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The World on Time

200 injured during hartal

off peacefully in a number of districts.

Some 100 people were injured and 50 shops were damaged in clashes during hartal-hours in Barisal and adjoining districts.

All modes of road transport except rickshaw remained off the road. Water vessels operated, but with lesser passengers. The scheduled domestic and international flights to and from ZIA were not affected.

Movement of trains at places, particularly in the western zone, was disrupted. The engine of Rajshahi-bound 'Tumir Express' got derailed near Rajshahi University in the early morning due to a barricade on the track.

Educational institutions, business houses and shops across the country remained closed. Government offices functioned but with thin turnout of officials and employees. Chittagong Port functioned partially. Incidents of cocktail blasts at the port office and Customs House were reported.

There was no trading at the Dhaka Stock Exchanges (DSE) and Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) yesterday. Due to lack of quorum, DSE could not operate.

Rains in the morning and near absence of pro-hartal pickets marked the hartal in the city. A number of anti-hartal processions, led by ruling party MPs from city constituencies, were brought out from various areas in the capital.

Buses which were commandeered by police Wednesday evening were seen plying on major thoroughfares with their conductors urging passengers to avail of the services. But few dared to travel.

In front of the Dhaka Stock Exchange building anti-hartal activists were seen coming out of one such bus with lathis and chased pro-hartal processionists.

Except in Mahakhali, Mouchak and Nayabazar areas, pro and anti-hartal activists did not come face-to-face in the city. Chase and counter-chase and use of rubber bullets, water cannon and teargas shells by police featured the stray incidents of violence in Dhaka.

In Khulna, at least 30 people were injured, including eight policemen, in a fierce clash between AL and BNP supporters, reports our correspondent. In Narayanganj, clashes between pro and anti-hartal groups caused injuries to 10 people, two of them bullet-hit while the district BNP office was ransacked.

Hartal related violence caused injuries to 50 in Kishoreganj, 30 in Lalmonirhat, 20 in Manikganj, 15 in Sylhet, 12 in Netrokona, 11 in Sirajganj, 10 in Chittagong, 10 in Rajshahi, 10 in Natore and five in Sherpur.

In Joypurhat, at least 50 people were injured in clashes during the hartal hours which led to the imposition of Section 144 in the town. Eleven people were arrested.

In the capital at least 20 people were injured, five of them admitted to DMCH. Police lath-



A minibus carrying anti-hartal activists in the city yesterday. —Star photo

Charged pro-hartal activists and lobbed tear gas shells to disperse the processionists at Mahakhali and Nayabazar. Police also used hot water cannon on the processionists in Mahakhali area. At both the points, pro and anti-hartal activists exchanged bricks/rocks and on for hours together.

A pro-hartal procession brought out from BNP central office was dispersed by police as the processionists damaged four minibuses at Bijoyagar at about 10:30 am. BNP workers led by party leaders Abdullah Al Noman, Abdul Motin Chowdhury and Amanullah Aman regrouped and tried to proceed towards Kakrail from Naya Paltan, but police tear-gassed and chased them to the party office.

The city saw a huge deployment of police. BDR and Ansars, anti-hartal processions led by ruling party MPs, Haji Selim, Mokbul Ahmed, Kamal Hossain Majumder, Sabir Hossain Chowdhury and Dr HBM Iqbal.

Anti-hartal processionists were seen active from the Sram Bhaban area to the Shapla Chattar from around 10:15 am. A meeting of the employees of Sonali Bank was seen in progress in front of the Bank's head office building at Motijheel area at about 10:45 am.

Five policemen were also injured in Mehendiganj thana of Barisal. Of the injured, 30 were admitted to Barisal Medical College Hospital and different thana health complexes.

In Khulna, at least 30 people including eight policemen were injured in a fierce clash between AL and BNP activists at Phulbari gate at noon.

