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Teachers of non-government primary schools staged a demonstration in the city yesterday to press their various demands including nationalisation of the schools. The teachers set out from Osmany Uddyan after a rally and marched towards the Prime Minister's Office. A delegation of their leaders submitted a memorandum to the PM's office. —Star photo

JCD-BCL clash at Sirajganj Varsity College: 24 hurt

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 24: The student wings of Awami League and BNP clashed at Sirajganj Government University College today leaving 24 people injured, reports UNB.

Of them, seriously injured 12 people were admitted to local Inasina Hospital and Sirajganj General Hospital.

Eyewitnesses said the clash began when 5-7 activists of pro-Awami League Chhatra League attacked one Abul Hossain, a worker of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal, on the college campus.

Clash with transport workers in C'nawabganj: 1 killed

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Sept 24: One person was killed and 20 others were injured in a clash between transport workers and local people at Chapainawabganj bus terminal yesterday evening.

According to police, the clash ensued following a dispute over bus fare. One Khairul Islam, 28, was stabbed by transport workers during the clash. He was rushed to the local health complex where doctors declared him dead.

Bangabandhu murder

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Khan Saifur Rahman asked Rabbani, whether he considered taking security guards along with arms and ammunition while going to the residence of the President where firing was going on.

In his reply Rabbani said, "The President had a scheduled programme at the University on that day and we did not consider those to be appropriate then. We rather thought, students belonging to the opposition camp were trying to create resistance to his programme and were exploding crackers there. We preferred plain clothes thinking that going there in uniforms might create some problem."

When the lawyer asked whether he verified the information from the place of occurrence, the PW-15 replied in the negative. The Military Secretary (MS) had already received necessary information over telephone, he said and added that he did not know whether the MS received the information from the place of occurrence or from any other source.

"I served under the BKSAL government immediately before the incident. I did not make any attempt to continue the BKSAL government as I was too small a fry."

Chiefs of the three services were present at the Bangabandhu during installation of the new government but there was none to represent the Rakkhi Bahini, he said.

To a question from Rezaq Khan the lawyer of accused Shahriar, the PW-15 said, "I am not aware whether the country was continuously under Martial Law from August 75 till 79."

"I am not aware whether any court of inquiry was constituted following the incident of August 15, 1975."

"Personally I did not investigate into the incident and do not have any direct impression or first hand information about it."

"Maj Farook had contributed to my personal security when my eyes were blindfolded," he said.

Maj (ret'd) M Shahidullah, 16th prosecution witness in the Bangabandhu murder case said that he pacified the soldiers who detained three military officers along with the Military Secretary to the President on August 15, 1975.

The PW-16 also said that un-

PM exchanges views with BSD leaders

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government is committed to leading the nation forward and sought cooperation of all in this effort, reports UNB.

"Insha-Allah, we'll succeed," she said while exchanging views with a delegation of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, led by BSD convener AFM Mahbulul Huq, who called on her at the PM's office.

The exchange of views took place as part of a regular programme of the Prime Minister to meet political leaders for discussing important national issues.

The Prime Minister welcomed the views and suggestions given by the BSD leaders for implementing various development programmes of her government.

Issues like agriculture — its problems and marketing of agricultural produce — transparency of the government, progressive and pro-people politics, democratic system, importance of consensus on national issues, local government institutions and suitable places for public meetings came up for discussion during the two-hour meeting.

Armed gang damages house, loot valuables at Dhanmondi

By Staff Correspondent

An armed gang damaged a dwelling house and assaulted a security guard on Road No. 27 of Dhanmondi residential area in the city yesterday morning.

The owner of the house, Khanadawker Nazrul Islam, alleged that a gang of 20 armed men demolished the boundary wall and damaged a staff room and a gate. The attackers also looted valuables from the house and snapped the power supply line during the operation at about 10 am.

The real motive behind the attack could not be known immediately. It was alleged that the incident occurred following a conflict between neighbours over the measurement of the land.

The attackers fled the scene before the arrival of the police at the spot at about 11:30 am. Dhanmondi police said a general diary was lodged in this regard. However, none was arrested in this connection till last night.

