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PHILIPS

City people have again expressed no-confidence in govt: Khaleda

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has said the people of the capital city have once again demonstrated their no-confidence in the Awami League government by observing hartal yesterday, reports UNB.

"Hunger strike and hartal are recognised as democratic rights... No repressive measures of the government can prevent BNP from agitating for people's cause," she said.

The BNP Chief in a statement condemned the killing of Akkas Ali and arrest of party leaders and activists, including Kamruzzaman Ratan, during the hartal.

She alleged that police had fired tear gas and resorted to baton charge on her party workers and backed ruling party's 'armed terrorists' during the hartal.

Begum Zia said Akkas died following brutal police torture while a large number of BNP activists were injured in attacks by police and government-backed terrorists.

The BNP Chairperson said hartal and mass hunger strike are democratic rights of the people to protest misrule, corruption, political repression of the government by observing hartal.

By resisting this hartal, the government has not only violated people's rights, but also exposed its fascist character," the Opposition Leader said.

The path of repression or filing of 'false cases' will not be able to silence people's voice, she said.

Begum Zia said they were compelled to call the hartal as the government did not give permission to stage hunger strike at Paltan Maidan yesterday.

She demanded immediate release of party leaders and workers and withdrawal of false cases against them.

Kalparanjan urges PCJSS to help implement accord

BANDARBAN, Oct 18: Minister for CHT Affairs Kalparanjan Chakma has urged the people of the hill tracts to work together sinking all differences for the development of the region, reports UNB.

He was speaking at a gathering of UP Chairmen, headmen and teachers at Ruangchhari thana here today.

The minister said peace has been restored in the region after the signing of the CHT accord and it should be continued for the betterment of the people.

He requested the PCJSS leaders to ignore minor differences with the government and help implement the peace accord.

Expressing his resentment over Saturday's incident at Ruma, Kalparanjan urged all to shun the politics of destruction, hostility and vandalism for the smooth implementation of the development programmes in the region.

Presided over by Local Government Chairman, Chaitan Thoaing Chaung Pro Master, the function was addressed, among others, by chairman of Parbatta Chattagram Unnayan Board Bir Bahadur MP, Deputy Commissioner Atiqul Islam and secretary of the district AL Abdur Rahim.

BNP calls hartal

From Page 1 victims' and mourning processions for them after Asr prayers today in the capital and elsewhere, processions and demonstrations across the country tomorrow (Tuesday) and torch processions in Dhaka and all district and thana headquarters on Wednesday.

City BNP convener Sadek Hossain Khoka also gave a brief account of the incidents in different parts of the city during the hartal and blamed police and AL activists for those.

"Despite provocation by top government leaders, our workers showed restraint. Had they not done so, the hartal casualties could have been much higher," he said.

Manan Bhuiyan blamed the government for compelling BNP to go for yesterday's hartal by refusing to let it use the Paltan Maidan for a hunger strike. He also charged the government with a 'planned attempt' to resist hartal in the capital.

Referring to the forthcoming cricket tournament at the Bangabandhu Stadium, adjacent to the Paltan Maidan, the BNP secretary general said, "We planned the hunger strike ahead of the cricket tournament to help smooth holding of the international sport event."

18 magistrates



BNP brought out a procession in the city during hartal yesterday. — Star photo

Two killed during hartal

From Page 1 led by the BNP called the dawn-to-dusk hartal in the capital protesting the authorities' denial of the venue they wanted for staging a mass hunger strike.

The Alliance was not granted permission to hold the hunger strike at Paltan Maidan, adjacent to the venue for the Wills International Cup cricket tournament scheduled for October 24-November 1. The National Sports Council said the Opposition event could impede preparations for the prestigious moot.

The mass hunger strike had been called to register the Opposition's protest against 'corruption and fascist activities' of the ruling Awami League.

Akkas dies at Fakirerpul The dead were identified as Akkas Ali, 32, son of Abdus Sattar of Fakirerpul and Hasan, 18, a bus conductor from Daudkandi, Comilla.

