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Farmgate area in the city during the hartal hours yesterday.

— Star photo

Hartal: 100 hurt, 250 held

From Page 1
League and hit him on the head with a bamboo stick.

Four persons were stabbed at Mirpur Section 10 area. They were identified as Shahid, Dewar, Mujibur and Noor Alam. They were admitted to the DMCH where sources said that they were stabbed as they kept their shops open during the hartal hours.

A policeman, Abdur Rahim and a passer-by, Jamal Husain, were hit by bullets in a shootout between the supporters and opponents of the hartal at Shahjahanpur. Sergeant Akhtar was also injured in brickbating during the clash.

Another police official was injured during clashes between pickets and anti-hartal pickets at Badda.

Police resorted to lathicharge on a Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) procession led by its president Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anney and general secretary Habibunnabi Sohel, near Shahbagh crossing at 8 am and picked up four JCD

Newspapers

From Page 1
At a post-hartal press briefing, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan termed the attacks on the transports as acts of sabotage.

Mannan Bhuiyan also denied his party's involvement in other destructive activities including damaging cars before and during the hartal.

"We instructed our workers not to indulge in destructive activities during the hartal," he commented.

The vehicles carrying journalists and employees of The Daily Bhorer Kagoj, The BSS, The Daily Star, The Independent, The Daily Aiker Kagoj, The Daily Khabar and The Daily Dinkal were damaged and the occupants assaulted by the pro-hartal people.

Prohassan Amin, a reporter of the Bhorer Kagoj, was slapped and his vehicle damaged at Sheorapara under Mirpur thana in the morning.

The pro-hartal workers swooped on an autorickshaw of The Daily Star at the Jatrabari crossing at about 7:30 am. The attackers beat up the driver, Moslem, although he showed his identity card, which was snatched away.

An employee of the BSS and the driver of the autorickshaw carrying him were seriously injured in an attack on them in the same area.

An employee of the Daily Dinkal, the mouthpiece of the BNP, was also injured when a group of youngsters attacked his autorickshaw at Kamalapur. His money and other belongings were reportedly snatched.

activists allegedly for damaging rickshaws and autorickshaws.

Pickets hurled bricks and damaged windcreens of the five double decker BRTC buses at Kazipara in Mirpur at about 10:30 am. The buses were moving under a police escort. Zahid Chowdhury, one of the driver of one of the buses was injured.

Out of six intercity trains, five left the Kamalapur railway station for destinations in Noakhali, Sylhet, Dinajpur, Chittagong, Kishoreganj as per schedule, railway sources said. One intercity train could not operate due to technical reasons, the sources said.

Three intercity trains reached Dhaka from Sylhet, Chittagong and Jagannathganj, they said.

Some intercity and local trains were intercepted by the pickets in Kushtia, Chandpur, Mymensingh, Maynami in Comilla and at Malibang in the city.

Rail link between Khulna and the rest of the country remained snarled, our correspondent reported.

Our Staff Correspondent reports from Chittagong: Sporadic blasts of cocktails, and picketing marked yesterday's eight-hour hartal in the port city while normal life was disrupted, police and witnesses said.

A teenager, Sagir Meah, was injured in an explosion of cracker at North Agrabad.

BGMEA condemns attack on garments factories

By Staff Correspondent

The President of the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Mostafa Golam Quddus has expressed concern over the attacks on some garments factories at Mirpur and Rampura in the city during the hartal called by the BNP yesterday.

Condemning the attacks, the BGMEA president said the miscreants attacked and tried to set fire to the factories without any provocation.

Bangladeshi worker dies in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Mar 23: A 23-year-old Bangladeshi worker was crushed to death Sunday when a steel beam fell on him, the Malaysian news agency reported, says AP. The victim, Ashgar Latif, was working at a factory site in the Oakland Industrial area in Seremban, 80 kilometers (48 miles) south of Kuala Lumpur, when the beam fell from a crane that was carrying it, the Bernama news agency said.

Drug trader missing

A drug trader was missing after he drew Tk two lakh from a bank at Babubazar to purchase medicine from Mitford on Saturday, reports UNB.

Md Abdul Alim, a medicine shop owner of Comilla, encashed a demand draft worth Tk two lakh at the Babubazar branch of Pubali Bank to buy the medicine. He was missing since then, family sources said.

