

BNP calls fresh
hartal in Ctg,
hill dists on
Dec 10 & 11

By Staff Correspondent
BNP and its allies have called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Chittagong and three Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) districts on December 10 and 11 demanding cancellation of the CHT accord.

The hartal programme was announced at a joint press conference of BNP and six other opposition parties at the Minto Road official residence of Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia at the end of a dawn-to-dusk countrywide hartal yesterday.

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People have
rejected
'black accord'
says Khaleda

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia has said the people rejected the 'black agreement' with Shantibhaini by observing the dawn-to-dusk hartal spontaneously across the country yesterday, reports UNB.

In a statement, she congratulated the people for making the hartal a success.

She said the hartal yesterday turned into anger of the people against the 'abandonment' of millions of Bengali speaking people and different tribes other than the Chakmas in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Begum Zia said people have come out on the street to give a befitting reply to the government for signing the 'so-called'

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Rail, road
barricade
programme
postponed

Leaders of jute, yarn and textile workers have postponed their rail-road barricade programme scheduled for today and tomorrow, reports UNB.

They postponed the programme after discussions with State Minister for Labour MA Mannan and State Minister for Jute and Textile AK Faezul Huq in the city yesterday, said an official handout.

The meeting at the Minto Road residence of MA Mannan was attended by trade union leaders Abdus Salam Khan, Ansulullah Master MP, Abul Bashar, Lutfur Rahman, Shah Alam, Iqbal Majumdar, Shahidullah Chowdhury, ZM Kamrul Anam, Badrul Alam Lavlu, Mosihuddin Alah, Bachchu Mia, Siraj Sardar and MA Hamid.

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150 injured in sporadic clashes during hartal

By Staff Correspondent

At least 150 people including three BNP MPs and 10 police men were injured in clashes between activists of ruling Awami League and opposition BNP and in police action during the dawn-to-dusk countrywide hartal that partially disrupted rail, road and waterway communications yesterday.

The BNP had called the hartal on Wednesday to protest the peace accord on Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). Six small parties including Jamaat-e-Islami, Jatiya Party (Zafar) and Jagpa also lent their support to the hartal.

The three BNP MPs — Nazimuddin Alam, Ehsanul Huq

blown off when a hand bomb he



Anti-hartal activists chasing pickets on Dholaikhali Road in the city yesterday (top) and a policeman firing tear gas shells to disperse pro-hartal activists in the same area (bottom).

— Star photo

Ali Khamenei to open OIC summit

All 142 resolutions adopted

TEHRAN, Dec 7: Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has pulled off a surprise by replacing President Mohammad Khatami to deliver the opening speech at the OIC summit here this week, reports AFP.

The opening declaration by the leader will determine the orientation of activities in the eighth summit of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said today.

Khamenei's decision to speak comes as a surprise two days before the start of the December 9-11 gathering of leaders and other top officials from the 55-member OIC.

All of the official documents distributed on the summit mentioned Khatami, as head of state, as the one who would be making the inauguration speech.

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Meanwhile, Islamic foreign ministers adopted all 142 resolutions today ahead of this week's OIC summit, despite differences over Turkey's military links with Israel and its actions in northern Iraq.

All resolutions were adopted, Javad Zarif told a press conference.

PM leaves today

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will leave Dhaka for Tehran today to attend the three-day summit of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), reports UNB.

Hasina, who will lead the delegation, told newsmen here yesterday that at the conference, Bangladesh will emphasize on the importance of 'strengthening the unity of the Islamic Ummah and its economic development.'

The text on northern Iraq was also adapted to make no mention of any country.

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Polls-related violence in Pirojpur: 100 hurt

By Staff Correspondent

At least 130 people were injured in polls-related violence between the supporters of chairman candidates in Pirojpur, Tangail and Sirajganj yesterday and the day before.

Of them, 100 people were injured in Pirojpur, 10 in Tangail and 20 in Sirajganj.

Our Staff Correspondent from Barisal reports: At least 100 people were injured in an armed clash between the supporters of two chairman candidates at village Dhasuria of Sirajganj.

Police arrested chairman candidate of the union Sohrab Hossain Bhuiyan along with his eight associates.

Police also recovered a revolver from his possession.

The other arrested are: Abdul Mannan, Habil Uddin, Syed Abu Azam, Akhel Ali, Nurul Islam, Zahid Hossain, Ganesh Das and Badol Mia.

In Sirajganj, more than 20

people were injured, six of them seriously, in a post-election vi-

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Settlers damage bridge, attack TNO office at Khagrachhari

KHAGRACHHARI, Dec 7: Angry supporters of Sarbadal attacked and damaged the TNO's office and the local press club during the day-long hartal today, reports UNB.

They also damaged a Bailey bridge at Bailekhari in Matiranga thana of the district to disrupt road communication.

Barring some sporadic incidents, the dawn-to-dusk shutdown was observed peacefully in all the eight thanas of Khagrachhari hill district.

Bangalee settlers under the banner of Oikya Parishad brought out group processions protesting the 'so-called' peace accord on the Chittagong Hill Tracts and demanded its cancellation.

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ALCWC blasts BNP for its stand against CHT accord

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) in a meeting last night condemned, what it said, the propaganda being unleashed by BNP and its allies against the peace accord on the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Chaired by party chief and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the meeting found it unfortunate that the BNP leadership had displayed 'irresponsibility' by calling hartal to oppose the peace accord coinciding with the ongoing Union Parishad elections and immunization programme throughout the country.

The meeting, held at Ganobhaban, made an appeal to BNP to return to parliament shunning the path of 'conspiracy' and openly discuss all issues of national importance, says a press release.

Besides, the meeting also finalized the party's programmes for observance of the Shaheed Intellectual Day on December 14 and Victory Day on December 16.

