

Inside Today

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He Who Laughs
Last....

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Steps suggested to stabilise jute goods export market

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DSE MARKET

DSE price index 875.42 (+ 0.52%)
Market capital Tk 54.55 billion
Transactions in volume 179308
Transactions in value Tk 33.13 million

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 406.18 (+ 0.50%)
Market capital Tk 851944380
Transactions in volume 920
Transactions in value Tk 28212670

Supplement

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains one-page supplement on World Food Day
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Dhaka Day by Day



A world of Beauty and Harmony
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NEWS BRIEFS

Lawyers end court boycott

From Staff Correspondent

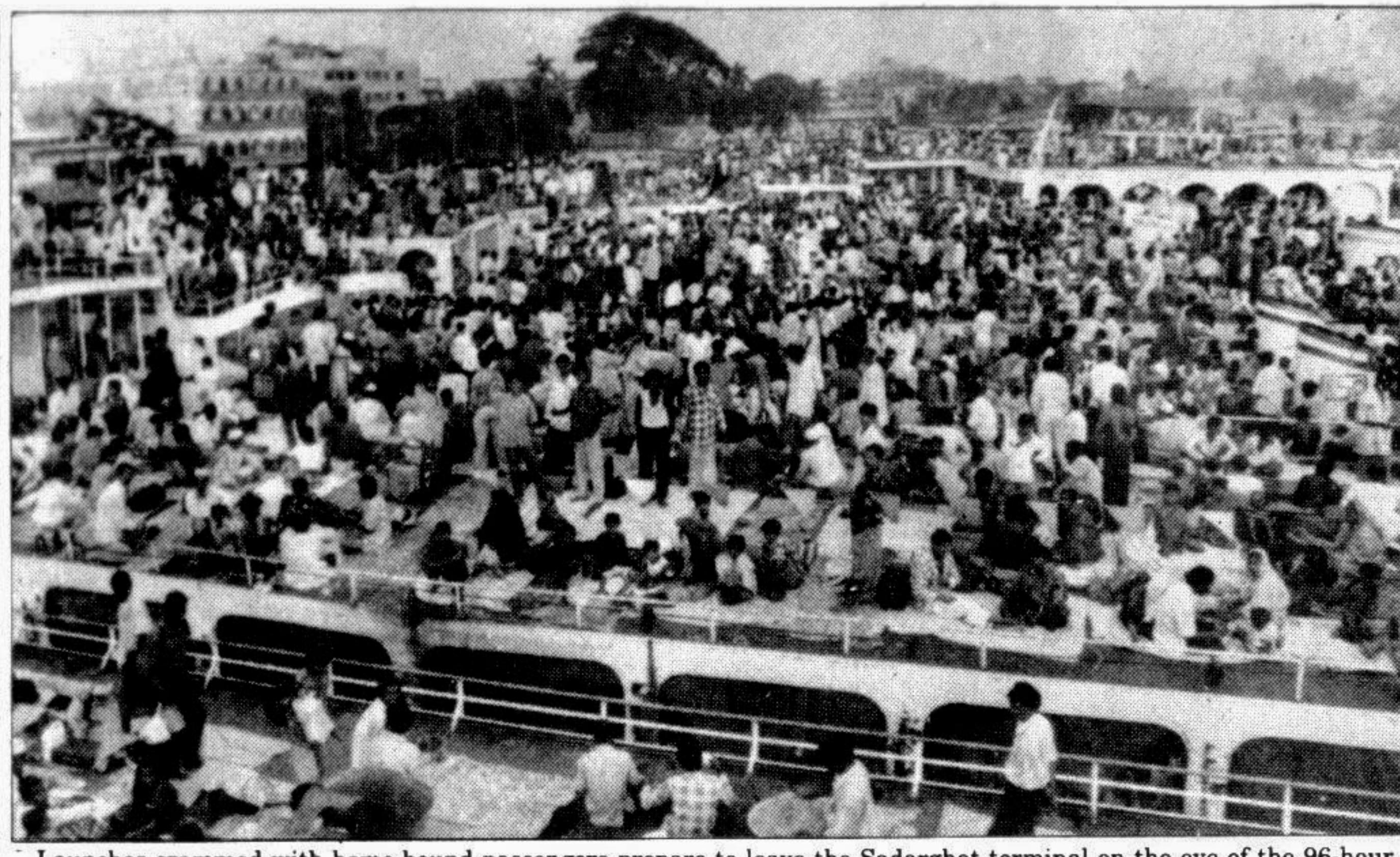
BARISAL, Oct 15: The lawyers of Jhalakathi district attended courts today after having boycotted them for over a month. The lawyers ended their boycott of the courts following discussions with the district administration.