Police and witnesses told Our Staff Correspondent in Khulna, the clash followed an attack by AL activists on the BNP office at Phulbari gate. The situation was brought under control after riot police lobbed 25 canisters of tear gas shells and fired 20 blank shots.

In Chittagong, at least 10 people including three policemen were injured in sporadic incidents of violence during hartal hours.

Police said clash broke out at Fatikchhari when processions brought by pro and anti-hartal activists came face-to-face at noon. Besides, pickets clashed with police at Kazir Dewri.

Youth Union refused permission to take oath at Shikha Chiranton

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday refused to permit the Bangladesh Youth Union to perform an oath-taking ceremony at the Shikha Chiranton lighting candles in Suhrawardy Uddyan in the city today.

The union took up the programme on the occasion of its three-day fifth national conference scheduled to begin at the TSC of Dhaka University at 4 pm today.

Chairman of the union, Muhammad Helaluddin, officially sought permission from the DMP commissioner for holding the session at the Shikha Chiranton yesterday.

But the commissioner regretted it saying, "Shikha Chiranton is considered to be a very vital place."

Rao

From Page 1

1991-96 Rao administration had been seriously flawed.

"Every day you would hear of one scam or another. I became like a joke."

Jaya Pattiley, a spokeswoman of the Samata (equality) Party said Rao had headed the most corrupt administration in India.

The Congress, meanwhile, refused to comment, saying, "We have stated our position before — the law will take its own course. These are just charges, nothing has been proved."

BNP welcomes

From Page 1

tured. He has initiated a negotiation and we welcome it," he commented.

Mannan Bhuiyan also expressed his party's "high regards" for President Shahabuddin.

Asked if BNP would join Saturday's scheduled meeting with city Mayor Mohammad Hanif on a fresh dialogue for selecting sites for holding public meetings in the city, he replied, "They'll have to create an atmosphere for the planned meet by releasing our arrested leaders and withdrawing the unilateral decision on the issue of meeting venues."

The Mayor banned holding public meetings on the city streets after selecting seven spots in the city for the purpose earlier this month. Since then, BNP and some other opposition parties clashed with police over holding rallies on the streets. On September 21, a BNP delegation led by its chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia complained to the President against the government "repression."

BNP briefing

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Mannan Bhuiyan said, "The government is using the police to implement the decision and is establishing the police as rivals of the people."

The BNP secretary general listed the alleged attacks by the AL and police on the pickets at some 25 points in the capital and several areas outside it. The city spots where the BNP leaders and workers came under attacks included Maghbazar, Farmgate, Mahakhali, Naya Paltan, Eskaton, Mouchak Market, Mirpur Road, Shahbagh, Fakirerpool, Naya Bazar, Shahajahanpur, Pallabi, Swamibagh, Motijheel Commercial area, North-South Road, Bijoyagar, Mirpur-1, Jatrabari and Sadarghat.

Elaborating, he said a group of "spoiled brats of the ruling party" urinated from the overbridge in front of the Mouchak Market while a procession of the Jatiyatabadi Mahila Dal, BNP's women front, was passing by during the hartal.

He also named several AL MPs including Selim, Dr Iqbal and Sabir Hossain Chowdhury for leading the attacks on the BNP leaders and workers.

Replying to a question, Mannan Bhuiyan said his party would not announce any fresh agitation programme at the moment and reminded of the previously announced demonstration programmes on September 28 and 30 and a railroad blockade on October 5.

WB to give expertise

From Page 1

The Bank was trying to address the governance issues through non-lending services such as the much-discussed Bangladesh report — Government that Works — prepared in close consultation with civil society and the government.

"If (the Bangladesh report) sets out a phased approach to public sector reform tailored to the country's political and economic realities," it said, adding improving governance was also addressed within ongoing projects.

During the 1997 fiscal that ended in June, the Bank's fresh commitments to Bangladesh amounted to 321 million US dollars and its disbursement 315 million dollars, with approving four operations.

Lending to the region totaled 2,011.6 million dollars, of which 1,385.1 million came from the International Development Association (IDA), the Bank's soft-loan window.