RU officials, employees observe strike

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Sept 24: The Office of Karimachari, Oikya Parishad of Rajshahi University today observed strike protesting actions taken by the Syndicate against the Controller of Examinations and three other officials.

All offices of the university remained closed and classes were not held.

Controller of Examinations AKM Monsur Ahmed was made OSD and three other staff of his section were put on suspension on Saturday.

The actions were taken following the submission of a report by the committee formed in 1996 to probe the corruption charges.

Frolegs

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port the huge quantity of froglegs.

The BDR, Khulna Sector, acting on a tip-off raided the freezing plant of SFPL and found the cartoons of froglegs kept hidden.

The freezing plant has been sealed and preparations are being made for taking necessary legal action in this regard, the sources said.

AL activists

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save the killers of Bangabandhu. "They are creating disturbances. We have to face them politically."

Hanif reiterated that public rallies must be held at designated venues and in no way meetings would be allowed on streets at the cost of peoples' sufferings.

City AL leaders Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya MP, Akhtarul Alam, Fazlur Rahman, Awal Siddiqui, Golam Kibria, Advocate Quramul Islam, Fayeuddin Mia, Haji Md Selim MP, AM Mahmudunnabi, Salahuddin Badal, Dr Abdus Salam, NH Sardar, Kaji Abdul Hye and Abdul Haq Sabuj also spoke at the meeting.

Besides, taking part in the on-going 'meet-the-party-workers' programme last night at the party office, two ministers stressed the need for building public awareness against hartals for 'non-issues'.

Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury and State Minister for Planning Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir took part in the programme.

Many people crowded the party office seeking favours — jobs or for transfers or for monetary help. The ministers advised them to earn a job on merit or try for self-employment.

Health Minister Salahuddin Yusuf and Deputy Minister for Shipping Dharendra Deyvath Shambhu are scheduled to take part in the programme tonight.

UNCTAD chief tells business leaders LDCs must build strong nat'l sector before going to global market

Visiting UNCTAD Secretary General Rubens Ricupero yesterday said a strong national sector is needed for any least developed country (LDC) before going to compete in the global market, reports BSS.

He was discussing with the business leaders "the integrated Bangladesh programme for strengthening supply capacity for exportable goods and services" at a city hotel.

"A country must build its own strong national sector first" before acquiring the capacity to export its products, Ricupero said, laying emphasis on regionalisation.

He also said regional agreements could act as transitional steps to globalisation.

The UNCTAD Secretary General assured the business leaders that his organisation would extend its support to resolve the problems facing the LDCs.

The integrated Bangladesh

programme on exportables and services, launched on Tuesday, is aimed at integrating Bangladesh economy into the rapidly globalised economy and the international trading system.

Jointly organised by Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), the meeting was attended by leading business leaders of the country and high government officials.

The meeting was also addressed by FBCCI president Yusuf Abdullah Haroon, DCCI President ASM Quasem, MCCI President Samson H Chowdhury, Commerce Secretary Syed Alamgir Farooq Chowdhury and Executive Director of International Trade Centre (ITC) J Denis Belisle.

Ershad criticises BNP's 'hartal politics'

Former Prime Minister HM Ershad, now free on bail, said he was ready to go to jail against the interest of the country and the nation, reports UNB.

"If I am sent to jail for raising the voice of the people, I am ready to go there," he said while exchanging views with leaders of his party's youth front, Jatiya Jubo Sanghati, at Asiatic Printers office in the city.

The Jatiya Party Chairman said he never compromised or beat a retreat in upholding the people's interest and would never do so.

Criticising the BNP, the JP chief categorically said an elected government should be allowed to remain in power for five years according to people's mandate.

"People will decide whether the government is a failure or not," he said.

He also criticised the "hartal politics" of BNP and said none has the right to destroy property of this poor country to make their way to power.

Huge quantity of drugs recovered, one arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Detective Branch (DB) of police recovered a huge quantity of sedative drugs and arrested one person in this connection from the old part of the city yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a DB team raided a residence at Baladara Lane under Kotwali thana at about 1:30 pm. They seized 810 ampoules of sedative drugs and 50 bottles of phenisidyl from the house.