Meanwhile, AL presidium member Amin Hussain Amu was nominated to discharge the duties of party president during Sheikh Hasina's visit to Iran for attending the OIC summit.

JS committee on Estimates meets for first time

By Staff Correspondent

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Estimates met for the first time yesterday, more than a year after its formation.

The committee, constituted on November 20 last year and headed by Dr Mizanul Huq MP of Awami League, had informally met once sometime last year.

However, only three members of the 10-man body was present at yesterday's meeting but none from BNP and Jatiya Party were present.

Meanwhile, Dr Mizanul Huq had created a lot of controversy by issuing dozens of notices to various ministries and government establishments without informing his colleagues on the parliamentary body. He used to ask for explanations about various official activities. Following controversy, the standing body members had re-

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Half-day hartal at Rangamati today

RANGAMATI, Dec 7: District All-Party Unity has called for half-day hartal in the hill town tomorrow.

The 6 am to noon hartal was called demanding release of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader Jane Alam who was arrested during a clash in the hartal hours today.

Police fired at least seven blank shots during the ram-

Bangladesh Youth Asia Cup cricket champions

countries.

The participating teams are: Sri Lanka, Australia, India, Pakistan, England, South Africa, West Indies, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Bangladesh, Scotland, Ireland, Denmark, Namibia and Papua New Guinea.

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In the day's final, Bangladesh piled up a huge 347 runs for all in stipulated 50 overs and later they bundled out PNG for a paltry 91 runs in 34.4 overs.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina congratulated

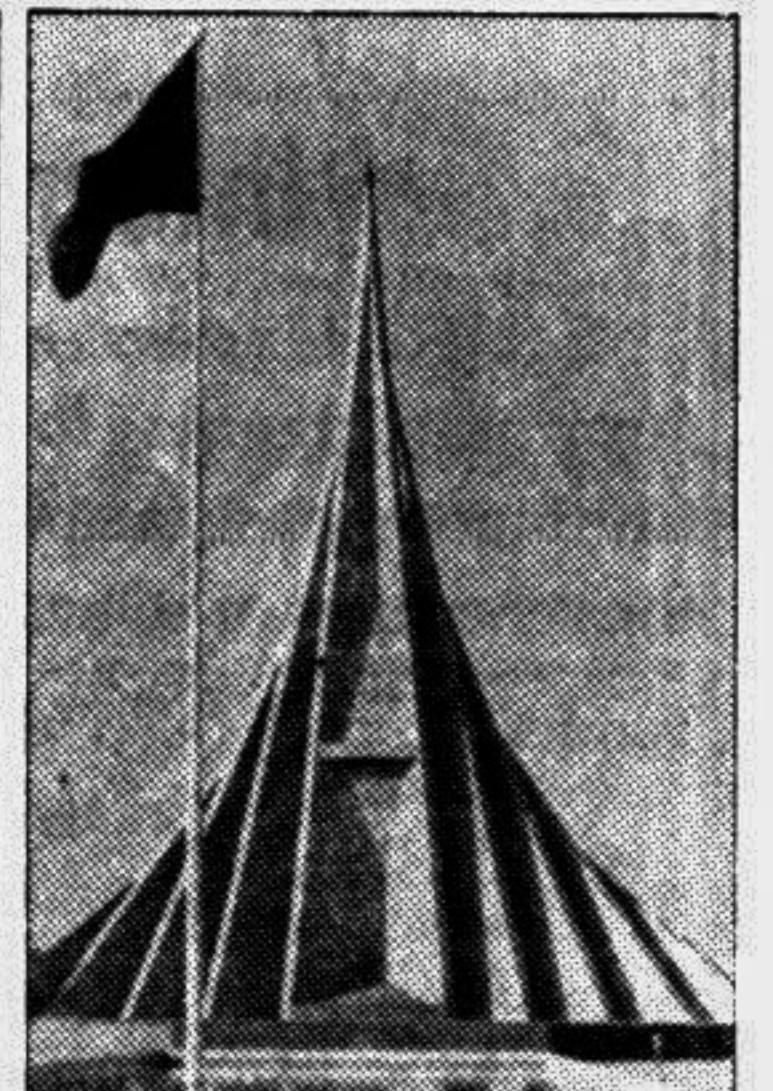
the Bangladesh team for the victory.

In a message, President Shahabuddin thanked the coach, manager, captain and players of the Bangladesh team for their landslide victory and that they have brightened the image of the country abroad.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed wished team's continuous success in future.

The Prime Minister said, "I am very happy and pleased".

State Minister for youth and Sports Obaidul Quader also greeted the Bangladesh team and talked to the team members over telephone after receiving the message of victory.



10-day 'Bijoy Mela' begins in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Dec 7: A ten-day Muktijuddhe Bijoy Mela (victory fair) began here at the Outer Stadium and its adjoining areas today with a call for upholding the spirits and ideals of the War of Independence, reports BSS.

Members of the families of the martyred alongwith disabled freedom fighters inaugurated the mela by igniting the 'victory flame'.

The main attraction of the mela is the function recalling heroic tales of the Liberation War.

An album and a cover depicting political upheavals from 1947 to 1971 on a vast canvas has been put on display in the mela premises.

Some 325 stalls have been set up. Exhibition of the documentary on the Liberation War, reception to the freedom fighters, cultural functions, music competitions for the children and holding of the victory procession on the Victory Day [Dec 16].

page but could not resist the sudden attack on the police station.

Mazharul Islam Tuhin, a Jubo League activist in Sonargaon, died at Narayanganj Hospital on Saturday. He was detained in the district jail in June in connection with two cases.

The mob attack came following a mourning procession by some 2,000 people carrying Tuhin's body after the Janaza was held at a local mosque.

The situation at the thana complex came returned to normal.

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