The Bank's annual report mentioned the South Asian economies, reflecting the region's recent reforms, with most countries achieving healthy GDP and export growth

2 city BNP leaders released on bail

By Staff Correspondent

The convener of Ramna thana BNP and commissioner of Ward No 56 of Dhaka City Corporation Chowdhury Alam and the President of BNP unit of the same ward Advocate Faruk were released on bail yesterday.

They were arrested during hartal hours of August 24 from Press Club area and separate cases were filed against them.

Jamaat's three preconditions to join talks with mayor

Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday gave three preconditions to join the discussion with the city Mayor for selection of venues to hold public meetings in the city, reports UNB.

In a statement responding to the Mayor's proposed meeting with the political parties, Jamaat City Ameer ATM Azharul Islam said the dialogue can be held only after realisation of the three-point demand.

The conditions are withdrawal of the false cases filed against 26 leaders and workers of the party including secretary general Matiuir Rahman Nizami, lifting of section 144 imposed around Baitul Mukarram Mosque and withdrawal of the unilateral decision regarding the meeting venues.

He said the Mayor has unilaterally imposed a ban on holding public meetings and rallies on the city streets in the name of removing traffic jam. "It's totally undemocratic."

8 DU teachers

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Ashrafuzzaman — were named in the FIR. The two were known as active members of the anti-liberation forces in 1971.

Motiuddin is now living in London while Ashrafuzzaman is also living abroad. However, the CID was yet to trace out Ashrafuzzaman.

ASP Munshi Atiqur Rahman of CID has been made the Investigating Officer (IO) of the DU teachers' killing case. According to the FIR, the seven other DU teachers who were allegedly killed by the anti-liberation forces were Dr Mortuza, Santosh Bhattacharya, Sirajul Haq, Anwar Pasha, Dr Abul Khair, Dr Fazlul Mohi and Rashidul Hasan.

A senior CID official said they had already interrogated about six relatives of the eight deceased teachers. The CID team in its investigation process would interrogate the relatives of the victims, witnesses of the incident and the neighbours of the teachers at the DU campus at that time.

Besides, the CID will seek the help of Interpol and the governments of the countries where the persons involved in the killings were now staying.

CID sources said, according to preliminary information, a group of people two of whom were Motiuddin and Ashrafuzzaman, came to the DU campus sometime in December 1971 in a state-owned passenger bus. The gang forced the eight teachers to board into the vehicle and took them away.

Housewife raped

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The villagers beat up the constable and handed over him to Rajpara thana.

Police, however, refused to give any information about the incident. Local people alleged that the thana had not registered any case.