Satkhira town exempted from today's hartal

SATKHIRA, Sept 24: The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Satkhira district unit has called off tomorrow's dawn-to-dusk hartal programme only for Satkhira town, according to a party press release, reports BSS.

In a statement yesterday Faruque, the joint convener of the party, said hartal would hamper the participation in the traditional Gupukur Mela and for this reason Satkhira town will be exempted from hartal.

UNCTAD chief leaves for Geneva

UNCTAD Secretary General Rubens Ricupero left Dhaka last night for Geneva at the end of his three-day official visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

He was seen off at the airport by Commerce Secretary Sayed Alamgir Farouq Chowdhury.

During the visit, Ricupero launched the UNCTAD report for the least developed countries (LDCs) — 1997 yesterday.

Agriculture on top of agenda

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circumstances of the least developed countries in the post-Uruguay Round context, and is a welcome sign that the specific issues facing LDCs are finally moving up the international agenda," he said.

The world's most impoverished nations will have to prioritise their often neglected agricultural sector if they want to attain, and then sustain high growth rates, the UNCTAD said, making agriculture the principal theme of this year's report.

Agriculture is the most important economic activity in the LDCs, it says, pointing out that it provided about a third of their collective GDP and employed two-thirds of the labour force at the beginning of the 1990s. But its performance has failed to keep pace with population growth, it said.

A dynamic agricultural sector will make for healthier populations with higher nutritional intakes, it said. And, by increasing rural incomes, it will also lead to an expansion of domestic markets, according to the report.

The UN agency stressed that a strong agricultural policy was

2 officials of Jayson Pharmaceuticals sent to jail

By Court Correspondent

Two officials of Jayson Pharmaceuticals, who were accused of illegally selling morphine and pethidine injections last week, surrendered before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Rafiqul Islam, General Manager, and Edul Huq, another official of the company, had disappeared on Tuesday when their bail petition was rejected by the court. But their counsel, Barrister Amirul Islam made them surrender before the court yesterday.

He moved a bail petition for them again. But ACMM Habibur Rahman rejected the prayer and ordered them to be sent to prison.

Earlier, Abdul Hannan, Inspector of the Narcotics Control Department, filed a case with the Sabujbagh thana accusing 16 persons, including a deputy director of his department and the Jayson officials of selling the painkillers, flouting Section 23 and 25 of the Narcotics Control Act, 1990.

Process of forming new AL city committee begins tonight

By Staff Correspondent

The process of formation of the full-committee of Dhaka city unit of Awami League would begin tonight, almost a week after the holding of its triennial council in April last, according to sources in the party.

After the April 27 council session, the new committee of the city unit was not announced except the re-election of its president Mohammad Hanif and general secretary Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya.

To form the new committee, a meeting of the previous working committee of city AL and party MPs from Dhaka city will be held at 6 pm today at AL central office.

Besides, an extended meeting of city AL is scheduled for 6 pm tomorrow at the same venue.

The decision to form the full-committee of city AL was taken earlier at the last meeting of AL Central Working Committee.

Rao

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Party who have said they were paid 100,000 dollars to vote against a 1993 no-confidence motion which Rao's Congress-led government survived by a wafer-thin margin.

The former prime minister, who launched India's free-market reforms in 1991, has said he is innocent.

In the Supreme Court today Rao's counsel Ranjit Kumar asked for an early hearing on the appeal. The judges set October 13 for a full hearing but said the trial court could in the meantime proceed with the framing of charges.

Also a key to an integrated poverty alleviation strategy, given that the poorest people in the LDCs tend to live in rural areas.

Five issues were focused as those of importance to the LDCs: the causes of agricultural sector stagnation; the impact of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture, the question of food security; environmental aspects of agriculture in the LDCs, and rural credit markets.

Institutional and economic reforms were the other main theme.

"The determined efforts to implement economic policy reforms have led to improved economic performance in about half the least developed countries," the UNCTAD report said.

The performance of many LDCs remained relatively robust in 1996, despite generally unfavourable commodity prices and stagnating external resource flows, which testifies to the progress of these economies, it said.

