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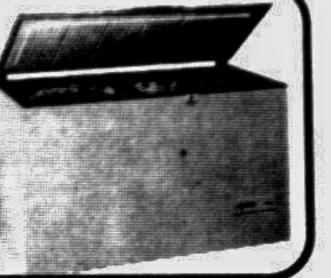
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SC drops contempt proceedings against Ershad, **B** Observer

By SC Correspondent The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday dropped the contempt proceed-ings against former President H M Ershad and the Bangladesh Observer authority.

The court accepted the unqualified apologies sought by the editor, publisher and a staff reporter of the newspaper.

The court also gave a cautionary warning to the staff re-porter of the daily and asked the Observer authority to be careful in future in publishing 'such' reports.

The Bangladesh Observer published a report on August 11, 1998 that Ershad, addressing a public meeting at Paltan Maidan on August 10, said he had set up seven benches of the High Court during his regime, but it was undone through conspiracy of a group of people including President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed.

He was further reported to have said Justice Shahabuddin criticised setting up of seven benches of the High Court and questioned the wisdom of his (President) assenting to the Hill Tracts bill.

Ershad submitted to the court that he did not make any contemptuous statement or threw aspersion on the court. His statement was published in a distorted way in the daily. Following publication of the

report some leading lawyers of the Supreme Court in a joint statement condemned it. Jatiya Party office secretary

Humayun Kabir Hiru in a rejoinder to the press asserted that Ershad did not make such statement. Later Habibul Islam

Bhuiyan, president of the Supreme Court Bar Association submitted a letter before the Registrar of the Supreme Court drawing attention to the report.

On August 19, 1998 the Appellate Division drew the contempt proceedings and directed the contemners to show cause as to why they will not be charged with contempt of the Court and also directed them to appear before the court.

FBCCI From Page 1

ing BATEXPO-98 and foreign cricket teams are arriving to take part in the Wills International Cup in Dhaka.

Such programme has created the ground for renewed terrorism and again a fresh hartal has been called on October 22.

The FBCCI said the entire country is now engaged in the post-flood rehabilitation works while export and import sectors are trying hard to recoup the losses.

Besides, an environment has been created for foreign investment after the flood. Arrangements have been made in Dhaka to host an international cricket tournament.

Under this circumstances, repeated calls for hartal are tarnishing the image of the country as well as obstructing the development works, said a press release.

Ticket sale

From Page 1

Elephant Road, Kawranbazar, Malibagh, Naya Paltan and Narayanganj. The Federation branch will

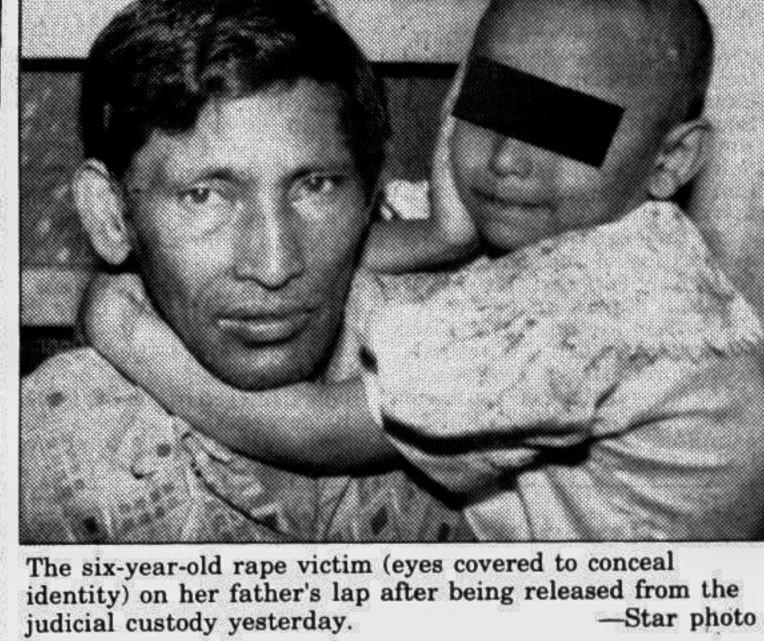
sell only the VIP tickets. One person will be allowed only three tickets for any particular match while anybody buying all the tickets for eight matches together can have five

such sets. Meanwhile, a 19-member New Zealand team is scheduled to arrive here at 10:25 pm to-

The Kiwis led by left-handed batsman, Stephen Fleming, will be the third team to reach the capital. The team included 14 players and 5 officials.

