

Ekushey fair goes ahead

By DU Correspondent

The Amar Ekushey Book Fair, which was halted on Tuesday due to the nationwide hartal, commenced on time yesterday under adequate police surveillance.

A huge contingent of police was deployed at the main entrance and some points inside the Bangla Academy to avert any untoward incident.

The Academy authorities decided to keep the fair open during hartal hours after a visit by state minister for sports, youth and cultural affairs Obaidul Quader at Bangla Academy on Tuesday.

Most stall owners opened their stalls yesterday afternoon after the authorities assured them of a peaceful atmosphere.

A substantial number of book-lovers visited the fair yesterday.

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Larma may go to Calcutta for medical checkup

By Special Correspondent

Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) supremo JB Larma, who had a long meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Monday in an effort to iron out differences on implementation of the CHT peace treaty, held talks with officials yesterday.

Sources said the PCJSS leader who is suffering from different ailments is likely to visit Calcutta for medical checkup. If he decides to go there he may leave Dhaka on Friday or Saturday, the sources said.

Larma held discussion with the official at a guest house of Chittagong Port Trust yesterday. He was unable to return to Khagrachari due to the hartal.

The sources said his talks with the Prime Minister is likely to resolve a number of issues that had so far impeded the implementation of the treaty. Larma was nominated interim Chairman of the CHT Regional Council in October last.

Municipal polls EC prohibits issuance of new VGF card

The Election Commission yesterday prohibited issuance of new VGF cards or fresh relief work by the disaster management and relief ministry in the municipalities until completion of municipal polls, reports UNB.

However, the relief programme taken up earlier will continue as usual and any emergency relief can be distributed through concerned DC after obtaining permission from the EC, said a press release in the city yesterday.

The non-party election to 140 pauravas is scheduled for February 23-25.

Inside Today

Article

BNP's continuous hartal: Who is responsible?

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Alternatives

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Prayer Timings

February 11

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:25	5:29
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:10	4:20
Maghrib	5:55	5:58
Esha	7:10	7:20

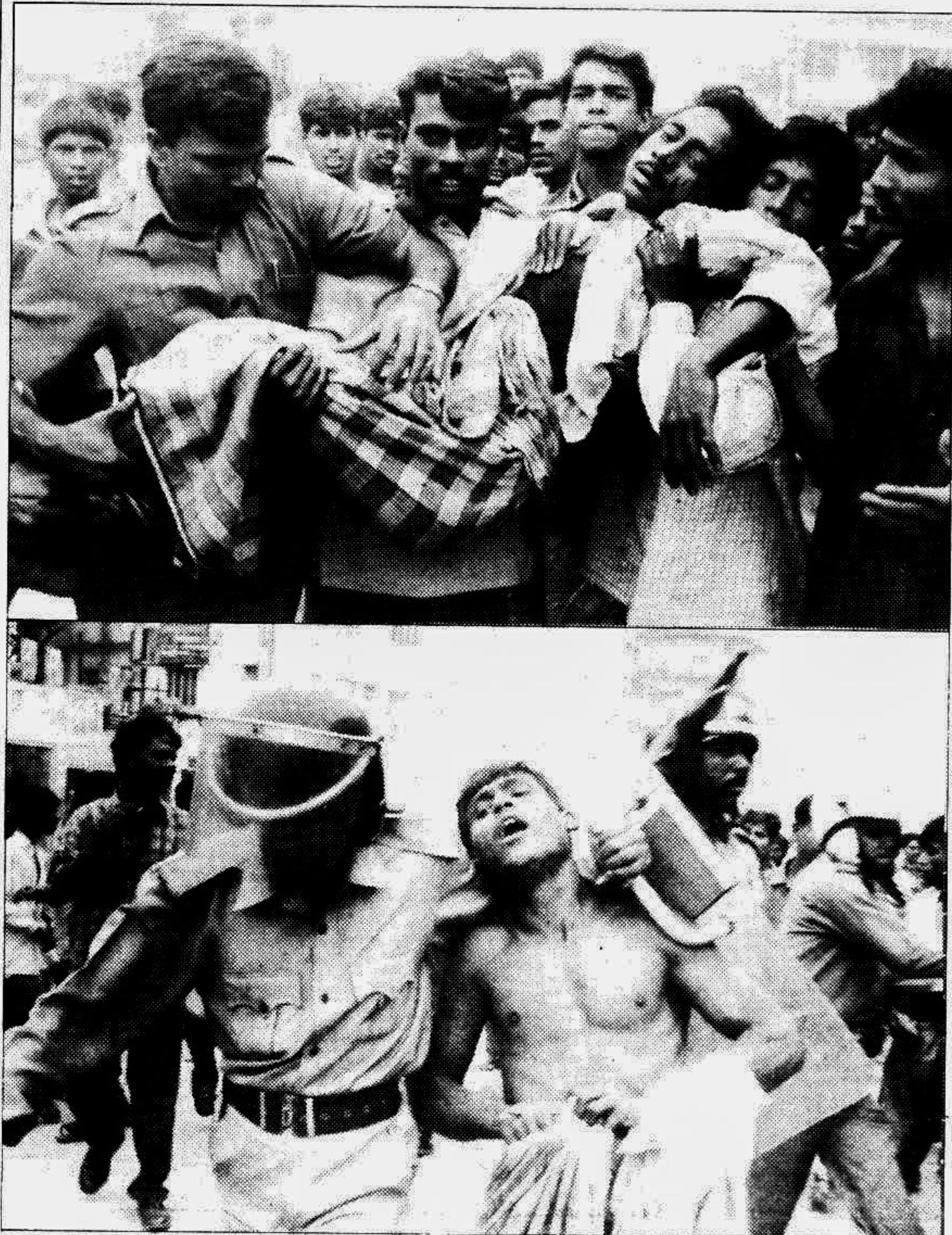
Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star