The report said the external economic factors facing LDCs was expected to be fairly stable in the short term but peace, security and good governance would be crucial if the economic recovery already begun in some LDCs was sustained.

Growth among the world's least developed countries remained "relatively robust" at an average of 4.7 per cent in 1996, compared with 5.2 per cent in 1995, according to preliminary estimates in the 1997 Report.

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Depression over Bay intensifies

A depression that formed over the West Central Bay off Andhra coast remained practically stationary and intensified into a deep depression, reports UNB.

It was centred at about 1,300 kilometre southwest of Khulna town at 3 pm yesterday.

It is likely to intensify further and move in a north northwesterly direction, a special bulletin of the Storm Warning Centre of the Met Office said.

Maximum sustained wind within 48 kms of the depression centre is about 50 km per hour (kph) rising to 60 kph in gusts or squalls. Sea will remain rough.

The bulletin said maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to hoist distant warning signal number two.

Maid allegedly assaulted at Neela Chy's house

By Staff Correspondent

A maid at the residence of Neela Chowdhury, mother of late film star Salman Shah, was allegedly assaulted at her house at DOHS in the city yesterday.

Police, quoting the FIR filed by the maid identified as Amena Begum, 30, said Neela Chowdhury, her younger son Bilal and her relative, Faiz, were allegedly involved in the assault.

Antonment police, being informed by the neighbours, rescued Amena in injured condition and took her to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment.

The reason behind the alleged attack on the maid could not be known immediately.

A case was filed with cautionment thana in this regard. However, none was arrested in connection with the incident till last night.

Poor response

From Page 1

tion process of DESA by creating Dhaka Electric Supply Company (DESCO), private power distribution authorities, Power Transmission Limited Company (PLTC) and Power Grid Company and re-adjusted power tariff, as per formula agreed between the two sides.

Besides, the government has in principle agreed with the donors to gradually reduce the functions of the Power Development Board (PDB) to allow continued expansion of private sector in the energy sector.

"Despite all these efforts, the energy sector is still not in the good book of donors, specially that of World Bank," an official said.

He, however, said that pleased at the creation of DESCO and power grid company, the WB had unofficially informed the Energy Ministry that a team would come to Dhaka next month to negotiate granting of new loans.

"Unless the World Bank agrees to finance our power sector, the other donor agencies and countries will not spontaneously finance our projects," noted an official of the Energy Ministry.

Currently the only projects being undertaken with foreign financing are the Greater Khulna Power Distribution Project (partially financed by India) and a 132 kv transmission line between the national grid and Chittagong (financed by Germany).

Urgent action by the international community to help LDCs tackle the widespread problems of economic and social regress, state failure and internal conflicts in LDCs should be a priority," the report said.

Tofael Ahmed regretted that the LDCs were not getting the duty free access of LDC goods despite promises from the developed countries.

He mentioned that a high level meeting on the integrated initiatives for LDCs' trade development would be held in Geneva on October 27-28 where the issue of zero duty access would be discussed.

100 injured in clashes

From Page 1
militant when they reached Fakirerpool crossing, and hurled rocks and home-made bombs at police, a police press release said last night.

BNP Secretary General Abul Mannan Bhuiyan in a statement castigating police for what he said its repressive actions, attacking the torch processionists at Fakirerpool, firing rubber bullets, tear gas shells, spraying hot water and charging batons. Police also seized torches from the processionists and threw those at the procession, Mannan Bhuiyan alleged.

He said at least 400 party supporters were wounded in police action and 60 people were arrested.

He also said that plain-clothes police arrested two labour leaders, Jamaluddin and Zainal Abedin, who just joined the BNP. They were arrested when they came out of the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition at Minto Road yesterday evening, Mohammad Nasir Patwary and Mohammad Siraj, two leaders of the party, were also detained when they came out of the residence. He demanded their release.

UNB adds from Narasingdi: At least seven people were injured in a clash between Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal and Jatiya Chhatra Samaj in Palash thana over today's hartal.

Police said the clash began when a pro-hartal procession of BNP's student front, Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal and an anti-hartal procession of JP-backed Jatiya Chhatra Samaj came face to face in Palash Industrial area at about 1 pm.

