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'Daily loss stands at Tk 396 cr'  
**Hartal delays aid for flood victims: Kibria**

Finance Minister S A M S Kibria yesterday requested the opposition to refrain from hartal enabling speedy recovery of the damages caused by the century's worst flood, reports UNB.

He estimated the loss for hartal at more than Tk 396 crore per day to the economy, already shattered by the natural calamity.

If BNP and other opposition parties announce a moratorium on hartal, the ruling Awami League will also do the same while it would sit in the opposition. Kibria held out an assurance.

He was briefing newsmen about the impact of hartal on economy and post-flood reconstruction activities at his chamber yesterday.

The Finance Minister asked the opposition to exercise patience and shun hartal as a means of realising political demands that inflicted a heavy loss.

The loss includes Tk 80 crore in export, Tk 249.52 crore in production and Tk 56.5 crore in revenue, Kibria said.

The hartal is a threat to total economy. It is a planned conspiracy to thwart the economic growth, he said. "People should resist such acts to save economy from a disaster."

Otherwise, he feared, the dream of attaining a higher economic growth will be foiled.

Hartal again stalled the economy that was rapidly recovering from the century's worst and longest flood damages, he said.

"By united efforts, we've overcome the worst natural calamity. Now we'll have to resist man-made problems," the minister said, criticising opposition sponsored general strike, that, he said, is hindering post-flood relief and rehabilitation activities.

The Finance Minister said foreign food and financial aid for post-flood reconstruction are being delayed as negotiations with donors have been hampered due to hartal. He re-

ferred to repeated rescheduling of his meeting with European and Japanese donors.

European Union and Japan were considering to allocate 150 million US dollars and 175 million US dollars respectively for Bangladesh. A Japanese mission is now in the capital.

The government has increased the number of VGF cards to 40 lakh for distribution of foodgrains among the destitute as well as agriculture loan among the flood-hit farmers. These programmes are being hampered due to repeated hartal calls, he added.

"Everyday agriculture loan of Tk 11.5 crore can't be given to farmers due to hartal," he said informing that some Tk 3270 crore will be distributed among the farmers for post-flood agricultural rehabilitation.

The Finance Minister said: "The government has taken all possible steps to keep export uninterrupted even during the worst flooding. But hartal halted the export depriving the nation much needed foreign exchange."

The readymade garments sector alone incurs Tk 50 crore loss for everyday of hartal, while loss of other exports is about Tk 30 crore. Besides, production loss of each hartal day constitutes Tk 59.84 crore in trade and commerce, Tk 44.13 crore in industry, Tk 29.96 crore in construction, Tk 28.85 crore in Bank and insurance and Tk 76.95 crore in professionals and miscellaneous sectors.

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**Zimbabwe in Sharjah final**

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Nov 10: Zimbabwe beat Sri Lanka by 24 runs in the Sharjah champions trophy today, reports Reuters.

SCORES: Zimbabwe 259-7 (50 overs), Sri Lanka 235 all out (48.5).

Zimbabwe will take on India in Friday's final of the three-nation tournament.

**AL MP demands List Al Badr, Al Shams and Razakar, not FFs**

By Staff Correspondent

A ruling party MP yesterday demanded preparation of a list of the members of Al Badr, Al Shams and Razakar who opposed the country's Liberation War.

Panna Kaiser, in her call attention notice, also hoped the ruling Awami League that led the country's Liberation War and upholds its spirit will take necessary steps to this end.

The AL lawmaker said it is not proper to enlist the freedom fighters who are larger in number. In fact, almost all the people of the country participated in the war in many ways.

"Rather the members of Al Badr, Al Shams and Razakar who are a handful only should be listed."

However, Panna Kaiser's notice was not accepted by the Speaker.

The MP's demand came in the wake of the move to prepare a fresh list of freedom fighters by the Muktijoddha Sangsad.

**PM: Agri loan**

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she said asking the MPs to monitor the process.

The government has suspended realising the previous year's agri-loans up to Tk 15,000 and is also distributing fresh loans among the farmers, she added.

In reply to a question from Advocate Fazle Rabbi (JP-Gabandha) on imposition of Tk 300 crore as surcharge for post-flood rehabilitation, Hasina said it was imposed on luxury items and will not affect the commonmen.

In reply to a question about the distribution of VGF cards, Hasina said so far, 40 lakh VGF cards have been distributed among the affected people. The government has also decided to distribute another two lakh cards.

