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ON BOARD COURIER
EACH DAY EVERY DAY
TO INDIA

Jatiya Party brought out a truck procession in the city yesterday protesting fuel price enhancement. — Star photo

Dawn-to-dusk hartal

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enhanced prices in the international market and pressure by donor agencies. Price of petrol has been raised by over 60 per cent.

The sudden price-hike sparked off street protests by opposition groups and transport unions. A partial transport strike is still going on in capital Dhaka and other parts of the country.

The hartal was announced as the government rejected the BNP's call to rescind its decision on the new prices of petroleum products.

The government said the price-hike will not affect the common people including farmers and transport sectors as the raise in the prices of diesel and kerosene is nominal.

As BNP declared the hartal, Jamaat-e-Islami and the dissident faction of General Ershad's Jatiya Party, also called dawn-to-dusk general strike simultaneously.

The government has proved to be a complete failure in running the state affairs and resolving people's problems in last 14 months," Begum Zia said in a statement on Friday, prior to her departure for Pakistan and USA.

The BNP chief left Dhaka for Karachi yesterday evening on a

Space theatre

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give its audience 'a touch of reality' as they go through spatial and terrestrial treks. Prof Rahman said that five large-format educational feature films as well as five films on 'inter-planetary journeys' would be shown every day at the theatre.

The screen would be covering the front, the upper part and the side parts of the dome and the audience would feel as if they were part of the journey," Rahman said.

He said the five feature films would relate to journeys through the Arctic, the Amazon and other interesting places of the earth while the spatial journey would explore planets.

Only five companies in the world are able to manufacture such theatres. They are Carl Zeiss of Germany, Spitz Ink. of USA, Goto Optical Manufacturing Co and Minolta Planetarium Company of Japan and RS Automation of France, he said.

"We will float international tender by September and pick one of these companies to build the theatre," the project director said.

Doctors charge higher fees

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absence of proper inspection.

When asked about this, Dr Bhuiyan said, "If a patient wants a doctor to give a receipt, he should do so."

Majority of the patients, during a random survey by this correspondent last week, said some doctors charge very high fees from ordinary patients.

The fees for consultation should be fixed with a maximum and minimum limits, they stressed. There should at least be some sort of check on the fees and action should be taken following complaints, if any, suggested 38 out of 50 patients.

About the allegations regarding pathological tests he said, "We do not have any specific allegation but any one concerned may come to our office and file complaint. Though we have no system of taking formal action against the defaulter, we normally take it up with the doctor concerned practitioner."

But the other patients, unaware of the law, thought doctors should have the right to fix their own rates of fees, especially if they are more experienced. This has been a traditional practice in this country.

Many patients believe high rates of fees mean a faster remedy. "A psychological effect works in the patients who think seeing popular doctors will bring faster remedy," said a physician practicing in the city's Green Road area. "For this particular reason, doctors' chambers are seen crowded in some places," he added.

A senior doctor said, "There are choices. If one wishes to see a doctor who charges Tk 200 and another wishes to see a doctor having more experience in the same field and charging Tk 500, it is up to the individuals. But patients should receive the same quality of consultation, irrespective of the cost."

Many patients also alleged

'Pakistan capable of fighting a war with India for over 40 days'

ISLAMABAD, Aug 23: Former Pakistani army chief Gen (retired) Mirza Aslam Beg has said that Pakistan has the capability to fight a war with India for more than 40 days and his country cannot be defeated by Indian armed forces, reports PTI.

Gen Beg, who was addressing a seminar on 50 years of Pakistan: Security achievements and prospects, said that when he retired in 1991 as the army chief, the Pakistani army had the capability to fight a war with India for over 40 days.

While stressing that it was not possible for India to defeat Pakistan, Gen Beg said that Pakistani army had achieved professional excellence with its highly educated officers and trained jawans.

Pakistan is more prepared today to face an aggression than they were in 1965 war against India, he asserted. He attributed the defeat of 1971 war to ill-planning and absence of highly professional planners.

Referring to the recent incidents of terrorism and sectarian killings in the country he said that the enemies of the country were trying to weaken the belief and faith of the Pakistani nation.

The government being isolated from the people has chosen the path of conflict to group up its fall," he said and called on the ruling party to avoid confrontation and follow healthy political culture.

Dacoity in city house

By Staff Correspondent

Dacoits took away cash, gold ornaments and valuables worth about Tk 2.73 lakh from a house on RU Mission Road under Sutrapur thana in the city yesterday.

