

Hartal situation discussed in cabinet meet

By Staff Correspondent
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked her cabinet colleagues to be alert so that situation remains under control during Thursday's country-wide hartal, called by the Opposition BNP, cabinet sources said.

Chaired by the Prime Minister, the cabinet meeting found the situation during yesterday's hartal to be 'satisfactory' as there was no report of any major incidence of violence.

The cabinet members also observed that the Dhaka City Corporation Mayor should stick to his order regarding holding of rallies in the designated venues, cabinet sources said.

Resumption of Peace Corps operation okayed

The Cabinet yesterday approved resumption of the operation of US Peace Corps in Bangladesh under a 1978 agreement between the two countries, reports UNB.

The approval was given in a Cabinet meeting held at the Bangladesh Secretariat with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Ministers and State Ministers attended the meeting. Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and Secretaries concerned were present.

Accord on bus link with India likely today

Bangladesh and India began official talks in the city yesterday on the introduction of direct bus services between Dhaka and Ajmeen Sharif via Calcutta, report agencies.

Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Surface Transport of India KR Bhatty is leading a 5-member delegation in the two-day talks.

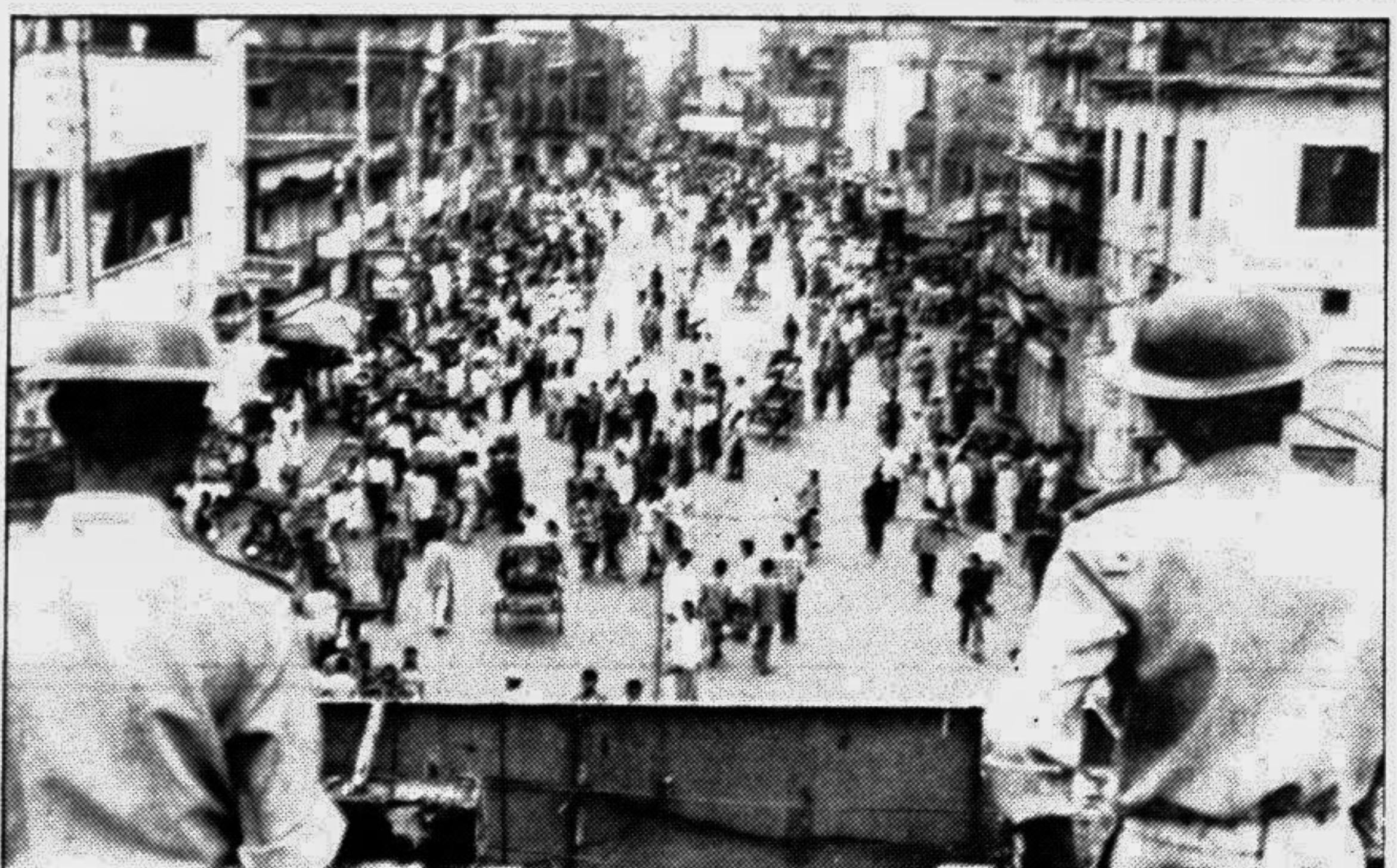
Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Communications Karar Mahmud Hussain is leading the 8-member Bangladeshi delegation.