She said the government has distributed Tk 6.55 crore in cash as gratuitous relief and Tk 22.43 crore for the reconstruction of houses destroyed by the recent flood.

The Prime Minister said that under the Food for Work programme, already 120,000 metric tons of foodgrains have been allocated and another 120,000 tons will be allocated.

Under Test Relief programme, she added, 50,000 tons of foodgrains have been allocated and more 50,000 tons will be allocated.

**Ctg: 20 hurt**

From Page 1

ation under control. Twelve pro-hartal activists were arrested from the spot.

BNP later alleged that nine of its activists were hit with bullets when police opened fire on them at Bahaddarhat. But the police commissioner denied firing by police.

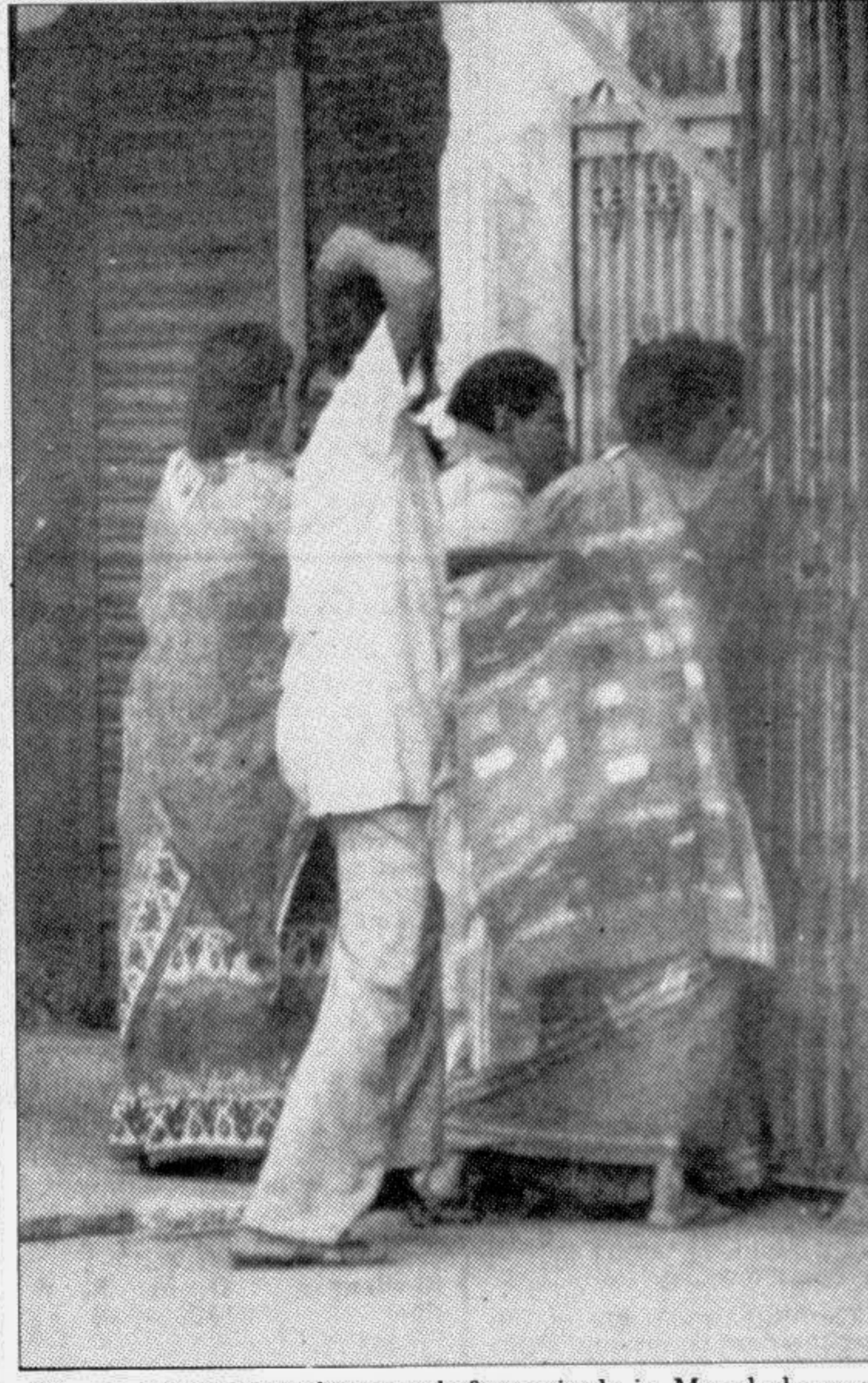
Police and witnesses said incidents of chase and counter chase brick-bating between pro and anti-hartal activists took place at Muradpur, Alankar Cinema Crossing, Station Road and Nandankanon areas in the port city.