Police caught Akkas during a clash between uniformed men and pro-hartal activists near Fakirerpul. He was later arrested and assaulted by police, witnesses said.

Akkas was already dead when brought to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital by police, hospital sources said.

The BNP at a press conference in the afternoon claimed that Akkas was one of its workers and died of police assault.

Police, however, claimed that Akkas was a drug addict and came under a mob attack after snatching a wrist watch from an unidentified person. Police rescued him and took him to the hospital immediately where he died later, a police press release said.

Hasan at Mirhajirbagh Hasan died of bullet injury in another incident in Mir Hajirbagh under Demra thana, BNP claimed.

Police and hospital officials confirmed the death but contradicted the BNP claims.

They said Hasan died of injuries in mass beating. Our DMCH correspondent reported that he did not see any bullet wounds in his body.

Of the injured, two were rushed to DMCH, one to Holy Family Hospital while others were admitted to different city clinics.

4 hurt in blast while making bomb in city

Four young men were injured in an explosion when they were allegedly making bomb near Postagola Bridge in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

The youths identified as Jallil, 21, Liton, 18, Sagar, 18, and Selim, 18, were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital but three of them fled after a few hours apprehending arrest.

Of them, Selim was undergoing treatment at the DMCH.

Devaluation

From Page 1 termed the devaluation "unfortunate" and "failure of the government's financial management."

"If currency is not stable, then both domestic savings and foreign portfolio investment will go down."

People will find dollar, gold or land more profitable than saving money in banks, he added.

Rafiq Miah beaten up Rafiqul Islam Miah was beaten allegedly by anti-hartal activists when he was leading a pro-hartal procession from Maghbazar crossing towards Mouchak at around 11:30 am.

Miah was rushed to nearby KC Memorial Clinic with injuries in the head, back and ear. Later, he was admitted to Holy Family Hospital.

His wife said stick-wielding youngsters from an anti-hartal procession led by local AL MP Dr HBM Iqbal suddenly attacked the procession led by Rafiq and beat the opponents severely. "Some 100 policemen standing nearby did not act at all," said Shahida Rafiq, a DU professor.

"We later lodged a case with the CMM Court accusing some local AL leaders including an ward (55) commissioner for the attack on Rafiq," she said.

Zimbabwe, England arrive Meanwhile, Zimbabwe and England, the first among the nine test playing cricket teams to come to Bangladesh for the tournament, arrived at Zia International Airport (ZIA) during hartal hours and were escorted to a city hotel by military police.

Anti-hartal pickets in command From early hours, the number of pickets and processions in support of the general strike was well outnumbered by those of anti-hartal activists.

The Awami League City unit leaders and lawmakers led those processions as they did in several other hartal occasions in the past.

Gunshots, bomb blasts, brick battering marked the day for those living in the city's Kalabagan, Nayabazar, Maghbazar, Mirpur Road, Naya Paltan, Bjoynagar, Sabujbagh, Azimpur, Lalbagh and some other areas in downtown Dhaka. The situation was similar in Jurain.

Tension in Kalabagan In Kalabagan, anti-hartal activists on motorbikes reportedly fired a number of gunshots at their opponents near a Chinese restaurant at about 12:45 pm, witnesses said.

Police said Nurul Amin, a

PWD employee, was hit by bullet at Kalabagan when pro-hartal activists opened fire. He was rushed to DMCH.

Police claimed three policemen were injured when BNP supporters threw bombs and bricks at them at Kalabagan. A photographer of the daily Inquilab received had bomb splinters in his shoulders.

Nayabazar rocked by blasts All day, residents of Nayabazar in Old Dhaka were terrified with frequent explosions of home-made crackers by rival political groups.

The trouble centred the City BNP office. Police posted at the vulnerable point claimed that they allowed neither the pro-hartal activists to cross one another's command area by enforcing a makeshift buffer state in-between.