Of the injured, four JCD men were admitted to private clinics while three Chhatra Samaj workers at Palash Thana Health Complex.

Both the rival student bodies blamed each other for the attack.

BSS adds: Two police constables received bomb injuries at Fakirerpool area in a clash

2 army officers leave for Georgia to join UN mission

Two officers of the Army, led by Major Golam Kibria Md Niamatullah, left Dhaka Tuesday for Georgia to join the United Nations Observer Mission there, reports UNB.

They will replace two officers who have been working with the mission since September 24, 1996, said an ISPR press release yesterday.

Mirpur clash

From Page 1

ment on the busy road came to a halt for some time.

Some motor vehicles were damaged as the agitated young men pelted brickbats on the parked buses.

The injured persons were released after first aid in local clinics.

None was arrested in connection with the incident till last night. The president of the BCL unit of Ward No. Two filed a case with Pallabi thana in this regard.

DCC to consider

From Page 1

courts might be disturbed due to loudspeakers," he said.

He said President Shahabuddin Ahmed had expressed his satisfaction after visiting the designated sites and asking him to hold fresh meetings with the political parties.

Meanwhile, Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) is preparing detailed reports on the exact size and capacity of the seven sites designated for holding public meetings in the city, official sources said.

The reports were being prepared to present to Mayor Mohammad Hanif's talks with city unit leaders of different political parties scheduled for Saturday. The Estate Department of the DCC, responsible for authorising public meetings in the city, was preparing the reports.

DCC sources said, among the seven sites, Agargaon Parade Ground would be the largest with 6.4 lakh audience capacity. "We first measured the venue then determined the capacity by allocating three square feet for each individual," said a DCC official.

When asked why the calculation was not done before the first meeting held on August 31, the official replied that none from the Estate Department was invited on that occasion. "The Estate Department's opinion was not sought before the August 31 meeting," he said.

Another DCC source said none of the authorities presently in possession of four sites were consulted by the DCC before taking the decision. Only three of the seven sites, Golapbagh, Basha and Dhakeswari fields belonged to DCC, he said.

Following reports of protests from those authorities, the DCC has written to LGRD Ministry to formally ask PWD, Defence, Sports and Education ministries to hand over the land for

brought out a torch procession in the capital yesterday evening.

According to a police press release, the constables were injured when the unruly processionists threw home-made bombs at the police on duty.

The police fired two rounds of tear gas shell and arrested 22 persons from the spot.

Another BSS report from Narayanjanj city Chhatra League held an anti-hartal rally at BB Road here yesterday evening.

Presided over by Saidu Hasn Bappi, President of Narayanjanj City Chhatra League, the rally was addressed, among others, by Prof Nazma Rahman, President of Narayanjanj District Awami League, Advocate Anisur Rahman Dipu, its Organising Secretary and Advocate Khokon Saha, General Secretary of Narayanjanj city Awami League.

Khaleda

From Page 1

Begum Zia once again claimed that her agitation was not for power but for protecting the country from ruin and that her party was forced to go for hartal. She urged all concerned to make today's dawn-to-dusk countrywide hartal a success.

Begum Zia demanded immediate release of all arrested leaders and workers of her party.

She was also critical of the government for, what she said, failing to implement any of its election pledges, protect the country's sovereignty and its economy, maintain law and order and safeguard the interests of farmers, labourers, government employees and all other sections of the society.

The BNP chief also blamed the government for "opening the national borders" to allow Indian goods to get smuggled into the country. "There are shutting down the industries to allow Indian goods flood the local market. Violating its election pledges, the liar government is going by the dictates of those who installed them in power through intrigues," she remarked.

Chaired by the chief of the just defunct National Workers' Federation, Alamgir Majumdar, the function was also addressed by BNP Secretary General Abul Mannan Bhuiyan, Joint Secretary General Abdul Wahab, Sr. Kamal Hossain Khan and Zafurul Haque and others.

Mannan Bhuiyan announced that hartal won't stop at anybody's threat and warned the ministers would be held responsible for any untoward incidents during today's hartal.

He also blamed the government for "attempting to divert public