

## Prokrichi urges govt Repeal admin cadre promotion orders

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of the Prokrichi-BCS Action Council, representing professional cadre of officials, yesterday urged the government to repeal the mass promotion orders of 1992 and 1995.

Addressing a press conference at BMA Bhawan, the Council Chairman Dr M A Majid warned that they would launch an action programme if their 17-point demand was not met by November 16.

"The government will have to shoulder all responsibilities if the Council members leave their institutions, paralysing activities in hospitals, power, gas, post and telecommunications", he told the newsmen.

Demanding implementation of the order of January 9, 1994 to eliminate anomalies in pay-structure and recommendations of Dr Martin Committee, Dr Majid urged the government to provide 50 per cent selection grade at the initial stage of all cadres.

Criticising the government for allowing mass promotion in Administration Cadre, the BMA leader said the government had become hostage in the hands of members of a specific Cadre.

Referring to their October 1 meeting with the PM, Majid said the PM specifically assured them that no "mass promotion" would be made and all promotions would be determined on the basis of merit and competency.

But 201 officers of the BCS (admin) cadre had been promoted on October 9 by-passing rules and regulations, Majid said.

The Prokrichi programmes include organisational tour, publicity and rallies throughout the country from October 16 to November 10, mass leave and day-long token hunger strike in Dhaka on October 26, representatives' conference at Engineers Institution on November 15 and day-long work stoppage and grand rally in the city on November 16.

The demands of the Prokrichi-BCS Action Council also include implementation of the order of January 8, 1994 regarding removal of discrepancy in pay-scale, providing 50 per cent selection grade at the beginning of all cadres, withdrawal of deputy commissioners (DCs) and thana nirbahi officers (TNOs) from different committees excluding those related to land and magistracy, measures for implementation of the 17-point demand as assured by the PM and withdrawal of repressive measures taken against Prokrichi members.

## JMB construction

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The bridge, had already been completed while the work on the main bridge started today just one year after Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia laid the foundation stone.

The communications minister also inaugurated the work on guide bund, a major part of river training, at the Sirajganj end of the bridge earlier in the morning.

Oli Ahmed said most modern technologies are being used in constructing the Jamuna bridge and about Taka 1,000 crore has already been spent.

Some 720 million US dollars, will be spent to complete the project — of which, 120 million dollar will be funded by the government and 200 million dollar each by the Japanese government, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

Recalling the early difficult days of the project, Oli said the donors once refused to provide funds for the bridge, pushing it towards uncertainty.

"But we have overcome all the obstacles and today the work on the main bridge is being started," he said.

The minister expressed firm hope that the bridge will be completed within its schedule time of December 1997.

The pile driving work started today with the help of a huge hydraulic hammer which presses pile with 1,000 tonnes of weight at each stroke. The construction of 121 piles will be completed in nine months.

After completion, the 4.8 km bridge will have 49 spans while it will be 18.5 metre wide with four road lanes.

Provisions would be kept for setting up of a meter-

### 96-hr hartal

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phant Road or at Mouchak crossing.

There was a lesser number of rickshaws and autorickshaws on the city roads and rickshawpullers and autorickshaw drivers were asking for higher fares on the pretext of the four-day hartal.

Several rickshawpullers told this correspondent yesterday that many rickshawpullers in different parts of the city had packed up and gone home.

There was also pressure in the city's kitchen markets as housewives thronged those to buy essentials for the next four days.

Many better-off people also left the city either for foreign countries or holiday resorts in the country. According to reports received from Cox's Bazar, the country's major holiday resort, most of the hotels there have been fully booked by holiday makers mostly from Dhaka.

Video rentals in the city have made brisk business as a section of wealthy people prepare to spend the time indoors with some entertainment seeing video. However, some people are already afraid of boredom.

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia laying foundation stone of National Medical College in the city yesterday. — PID photo

## New medical

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Referring to Dhaka National Medical Institute Hospital, she said it has been upgraded to 300 beds from only 65 beds. Now the hospital has been turned into a centre of modern treatment with the help of government grants as well as donations from philanthropists and grants from Japan and the USA.

