

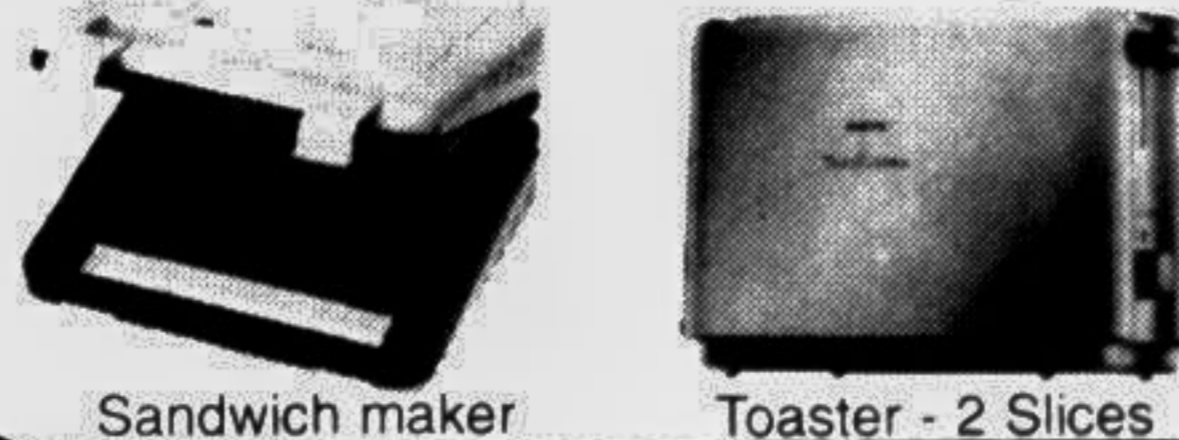
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PHILIPS

Dhaka defies global crisis to draw greater FDI inflows

Bangladesh is among the countries that attracted increased volume of foreign direct investment (FDI) in 1997, despite a financial crisis hitting hard many Asian countries, says a UN investment report released in the city yesterday, reports UNEP.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report says the 48-nation Least Developed Countries (LDCs) group that includes Bangladesh received FDI flow amounting to just 1.8 billion dollars or 0.5 per cent of the world FDI inflows of 400 billion US dollar in 1997.

"LDCs that received higher inflows in 1997 included Bangladesh because of recent discoveries of natural gas," says the World Investment Report 1998: Trends and Determinants analyses.

Uganda and Tanzania, two other LDCs, also drew better

FDIs on account of improved economic performance and Angola on account of its oil deposits, the WIR 98 points out.

Bangladesh's FDI inflow was 145 million dollars in 1997, 10 times higher than 14 million in 1996, said UN Resident Coordinator David Lockwood while launching the report at the Board of Investment (BOI) conference room yesterday.

"FDI inflow in Bangladesh increased manifold. It has drawn attention from UNCTAD," said the UN envoy, hoping further rise in FDI inflows in coming years.

Presenting the report, BOI Executive Chairman Farooq Sobhan, slightly correcting the WIR observation, said Bangladesh drew a record of over 2 billion US dollar FDI during the last two fiscal years of 1996-97 and 1997-98 ending in June 1998.

