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Hartal: One killed, 60 hurt



Police trying to enter Sheikh Mujib Hall of Dhaka University yesterday, chasing pro-hartal JCD activists.

— Star photo



Pro- and anti-hartal activists clashing near Banani rail crossing.

— Star photo

On the DU campus, five shots were fired and about a dozen crackers exploded, allegedly by BNP-backed JCD activists at about 8:00 am in support of the hartal. The procession moved between Banani footbridge and Mahakali crossing on the Airport Road.

After the procession, when BNP activists were holding a rally at Mahakali, police dispersed them from the area.

A pro-hartal procession, backed by police, came from the Mahakali crossing and chased them away, witnesses said. The anti-hartal AL procession was led by Rahmatullah, MP, who also visited Salauddin's residence later.

A pro-hartal procession led

AIDS: Workshop for media men begins in city

By Staff Correspondent

A two-day workshop on HIV/AIDS for media men began at the city's LGED Bhaban yesterday.

Thirty-six participants from the Radio, BTV and the print media are attending the workshop, organised in observance of the World AIDS Day today.

The workshop will focus on the role of the media in creating awareness about AIDS. It is jointly organised by the Rotary Club of Dhaka, Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka and UNAIDS, Bangladesh.

A seminar was held yesterday evening as part of the workshop. Speaking as chief guest at the seminar, Health and Family Welfare Minister Salauddin Yusuf said the government is committed to prevention of AIDS in the country and has undertaken a five-year action plan to create public awareness about the disease.

The media have a great role in this regard, he added.

Among others, President of Rotary Club of Dhaka MA Zaman, Rotary Governor M Jalaluddin, Director, Panos, South Asia, Kunda Dixit, UNAIDS chief, David E Lockwood, Country Programme Advisor, UNAIDS, Lisa Messersmith and MR Chowdhury also spoke on the occasion.

Income tax

From Page 1

The agitating employees also gheraoed the residence of one official and locked up his office, NBR sources said.

They are also trying to use political influence to get the transfer order of the two employees cancelled.

According to sources concerned, the NBR authorities conducted an inquiry into specific charges against the two employees. Some 14 officials testified to the inquiry committee that they were corrupt.

Based on the inquiry report, the NBR had transferred the employees after consultation with the finance ministry.

"These people are working in a gang and have turned the income tax office into a den of corruption," said a high NBR official. "Unless the government exerts power from the highest authority, the situation would hit hard the revenue collection efforts."

According to sources, the transferred employees today met with the Chairman of NBR and he assured them of a fresh investigation into the charges.

Ctg rally

From Page 1

Khaleda Zia should make apology to the people of Chittagong for her 'misdeeds'. Otherwise, the people of Chittagong will never welcome her in this port city, he said.

The rally was followed by a procession which paraded through important city roads.

Earlier, namaz-e-janaza of the three activists, who were killed yesterday, was held at Lalbagh Maidan after the Zohr prayers. A large number of leaders and workers of Awami League and its various front organisations including city Mayor Mahiuddin Chowdhury took part in it.

Business leaders

From Page 1

are: DCCI President ASM Quasem, MCCI President Samson H Chowdhury, FCCI President Mabbub Jamil, Employers' Association President Rokia A Rahman, BGMEA President Mustafa Golam Qudus and Textile Mills Association Chairman M Shahjahan.

They observed that the widespread violence, acts of looting and damaging vehicles, and such other activities will endanger the fragile socio-economic fabric of the country, posing a serious threat to its future.

"No way will be left for Bangladesh to survive in the global market if its socio-political environment remains hostile to investment and economic activities," the statement said.

They hoped that all political parties would make an objective review whether hartal serves any purpose. "Hartal is being called indiscriminately in the recent years... it signifies nothing, but inflicts suffering on the people," the business leaders said.

The media have a great role in this regard, he added.

Biman flights rescheduled

Bangladesh Biman Airlines has rescheduled its domestic and Calcutta-bound flights with effect from December 3 due to shortage of aircraft, reports UNB.

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Sharif to fight 'conspiracy'

From Page 1

ing a mutiny on the Supreme Court bench further deepening the crisis.

Shah also warned his mutinous Supreme Court justices to fall in line behind him and cancelled a Supreme Court hearing called for tomorrow by the rebellious Justice Saeeduzzaman Siddiqui.

Siddiqui has asked 15 of the 17 Supreme Court judges to meet tomorrow to decide whether Shah should remain Chief Justice despite the fact that he was promoted out of term, ahead of more senior judges.