Two low-ranking teams among the nine test playing nations, New Zealand and Zimbabwe, will meet in the inaugural match of the tournament on October 24.

Zimbabwe and England already reached Dhaka on Sun-



Deadlock over assessment procedure

Raw materials for RMG

remain dumped at port

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 19: A

large quantity of imported

garment raw materials worth

crores of taka has been re-

mained dumped at Chittagong

port following a deadlock over

the assessment procedure that

requires undertaking from the

C&F agents as per a new circu-

day when the C&F agents de-

clined to give any undertaking

to bear the responsibility in

case of any irregularity in the

garment raw materials im-

ported under back-to-back LCs.

lar, the C&F agents are required

to certify the importer of the

raw materials as a genuine

businessman having factory.

dent, commissioner of Chit-

tagong Customs House Abul

Kasem said that the trouble

started vesterday with the im-

plementation of the new circu-

lar issued by NBR on Thursday.

have been tagged with the im-

porters of garment raw materi-

From Page 1

ready there. At such a moment,

the government should take up

programmes aiming at putting

money into people's hands, in-

stead of taking money out of the

people's pocket by imposing

result in the contraction of the

economy. "With all these added

taxes, people will be discouraged

to save, which means in-

Akkas buried

vestment will also be lower."

From Page 1

activist.

DMCH.

caught snatching a wrist-watch.

BNP also claimed Akkas was its

that they supervised the burial

of one "dead man" at the Azim-

pur graveyard in presence of his

parents and faced obstruction

from a group of "miscreants" on

of Akkas after autopsy at

night alleged that police

forcibly took the body to Azim-

pur graveyard although they

had told the victim's parents

that it would be taken to their

house at Fakirerpool from the

hospital. It also blamed police

for misbehaving with Abdullah

Al Noman, party's joint secre-

tary general and a former min-

lies in the seven-party held a

gayebana-janaza of Akkas and

Hasan, who died during Sun-

day's hartal, at the Baitul

Mukarram after Asr prayers

yesterday. A mourning proces-

Meanwhile, BNP and its al-

Earlier, police took the body

A BNP press release last

When contacted, police said

He said the measures would

new taxes," Rahman said.

"Actually, the C&F agents

New taxes

"A demand depression is al-

Talking to this correspon-

According to the new circu-

The stalemate began yester-

lar by NBR, sources said.

customs sources said.

customs sources said

als to ensure their re-export,"

C&F agents also will have to

shoulder the responsibility in

case the importers do not re-ex-

NBR authorities today over the

C&F agents M Salimullah said

that the circular was not issued

importers once our job is fin-

ished after clearing the cargo

from port on commission ba-

the matter with bodies con-

cerned including BGMEA before

the cargo until and unless the

order of NBR is withdrawn," he

the deadlock continued, it

would affect on shipment of

garment products causing huge

stock lots and other disloca-

Pro-BNP labour

issuing such an order," he said.

from realistic point of view.

However, I will talk to the

Meanwhile, president of the

"We have no control over the

"Even NBR did not discuss

"We will not go for clearing

Salimullah informed that if

"As per the new order, the

the commissioner said.

port the goods," he said.

deadlock, he added.

sis," Salimullah said.

announced

Six-year-old rape victim released from judicial custody

By Staff Correspondent The six-year-old girl who was raped at the premises of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court was released from

the judicial custody yesterday.

The girl was raped on March
10 this year inside a police control room at the CMM's court building.

Witness of the case one Shipan was also released from the custody as per a court order passed respectively on August 18 and September 22.

The court order said that they (the victim and the witness) could be released from the judicial custody as their statements had been recorded. The girl was handed over to

his father Fazal Bepary.

Holzman visits terminal site

CHITTAGONG, Oct 19: US

The US Ambassador also

About 22 labour organisathe existence of the port.

formed a four-member commitabout the political situation of

the local leaders of BNP, Jamaat and Jatiya Party.

negotiations

QUEENSTOWN (Maryland)

adviser to Prime Minister Benon terrorist activity."