The said Alim, who comes to Dhaka every week to buy medicine for his shop, was allegedly kidnapped last year from Sayedabad bus terminal. The kidnapers took away Tk 60,000 and left him at Suhrawardy Uddyan.

Dacoity at city house

By Staff Correspondent

Dacoits looted gold ornaments worth over Tk two lakh from a house on Tajmahal Road under Mohammadpur thana in the city early yesterday.

A gang of about five dacoits entered the house of one Syed Ahmed Kabir in the ground floor by breaking the iron grill of a window at 2:40 am, police said.

The attackers, equipped with fire arms then looted the gold ornaments from an almira.

A case has been filed with Mohammadpur thana. None was arrested in this connection till last night, police said.

Share scam

From Page 1

Other members of the committee are Prof Zahurul Huq of the Economics Department of Dhaka University, former law Secretary Mirza Asaduzzaman Al-Faruq and Moniruddin Ahmed, chairman of BJMC. The FBCCI, however, refused to nominate a representative in the committee.

3 accords

From Page 1

Two eminent Turkish scholars, a leading anthropologist and a specialist on South Asian affairs, will hold discussions with local university professors.

A reception would be accorded in honour of President Demirel by the Turkish envoy in Dhaka, K Ozcan Davaz, tomorrow evening.

The large media delegation accompanying President Suleyman Demirel would be accorded a reception at an exclusive city club by The Daily Star tomorrow afternoon.

President Demirel along with South African President Nelson Mandela and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat would attend the official programmes of the Silver Jubilee celebrations of Independence at Suhrawardy Uddyan on March 26.

On March 27, the visiting Turkish President will address the local business community at a meeting organised at a city hotel by the FBCCI.

President Demirel will leave for Chittagong the same day where he will inaugurate a six-kilometre road in the port city named "Ataturk Avenue" in honour of the great Turkish leader, Mustafa Kemal Pasha.

He will visit the Chittagong Anderkilla Jame Masjid and present some gifts. Later he will attend a lunch hosted in his honour at Hotel Agrabad by the Mayor of Chittagong.

President Demirel and his entourage will depart for Turkey by a special flight of Turkish Airlines from Chittagong Airport later on the afternoon on March 27.

EUCSU

From Page 1

tantrik Chhatra Front (SCF), Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), Jatiya Chhatra Samaj and Islami Chhatra Shibir. The Jatiya Party-backed Chhatra Samaj is contesting the EUCSU election for the first time this year. On the other hand, the JSD-backed Chhatra League is not contesting the election.

A rumour spread on the BUET campus yesterday that Chhatra Shibir was boycotting the election. No Shibir leader was available for comment.

Bail stayed

From Page 1

After rejection of her bail prayer by the District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka the present petition was filed.

Attorney General K S Nabi along with Advocate on-Record Sharifuddin Chaklader moved the stay petition, while Advocate on-Record Md. Aftabuddin Ahmed appeared for Zobaidda Rashid.

In the High Court Division Advocate Mahbubur Rahman moved for the petitioner, while the Attorney General opposed the petition.

7-pt action plan

From Page 1

strengthening economic and commercial cooperation among the member countries.

* Establishment of a regime of trade preferences among the OIC countries as prelude to the ultimate goal of establishing a common market.

* Establishment of mechanism to ensure free flow of development funds, manpower and technology from resource-surplus to resource-scarce countries.

* Devising practical ways and means of coordinating actions and harmonising positions on relevant political issues at international level affecting the Ummah.

* Setting up of appropriate permanent mediation arbitration mechanism with a view to reducing tensions and resolving disputes among the member-countries.

* Elaborating appropriate modalities for preventing prompting causes of tension and disputes between Islamic countries, and

* Strengthening and invigorating the General Secretariat of the Organisation of Islamic Conference to make it an effective and efficient vehicle of implementing the objectives of the Ummah in 21st century.

The member-states, consistent with the Charter of the OIC, must make a collective effort to preserve Islamic values and promote greater understanding and brotherhood among themselves, she told the conference.

"Terrorism, fundamentalism and intolerance are alien to Islam and there is no place of parochialism and bigotry in our faith," she said.