Police said a gang of about seven dacoits entered the ground floor of the house by breaking the iron grill of a window at about 3 am.

The gang members confined the inmates of the house in a room. They broke an almirah and a locker and took away Tk 62,000 in cash, gold ornaments, a mobile telephone set and other valuables.

The dacoits left the house at about 4:30 am. None was arrested in this connection till last night.

Survey to set up by-pass rail track in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 23: The Railways authority began a field survey to establish a by-pass rail track between the Srimangal and Bhanagachh rail stations.

The decision to establish the three-kilometre new track has been taken as one kilometre rail track just attached to the Magurjhara gasfield has been declared abandoned after it was damaged during the explosion and fire at the gasfield, officials said.

The officials concerned had been ordered to complete the survey by October 30, the officials said, adding that four new rail bridges will have to be constructed for the new track.

The project may cost over Tk 25 crore. The US company Occidental will bear the cost.

CHT talks

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that doctors sometimes make patients visit them more frequently than what is necessary.

Doctors also prescribed pathological tests at particular laboratory for 'reliable results'.

When his attention was drawn to the allegations, Dr Bhuiyan said, "A doctor always makes his best efforts to find a solution to the patient's complaints. For the best diagnosis, a doctor may ask a patient to come back after certain period of time for observation, but that does not necessarily mean that the doctor is seeing the patient without any necessity."

About the allegations regarding pathological tests he said, "We do not have any specific allegation but any one concerned may come to our office and file complaint. Though we have no system of taking formal action against the defaulter, we normally take it up with the doctor concerned practitioner."

Asked about check on fees and action in case of complaints, Dr Manindra Choudhury, Director (Hospital), Head Directorate, said, "We do our best to monitor implementation of the regulations, but manpower shortage hampers efforts. Until we have a strong inspection team, it is not possible on our part to fully check the violations."

Nevertheless, rush for medical consultations at the private practitioners' chambers over the years has increased dramatically. In many cases, patients wait as long as 30 days or more to see a doctor of his choice.

Local chairmen were empowered to identify the participants. "And there began the problem. They chose mostly the

Three killed, 50 injured in road accidents

Three people, including 2 minor boys, were killed and 50 injured in road accidents in Jamalpur and Ishurdi yesterday, reports UNB.

Two people, including a minor boy, were killed and 40 others injured when a passenger coach fell into a ditch beside Pabna-Ishurdi road at Dearbaghail in Ishurdi thana yesterday.

Police said the Barisal-bound coach met with the accident at about 10 am as its driver tried to give side to another bus coming from opposite direction

Bablu killing: BNP calls hartal in Khulna Thursday

KHULNA, Aug 23: The widow of slain BNP leader Iktihar Uddin Bablu filed a case against 22 people, including a ward night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Ali was crushed under the wheels of a Dhaka-bound minibus at about 1 pm at Badchandhi village in the Sadar thana.

Protesters blocked movement of vehicles on the highway till 5 pm. The blockade was lifted after police seized the minibus.

On the same highway, 10 people were injured when a scooter and a motorcycle collided at about 12 noon in Haripur Phultala area.

The injured, Ujjal, 10, Soleman, 35, and Milton, whose age could not be known, were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

In another incident, one Abdul Barek, 28, son of Manor Uddin of Haripur village in Sadar thana, was reportedly electrocuted at about 10 in the morning.

The bodies were sent to hospital for autopsy.

Gang of cheats held in city

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday arrested seven persons including a gang of cheats from Jhikatala and Fulbaria areas and recovered Tk 26,000 and 40 bottles of phenyl syrup from their possession.

A team of Dhannondi police raided a house at Jhikatala area and arrested five alleged cheats. They are: Tasir Uddin, Imran, Anwar, Bakul and Raju. Police also recovered Tk 26,000 in cash.

Police said the arrested persons are alleged members of a gang of cheats. Recently, the gang cheated Tk 65,000 from one Mohammad Nurul Islam, a businessman of Rajdhani Supermarket, police said.

Police also arrested Shahjahan and Saiful from Fulbaria railway colony and recovered 40 bottles of smuggled phenyl syrup from their possession.

Police said clash erupted when a number of villagers caught red handed some Rohingyas who stole a buffalo from a house of the village at dawn.

Villagers clash in Sirajganj: 18 hurt

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 23: Some 18 people were injured, three seriously, in a clash between two rival groups of villagers in Sadar thana today, reports UNB.