Ruma loses her right hand An eight-year-old girl, Ruma, daughter of one Nurul Islam, received serious injuries from the blasts in the morning at Azimpur. Doctors at DMCH had no option but to amputate her right hand from the wrist.

Fatema, the poor mother at her daughter's bedside at hospital, was found dumbfounded when a Star correspondent approached her.

Panic gripped the neighbourhood at around 10 in the morning when unidentified people fired shots at Sabujbagh. No injuries were reported, however.

Student activists of both AL and BNP had an encounter in front of the Dhaka College at about noon, injuring five. Four of them were from BNP-backed JCD and the other from AL's BCL.

A JCD procession from Dhaka University marched through Palashi, Elephant Road to reach Mirpur Road near Dhaka College where it confronted a BCL procession coming from Azimpur. The JCD later held a rally near the Shahbagh crossing.

A number of auto-rickshaws, pick-up vans, buses, trucks and rickshaws were damaged by pickets at Chairmanbari (Banani), Kalyanpur, Hatkhola and in some areas of the Old City.

No progress in ME peace talks yet

QUEENSTOWN (Maryland), Oct 18: President Bill Clinton held extensive talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders at the West Bank summit, trying to smooth discord over a long-sought accord that would give the Palestinians control over more land on which they hope to establish a state, reports AP.

Clinton was trying to clear the way for an agreement by Sunday, the end of four days of talks, but signs of discord were evident.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has threatened to reject the deal if Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat did not take stronger action to uproot terrorist cells on land he already controls.

CIA director George Tenet was at Clinton's side in Saturday's sessions with Netanyahu and Arafat, underscoring US efforts to gather intelligence on terrorists whose attacks have damaged Mideast peacemaking.

No claims of progress were made by the US hosts as the talks wound past nightfall, interrupted only for a barbecue dinner for the American, Israeli and Palestinian delegations.

"A constructive, pragmatic approach continues," James P Rubin, the US State Department spokesman, said. "Everyone's mood remains that we are determined to keep the pace as intensive as possible."

According to diplomatic sources, key security issues remained unsettled, and Netanyahu and Arafat exchanged allegations underscoring mistrust between the two leaders.

Two arrested for manufacturing fake horlicks

CHITTAGONG, Oct 18: The detective branch of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) unearthed a fake horlicks manufacturing unit at Bakalia here today.

BCL-Shibir clash leaves 20 hurt at Pabna

PABNA, Oct 18: Over 20 people were injured, eight critically, in a clash between the activists of ruling party's student wing Chhatra League and Jamaat-backed Islami Chhatra Shibir here today, reports APB.

Police and witnesses said the clash followed a dispute over writing of graffiti on walls of Santhia Degree College at 5 pm.

The rival activists attacked each other with lethal weapons and exploded hand bombs before police dispersed them.

Santhia Pourashava Awami League president ASM Abdus Samad and BCL leaders Sobel and Mukul, Asad, Azgar, Sattar and Aatur of Chhatra Shibir were admitted to local health complex.

Two separate cases were filed with the police.

Fastest man to scale Mt Everest

KATHMANDU, Oct 18: A Nepalese mountaineer, has scaled Mount Everest in 20 hours and 24 minutes to become the fastest ever to reach the summit of the world's highest peak, reports IANS.

Kaji Sherpa, a resident of Solukhumbu district of Nepal, reached the Everest summit on Saturday to break Frenchman Mark Batard's record. Batard had climbed the 8,848-metre peak in 22 hours 29 minutes in October 1990.

Sherpa started his ascent from the base camp at 4 p.m Friday and reached the summit at 12:24 a.m Saturday. Information reaching here suggests that Sherpa had reached 8,700 metres at 6 a.m but lost three hours due to bad weather. "He resumed climbing after the weather got better and reached the summit at 12:24 a.m," said a statement from Tuborg Speed Everest Expedition (TSE) '98, the organiser of the climb.