The two sides are examining the draft agreement on the matter prepared earlier to this effect.

A formal agreement is expected to be signed today, ministry sources said.

Initially the bus service will ply between Dhaka and Calcutta on the designated route (Dhaka-Daulatdia-Benapole).

See Page 8 Col 7



Nawabpur road area in the old part of the city during hartal hours yesterday. —Star photo

Sporadic clashes mark hartal: 30 hurt, 97 held

By Staff Correspondent

At least 30 people were injured, one with bullet, as pickets clashed with police and anti-hartal elements during a BNP-called dawn-to-dusk hartal in the city that paralysed life in the metropolis yesterday.

Police picked up 97 people including some leaders of two front organisations of BNP and a leader of JAGPA from different areas of the city.

A 28-year-old youth, Elahi Bux, was bullet hit in the chest during a shootout between supporters and opponents of hartal at Taltala, Khilgaon, at around 10:30 am, witnesses said. Bux was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and later shifted to the Chest Diseases Hospital, our DMCH correspondent said.

Police however said Bux was injured in an explosion of cocktail hurled by BNP pickets. BNP called the hartal protesting police action on party activists and ban on

The happenings during yesterday's hartal showed such symptoms, he said addressing a

See Page 8 Col 2

Educational institutions in the city remained closed. A

See Page 8 Col 1

street rallies. Jamaat-e-Islami, Jatiya Party (Z-M), JAGPA and Democratic League also lent support to the hartal.

Transport went off the main thoroughfares and shopping centres were kept under shutters.

The Inner Circular Road in

Symptoms of a mass upsurge evident: BNP

By Staff Correspondent

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The day began with heavy rainfall. As rainfall tapered off, rickshaws and a few auto-tempo and public sector BRTC buses with heavy police escort came out on the streets.

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See Page 8 Col 1

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See Page 8 Col 1

Cancellation of disputed GSP certificates

No decision yet on sharing duties with EU importers

By Staff Correspondent

The government has not yet decided whether it will share any portion of the duties the European importers have to pay following cancellation of 13500 rules of origin certificates for availing GSP facility for knitwear.

We have asked the importers to sit with the Bangladeshi exporters to discuss how the EU member states want to realise the duties

The minister returned from Brussels yesterday after talks with EU officials on the GSP issue.

See Page 8 Col 6

"We have also asked the EU to stagger realisation of duties accrued on cancelled GSPs from the buyers," Tofael said. "The best situation would be if the buyers are allowed to pay the duties in instalments. EU officials have assured us that this will be communicated to individual member states so that their customs authorities can take decision on the issue."

The building in Dhaka Cantonment where Sheikh Mujib

See Page 8 Col 3



The dolphin which was caught from Shingair river is now in the Dhaka Zoo at Mirpur. —Star photo

People gave their verdict against misrule: Khaleda

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia has congratulated the people of Dhaka city for successfully observing the day-long 'allout' hartal yesterday, reports UNB.

The people of Dhaka city made the dawn-to-dusk hartal a complete success despite all odds. This hartal proved that the people of Bangladesh will not tolerate the present misrule and autocracy, she said in a post-hartal statement.

The BNP chairperson said the 14-month-old Awami League government has declared a war against the people in an evil design to snatch their democratic rights and revive the one-party BAKSAL rule.

This government has become totally isolated from the people as it has endangered the country's independence and sovereignty, destroyed econ-

See Page 8 Col 1

omy and damaged its windowpanes and cladding the area with smoke.

Firing teargas shells and charging batons by police to disperse grouped-up pickets and hurling home-made bombs, pelting stones at police and damaging vehicles by pro-hartal activists was the order of the day in Dhaka city.

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See Page 8 Col 1

front of the BNP central office at Naya Paltan turned into a battle field as police and pickets played cat and mouse throughout the day. Police teargassed the opposition activists whenever they tried to assemble and threw stones at the on-duty policemen. Riot police also fired teargas shells at the BNP office damaging its windowpanes and cladding the area with smoke.

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