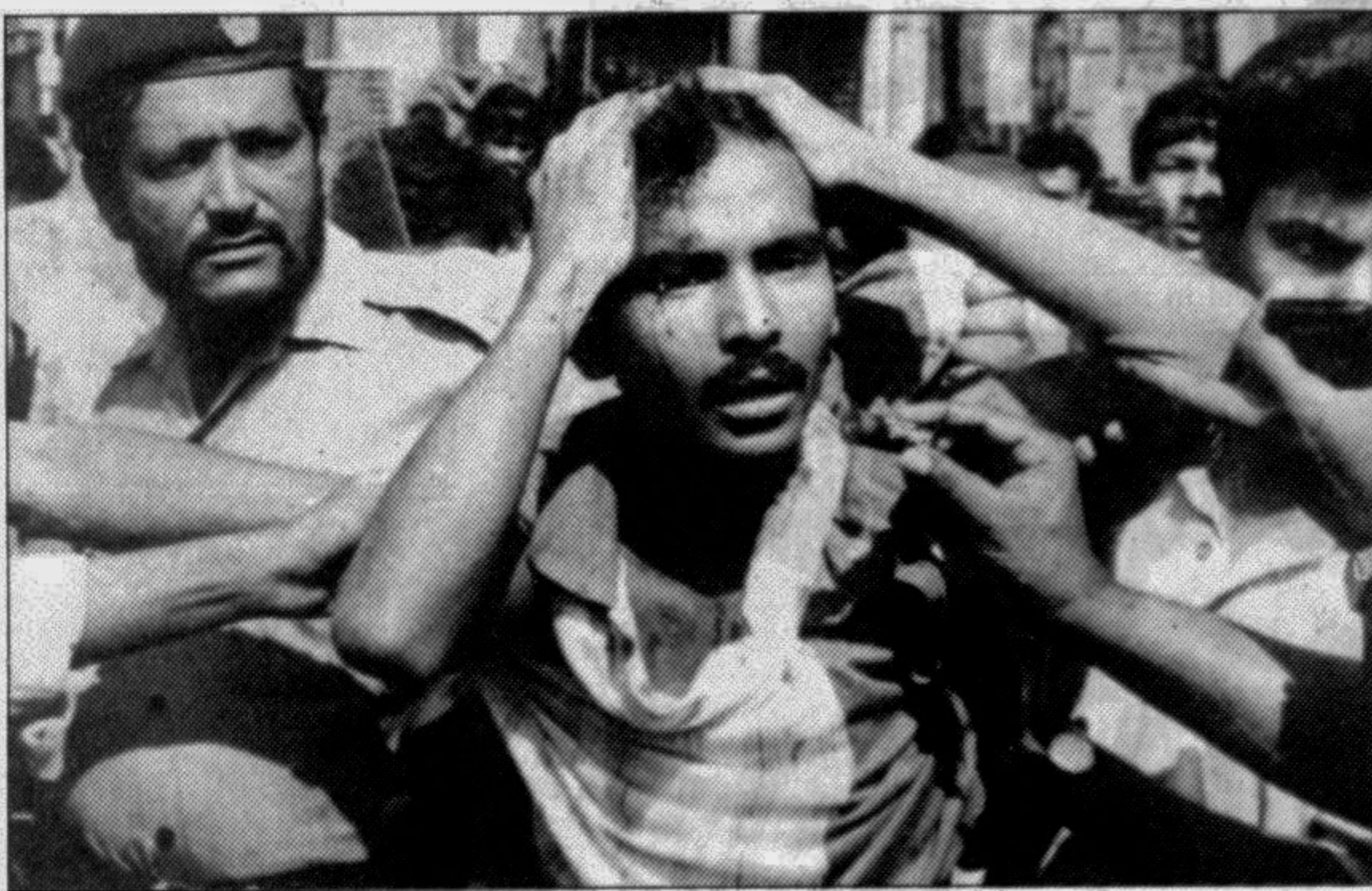
He expected a "further better" achievement in the current fiscal year as a number of large infrastructure, power, textile, telecommunications and cement projects are expected to be implemented within a year.

BOI official named the under-way projects of three five-star hotels, three large power generation projects and some proposed projects for telecom and cement involving substantial foreign investment.

The BOI chief was critical of the hartal and said this will in no way help promotion of FDI in the country.

He suggested the hartal callers to look for other means to achieve their political objectives.

"We should have to bear in mind that certain activities send wrong signals and had im-pression outside the country," the BOI chief said.



Anti-hartal activists tries to put a bullet into the mouth of a 'pro-hartal picket' in the presence of police after beating and injuring him at Nayabazar in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Girl students clash, hurt 10 of them

By Staff Correspondent

At least 10 resident students of Begum Badrunnesa Girls College hostel in the city were injured when activists of Awami League backed BCL and BNP backed JCD clashed Tuesday night over enhancement of food charge, police and witnesses said.

At about 9:30pm, some boarders belonging to BCL who were in charge of dining hall management went to the third floor of the dormitory to collect the enhanced food charge from some boarders belonging to JCD. The JCD activists refused to pay the additional amount of Tk 30. A fist fight began and spilled over in the hostel.

Five students including Nazreen, 25, BCL Vice-president of the college unit, were injured in the clash. Nazreen is a Masters student of Bangla Department.