Shah said Sharif engineered the split in the judiciary to pre-

vent his contempt of court hearing to go ahead.

"Attempts have been made to create a rift among the judges so that they should be divided," Shah said. "To prevent me and other judges from deciding these cases, steps have been taken to divert the attention of the people and question the validity of my appointment as chief justice."

In his televised speech Sharif said Shah had overstepped his authority by suspending legislation passed by Parliament. He referred to three separate laws the chief justice suspended — a law to form anti-terrorist courts, an

amendment to the contempt law to give a right of appeal and another amendment outlawing party members to vote against the party.

"Why did they not stop this controversy after I appointed the judges?" Sharif asked.

"Whenever Parliament has tried to pass legislation, to safeguard the constitution, it has been obstructed by the chief justice," he said.

The President refused to sign a law passed by the two houses of parliament whereas he signed 300 ordinances during the previous government of former premier Benazir Bhutto, he said.

Conditions of Mostafa, 20, Majbir Hossain, 22 and Jahanmir, 20 were stated to be critical.

'Press can help develop political culture'

By DU Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar yesterday observed that the press could play a key role in development of political culture through proper treatment of news and presentation of views.

The seminar on "Freedom and Responsibility of Newspapers" organized by the Dhaka University Journalists Association (DUJA) was held at the TSC auditorium of the university.

A strong democracy is largely dependent on a truly politically literate middle class and the press may be helpful by informing and positively influencing the people, the key-note speaker said.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury addressed the seminar as the chief guest.

Dr Ahaduzzaman Mohammad Ali, a teacher of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of DU, presented the key-note paper in the seminar.

Chaired by Tarun Sarker, president of DUJA, the seminar was also addressed by Bhoror Kagoj Editor Matiur Rahman, The Daily Star Editor Mafuz Anam, Gazi Shamsur Rahman, Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, associate professor, Department of Journalism DU, and Rezanur Rahman, staff reporter of Daily Ittefaq. DUJA general secretary Nasiruddin Kochi conducted the seminar.

With the establishment of democracy in the country, the readers of the newspapers feel that there should be more information about the society, politics, economy, and culture, Dr Ahaduzzaman said.

He said that negative news were being prominently focused in the newspapers which should be stopped.

newspapers of the country are yet to fulfill their desire.

Talking about objectivity, he said that the facts were being distorted deliberately in some newspapers of the country. He proposed to set up a media monitoring centre to check distortion of facts in newspaper's reports.

The Bhoror Kagoj editor said that every sphere of the society was now divided over political ideology and the newspapers were also not free from the influence of politics. This is due to the fact that at the initial stage most of the newspapers in the country had a direct link with politics, he said.

But the newspaper owners of the country have begun to understand the need to be neutral in publishing news items, which is a good sign, he added.

Refuting the statement that the newspapers could play the role of teachers, Matiur Rahman said, "the leaders know everything, we do not need to teach the Prime Minister and the opposition leader the consequences of hartal and violence."

The leaders of both the ruling and opposition parties ignore the people of the country once they are voted to power, he said.

Expressing his optimism, the VC said that the newspapers had a duty to report the positive incidents with more emphasis.

He said that negative news were being prominently focused in the newspapers which should be stopped.

UP polls begin today

From Page 1 coordination committees have been formed in each thana, comprising respected citizens of the localities.

Political parties operating in the localities have their representatives in the coordination committees headed by Thana Nirbahi Officers, the chief executive of the thana level administration. The Deputy Commissioners will work as Chief Coordinator of polls in the districts.

Some 3,87,155 persons including 1,803 Returning Officers, 39,728 Presiding Officers, 1,15,208 Assistant Presiding Officers and 2,30,416 polling officers will discharge their responsibilities in the polls. The EC has, meanwhile, provided training to these persons.

Around 10 observer groups in the country, including FEMMA (Fair Election Monitoring Alliance), Manabadihikar and Bastabayan Sangstha and Ondhikar will monitor the polls.

The EC has made arrangements for deployment of BDR, Police, Ansar and Village Defense Party (VDP) to ensure law and order in and outside the polling stations during the election hours.

According to EC sources, one platoon of BDR personnel will stay at every thana headquarters during the polls, while another platoon will do mobile duties. Besides, a team comprising seven armed police constables and nine Ansar members with lathis will be posted at each of the 13,630 'trouble-prone' polling centres, while a team consisting of six armed constables and nine Ansars will be deployed at each of the

16,115 'less risky' centres.

Besides, the EC has instructed officials concerned not to allow anyone, other than those eligible, to enter the polling centres.

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