Indian envoy meets Mizan

Indian High Commissioner Dev Mukherjee last night made a courtesy call on Jatiya Party acting chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury at his Gulshan residence. They discussed matters of mutual interests as well as current political situation during one and a half hours meeting from 8 pm, the party sources said, reports UNB.

Spl care baby unit at BIRDEM

A special care baby unit was inaugurated Saturday at BIRDEM Hospital to ensure particular treatment of newly-born babies. The unit, a project of the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh was inaugurated by Alamgir M A Kabir, President of the Association, according to a press release, reports BSS.



Launches crammed with home-bound passengers prepare to leave the Sadarghat terminal on the eve of the 96-hour hartal yesterday.

— Star photo

96-hr hartal begins

By Staff Correspondent

A 96-hour hartal, the longest ever in the country, begins this morning except in Rajshahi division at the call of the major opposition political parties.

Flood-hit Rajshahi division and vehicles carrying relief materials there have been exempted from the hartal.

The four-day hartal, adding to a Friday holiday prompted a home-going spree in the capital city.

Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami called the hartal as part of their ongoing agitation programme to press their demand for dissolution of parliament and holding of general elections under a neutral caretaker government.

Ambulance, medicine and food shops, vehicles carrying newspapers and journalists, kutchha bazar, fire brigade, electricity, gas, water and conservancy services will remain outside the purview of the hartal. The hartal has

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The government has identified 54 city points as troubled areas, the sources said.

Meanwhile the three major parties have taken preparations and called upon the people to make the hartal a success.

The Dhaka city unit of Awami League yesterday held an extended meeting to discuss preparations to make the 96-hour hartal a success.

Party chief Sheikh Hasina addressed the meeting as chief guest, while the city unit president and Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif was in the chair.

Many of the city roads, usually having menacing traffic jams, were free yesterday. There was no usual evening "one-km jam" on the Ele-

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Jatiya party Acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury in a statement last night urged the people to observe the hartal to lead the on-going agitation for caretaker government to success.

Jamaat-e-Islami public secretary Abdul Kader Molla in a statement also called upon its leaders and workers as well as people in general to make the hartal a success.

A large number of working people left the city for home yesterday, rather in a festive mood, to spend the five consecutive 'holidays' created by the four-day hartal.

Out-going inter-district buses were seen packed with passengers while there were relatively lesser number of passengers in the in-coming ones.

Official sources said that the Home Ministry has issued a circular incorporating 10-point directive for all concerned to facilitate normal attendance of the officials and employees during the non-stop general strike called by the Opposition.

According to the circular, the officers and the employees will be allowed to stay at the Secretariat office rooms during night hours from 15 to 18 October.

The management of the Secretariat canteen has been advised to arrange adequate food while the authorities concerned have been asked to ensure uninterrupted sup-

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10-pt directive to keep Sectt functioning

By Staff Correspondent

The authorities have taken special measures for smooth functioning of Bangladesh Secretariat, the administrative nerve-centre of the government, during the 96-hour hartal.

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Letter: PM may take more time

By Nurul Kabir

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is likely to take some more time to write to Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina for settling the political disputes across the table, sources close to the premier said yesterday.

"She is likely to wait for a few days to see the fate of the move for a negotiation made by the group of five eminent citizens", an influential leader of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) told this correspondent, on the condition of anonymity yesterday.

The BNP policy-makers hinted early last week that the Prime Minister may write the letter either before the beginning of the Opposition called 96-hour hartal, or before her departure for the United States of America on October 20. She is scheduled to address the United Nations' General Assembly in New York.

The former Leader of the Opposition in Parliament announced that her party if voted to power, would hold elections under caretaker government. "We have that courage."

"I never asked the Prime Minister to resign just for change of power. I want people to cast their votes freely," she said.

While talking to this correspondent yesterday, the BNP leader, who is also a minister, said a letter merely inviting the AL chief to a dialogue would not help resolve the crisis unless there was a "sound basis for the discussion."

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