Had it not been for the weather, Sherpa would have climbed the peak in less than 18 hours as he had vowed earlier, organisers claimed. Sherpa led a five-member TSE team. Sherpa's 1994 bid to break Batard's record was thwarted by bad weather, which forced him to give up after reaching 8,400 metres in 12 hours. This is the fifth time the 33-year-old Sherpa had reached Everest summit.

Fuel pipeline burst: 100 killed in Nigeria

WARRI (Nigeria), Oct 18: More than 100 people scavenging for fuel from a burst pipeline were killed in southern Nigeria today when a fire ripped through the area, witnesses said, reports Reuters.

The death toll from the incident, described by one oil industry official as an act of sabotage, could reach 200 as many of those taken to hospital were not expected to survive, some witnesses said.

Wife murdered

From Page 1 said that Soma suffered burn injuries when her clothes caught fire while she was preparing milk for her child at about 4:00 am yesterday.

Soma was brought to the DMCH where she died at about 9:30 am, hospital sources said. Din Mohammad was absconding, police said.

BAU terrorism

From Page 1 crimes, including attack on teachers' houses and assaulting some female students of the university.

The types of their punishment could not be known. The BCL activists at a meeting on the campus yesterday gave the authorities four-day ultimatum to withdraw their decision.

BATEXPO

From Page 1 because it could not be shipped in time or was rejected by importers for some reasons.

"My consignment returned from a US port due to an embargo imposed by the US customs," said Syed Al-Mamun of Rosette Group. He said he has one crore taka worth of stock lot products and his business is about to be closed for this reason.

Another participant said he was ready to give substantial discount on his stock lot products, "but I am not fortunate enough to see a potential buyer this year."

Another participant said he could not ship garments worth 16,500 dollars in time because workers could not attend office during the recent devastating flood.

Most of the participants this correspondent talked with felt that the hartal cost them a lot.

Tofail brushes aside demand for early polls

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed has brushed aside the opposition's demand for an early general election saying it is out of the question.

"We will complete our term as the people voted us to rule the country for five years," he told UNB over telephone yesterday.

About the opposition's hartal in the capital on the day, Tofail said: "This was unwarranted and unnecessary."

The BNP and its allies had called the hartal with an "evil design to destabilise the political situation," he said, adding that "they went for it without any issue."

The minister said if the BNP had any sincerity, they would have staged their mass hunger strike at Osmany Udyan allowing smooth preparation for the Wills International Cup cricket tournament at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

He said: "The BNP leadership has become jealous seeing the success of the relief operation under the competent leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman."

One sentenced to 17 yrs' RI for keeping illegal arms

BARISAL, Oct 18: One Jamal Hossain Chowkidar was sentenced Thursday to 17 years of rigorous imprisonment by the Special Tribunal Court-2 here for possessing illegal arms, reports APB.

Abdul Kuddus Mia, the judge of the court, gave the verdict under the Sections Ka and Cha of the Arms Act in absence of the convict.

Police raided the house of Jamal at village Bhashanchar in Kotwali thana on June 23, 1997 and recovered a country-made revolver with three bullets. He, however, fled the scene and was still absconding.

The judge, after examining five witnesses, pronounced the verdict.

Young man killed as rival groups clash at Nabinagar

NARSINGDI, Oct 18: A young man was killed and 20 other people were injured as rival groups clashed at a village in Nabinagar thana of Brahmanbaria district today, reports APB.

The dead was identified as Daud, 26, of village Chitrari under Nabinagar thana.

Police and witnesses said two groups — one led by Mogal Mia and another by Shahid Mia — clashed over control of the area at about 8 am.

Both the groups used lethal weapons leaving Daud dead on the spot.

Alleged terrorist hacked to death at Tangail

TANGAIL, Oct 18: An alleged terrorist was hacked to death and another injured at Adalat Para here today, reports UNB.

Hartal: 4 dists

From Page 1 Rajshahi, Natore and Chapainabagan districts.