Hasina recalled that over two decades ago in 1974, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, led the first Bangladesh delegation to the historic OIC Summit in Lahore.

Board mills gutted in N'ganj

NARAYANGANJ, Mar 23: A board mills was gutted in a devastating fire at Jail Road, Pagla, this morning, reports BSS.

The blaze broke out at the Awlad Hossain Board Mills from an electrical short circuit at about 10:30 am, according to fire service sources.

Two godowns filled with corrugated iron sheets and a machine room were gutted.

Four fire tenders from Hajiganj and Postagola fire stations rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire.

NBR's request to job seekers

Job seekers for the posts of Inspector of Customs, Excise and VAT Collectorate, and preventive officer of Sea Customs, have been requested not to submit their applications till further notice, reports UNB.

An official handout said yesterday, the request was made after the High Court Division of Supreme Court imposed injunction regarding appointment to the posts under National Board of Revenue (NBR).

Mannan Bhuiyan

From Page 1

Replying to another question, the BNP secretary general said that his party would go ahead with the earlier announced month-long agitation programme ending on March 30.

Yesterday's hartal was called to protest the signing of agreed minutes on giving transit to India under a revised programme, he told another questioner.

Mannan Bhuiyan also demanded immediate release of the four top-ranking party leaders arrested on Thursday and others detained yesterday and also withdrawal of 'false' cases against them.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, Abdus Salam Talukdar, Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddiqui, Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Opposition Whip Jinal Abedin Faruk, M K Anwar MP, and Khurshid Jahan Huq MP were present at the press conference.

Bhuiyan congratulated the countrymen on their observing the hartal in the face of "attacks made by ruling party activists" on pro-strike processions at different places. "We specially thank the working people who sacrificed for the strike."

He said BNP tried its best to observe the hartal in a peaceful manner, but the government unleashed attacks on the peaceful processions of BNP at different places across the country.

The BNP Secretary General said the ruling party activists made an attack on a party procession at Gulistan and injured former Home Minister and BNP standing committee member Abdul Matin Chowdhury seriously.

He accused ruling party MP Haji Selim of hitting Lalbagh thana BNP leader Khatib with his pistol.

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Double murder: No arrest yet

By Staff Correspondent

None could be arrested till last night in connection with the sensational double murder at a manpower recruiting agency office in Motijheel Commercial Area in the city on Saturday.

Police said that three unidentified persons were accused in the case filed in this regard by one Faruq Hossain who claimed to be a friend of the two victims — identified as Shishir, 28, and Amal, 27.

Faruq was accompanying the two when they came under attack, police added quoting him.

Shishir and Amal were gunned down by an unidentified gang inside the office of the private recruiting agency Metro Trade International located on the third floor of a multi-storied building near Shapla crossing at about 5:30 pm.

Police was yet to find out the motive behind the killings.

NBL mastercard launched

The NBL mastercard, the revolving line of credit for enhancing consumerism issued for the first time by a Bangladeshi bank, was formally launched in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria launched the mastercard issued by the National Bank Limited saying that it was the symptom of positive changes carried out by the present government for the overall progress and growth of the national economy.

With NBL chairman Abdul Awal Mintoo in the chair, the launching ceremony was also addressed by Governor of Bangladesh Bank Lutfor Rahman Sarker as the special guest.

Train accident

From Page 1

cials suspected involvement of pickets for today's hartal in uprooting the railway fishplates to disrupt train movement.

Train movement on Chittagong-Dohazari line remained suspended following the accident.

When contacted, General Manager of Railway (East) Forhad Reza said that a relief train was sent to the spot to salvage the train. Besides, a Railway team was sent to investigate the accident.

He, however, said that details could not be known immediately as telecommunication system of the railway remained inoperative from the morning due to a nor'wester that lashed the port city.

Khaleda

From Page 1

suming power, this government had pushed the country to a reign of terror, misrule and anarchy.

The government which cannot resolve the people's problems, the government that can hand over the country to others, has no right to stay in power. People have no support to this government as it has caused disruption in public life," she said.

The BNP chairperson criticised the government for "selling out the country's independence and sovereignty" by giving corridor to India, for loadshedding, water and gas crisis, and widespread extortion and terrorism across the country.