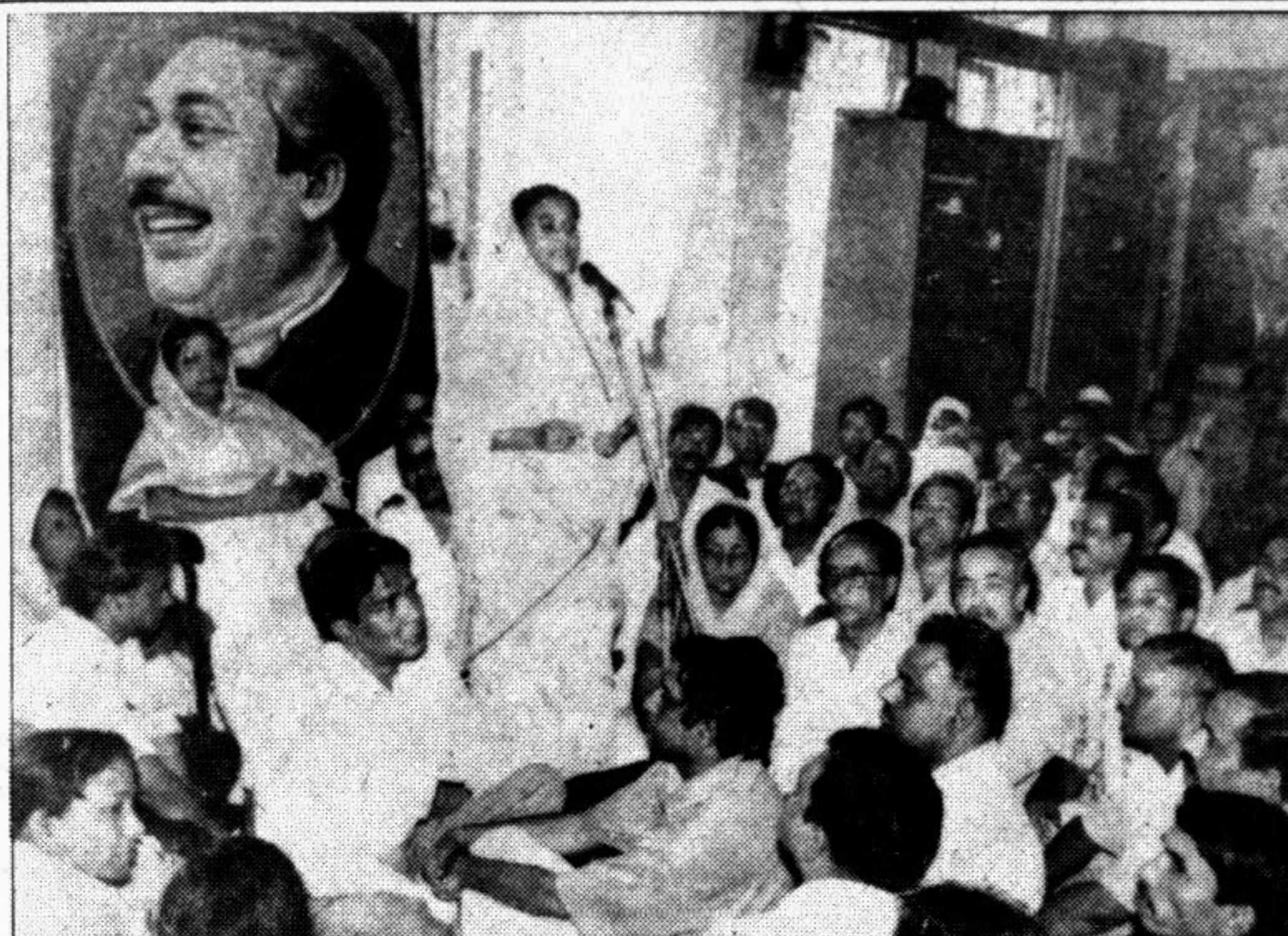
The Prime Minister expressed her satisfaction that the hospital would offer free treatment to poor patients.

She said the government, in its efforts to expand medical facilities in the country, has given permission to set up the Dhaka National Medical College inside the hospital. The MBBS course was introduced here from 1994-95 academic year.

The government has given an initial grant of Tk 45 lakh to the college, Begum Zia said assuring that the government will be giving grants to bear the expenses of the hospital. On this account, the government has given a Tk 1.20 crore grant during the current year.

## Dacoity at Comilla Zilla School

COMILLA, Oct 15: Dacoits looted Tk 81,900 from Comilla Zilla School on Saturday night, police said. They said a gang broke open the door of the office of the school and an almirah, and decamped with the cash at midnight. The school authorities filed a case with Kotwali thana, reports UNB.



Awami League president Sheikh Hasina addressing the party's city unit yesterday calling for making the 96-hour hartal a success. — Star photo

## Hasina

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neutral caretaker government.

She urged the people to make the 96-hour hartal a success. She requested government officials not to attend offices during hartal hours. "If any untoward situation arises for any reason, the opposition will not be responsible", she warned.

"The Prime Minister is not accepting the demand for caretaker government apprehending that she will be sent to jail for corruption. I can assure that she will not be sent to jail," Hasina said.