BNP and Awami League held separate rallies and brought out processions in the city, — the former supporting the hartal and the latter opposing it.

In Chittagong port, partial cargo handling continued today as delivery of goods to and from the port remained suspended. Port official said. However, unloading of foodgrains from ships and their despatch to other parts of the country through river routes continued, they said.

**Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

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Women activists under attack from rivals in Mouchak area in the city during hartal hours yesterday. —Star photo



TROUBLE SPOT: Police stand on the roof of city BNP office at Nawab Yusuf Market, an area where heat of the hartal is usually felt most everyday. —Star photo

**ISPR version The minister says**

By Staff Correspondent

General Noor Uddin, a minister without portfolio, believes that a "non-partisan foreign policy" — not scientific steps — is enough to fight the possible effects of nuclear explosions in the neighbouring countries.

The minister made this revelation Monday in parliament.

Jatiya Party legislator Rustom Ali Farazi wanted to know whether the government was aware of any effects of the nuclear blasts in Pakistan and India last year. "If yes, what steps the government are planning to take in this regard?"

"Friendship to all and malice to none — is the main theme of our government's foreign policy. The nuclear explosion in India or Pakistan would therefore have no effects on our country," replied Awami League MP General Noor Uddin, a former energy minister.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is in charge of the defence ministry, while the former general is assigned to take care of the ministry issues in parliament.

**Nasim**

From Page 1

ister said. "If you (the MPs) want, the illegal occupant (Khaleda) will be evicted to recover the public land. Insha Allah."

He also blasted the Opposition leader saying "the claimant of being a people's leader has been keeping the people hostage for three consecutive days (by calling hartals) in the name of (welfare of) people."

On the contrary, Nasim said, prime minister Sheikh Hasina has sacrificed her paternal house at Dhanmondi for public cause and is also planning to donate her house at Tungipara.



Paramilitary troops stand vigil at Paltan crossing in the city yesterday while rickshawpullers find their life better on a street extremely busy on a normal day. —Star photo

**235 arrested in city**

From Page 1

Gopibagh, Tikatuli, Bijoynagar, Mouchak, Khilgaon and Malibagh were the main trouble spots.

During clashes between pro and anti-hartal activists, bombs were blasted and bricks bats exchanged. Police lobbed tear gas shells and fired rubber bullets to disperse the clashing groups in these areas.

Pro-hartal activists torched some autorickshaws each of the Bhorer Kagoj and The Ittefaq at Gopibagh and Shyampur respectively.

The three injured policemen were taken to Rajarbagh police hospital. The photojournalists were given first aid at different city clinics.

Of the injured in the city, 18 were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Among them, the condition of one unidentified rickshawpuller and a hawker named Hamid is critical, DMCH sources said.

The rickshawpuller was injured in a bomb explosion at Khilgaon market. Hamid was injured when some anti-hartal activists attacked him with a machete at Gullstan at noon after a bomb was blasted there.

An Awami League procession was passing through the area at that time.

At Gopibagh crossing, several bombs were blasted at about 10:00am. Some of the bombs fell near the vehicle of Additional Commissioner of DMP at about 10:00 am witnesses said.

The procession was passing through the area with a convoy of vehicles at that time, witnesses said. None was injured.

Following the incident, police swooped on the adjacent locality and picked up about a dozen youngsters, witnesses added. The police action was followed by clashes between pro and anti-hartal activists for some time. Police hurled tear gas shells and brought the situation under control.

A number of women activists were injured when a BNP procession led by former home minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury came under attack by anti-hartal activists near Mouchak Market at about 10:30 am.

Talking to The Daily Star later, Chowdhury alleged claimed that "goons" belonging to Awami League beat the processionists with sticks and "pulled saares" of Mahila Dal leaders and workers.