The BCL activists regrouped and with the alleged assistance of some local male activists of the organisation from outside attacked the JCD activists in the early hours of yesterday injuring five JCD activists including convener of its college unit, Rashida, 25, witnesses and some of the victims said. Rashida's room was also ransacked, they said. Rashida is a Masters student of Economics.

Some home-made bombs were thrown aiming at the room of the JCD convener at about 2:00 am yesterday, witnesses claimed. A young man identified as Sabrin was caught by police for allegedly throwing the bombs but he was released later, witnesses also claimed.

When contacted, Lalbadh police confirmed the clash at the hostel but said they did not arrest anybody in this connection.

Among the injured, Nazreen, Rashida and four JCD activists were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Others were given first aid.

Paltan meeting

From Page 1

At this stage, Panel Chairman Rahmat Ali stopped Choudhury and advised him to speak later when Speaker Humayun Rashid Choudhury was back to the House. But Rahmat Ali failed to silence the noisy House as Deputy Leader of the House Zillur Rahman took the floor. This caused uproar in the opposition bench where all the members jumped to their feet to request for letting Choudhury conclude his speech.

Failing to deal with the situation, the Panel Chairman requested Zillur Rahman to seek the floor later. At this stage, the Speaker entered the House. The deputy leader then agreed to let Choudhury complete his deliberation.

"Nice to see you back," the Speaker told the Opposition MPs and gave the floor back to Badruddoza Choudhury who blamed the pro-government Chhatra League activists for attacking the pro-hartal BNP workers at party offices throughout the country.

Advised by the Chair to speak as per rule, Choudhury then turned to the controversy centring Khaleda Zia's residence at the Dhaka Cantonment. He claimed that the house was allotted to her through a unanimous resolution adopted in the second Jatiya Sangsad, also represented by the AL.

"Now the AL government is spreading falsehood on allotment of the house while the AL motive to mislead the people," he said adding, the government "conspiracy" to destroy the BNP would not succeed.

"Such maltreatment to the largest opposition party can't be allowed any more".

Retorting to his counterpart in the Opposition, Zillur Rahman denied BNP's allegation that AL had foiled its Paltan Maidan rally and accused the opposition party of doing it itself.

Claiming that the rally was organised by spending crores of taka, Rahman told the House amid repeated shouts from the Opposition bench that none obstructed the BNP workers from attending the rally.

"Khaleda Zia became angry finding less than 5,000 participants at the rally for which crores of taka was spent... It were the BNP activists who then blasted fire-crackers to create a situation to foil the rally", he said. "It was impossible for the AL workers to enter the meeting venue and blast crackers there".

About Khaleda Zia's residence at the "restricted area" of cantonment, the deputy leader alleged that she had hurled filthy words at the armymen while addressing a public gathering near her house.

"Khaleda Zia was given the cantonment house illegally. None can own a house, especially the one earmarked for the army chief, in the restricted area", he said requesting the Prime Minister to take necessary steps in this regard.

He also blamed the BNP for "following" the anti-liberation forces like the Jamaat to call the recent hartals and tying up with those forces publicly.

Joining the debate, Fazle Rabbi of Jatiya Party criticised both the AL and the BNP for what he called their practices of foiling public rallies of their political opponents. "The AL will have to answer to the people for foiling the BNP rally. But why didn't BNP remember the Constitution when it foiled a JP rally at Sayedabad (while it was in power)?"

Rabbi demanded formation of a parliamentary committee to probe the allegation of foiling the BNP meeting by the AL.

In the second round of the debates, AL and BNP members expressed opposing views over the historic importance of November 7.

BNP members said the seventh November is a "great day for the country" while the AL members termed a "black day".

BNP legislator Bariar Nazmul Huda said: "Imbued with patriotism, the brave soldiers and people foiled conspiracies against our nation on that day in 1975, which eventually paved the way for multi-party democracy in the country. But the autocratic government of Sheikh Hasina foiled the BNP

rally which was planned in observance of that historic day".

Claiming that the AL had never been a democratic force, he alleged that the government had recently attempted to impose restriction on the movement of the leader of the Opposition by raising barricade on the road towards her residence.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said that the BNP was trying to generate heat in the house as its 60-hour hartal flopped.

Teasing the BNP leaders, she said: "The BNP leaders and activists deserted their chief when a teargas shell burst in the meeting venue. But such teargas shell was lobbed at our meeting venue during the rule of BNP in 1995, we did not desert our leader, we rather protected her."