Yasser Abed Rabbo, called the suspension "cheap blackmail."

From Page 1 had not received any formal or-

still to decide the price at which

at Patenga

Ambassador in Bangladesh John C Holzman today visited the Chittagong port to see the port activities, and held meeting with the chairman and the other high officials of the port. reports UNB.

visited the site of the proposed private container terminal at Patenga. The proposed container will be constructed by US investment company Stevedoring Services of America (SSA) at a cost of Tk 2,000 crore.

tions of Chittagong port are opposing the construction of a private container terminal apprehending that it will threaten

tee to look into their objections. Later, Holzman held a meeting with Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and talked

the port city. He also held meeting with

Oct 19: Israel suspended today all West Bank negotiations with the Palestinian Authority except for security talks in response to a bloody attack on Israeli civilians back home, reports AP.

Announcing the breakoff on the fifth day of Mideast peace talks. David Bar-Illan, a senior jamin Netanyahu, said: "The Palestinian Authority is not doing anything to crack down

ders for rice purchase from Dhaka.

the 350,000 tonnes of parboiled rice will be sold to Bangladesh, which is fearing a food shortfall in the wake of devastating floods. Vajpayee had assured his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina Wajed last month that the rice would be sold at a "special friendship' price. The Statesman newspaper reported today.

Bangladesh had sought the rice at \$300 per tonne. Hasina is said to have spoken to Vajpayee over the telephone seeking India's help to offset the expected shortfall after the floods damaged her country's paddy crop. The Indian rice is needed to shore up Bangladesh's food reserves to the stipulated safe level of 2.2 million tonnes.

BGMEA president Mostofa Golam Quddus presents a crest to BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia at the closing ceremony of BATEXPO '98 at Sonargaon Hotel yesterday. National forum on

By Staff Correspondent

SAPRI begins today

The national forum of Structural Adjustment Participatory Review Initiative (SAPRI) begins in the city today, keeping in the forefront questions like whether reforms in the agriculture and industrial sectors increased the viability of the crop sector and improved industrial capacity.

SAPRI is a tripartite collaborative exercise involving global network of civil society organisations, the governments and the World Bank. In Bangladesh, the initiative is being led by Bangladesh SAPRI steering committee headed by Prof Rehman Sobhan with support from national technical committee led by Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud.

Speaking at a press briefing on the eve of the forum, Prof Rehman Sobhan said structural adjustment is in place in different countries having varied results.

"It is now recognised that the outcome of the reform process and its impact on economies and stakeholders who are affected by the reform programmes should be scrutinised," said Prof Sobhan. "We are now in the process of

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, study director of SAPRI Bangladesh, said the participatory approach of the study on adjustment programmes distinguishes it from other studies.

"We are taking opinion of the people who are affected by the structural programmes and looking at how the livelihood of the vulnerable groups are being affected," said Dr Bhattacharya. He said three issues are being

looked into by this study. These are: How policy changes have affected the livelihood of labourers and small and medium entrepreneurs; how changes in agricultural policy have affected the marginal farmers and landless labourers: and whether changes in public finance has increased fund allocation for the vulnerable

Francis Temple, incoming World Bank country director for Bangladesh, told the press conference that the Bank was interested in the study because of its participatory nature.

We want to listen to all groups. But in the past we had not always been listening enough," said Temple, "We want to understand what worked and what did not. This will help us improve the quality of our programmes.

Others who spoke in the briefing are Giasuddin Pathan. DG, NGO bureau, and Tony Avirgan, member, SAPRI Global Network Secretariat.

also came under attack in

which seven persons including

five policemen were severely in-

jured. They were later admitted

to hospital. BNP supporters re-

portedly used hand bombs and

attacked the BNP office at about

10 am and damaged all its be-

ties were soon locked in fierce

clashes. All modes of transport

went off the roads, and shops,

offices and banks were closed as

shots and lobbed 28 teargas

shells trying to bring the vio-

lent crowds under control. Till

filing this report at 11:30 pm,

there were sounds of explosions

and gunshots in different areas

of Khalishpur, Daulatpur and

Atra-Mirerdanga Industrial

called in to assist metropolitan

police, were patrolling the city

the political parties were ar-

rested on charges of damaging

BDR and armed police,

At least 25 people from both

Police fired at least 30 blank

panic spread all over the city.