Khaleda

From Page 1

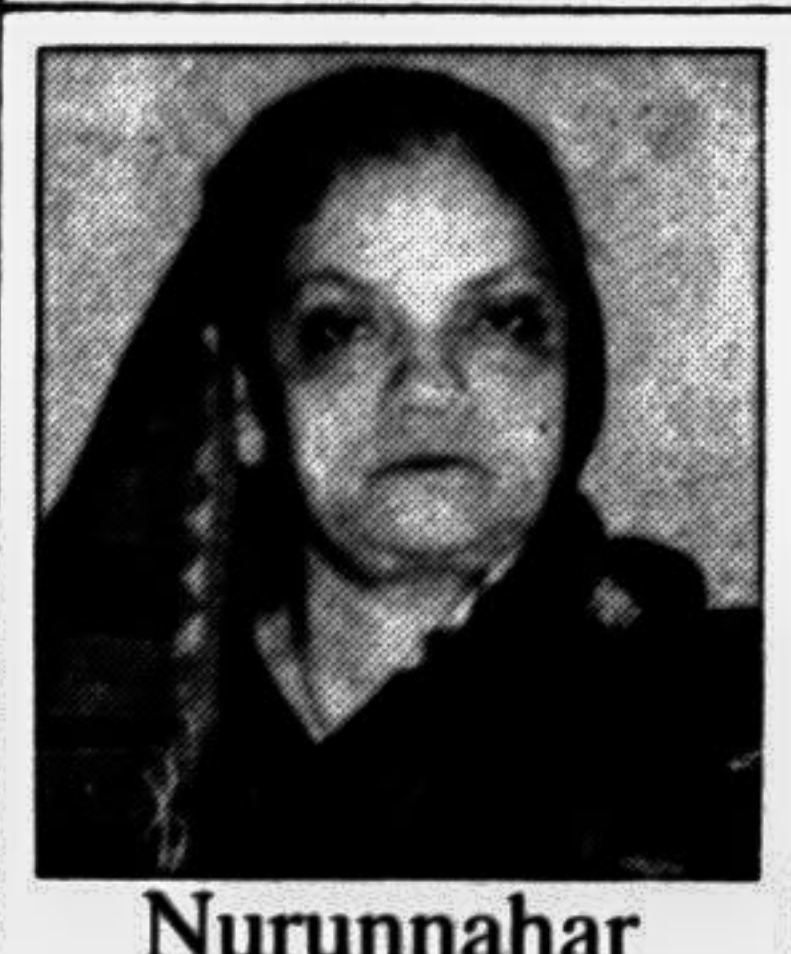
pressed her firm commitment to continue the movement for protecting the country's independence, sovereignty, democracy and the people's life and property, "Insha-Allah, we will succeed," she said.

The Leader of the Opposition also expressed her sympathy for the people who were arrested and received injuries or fell victims to "the terrorism unleashed by the government and the ruling party" during the hartal.

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Nurunnahar Samad dead

Begum Nurunnahar Samad, wife of Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, died at Diabetic Hospital early yesterday. She was 60, reports UNB.

She was laid to rest at Banani Graveyard.

Begum Samad, who was hospitalised on September 17 in an unconscious state following a brain haemorrhage, breathed her last at 1:30 am.

She left behind her husband, three sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed profound shock at the death of Begum Samad.

Prime Minister Hasina, ministers, leaders of different political parties, senior civil and military officials visited the official residence of the Foreign Minister in the morning to pay their last respect to her.

Her first namaz-e-Janaza was held at Kalabagan Jame Masjid premises after Asr prayers and second at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque after Magreb prayers.

Her kulkhwan will be held today after Asr prayers at the official residence of the Foreign Minister at 37 Eskaton Garden.

Begum Samad hailed from a respectable Muslim family at Shahjapur in Sirajganj district. She obtained MA degree in General History in 1969 from Dhaka University. Abdus Samad Azad married Begum Nurunnahar on June 28, 1958.

Various organisations, including Jatiya Mahila Sangstha, conolated the death of Begum Nurunnahar.

Buyers concerned

From Page 1

the country, the statement said. Qudus has urged BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia and all other opposition leaders to keep the export-oriented garments sector out of the purview of hartals and other political programmes to save the sector from 'total devastation'.

Former president of BGMEA Anisur Rahman Sinha, talking to The Daily Star yesterday, said there are already 400 to 500 factories which are unable to open LCs because of stockouts created during the past political turmoil in 1995. "A large number of factories are now trying to stand on their feet from the massive losses they suffered. A further blow to them would finish them off," he said, adding that the buyers are now worried about the prevailing situation in Bangladesh.

PCJSS

From Page 1

In Tripura on Saturday, its Supremo Jyotirindriya Bodhipriya Larma met a number of tribal leaders. During his two-day stay at his temporary office at Dudukchhara in Khagrachari, he briefed them about his talks with the government side.

He reportedly urged them to send their views on the draft accord as soon as possible, particularly on land management and proposed regional council for the CHT, to be headed and dominated by tribesmen.

Sources said he also told them bluntly to give up any reservations regarding withdrawal of the military fully, expulsion of settlers and formation of a "Jummaland", or a self-ruled homeland for the tribal people, outlined in the five-point charter of demand he had tabled earlier at the talks with NCCHT in January last.