President of the city unit of AL Mohammad Hanif presided over the meeting which was also addressed by Syeda Zohara Tajuddin, Zillur Rahman, Sajeda Chowdhury, Tofael Ahmed and Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya.

## FBCCI team off to Colombo

A six-member delegation of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) left Dhaka yesterday for Colombo to attend a seminar of SAPTA, reports UNB.

## Housewives advised to invest in stock market

While women investors, particularly housewives, were encouraged at a function yesterday to put their surplus in the securities market, the regulators suggested them to be cautious in making investment decision, reports UNB.

At an investment seminar, the speakers — a minister and the chiefs of both the market watchdog and the Dhaka bourse — highlighted the need for women to come forward to participate in stocks to reap the profits the market now offers.

They said the women community, after acquiring proper knowledge about the market behaviours, should put their investible surplus in the capital market, breaking the traditional habit of savings with banks, for higher profit margin.

"Womenfolk will have to come forward side by side the men, but by managing the house properly ... they should develop an attitude of savings," said Shipping Minister M K Anwar, inaugurating the day-long seminar.

Rapport Bangladesh Limited arranged the investment seminar for the housewives, second of this kind, at a local hotel. A large number of women from all segments assembled to know about investment in the stock market.

While explaining market mechanisms and the procedures of investment, Securities and Exchange Commis-

SEC Chairman Sultan-uz Zaman Khan also sounded a note of warning about possible unpleasant consequences of making investment in a capital market full of "elements of speculation and contains high risk."

But the SEC chief was contradicted by the Chairman of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). "Risk is everywhere. And that risk has to be taken boldly," said Khurshid Alam.

Alam, who chaired the inaugural session of the seminar, also said that DSE had achieved significant growth in recent years and the annual turnover would cross the Tk 10 billion mark this year.

## Mukim Gazi jailed for 12 more yrs

A Court yesterday convicted Mukim Gazi alias Martin for possessing illegal arms and sentenced him to 12 years rigorous imprisonment, reports UNB.

Mukim Gazi, 50, a notorious criminal, is already in Dhaka Central Jail serving a total of 85 years' imprisonment against more than a dozen cases. Twelve more cases are still pending against him awaiting disposal.

According to the prosecution of the present case, Demra police, arrested Mukim Gazi on January 3, 1992 from a house in Konapara area of Demra and recovered a pistol with bullet.

A case was registered with Demra police station in this connection.

During the trial, the court examined 12 witnesses. After hearing both sides, Additional Sessions Judge Mohammad Showkat Hossain gave the verdict.

## CU BSS (Pass) exams results announced

CHITTAGONG, Oct 15: The University of Chittagong today announced the results of BSS (Pass) examinations 1993 held under the university in December 1994 and January 1995, reports BSS.

Seven hundred and thirty-two regular students appeared in the examinations of whom 338 passed.

The percentage of pass was 46.1.

Of the successful examinees, 21 secured second class while 317 got third class.

There were 137 external examinees of whom 36 came out successful.

The university also announced the results of BSS (Pass) Supplementary Examination held in December 1994 and January 1995.

## World Food Day today

The World Food Day will be observed in the country as elsewhere in the world today. The theme of the day this year is "Food for All," reports UNB.

In a message on the occasion, President Abdur Rahman Biswas said the observance of the day is aimed to create awareness about nutritious food habit, increase food production and ensure food security.

In another message, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said food is the main problem for the people of the Third World countries. So the World Food Day is very much significant for the developing countries.

Identifying hunger and poverty as the hindrances on way to development, Begum Zia said Bangladesh has made remarkable headway in modernising agro-technology with international cooperation to alleviate poverty.

## JB HSC results

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Kaliganj M U College, Jhenidah.

Mosammet Asma Jahan Kushe of Government B M College topped the list of successful candidates in Commerce Group with 820 marks. Mohammad Lutfor Rahman of Azam Khan Commerce College, Khulna and Sulptia Bose of Keshabpur College, Jessore got the second and third position respectively in the commerce group.

Among the successful women candidates in science group, Afrin Sultana of Government B M College got the top position with 906 marks. The second position went to Farjana Yasmin of Government Girls College, Khulna.

## Islampur College

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and Shumon were assaulted. They were admitted to the thana health complex.

The JCD activists of the college then brought out a procession and ransacked seven to eight shops, one of which belongs to the thana Awami League president.

The BCL activists retaliated by ransacking the house of Begum Rahima women Member of Parliament and a BNP leader. The MP alleged, the attackers damaged her TV among many things and looted valuable goods from her house.

The BCL activists also ransacked the houses of the thana BNP president and the Secretary as well as some seven to eight shops at the Islampur bazar, police said.