In retaliation, AL activists

Supporters of both the par-

firearms during the rampage.

longings.

streets.

public property.

Khaleda

From Page 1

-Star photo

"As the chief of the main opposition party. I want to assure garment exporters and all industrialists that I would provide them with all kinds of cooperation for the continued development of the industrial sec-She said, BNP government

took many major initiatives. such as introducing back-toback LC, duty-free imports of capital machinery, grey fabrics and washing materials, to develop the garment sector. Khaleda said the govern-

ment should keep on trying to sustain the growth of the sector. "It is very much necessary now to produce fabrics locally," she said adding the government should take immediate effective measures to develop backward linkage industry in the country to face a quota-free world after the year 2005. Former finance minister M

Saifur Rahman MP, former commerce minister Shamsul Islam, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, special envoy to the former PM, M Morshed Khan, BGMEA president Mostafa Golam Quddus also spoke at the closing cere-

Khaleda referred to what she said "the government's insolent attitude and provocative activities" which compelled them taking to the street. "We want a political situa-

tion where there will be difference of political opinions but not confrontation and abuse of power," Begum Zia said. She urged the government to

take necessary steps so that the garment factory owners could overcome flood damages.

However, the BNP chairperson did not responded to BG-MEA's demand for an exemption of activities in garment factories from full-day hartals. She had declared the garment industry out of half-day hartal purview in October '97.

Saifur Rahman said the economy has been stagnant for the last two and half years due to budgetary mismanagement by the government. "Savings and investment rates have been halved this time resulting in low GDP growth," Saifur said and added that the government needed immediate policy changes to achieve a high eco-

nomic growth. Criticising the incumbent finance minister SAMS Kibria, who held BNP responsible for releasing 'politically motivated' loans, Saifur said it was his (Kibria's) ignorance if he does not know where the money has

really gone.

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said power failure and bad law and order situation have hurt the economy more than a hartal could do. He said it was BNP government's initiatives in the late 70s when the Ziaur Rahman government took initiatives to go for non-traditional export items for the development of the country.

PM's letter says Dhaka to take note of Amartya Sen's recommendations

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has congratulated Prof Amartya Sen, on his winning the Nobel Economics Prize and described the award as 'a rare honour for all of us,' reports

"You are the first Asian to win this coveted prize since it was first awarded in 1969 and we are simply delighted at the great news of your winning the 1998 Nobel Prize in Economics," Sheikh Hasina said in a letter sent to the Nobel laureate Sunday.

The Bangladesh leader said Prof Amartya Sen, by his incisive work on defining and measuring poverty, has made the problem easier to comprehend and analyse. She said Bangladesh will take note of "your recommendations for poverty to be analysed not just as a problem of distribution of income and wealth, but also of education, health, nutrition and other manifestations of human deprivation."

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said Prof Sen, by drawing on philosophy and economics, "has added a new dimension to conventional welfare economics" and "enabled us not only to understand the complex issues of poverty more deeply, but also to cope with it a lot better. Referring to Prof Sen's

childhood in Dhaka, Sheikh Hasina said "We all, as fellow Bengalis, feel very proud of you." She said, "We share the accomplishment, glory and honour" of both poet Rabindranath Tagor and Prof Sen, winners of the Nobel Prize.

Little Runa

From Page 1 "My husband Noor Islam (35) is a cardiac patient and is bed ridden in our village home. We have no property which can be utilised for the treatment of

our child", she said. "Runa cannot eat anything and I have no money to buy anything," she said.

Flood-stricken Fatema came to the city from Madhupur village under Nandail thana in Mymensingh district last month for survival.

After coming to Dhaka, Fatema, along with her daughter Runa and three-year-old son Hiron, used to live under a tree on a street at Azimpur. Later they got shelter in a building in the colony, she said. And later took refuge in a building of Azimpur colony with her daughter Runa and the son Hi-

Replying to a question, the doctor said that the director of the hospital inquired about the condition of the girl. No help came from any quarter for her treatment, the doctor said.