He also told them both the government and the PCJSS had made concessions, which he did not disclose and urged them to have confidence in his leadership for a better future for the tribesmen and peace in the CHT after decades.

CHT leaders

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end the decades-old violence in CHT, official sources said. A treaty is likely to be signed sometime in October in Khagrachari after a meeting with the NCCHT.

Hansadhaji Chakma, Convener of the Liaison Committee of NCCHT and PCJSS, will also be attending today's meeting at the office of NCCHT Convener and Chief Whip of Jatiya Sangsad Abul Hasnat Abdullah.

He is scheduled to brief the Chief Whip separately about developments in the CHT, particularly the reaction among different groups in the region after last week's announcement by PCJSS Chairman Jyotirindriya Bodhipriya Larma that he had prepared a draft for a peace treaty, the sources said.

Import of vehicles

From Page 1

of 1988-90 models. It only added to the stockpiling of cars awaiting clearance, some 5,000 were there as a backlog from August. The importers declined to clear the vehicles pleading their inability to pay extra duties imposed in the current budget.

As the demand for reconditioned cars fell with their prices going up due to the new tariff, unscrupulous traders simply sought assistance from their fraternity in Dubai.

So one could buy a 1988 Toyota Corolla for Tk 280,000 to Tk 300,000, believing it to be of 1992 model, instead of the genuine 1992 model which would cost more. These vehicles are not available at the show rooms as these are kept elsewhere and produced on demand.

It also happened in the case of the bus. It was parked at the ground of Diploma Engineers' institution. Only the genuine buyers are allowed to have a look at it.

Sources concerned said that unscrupulous dealers are bringing the old vehicles at throw away prices from Japanese scrapers. The cars are shipped to Dubai, where a specialised group of doctors the documents from Japan, erasing the actual year of manufacture, cancelling registration and giving new dates to make those eligible for sale.

These are then shipped or airfreighted to countries different countries including Bangladesh.

When these arrive, doctored documents are presented to customs personnel. With the help of the unscrupulous customs officials, they are cleared.

Registration causes no problem at the BRTA with inside help. Even vehicles are not always required to be present, the dealers say.

Thus the vehicles are offered to buyers, the sellers making a good profit cheating the government of duties, violating law and harming traders who import properly documented vehicles. Several luxury models

were brought to Zia International Airport from Dubai recently. These vehicles are of 1995-96 models. But the documents have been doctored to show those to be vehicles of 1992, sources told The Daily Star.

Highly placed sources in the National Board of Revenue (NBR) said they are concerned about complaints from car dealers that such practices are being resorted to by unscrupulous elements. They are investigating the complaints.

Reconditioned Car Dealers Association has expressed concern over the situation in a memorandum to the authorities recently.

Those who had brought in 1992 or 1993 models of vehicles are facing the crunch to sell those, a dealer said, showing the unsold cars.

But others at their expense are making a good business, he complained. It is not only cheating the state but also the customers, who often face problems when those vehicles develops problems, contrary to the promises of dealers, he added.

14 hurt as Sramik League factions clash at Tongi

GAJIPUR, Sept 25: At least 14 people were injured, two critically, in a clash between two rival groups of Jatiya Sramik League at Ashraf Textile Mills at Tongi early today, reports UNB.

Police said the clash occurred when supporters of Haris and Alamgir allegedly attacked their rivals led by one Moslem and Ershad, leaving 14 injured.

Police fired eight shots to bring the situation under control. Eight of the injured were admitted to local hospital while two were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

The clash was learnt to be an outburst of inner conflict of the two factions who fielded separate candidates for the coming CBA election of the industry.

জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি জাদুঘর. আগারগাঁও, শেরেবাগা নগর, ঢাকা. কর্তৃক পরিচালিত. "তরুণ ও অপেশাদার বিজ্ঞানীদের উদ্ভাবিত প্রকল্প উন্নয়ন". প্রকল্পের আওতায় মেধাবী দক্ষিণ উদ্ভাবক ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের শিক্ষা বৃত্তি প্রদান। জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি জাদুঘর পরিচালিত "তরুণ ও অপেশাদার বিজ্ঞানীদের উদ্ভাবিত প্রকল্প উন্নয়ন" প্রকল্পের আওতায়. ৬ষ্ঠ শ্রেণী থেকে ১০ম শ্রেণীতে অধ্যয়নরত ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদেরকে জুনিয়র গ্রুপে ৬৩ জনকে এবং একাদশ শ্রেণী ও তদউর্ধ্ব অধ্যয়নরত ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদেরকে সিনিয়র গ্রুপে ৬২ জনকে এক বছরের জন্য বৃত্তি প্রদান করা হবে। বৃত্তির হার প্রতিমাসে জুনিয়র গ্রুপে ২০০/- টাকা এবং সিনিয়র গ্রুপে ৩০০/- টাকা। জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি সঙ্গ্রহ অথবা অন্য কোন জাতীয় বা আন্তর্জাতিক বিজ্ঞান প্রদর্শনীতে উদ্ভাবনীয় প্রকল্প প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণকারী মেধাবী দক্ষিণ উদ্ভাবক ছাত্র-ছাত্রীরই শুধুমাত্র আবেদন করতে পারবে। উল্লেখিত শর্তপূরণকারী অগ্রহী ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের নিকট থেকে নিম্নের তথ্যাদি সহ সাদা কাগজে দরখাস্ত আত্মন করা যাচ্ছে। (১) আবেদনকারীর নাম (২) শিখা/অভিভাবকের নাম (৩) ঠিকানা (৪) শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ও ঠিকানা (৫) শ্রেণী (৬) রোল নং। আবেদন পত্রের সাথে নিম্নলিখিত কাগজপত্র প্রেরণ করতে হবে। ১। জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি সঙ্গ্রহ অথবা অন্য কোন জাতীয় বা আন্তর্জাতিক বিজ্ঞান প্রদর্শনীতে পুরস্কার/অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রদত্ত মূল সনদপত্রের স্ব স্ব শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রধান কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি। ২। স্ব স্ব শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধানের সত্যায়িত বিপর্য বার্ষিক পরীক্ষা এবং সর্বশেষ পরীক্ষার নম্বর ফর্মের (Progress Report) অনুলিপি। ৩। স্ব স্ব শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধান প্রদত্ত অভিভাবকের বাৎসরিক আয়ের সার্টিফিকেট। ৪। স্ব স্ব শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধান প্রদত্ত চলতি শিক্ষা বছরে শ্রেণী কক্ষে উপস্থিতির হারসংশ্লিষ্ট সার্টিফিকেট এবং সত্যায়িত এক কপি ছবি। উল্লেখ্য, সিনিয়র গ্রুপের আবেদনকারীদেরকে উপরোক্ত ১-৪ ক্রমিক বর্ণিত কাগজপত্র ছাড়াও দরখাস্তের সাথে এস.এস.সি. এইচ.এস.সি. ডিগ্রী ইত্যাদি পরীক্ষার নম্বর ফর্মের (Mark sheet) সত্যায়িত স্ব স্ব শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধান কর্তৃক) কপি সংস্কৃত করতে হবে। দরখাস্ত আগামী ১০ই অক্টোবর, ১৯৯৭ তারিখের মধ্যে নিম্নলিখিত নামে নিকট পৌছাতে হবে। আ. ম. আজিজুর রহমান খান পরিচালক. ফোন: ৯১১২০৬৪, ৯১১৪৮৩১. বিজ্ঞানমনস্ক হউন, বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তির চর্চা করুন. সমৃদ্ধ বাংলাদেশ গড়ে তুলুন. DFP-21314-229 G-278