

# BLUE DART

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

## Dawn-to-dusk hartal

From Page 1

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

From Page 1

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

From Page 1

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.

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 (ret'd) 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.

## Survey to set up by-pass rail track in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 23: The Railway authorities 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 Magurchhara 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

From Page 1

tations.

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 Lama's elder brother, Manabendra Narayan Lama, 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 Kalpananj 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 the CHT since August 1992. It has been extended till September 30.

## 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 on the narrow road.

Hafizur Rahman, 30, of Bheramara thana in Kushtia and Mintu, 10, of Dearbaghail of 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.

## Bablu killing: BNP calls hartal in Khulna Thursday

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

Bablu, an incumbent commissioner of Ward No 25 and also a former deputy mayor of KCC, was killed in an ambush near his residence at the city's Banorgati area on Friday morning.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the district on Thursday protesting the incident. Police today launched several drives at different places, but could not arrest any of the accused.

## BNP leader Sayeed dead

Former Dhaka City BNP general secretary and leading businessman Saidur Rahman Sayeed died of heart failure in the city last night, reports UNB.

Sayeed, who took part in the party's torch procession brought out from Nawab Yusuf Market in the evening in support of today's hartal, died at about 6:30 pm, said a BNP press release.

As his death news reached the BNP office, City BNP convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka MP and other party leaders rushed to his residence.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a condolence message expressed shock at the death of Saidur Rahman Sayeed.

## Rohingyas clash with people in Teknaf

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 23: At least 15 people were injured in a clash between local people and Rohingya refugees at Nayapara village of Teknaf thana early today, reports UNB.

Police said a 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 Shialkol and Chariapara clashed in the afternoon over the beating of a youth of Shialkol by some miscreants of Chariapara 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.

## Madhupur jungle counting days

From Page 1

once dense forest, which lays in parts of the districts of Dhaka, Tangail, Gazipur and Mymensingh.

Portion of the timber-rich forest now look barren with its thickness diminishing fast.

Worse is that an attempt to conserve the remaining trees in the forest and replenish its losses faces snags because of poor planning, corruption and choosing of wrong hls.

In the late 1980s, the government with financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank, began a Tk 156 crore programme to replenish the Madhupur forest. Massive afforestation was carried out on 48,000 acres of land which were occupied and deforested between 1988 and 1996.

Some 21,084 acres in Tangail, 8,153 acres in Dhaka and 19,337 acres in Mymensingh were covered by the afforestation programme.

Nearly 20,000 local people had been involved in the programme to protect the plantations. They were offered big incentives like share of up to 50 per cent of the plants of the plantation plot allocated to them. Idea was to protect the sapling and help those grow tree.

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 chieftains were empowered to identify the participants. And there began the problem. They chose mostly the

wrong people," said one official at Proshika, an NGO which has large social afforestation programme.

Proshika has an agreement with the Ministry of Forest and Environment to help implement the social afforestation programme in Madhupur forest area. The NGO was to provide small income-generating credit to the poor people identified to protect the jungle. "Rules were flouted in identifying the participants who were to be brought under the credit programme," said Abdus Salam, an executive of Proshika.

Local people complained the chairman chose men of their choices, be poor or rich.

"One people got allocation of two or three plots in fake names. People from other areas also got allocation by providing false address and identity," said Salam.

Said Hares Ali, a poor van rickshawpuller in the area: "Most allocates have connections with influential. The poor are mostly left out. I myself was left out."

An employee of local forest office requesting anonymity said, between 65-70 allocates have got allocation by manipulation. "Many are very powerful and have political connections. Many are identified (wood) thieves."

Proshika workers complained they were not involved in the selection committees. The NGO is, therefore, hesitating to carry out their credit programme.

"We hesitate because most of



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## Some solace for England

LONDON, Aug 23: England snatched a dramatic 19-run victory over Australia as Andy Caddick and Phil Tufnell shared nine wickets in a gripping climax to the sixth and final Test at The Oval today, reports Reuter.

Paceman Caddick captured five for 42 and left-arm spinner Tufnell took four for 27 to send Australia crashing to 104 all out in pursuit of a victory target of 124 on the third day.

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 (34) 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.

## One kidnapped in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 23: A group of armed terrorists abducted one Abdus Salam, 40, from Mohra area under Chandgaon 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 to rescue the victim.