FBCCI losers

From Page 1

who failed to become a member for only three votes. Mohammad Ali Sarker, bagging 131 votes, was the last among the 15 executive com-

mittee (EC) members from the

Chamber Group. Tareq Kamal of Bangladesh Master Stevedores Association, losing by a margin four votes to Abu Taleb of Bangladesh Poly Propylene, Polythene Malik Banik Samity, filed the objec-

Group. The Election Appeal Board will begin hearing and recounting of Chamber Group votes at 11:00 am today and those of As-

tion from the Association

sociation Group at 3:00 pm. The Election Board will officially announce the final results tomorrow.

The new committee for 1998-2000 will take over on October 24 after the annual general

meeting on October 22.

From Page 1 PCJSS chief said: "This is not

the time to disclose it. To another query, he said:

"The extreme nationalists and fundamentalists are creating instability and terrorising the situation in the hill districts." Larma, however, said as per

the CHT peace accord, no Bengalee, either settled permanently or temporarily in the hill tracts, would be evicted.

BNP turns down AL plea

From Page 1 tion, the Alliance called an eight-hour countrywide hartal on October 22.

When contacted, Saifur Rahman, a former finance minister, told The Daily Star last night that Mannan Bhuiyan and himself had talks with Begum Zia at 7:30 in the evening. "We conveyed the ruling party's concern over the hartal call to her (Begum Khaleda Zia)".

Another BNP source said, the party chief listened to her senior party colleagues and expressed the view that the Opposition did not want to call the hartal but the government, by resorting to repression of Opposition leaders and workers, forced it to go for such a programme. She also told her party colleagues that BNP did not like to give any political programme that would shatter the country's economic growth.

When contacted, Matiur

Rahman Nizami told this cor-

respondent last night that

Nasim telephoned him

request as it was the govern-ment which made us call hartal again by its behaviours on the last hartal-day". Nasim earlier told newsmen

at his office that he had requested BNP and Jamaat leaders to call off the hartal in view of the Wills International Cup cricket tournament, beginning

tional cricket tournament of this high stature", said Nasim and hoped that the Opposition would cooperate in smooth holding of the tournament by calling off the hartal. Meanwhile, Obaidul Kader

told newsmen at BCB (Bangladesh Cricket Board) office yesterday that it was emsaid the Opposition should

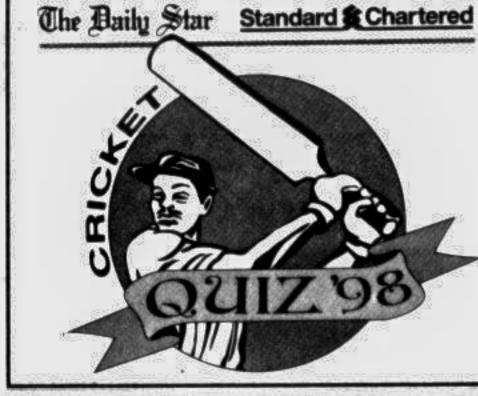
About his telephonic conversation with Khoka, the state minister said, "The response is positive. I think the ice is melting at the other end. "We have included three BNP

Sadeq Hossain and Hafizuddin Ahmed -- in the tournament advisory committee", said He later told The Daily Star over telephone last night, "I'll continue to persuade BNP lead-

sidelines of the tournament's advisory committee meeting on October 21". Asif Iqbal, Event Manager of the Wills International Cup. told newsmen at BCB office . "I think the ICC is only a guest here. But, I can only say that

"Bangladesh got the unique opportunity to earn honour for itself by holding such an event which never took place here before", said Iqbal, a former Pakistan cricket captain.

On the occasion of the Wills International Cup cricket to be held at Dhaka from Oct 24-Nov 1, 1998



See Star Sport Now!

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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sion followed. FDI: BOI survey dard 'arbitration facilities in

From Page 1

power generation would jump substantially by the year 2000. Ambassador Drury said European Commission's job here is to develop trade relations between Bangladesh and Euro-

pean countries. He stressed the need for setting up backward linkage industries for the garment sector to help it survive the free trade

regime beyond 2005. "The country (Bangladesh) has mixed image in Europe." British High Commissioner said adding, "Appropriate and adequate business facilities should be ensured for the people (the European investors) who are already here in Bangladesh and what they say 'positive' or 'negative' (back in Europe) is always counted by the newcom-

ers (new investors)." Italian ambassador Dr Raffaele Miniero said that further improvement of reception in the airports and easing visa formalities would play positive role for attracting FDIs. The Italian envoy stressed

the need for creation of stan-

Bartgladesh' for resolving any future business dispute which other projects, he hoped that could be generated following interpretation of international agreements. APB adds: The Chittagong Session Judge today ordered the authorities concerned to with-

> them immediately if they are not implicated in any other case. Five of them have been detained at Chittagong Jail while two others at the Bandarban

draw cases against 7 more

PCJSS members and release

Those who have received their release order are Amal Krishna Chakma, Nikhil Chakma, Milon Chakma, Usha Mong Marma, Milon Chakma, Nagendra Tangchangya and Ucha Pru. They are expected to be released from jail tomorrow

morning.