Referring to the SSC question paper leakage, she said, "The government is conspiring to destroy the future of our next generation in a pre-planned way. It is trying to keep the whole nation uneducated."

Speaking on the occasion, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan called upon the people to join today's party rally to protest the "government's repression on BNP workers" during the hartal.

Ctg BNP factions

From Page 1

backed faction organised its rally at New Market crossing today.

However, Abdullah Al Noman and Oli Ahmed who were supposed to attend the rally, remained absent. A leader of Noman faction said Noman could not attend the rally as he was indisposed.

He informed that Salauddin Quader initially agreed to hold a joint rally but later held a separate rally.

The rival factions also held separate public meetings a few weeks ago on the same day in the city allegedly defying the party high command's instruction to postpone both the meetings.

Bangabandhu

From Page 1

structed the prosecution side to hand over certified copies of relevant documents to the defence lawyers.

The CID, after two and a half months of investigation, submitted chargesheet in the case to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) on January 15.

The case was lodged with Dhanmondi thana in October last year.

The six under trial accused had their first appearance in the Court of District and Sessions Judge on March 12. Hearing of the case will, however, be held in a building near the district court premises so that the court could carry out its business smoothly.

The judge's court had earlier received the case records from the CMM's court on March 1.

AL on hartal

From Page 1

Karim, a navy officer and father of a BCL leader, was killed in Laxmipur.

The AL leader blamed the BNP for damaging vehicles, exploding bombs, and attacking the pedestrians in the name of enforcing a half-day hartal.

কেন এই বিদ্যুৎ সংকট

প্রিয় দেশবাসী,
এই দেশ আমার, আপনার, আমাদের সবার।
দেশের সমস্যা ও সাফল্যে আপনিও সমান অংশীদার।
তাই আপনাকে জানাতে চাই - কেন এই বিদ্যুৎ সংকট।

বিগত বছরগুলোতে ক্রমবর্ধমান চাহিদার সাথে সঙ্গতি রেখে
বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন এবং গ্যাস সরবরাহ বৃদ্ধি করা হয়নি।
যার ফলে আজ সারা দেশে লোড শেডিং হচ্ছে।

এই সংকট মোকাবেলায় বর্তমান সরকার সর্বাঙ্গিক চেষ্টা চালাচ্ছে

এপ্রিল মাসের মধ্যে ৫৮ কিলোমিটার দীর্ঘ আশুগঞ্জ-বাখরাবাদ গ্যাস পাইপ
লাইনের কাজ সমাপ্ত হচ্ছে। এর ফলে দেশের উত্তর - পূর্বাঞ্চলের গ্যাস চটুগ্রাম
অঞ্চলে সরবরাহ সম্ভব হবে এবং গ্যাস চালিত বন্ধ বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্রগুলো পুনরায়
চালু হবে। ফলশ্রুতিতে মে মাসে বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন উল্লেখযোগ্যভাবে বৃদ্ধি পাবে।

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মনোহরদী-নরসিংদী এবং মেঘনা-বাখরাবাদ এই দুইটি গ্যাস
পাইপ লাইনের নির্মাণ কাজ দ্রুত সমাপ্তির পথে। কৈলাশটিলায়
একটি নতুন কুপের গ্যাস শীঘ্রই সরবরাহের আওতাভুক্ত হবে।
ফলে গ্যাস চালিত বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্র সমূহের উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি পাবে।

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এ বছরের জুলাই মাসে রাউজান-এর নতুন দ্বিতীয় বিদ্যুৎ
উৎপাদন কেন্দ্র চালু এবং বেশ কয়েকটি বিদ্যুৎ
উৎপাদন কেন্দ্রের পুনর্বাসন সমাপ্ত হলে শীঘ্রই
আরো অতিরিক্ত বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ সম্ভব হবে।

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এছাড়া সরকারী এবং বেসরকারী উদ্যোগে বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন ও গ্যাস
সরবরাহ বৃদ্ধির লক্ষ্যে ব্যাপক কর্মসূচী হাতে নেওয়া হয়েছে।

বিদ্যুতের এই সংকটকালে কৃচ্ছতা সাধন করুন, বিদ্যুতের অপচয় বন্ধ করুন
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যথাসময়ে জানানো হবে।

ভারপ্রাপ্ত সচিব

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