The four photojournalists were beaten up by a group of anti-hartal activists at Jatra-bagh crossing as they were taking snaps of a push cart set ablaze there. The injured are: Subhan of The Ittefaq, Tarif of The Independent, Shamim of The Aker Kagoj and Anis of The Daily Star.

The anti-hartal activists confined the photojournalists for some time and beat them

with sticks in front of policemen. Local MP Habibur Rahman, Molla appeared at the scene half an hour later just to advise them to take snaps in future in a "balanced way."

When contacted, police officials at nearby Demra thana expressed their "ignorance" about the incident.

The situation in the old part of the city was relatively calm yesterday. Two persons were killed in clashes there on Monday.

Police yesterday arrested some 100 young men from different areas of the old city including Nawab Yusuf Market where BNP's city unit office is located. Still, bombs were exploded there off and on, Kotwali police said.

Narayanganj: Hartal was partially observed in this river port town, reports our correspondent. No procession or rally of BNP was seen in the town. Rickshaws plied on the streets and shops were found open.

A heavy transport or long distance bus plied, Adamjee Jute Mills and other factories operated. Attendance in the private factories was normal.

Train service in the Dhaka-Narayanganj route was normal.

Our Staff Correspondent from Sylhet adds: The second day of the hartal passed off peacefully. All offices, educational institutions as well as commercial establishments remained shut. Sporadic incidents of chase and counter chase took part in the town throughout the day. However, there was no report of any clash.

The district unit of BNP along with its front organisations held rallies in the court-point area. The speakers said that the Awami League government had lost its right to rule the country. It should immediately resign for midterm polls. They alleged that the ruling party had attacked the peaceful rally of the opposition along with the police.

The District Awami League, in observance of the Shahid Noor Hossain Day, held a rally at the Registry Maidan.

The speakers alleged that the Opposition in the name of movement is now out to destroy

**Propaganda**

From Page 1

the AL's failures and politics of repression, oppression, harassment and arrest."

foiled BNP's rally on November 7 at Paltan Maidan and made an attempt on the life of Opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia," he said.

Hossain claimed at least 70 leaders and activists of BNP including Juba Dal General Secretary Goyeswar Chandra Roy were injured by police and Awami League workers during anti-hartal BNP.

At least 100 BNP leaders and activists from different parts of the capital Dhaka and elsewhere in the country were arrested during the second day of the 60-hour-long general strike, he claimed. "Police have even tortured innocent women."

He alleged that police resorted to indiscriminate baton charge, lobbed teargas canisters and ransacked a number of offices of BNP front organisations. They suddenly attacked a "peaceful" procession of BNP at Kalabagan area. Police also arrested General Secretary of Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Habibun Nabi Sohel.

He demanded unconditional release of all BNP leaders and activists arrested during Tuesday's hartal hours.

The BNP leader condemned "terrorist activities by a section of ruling party activists and assault on a group of press photographers."

UNB adds: City BNP convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka condemned the alleged assault of women activists of Mohila Dal by "Awami terrorists" led by HM Iqbal, MP, in a procession in Mouchak area yesterday morning.

He said BNP standing committee member Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Mir Shawkat Ali, Goyeswar Chandra Roy and Jamal Sharif Hiru were injured in the attack.

the country's democratic institutions. It is also conspiring to foil the verdict in the Bangabandhu murder case, they said.

In Bhola, 30 people, including six police officials, were injured when BNP and AL activists clashed at Lalmothan thana Monday night.

Among the injured, officer-in-charge (OC) and three sub-inspectors of Lalmothan police and seven other people were admitted to the local health complex. Condition of SI Tayerur Rahman was stated to be critical.

Police said they fired blank shots and arrested 19 people.

Ten shops were attacked, damaged and ransacked by some unruly activists this morning.

AL and BNP leaders blamed each other for the incident. Chase, bomb blasts and brick-bating also took place at Lalmothan and Daulatkhana in the morning.

Hartal was observed peacefully at Barisal. Police arrested Akhtar Hossain Mehbub, President of JCD Kotwali Thana Unit, with a revolver and six bullets in front of the BM College in Barisal town.

In Mymensingh, at least 15 people were injured in sporadic clashes. Of the injured, Habibur Rahman, 40, an activist of Awami League, was admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital with serious head injuries.

UNB adds: Clash between pro and anti-hartal activists in Hossainpur thana in Kishoreganj left at least 25 people injured, three seriously.

Witnesses said the clash occurred when processionists of the two rival groups came face to face at Natun Bazar at about 11 am.

