda at Chapainawabganj on Wednesday night.

Four bodies have been found till this noon while 14 other people were rescued from the river.