The seriously wounded three were identified as Razzak, 20, Sumon, 8, and Rahij, 30. They were rushed to Sirajganj General Hospital.

Police said some villagers of Shialkot and Charipara clashed in the afternoon over the beating of a youth of Shialkot by some miscreants of Charipara in the morning.

Tangail transport strike called off

TANGAIL, Aug 23: Movement of traffic resumed in all routes of the district this evening as transport owners and workers called off their strike, reports UNB.

The seriously wounded three were identified as Razzak, 20, Sumon, 8, and Rahij, 30. They were rushed to Sirajganj General Hospital.

Police said some villagers of Shialkot and Charipara clashed in the afternoon over the beating of a youth of Shialkot by some miscreants of Charipara in the morning.

CHT talks

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The situation has been compounded further by the formation of a rival group of PCJSS in Tripura by renegade leader Prity Kumar Chakma. He had been accused of assassinating Shantu Larma's elder brother, Manabendra Narayan Larma, a former MP and founder of the PCJSS, in 1983 in Tripura.

On the success of the talks depends the home coming of about 40 thousand tribals who fled to Tripura in April 1986 following renewed hostilities after the collapse of peace talks between the government and the PCJSS.

Refugee leaders took a hard-line during talks with a NCCHT delegation led by Kalparnjan Chakma, MP, when it visited Tripura earlier this month to persuade the refugees to return home. The refugee leaders made some new demands like increased ration for one year for the returnees, including those who came back in 1994, raising the age limit for government service to 40 years, involvement of the UNHCR and the ICRC in repatriation and rehabilitation of the refugees back home.

These issues figured during the NCCHT-PCJSS talks in Dhaka last month. The NCCHT rejected the UNHCR involvement and told PCJSS that the refugees who returned, numbering over 7,000, had been taken care of with adequate help in cash and kind.

A ceasefire is in force in 1992. It has been extended till September 30.

The participants were to be chosen on the basis of a set of criteria like he or she has to be poor, must be residents in or close to the jungle and not an identified timber thief.

Local chairmen were empowered to identify the participants. "And there began the problem. They chose mostly the

on the narrow road.

Hafizur Rahman, 30, of Kushtia and Mintu, 10, of Dearbaghail in Ishurdi died on the spot.

Of the injured, 20 were admitted to Ishurdi thana health complex and three others at the Pabna General Hospital.

The coach driver and his helper fled the scene following the accident.

Two people were killed and 10 others injured in three separate incidents in the Sadar thana of Jamalpur district yesterday.

Traffic remained snarled for about four hours on the Dhaka-Jamalpur highway following a road accident that left the minor, Yar Ali, 3, son of one Bahadur Mia, dead.

Witnesses said Ali was crushed under the wheels of a Dhaka-bound minibus at about 1 pm at Badchandhi village in the Sadar thana.

Protesters blocked movement of vehicles on the highway till 5 pm. The blockade was lifted after police seized the minibus.

On the same highway, 10 people were injured when a scooter and a motorcycle collided at about 12 noon in Haripur Phultala area.

The injured, Ujjal, 10, Soleman, 35, and Milton, whose age could not be known, were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

In another incident, one Abdul Barek, 28, son of Manor Uddin of Haripur village in Sadar thana, was reportedly electrocuted at about 10 in the morning.

England's success salvaged a measure of pride but Australia had already retained the Ashes and took the series 3-2.

Paceman Mike Kasprowicz had appeared to thrust Australia towards victory earlier, in the day with his Test-best of seven for 36, taking England's last three wickets in five balls as they were demolished for 163 in their second innings.

Only a fifth wicket stand of 79 — the highest of the match by either side — between Graham Thorpe (62) and Mark Ramprakash (48) held the touring team at bay.

Australia moved relatively comfortably to 36 for one before four wickets tumbled for 18 as Caddick had a burst of three for 12 in his first five overs.

Ricky Ponting (20) and wicketkeeper Ian Healy (14) checked the slide by adding 34 but the breaking of that stand marked the start of a collapse in which the last five wickets crashed for 16.

The bodies were sent to hospital for autopsy.

One kidnapped in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 23: A group of armed terrorists abducted one Abdus Salam, 40, from Mohra area under Changdanga thana in the city this evening, police said.

Salam who came from Dubai few days ago was kidnapped at gunpoint at around 6 pm today while he was walking on Mohra road, police said.

The terrorists took him away by a microbus, police added, saying that he was taken hostage to realise ransom.

Police launched a drive