As per terms of agreement with the government, the PCJSS submitted a list of its 22 members for release. In the first batch, seven de-

tainees were freed on October 7 from Rangamati and Comilla jails.

front postpones programme at Ctg port The Dock Jatiyatabadi from October 22, reports UNB.

Sramik Dal has postponed its planned programme designed to paralyse the Chittagong Port It was decided after a meeting with Deputy Minister for Shipping Saber Hossain

Chowdhury in Chittagong yesterday; said a Shipping Ministry press release in the city. The meeting between the government and labour leaders at the Chittagong Port Authority rest house discussed the unresolved problems of the port

workers and other problems The meeting decided to implement shortly the workers' proposal for registration after examining the legal aspects, introducing incentive schemes and three-shift system, and

providing healthcare facilities. Shipping Secretary Saiful Islam and senior officials of the ministry and of the Chittagong Port were, among others, present at the meeting. The minister also held a

meeting with the Food Cell on

Foodgrains Unloading Process

and other senior officials of the

Saifur

From Page 1 policy, its normal budgetary plan. The step will give rise to further inflation to the suffering of the commonman," Saifur Rahman told UNB over telephone last night.

The government has announced two to 15 per cent supplementary duty on a number of items and surcharge on some services for raising additional revenue to meet the requirement of post-flood rehabilitation.

devaluation, supplementary duty and surcharge. "Why he needs additional funds, why the surcharge, when he is telling international donors and agencies have pledged more than what he had sought for overcoming the postflood situation", he said point-

ing to finance minister SAMS

"He (Kibria) should explain

Kibria.

Reacting to the government step, Saifur thought that the

country's economy will be seri-

ously affected in the process of

how much additional revenue he has been receiving from the petroleum sector. He is earning a huge hidden profit since prices of petroleum products were raised last year," he added. Saifur said oil prices came down by more than 30 per cent, to 12 or 13 dollars a barrel. Despite the sharp fall, prices of

He was critical of the levy on savings. "It will discourage savings and investment as well."

an abnormal high rate.

petroleum products were kept at

Shipping ministry has

Israel halts

A Palestinian official

Netanyahu declared that a land-for-peace accord is impossible unless Palestinians live up to their security commitments. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat called the grenade attack in Beersheba. Israel, regrettable and pledged to

Delhi yet to clear

The Indian government is

According to the daily,

launching a major research initiative about the impact of structural adjustment. He said the debate on the structural adjustment programme should go on among different sections of the people to make it participatory. JCD leader murdered

From Page 1 mad Ali has been sealed up. Advocate Akhtar Jahan Ruku (50) and Khokon (30), Ali's daughter and second son respectively, were immediately arrested along with Nadim (25) and Aziz (28). The latter two, security guards of the JCD leader,

were found washing the floor. All the four arrested persons are supporters of BNP, police and party leaders said. But other male inmates of the house are still absconding.

The dead was buried after au-

topsy at the local government

hospital and namaje janaza in front of the party office after Asr prayers. Tension gripped the entire city that saw violent clashes all

At about 8 am today, the Awami League office came under attack by angry BNP supporters who also damaged a large number of vehicles and shops. Some shops were allegedly looted, witnesses said.

supporters also damaged three temples as they went on ram-The Kotwali thana building and three commercial banks

Police said the angry BNP

"Jamaat is not considering the

on October 24. "It is a rare opportunity for Bangladesh to hold an interna-

barrassing that a hartal had been called just two days prior to the beginning of the event. He come forward to uphold the image of the country's 120 million

lawmakers -- Saifur Rahman,

Kader. ers to call off the hartal when we'll get together again on the

sports should be kept out of pol-