Three of the injured — Badiul Alam (30), Mozammel Haq (19) and Asan Ali (60) — were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital and a local clinic.

In Jhenidah, hartal passed off peacefully barring some stray incidents.

Witnesses said five people were injured when several bombs exploded in front of Sonali Bank near the bus stand of Kaliganj thana at about 5 pm.

A Naogaon report says, at least seven people were injured in clashes between pro and anti-hartal activists in the town yesterday.

Witnesses said clashes, bomb explosions and attacks on shops took place in many areas of the town, including Postahatir crossing and Kallitola.

Pro-hartal activists also locked in clashes with police at Tajer crossing when they (police) prevented them from damaging shops and business establishments.

Witnesses said the agreement and urged the prime minister to state "frankly" whether she would like to implement the accord or not.

The PCJSS chief also blasted those who are now demanding "total autonomy" and said they have much in common with those who had killed M N Larma. These killers are "puppets of foreign conspirators," he observed urging people to remain alert.

Shantu Larma further said that the government had brought an amendment to the Rangamati district bill. But it failed to bring amendment to Bandarban and Khagrachhari district bills, he alleged.

Among others, the rally was addressed by Hansadhaj Chakma, convenor of the liaison committee, Nabin Kumar Tripura, Aborigine Bangladeshi Welfare Parishad leaders Abdul Gafur and Mostafizur Rahman, Shaktipad Tripura, Rosmoy Chakma, Tatindra Lal Chakma (Pele) and Waiching Marma.

On the occasion, PCJSS also made public a list of 186 members of the Shantibahini killed during the insurgency and paid tributes to them in a resolution.

Earlier, it brought out a mourning procession at Khagrachhari town. Different organisations of tribals paid tributes to their late leader and offered wreaths at his portrait. The mourners included Shantu Larma.

**CHT peace**

From Page 1

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**Runa**

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taken care of."

The bandage of Runa's right hand was removed but her left wrist that was severely injured was still bandaged.

"She is suffering from anaemia and does not want to eat the food supplied by the hospital authorities," Fatema said showing the pale eyes of the girl.

Fatema came to the city in September in search of a job. She had to leave her Madhupur village of Nandail thana in Mymensingh after the flood.

"I do not know where I will go once my daughter recovers. I will again be on the streets as I have got no house," she said.

"How will the poor girl do work without her hands and how will I arrange her marriage as she is now impaired?" the anxious mother wondered.

Replying to a question, she said, "I have got some money from some people whom I can't name. The hospital authorities are providing with required medicine."

The doctor on duty was not available for comment on the condition of the girl despite repeated efforts.

**Code of Civil Procedure (Amend) Bill '98 passed**

Parliament yesterday passed the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1998 for making a trial speedy and cost-effective, reports UNB.

"The local people will no longer have to run to the Supreme Court to resolve a small issue," said Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru before the Bill was passed by voice vote.

He said the Bill will not only lessen the burden of the High Court from engaging with minor issues, it will enable the court to deal with more important matters.

And the cases will no longer be kept pending for years together with the passage of this Bill, the Law Minister said.

He informed the House that some 28,000 cases are now pending with the High Court.

**Master plan taken up to expand Dhaka city, PM tells JS**

The government has taken up a master plan for gradual expansion of the capital city stretching the boundary of RA-JUK from 829 km to 1,529 km. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, reports UNB.

Replying to Begum Meher Afroz of Awami League, she said initiatives have been taken to develop some satellite towns and new cities around the capital and expanding the communication system.

The plan includes "Purbachal New City" project on 6,150 acres of land in Rupganj thana of Narayanganj and Kaliganj thana of Gazipur. "Expanded Jura" project on 2,200 acres of land in the south of Ashulia road, "Purba Baridhara" project for apartment of limited and middle-income groups, "Jhilmil City" project on 400 acres of land beside the Dhaka-Mawa road and "Dhansona City" project near Gazipur and Savar.

In reply to Kazi Keramat Ali (AL), the Prime Minister said a technical assistance project at a cost of Tk 4.27 lakh has been taken up for construction of the Padma bridge.

Besides, she said, the government has been maintaining contact with Japan and other donors to mobilise fund for the bridge.

**Bangladesh win**

From Page 1

The crowd was expecting fireworks from Akram Khan but the prolific batsman failed to deliver on this occasion.