She said that it did not go beyond the BNP tradition.

"When Ziaur Rahman was killed in the Chittagong Circuit House in 1981, another BNP leader came out totally safe."

Claiming that the BNP had called the hartal to protect the killers, Matia Chowdhury said: "Why did the party remained absent in the House when the indemnity repeal bill was passed. Whom did the party want to satisfy by the abstention?"

She said that Khaleda Zia was so shocked by the incident on the killing that she did not even come out of her residence even to inspire her workers to enforce hartal the next day.

Dhirendra Debnath Shambhu, state minister for food, said that the 7 November is a black day for the nation. "The nation would remember the date, generations after generations, as a black day... hundreds of innocent soldiers were killed on the day."

Making oblique reference to the word "patriotism" used by the BNP legislators, he said: "Patriotism is the last resort of the scoundrels."

The state minister also claimed that the killers of Mujib had blessings from Ziaur Rahman.

Terming government propaganda that the BNP had called 60-hour hartal to protect the Mujib killers ridiculous, BNP MP Mashur Rahman said that the trial of all those who were involved in the killing.

Claiming that some of the alleged killers still represent the AL in the House, the BNP legislator referred to a statement of AL legislator Abdul Kader Siddiky who once commented publicly that "Sheikh Hasina is surrounded by the killers of Mujib." He also advised the AL members to read a book written by state minister Abu Sayeed for information.

Abu Sayeed was present in the House at that time.

BNP alleges Govt using Office of Defence Forces against Khaleda

BNP yesterday criticized the government for "using the Office of the Defence Forces (Sena Sadar) to justify the 'false' allegation against Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, Khaleda Zia, reports UNEP.

In a statement, BNP acting secretary general Ashraf Hossain said, "It is unfortunate for the nation that the government used Sena Sadar for its undemocratic, unlawful and repressive activities."

He said that on November 9 the Director of ISPR had told the BBC that he did not know anything about the setting up of a barricade in front of the residence of the BNP Chairperson. The following day, on November 10, the government made the ISPR issue a press release describing the importance of the barricade and fabricating a speech by Khaleda Zia, he alleged.

He said, on November 9, the army official present there said that the barricade was put up for ensuring the security of the Opposition Leader, while the ISPR press release said that it was to check traffic accidents.

Khaleda Zia went to the barricade site to find out the reason behind it and to know the name of the officer who had ordered it.

Ashraf added, "Khaleda Zia said nothing provocative nor did she make any adverse remarks about the army."

He also refuted the allegation of rash driving by Khaleda's son, Tarek Rahman, in the Cantonment area.

"We consider it painful that the defence forces have been involved in dishing out falsehood by the government. The government should cease such practices," Ashraf said.

Another killed on third day

From Page 1

Unlike previous two days, chase and counter chase between the pro and anti-hartal activists backed by police was much less in the area. Home-made bombs were sporadically exploded during the day, witnesses said. Besides, crackers were also exploded in some other parts of the metropolis including Jatrabari, Gopibagh, Mugda, Tikatuli, Mouchak, and Sobhanbagh.

Former home minister's house under attack

Several bombs were allegedly hurled at the Siddheshwari residence of former home minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury. Some youths boarding rickshaws threw six crackers on the walls of the house, said witnesses.

Incidents of violence were also reported from the port city of Chittagong, divisional headquarters of Sylhet and the district towns of Feni, Comilla, Manikganj.

The person killed in Dhaka was first taken to Rajarbagh Police Hospital and then shifted to DMCH in a police ambulance. The name of the policeman who took him to the DMCH was not put on the hospital records.

Of those injured in the capital yesterday, 14 were admitted to DMCH. Two of them were bullet hit, two hit by rubber bullets, six suffered bomb injuries and four stabwounds.

Six prison vans carried to the police control room those picked up in the city during the hartal yesterday.

Drivers of two prison vans at Naya Bazar told The Daily Star that they carried some 150 pickets from the locality and its adjacent areas.

Local Awami League MP Haji Selim went there at about 11:30 am by a microbus and stayed

there for about an hour. While he was leaving the spot, some people came out of the vehicle and assaulted one person alleging he was exploding crackers.