The meeting demanded immediate release of Alamgir Kabir MP and withdrawal of false cases against him and Nadim Mustafa, MP of Rajshahi.

A statement jointly issued by 22 lawyers accused the government of influencing the judiciary to serve its political purpose.

Convention of SAARC Diploma Engrs Forum Begins tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent The first convention of SAARC Diploma Engineers' Forum (SDEF) will begin in the city tomorrow with a call for exploring technological thoughts on political philosophy to help eliminate poverty and exploitation.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the three-day convention at the Osmani Memorial auditorium at 10:30 am.

SDEF leaders at a press conference at the Institute of Diploma Engineers here on Saturday said only healthy thoughts imbued with technological thoughts can help eradicate poverty.

Politics devoid of technological thoughts is merely a tool for exploitation and the convention will also call for eradication of such politics, they said.

The convention will underscore the need for developing an institutional framework to increase cooperation among diploma engineers in the SAARC countries to help eliminate poverty and illiteracy and ensure food clothing shelter and healthcare facilities for all, they added.

Convener of SAARC Diploma Engineers' Forum Rafiqul Islam Bhuiyan and leaders of the Institute of Diploma Engineers (IDE) AKMA, Hamid, Kazi Latiful Kabir and Mozammel Haq were present at the press conference.

Earlier on Monday, the SDEF will give a reception to the foreign delegate attending the conference at the IDE auditorium.

Indo-Pak talks

From Page 1 His Pakistani counterpart, Shamshad Ahmad, said: "But we must keep in mind that in the given climate of mistrust and lack of confidence, it would be somewhat unrealistic to expect that substantive progress leading to a complete normalisation of relations can be achieved in all areas unless the core issue remains unresolved."

Ragunath, replying to a question, reiterated India's opposition to Pakistan's earlier proposals for a third-party mediation in Kashmir and said both sides must adhere to bilateral dialogue as they decided in a 1973 peace accord.

Ahmad said Pakistan was not averse to the bilateral track and was giving it a chance, but third-party mediation was a matter of necessity wherever it arises.

Ragunath said his side put forward a broad package of confidence-building measures ranging from avoidance of a nuclear conflict to measures for developing secure, dedicated communication links between political, civilian and military authorities of the two countries.

Ahmad said Pakistan too had proposed a solid regime of mutual restraint and stabilisation in the nuclear and ballistic field... that can enable India and Pakistan... to avert the risk of a nuclear conflict and to prevent an expensive nuclear and missile race."

THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF LATE AL-HAJ JAHURUL ISLAM

Today, October 19, 1998 is the third Death Anniversary of the Late AL-HAJ JAHURUL ISLAM, the founder and chairman of ISLAM GROUP OF COMPANIES.

Wife murdered

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Another participant said he was ready to give substantial discount on his stock lot products, "but I am not fortunate enough to see a potential buyer this year."

Another participant said he could not ship garments worth 16,500 dollars in time because workers could not attend office during the recent devastating flood.

Most of the participants this correspondent talked with felt that the hartal cost them a lot.

"If there was no hartal, we could have received a good number of orders," one participant said.

Meanwhile, the BGMEA has extended the BATEXPO for another day. "Considering the hartal, we have decided to extend the fair by one more day," BGMEA President Mostafa Gollam Qudus told The Daily Star. The fair will conclude today.

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Both the groups used lethal weapons leaving Daud dead on the spot.

Alleged terrorist hacked to death at Tangail

TANGAIL, Oct 18: An alleged terrorist was hacked to death and another injured at Adalat Para here today, reports UNB.

Police said a group of terrorists attacked two members of another group, Hablu Rafiq, 25, and Balaka Rafiq, with sharp weapons following heated debate between the two groups at about 8:30 pm.

Hablu Rafiq succumbed to his injuries soon after he was rushed to the Tangail General Hospital. Balaka Rafiq was sent to Dhaka in an unconscious condition.

Both victims were accused in more than 10 cases relating to terrorism and extortion, police said.

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