Three BCL workers and an Awami League activist were arrested.

Riot police have been deployed to avert further violence.

Both the JCD and the BCL lodged separate cases with the Islampur thana.

## The Midnight File

### Russian bus hijack drama ends

MOSCOW, Oct 15: Russian security forces stormed a hijacked bus in the heart of Moscow early today and shot dead an unidentified masked gunman who had held 27 South Korean tourists to ransom. The lightning operation ended a 10-hour drama, reports Reuter.

## Israel to accelerate pullout from WB towns

GAZA STRIP, Oct 15: Israel today agreed to accelerate its withdrawal from West Bank towns, clearing the way for Palestinian elections by January 22, foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO leader Yasser Arafat announced, reports AFP.

"The redeployment will begin on the 25th of October in Jenin," Peres told a joint news conference after talks here. "Our target is that the elections will be held before the 22nd of January."

Jenin, in the north of the West Bank, is the first of six

## Bodos kill 11 more in Assam

GUWAHATI, Oct 15: In a major upsurge of violence in lower Assam at least 11 persons were killed and several others injured in the past 24 hours. Eight persons were killed in a single incident late last night, reports PTI.

Suspected Bodo extremists gunned down eight persons, including three women and a child, and injured five others seriously at Amarpur village in Nalbari district last night. One police ASI, one Bodo and one school student were gunned down in different incidents in the troubled lower Assam earlier.

The Assam Chief Minister Hiteswar Saikia, rushed to the spot today to assess the situation and announced ex-gratia payment to the next of kin of the victims.

## Ittefaq incident Renu makes confessional statement

Mohammad Hossain alias Renu, the main accused in the Ittefaq murder case, made a confessional statement under Section 164 of the CrPc before a magistrate yesterday, reports UNB.

Renu, 40, was produced before the CMM Court here yesterday at the end of the end of five days' police remand. His total remand period was 9 days in three terms.

Metropolitan Magistrate Sharifuddin recorded Renu's statement. Later, the court sent him to Dhaka central jail.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed and Advocate Khondoker Mahub Hossain moved his (Renu's) bail petition and Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Shahiduddin Ahmed fixed October 18 for order.

## Rehabilitation

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Reviewing the public health situation, the meeting decided that the government and UNICEF will jointly sink 1,000 new tubewells in the flood-hit areas and in Kurigram and Lalmonirhat districts.

If necessary, the number of tubewells will be increased. Besides, the contribution money for re-sinking of 7,000 inoperative tubewells have been waived and their repairing will be done free of cost while the spares will be provided free.

The meeting noted that diarrhoea is spreading in the flood-hit districts. The health ministry said that it has started activities to check diseases.

A task force has been constituted with the Director General of Health as head and comprising representatives from UNICEF, WHO and ICDDR,B for providing medicare services to the flood-affected people.

The public health institution has been directed to prepare 20,000 bags of cholera saline a day by arranging double shift. UNICEF will supply 50,000 bags of cholera saline and 30,000 packets of ORS while WHO will supply an additional 30 lakh water purification tablets.

Recognising the assistance from NGOs, the meeting decided that the state minister for disaster management and relief will meet them soon and request to supplement government efforts in diarrhoea control, sanitation and supplying of drinking water in the flooded areas.

Speaking in the meeting, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said the army and the civil administration would continue their joint relief and rehabilitation works in the flood-hit areas.

## BCS (Edn)

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formed by the Director General of the Directorate of Health.

The subject wise break-up of the selected candidates: Bangla-96, English-82, Economics-46, Political Science-61, Islamic History-177, History-80, Philosophy-157, Accountancy-96, Management-83, Physics-49, Chemistry-55, Mathematics-46, Botany-28, Zoology-106, Social Welfare-25, Social Science-18, Islamic Education-25, Arabic-22, Home Economic-10, Psychology-11, Geography-26, Statistics-11, Soil Science-10, Agricultural Science-11, Marketing-2, Pali-2, Sanskrit-11, Institutional Food and Management-1 and Nursery-1.

## 10-pt directive

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ply of power and water in all the buildings during these four days.

The telephone department has also been asked to keep all telephone lines inside Secretariat in order.

The VIP gate of the Secretariat will remain open round the clock while other gates will open at 5:30 am everyday until 19 October. Collapsible gates and doors of all ministries and departments will be kept open even after dusk and some lifts will also operate beyond office hours to facilitate movement of those who stay in the offices during the hartal.

All the staff bus and other official transports were earlier asked to enter the Secretariat premises carrying officers and employees before the hartal begins this morning at 6.

Special contingents of police will be deployed inside the Secretariat and an ambulance and a fire brigade vehicle will be stationed there to face any situation.