A motorcade led by AL MP Haji Mokbul Hussain in a microbus moved through different city roads yesterday. Passengers of the microbus allegedly carried firearms.

Near the TSC of Dhaka University, he claimed, "The convoy comprises 1200 vehicles."

A large number of rickshaws were seen plying the city roads from morning. A small number of tempos and private minibuses were also seen in the afternoon. Educational institutions remained closed yesterday for the third consecutive day. Shops in the city also remained closed while financial institutions had poor transactions.

The Daily Star correspondents from across the country reported many people were injured in hartal-related clashes yesterday.

Sylhet

At least 15 persons were injured, 12 bullet-hit, in clashes between BCL and JCD on the day at Sylhet.

The bullet-hit include six JCD-men and two belonging to BCL. All were rushed to Sylhet Medical College Hospital. The clash ensued when anti-hartal BCL reportedly attacked some pro-hartal activists at Khashed- abir early yesterday afternoon.

Comilla

Train communication on the Dhaka-Chittagong route was disrupted for four hours yesterday from 11 in the morning as pickets removed railway track near Nangalkot station here.

Railway sources said a quarter kilometre of rail track, some 700 yards off Nangalkot

station, was removed by JCD activists to enforce the hartal. As Awami League supporters tried to drive away the JCD men, both the groups became locked in chase and counter-chase with bricksbats and lethal weapons, injuring some 12 people there.

Feni

At least 25 people including a policeman were injured in gunfights between pro and anti-hartal activists in the district.

The clash occurred when some BCL activists allegedly attacked a JCD procession here.

Chittagong

Sporadic blasts of crackers marked the end of the three-day hartal in this port city yesterday. Police arrested 10 pickets from different places of the city.

Partial cargo handling was carried out at Chittagong Port on the day.

Mymensingh

Anti-hartal activists set fire to some slum houses in Jute Godown area in the town on Tuesday.

Manikganj

At least 20 people were injured, eight of them with bullets, in sporadic clashes during hartal hours here yesterday.

Natore

The local BRDB office was ransacked by some unidentified persons reportedly belonging to pro-hartal activists. They attacked the office at around 10:00 in the morning and damaged the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The attackers also damaged furniture, looted documents, telephone sets. Some newspaper vehicles were attacked and damaged by the pro-hartal activists at different parts of the city.

TV officials' murder 3 placed on fresh remand, 2 sent to jail

Three of the five accused arrested in connection with the killing of four BTB officials in 1975 were taken on remand for three more days by the CID investigators, reports APB.

Bangladesh Television Producer Lutful Rahman Talukder, Transmission Controller Anul Kabir, Assistant Producer Abul Kashem Bagoja, Abdul Awal Sarker and retired duty officer Avenuzamman were arrested last Thursday on charge of killing their four senior colleagues.

The allegedly planned the murder of AB Siddique, Akmal Khan, Manirul Alam and Firoj Khan on November 7, 1975.

On completion of a four-day remand, all the five accused were produced before the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) yesterday with prayer for further seven days remand to interrogate Lutful Rahman Talukder, Anul Kabir and Abul Kashem Bagoja.

Israel ratifies peace accord

JERUSALEM, Nov 11: The Israeli government ratified the Wye River Peace Accord with the Palestinians today, but only after attaching several riders to the decision, officials said, reports AFP.

The cabinet also approved maps of the West Bank zones to be turned over to Palestinian control under the accord, they said.

Business blasts

From Page 1

newed their appeal to work out non-violent means of political negotiations.

"We recognise that our appeals will continue to be ignored but we once again submit appeals to the political parties: "To refrain from using "hartal" as the means of expressing political differences because of the harm they inflict on the economy."

"Avoid, in the larger interests of the economy, all sorts of provocation, which forces any political party to resort to "hartal" to express its grievances."

"To cultivate the culture of mutual tolerance and resolution of political differences through means which are not violent and which do not make impositions on the people to add to their sufferings."

The signatories to the statement were: M. A. Mumin, vice-president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, R. Maksud Khan, president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Laila Rahman Kabir, president of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Md. Shajahan, chairman of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association and Mostafa Golam Quddus, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association.

Japanese investors to hold seminar in Dhaka next yr

The Japanese investors are willing to invest in Bangladesh and will hold a business seminar in Dhaka next year, reports BSS.

This was stated by Shigeyuki Shinomiya, a Japanese investor, when he called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday morning.