## IUTA agitation

From Page 1

am to 1 pm on September 1 and hunger strike till death from 10 am on September 2.

The IUTA will go ahead with the programme if the government did not remove what they said, the corrupt VC within August 28.

Addressing the conference, the IUTA leaders regretted that the government has not yet removed the corrupt VC though the students, teachers, officers and employees of the varsity launched a joint movement demanding his removal. They said the Minister of Education assured the delegation of IUTA to take appropriate measures when they met him on August 19.

They also announced the VC 'persona non-grata' and urged the government to punish armed outsiders who favoured the VC on August 17 to enter the campus.

The press conference was also addressed by Dr ANM Rezaul Karim, Saiful Islam, Abul Kalam Patwary and M Afazuddin.

## BNP: Clashes

From Page 1

bombs on the procession, brought out by BNP activists and supporters. At least 10 shops were ransacked and 20 vehicles damaged there during the clash.

A JCD leader, Masum was critically injured in the right eye in a bomb blast.

Violence spread to some other areas of the town resulting in clashes between supporters and opponents of the hartal.

Pro-hartal activists later put up a barricade on the Natore-Dhaka highway disrupting traffic till about 9 pm when it was withdrawn at the intervention of police.

Our Staff Correspondent reported from Khulna that at least four persons were injured in bomb blasts and two trucks, four autorickshaws and two private cars were damaged when a BNP torch procession this evening in support of its hartal came under attack by anti-hartal activists.

Jamaat-e-Islami also held a rally in support of the hartal.

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MP, in a statement strongly condemned the attack on the party's Gulistan rally and blamed the pro-ruling party activists for it.

Jatiyatabadi Mahila Dal convenor Khurshid Jahan MP in a separate statement also condemned the attack on the torch procession at Gulistan.

## Power demand

From Page 1

power sector must be 1.5 per cent at the minimum of the gross domestic product for ensuring socio-economic development and poverty alleviation.

To attain the target, the parameters were set which included maximum utilisation of existing power availability, increasing power generation capacity, balanced expansion of transmission and distribution network, efficient power management, reduction of system loss, encouraging the supportive private sectors for making investment and expansion of power supply to the villages to ensure poverty alleviation and improving the socio-economic status of the womenfolk.

Dr Rahman said policy and reforms proposed for the growth of the power sector include generation of power at cheaper cost by optimal utilisation of diversified fuel, rehabilitation of existing power stations, transmission line and grid sub-stations and encouraging private sector for investment in the sector on built, operate and transfer (BOT) and built, operate and own (BOO) basis.

The programme also included the setting up of a 600mw nuclear power station in the country and introduction of renewable energy source of power generation like solar energy, wind energy, bio-gas and small scale hydro-electric.

## ADB president in city

From Page 1

the enhancement of fuel prices. But he said the oil price hike is 'a policy to make a kind of transition to market-based economy' which could be painful.

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria received the ADB Chief at the airport. Sato was accompanied by his wife and senior ADB officials.

ADB, the Manila-based multilateral donor agency, is one of the largest donors of Bangladesh and Sato's visit is expected to result in a more active role of the agency in the country's future development endeavours, officials said.

During his stay in Dhaka, Sato will meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and discuss with her issues relating to the Bank's operation in Bangladesh.

Her will also meet Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak and State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir.

Besides, the ADB chief will meet the members of the country's apex trade body Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

A meeting with the officials of Grameen Bank, the world acclaimed financial institution that lends micro credit to poor borrowers, has also been planned.

His itinerary also includes a visit to the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge, the largest development project in the country, of which ADB is a co-financier with a contribution of 200 million US dollar.

The visit by Sato is seen here as significant in framing the policies for ADB's assistance activities and allied matters in Bangladesh which needs continuous support from the donor agency.

The government is likely to apprise the ADB president of a number of development projects and would seek financial and technical assistance from the Bank.

## QULKHWANI

Mrs. Jahanara Hossain, wife of Mr Altaf Hossain of 171, Green Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka, breathed her last on 22nd August 1997 after a massive heart attack (Inna Lillahe . . . . Rajeun).

Qulkhwani of the deceased will be held at the above address on 25th August 1997 after Maghrib prayers. Relatives, friends, well-wishers are requested to attend the Qul and pray for the departed soul.

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**Family Members**

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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