Shinomiya said they would hold a preparatory meeting sometime in February 1999.

Judgement

From Page 1

sions Judge Court, after 149 days of hearing on Sunday awarded death sentence to 15 former army personnel for killing father of the nation and most of his family members on August 15, 1975.

In compliance with Section 374 of CrPc, the judge sent the records and the judgement to the High Court for its confirmation.

The Additional Registrar will send those to the appeal section of the High Court.

The records of the case after being properly compared with the index will be sent to the BG Press for printing of 10 to 12 paper books in red ink.



IT'S ALL GARBAGE: The opposition hartal, which hampered City Corporation's regular scavenging activities, as the picture taken from Dhupkhola yesterday shows, left many areas in the city littered with garbage spreading foul odour and disturbing normal life. —Star photo

Donors call for moratorium on hartal

The donor representatives will welcome if the government and opposition could reach an agreement over a moratorium on hartal as a means of political agitation, reports UNEP.

They expressed the sentiment yesterday while Finance Minister S A M S Kibria was briefing them about the adverse impact of the opposition-sponsored hartal in reshaping the flood-ravaged economy and executing the post-flood rehabilitation programmes.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak was present at the briefing at the state guest house Padma in the evening.

Bangladesh's development partners felt that both the government and the opposition should reach consensus at least on the one major issue that country's economy should grow smoothly.

Occidental's PSC

From Page 1

work commitment" in the first three years of contract. Besides falling to drill a single exploratory well in the first three years, the medium sized US company was responsible for the Magurchara blow-out in 1996.

Occidental had applied for "full extension" of its PSC only six days before it expired. However, the government decided to extend the PSC by modifying it to some extent.

The US company was given green signal to proceed with its work in these blocks and it started working accordingly. But as the PSC is yet to be extended, Occidental can neither obtain approval for its work programme or it can get lands acquired there for exploration activities.

In the negotiation meetings with Occidental over PSC extension, a number of issues were initially discussed but discarded later. These include payment for damage caused to the Magurchara gas reservoir.

According to Petrobangla's assessment, the sub-soil damage in Magurchara should be worth around 200 million US dollars. Besides a number of issues like giving BAPEX a 10 per cent partnership in these blocks have been ignored during negotiations.

A Petrobangla source said that Occidental must pay for the environmental damages but the damage assessment should be done properly.

"There is no reason why Occidental's PSC should remain in limbo. Either the government scraps it or extends it, Occidental needs a decision," said an official.

Occidental is currently working in Block 12 and developing the Jalalabad gas fields and drilling an appraisal well in Bibiana.

The Daily Star-Fashion Album
Attention: All Designers, Fashion Houses, Boutiques and Manufacturers
Welcome to The Daily Star Fashion Album '98

The Daily Star is going to publish an Eid Fashion Album in mid-Dec '98. All designers, manufacturers, retailers and consumers are invited to participate in this Fashion Extravaganza. All entries will be nominated by a selected panel of judges. The selected dresses will be printed in colourful pages of the special fashion album of The Daily Star.

Prices and Categories of Dresses:

- Saree- Section A: Tk 3001-5000
- Saree- Section B: Tk 2001-3000
- Saree- Section C: Tk 1001-2000
- Saree- Section D: Upto Tk 1000
- Salwar Kameez- Section A: Tk 2001-3500
- Salwar Kameez-Section B: Tk 1001-2000
- Salwar Kameez-Section C: Upto Tk 1000
- Teenage Outfit: Upto Tk 2000
- Male Outfit: Upto Tk 2000

The rules of this fashion album are:

- The clothes should reflect the culture and festivities of this country.
- Name and address of the organisation must be attached with all entries.
- Price of the entry must be attached to it.
- Dress designer's name, address and the origin of the fabric should be mentioned in your package.
- All dresses except the selected ones will be sent back to the respective organisation within 10 days of publication of the album.
- Each dress should have an 'Entry Form' (to be filled up correctly upon submission of entries).
- There will be an entry fee of Tk 50/- per entry.
- Date of submission: 13th & 14th of November '98 from 10 am to 4 pm at the offices of Shapthahik 2000, a Mediaworld Publication, at the address given below.

Bijly Hoque
Co-ordinator

Ziaul Karim
Co-ordinator

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