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Hartal claims three more lives, hurts another 150



Star Report

At least three people were killed and over 150 hurt in violence on the second day of the opposition-sponsored hartal in different parts of the country yesterday which continued to disrupt normal life. Yesterday's deaths raised the on-going hartal toll to four.

One person succumbed to bomb injuries Dhaka, one died in Feni and a third was killed in Khulna city after pro- and anti-hartal activists fought with homemade bombs and guns.

Mamun, 24, sustained fatal injuries at Kabi Nazrul Islam College premises at 8:30 p.m. last night when he was allegedly preparing bombs. Three people were arrested in this connection, police said adding they recovered huge quantity of explosive materials from the spot.

Rivals shot Elias Hossain Elin, 22, a student of Feni College and vice president of district Chhatra League, dead on Trunk Road in the town during hartal hours yesterday. Quoting police and witnesses, news agencies said Elin along with a friend came under gunfire from rivals while walking down the road. The bullet hit him on the chest. Doctors declared Elin dead when brought to Metropolitan Hospital in Feni.

Sanjib Kumar, a Juba League activist, was killed in a bomb attack on an anti-hartal rally, organised by the Awami League at Shiromoni crossing in Khulna city yesterday evening.

He died on way to Khulna General Hospital. Five others were injured in the same incident.

Over 50 people including a BNP MP Dewan Md Salauddin were injured in a clash between pro- and anti-hartal activists in Savar. The MP was admitted to a local clinic, police said.

The city

In Dhaka city, 15 people were injured, 10 of them admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Police arrested 111 people on charges of picketing and violence. The city, which remained relatively quiet, had some trouble at Jatrabari, North-South Road, Paltan and Mauchia. A

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Tit for tat

An Awami League activist (top) and a BNP man (above) are being rushed to hospital after being beaten up by rivals at Jatrabari in the city during hartal yesterday.

— Star photos by Anisur Rahman

US energy official warns Delay in decisions may ruin Dhaka's chances

By Staff Correspondent

A US Department of Energy official said yesterday that Bangladesh might miss the opportunity to draw foreign investment in the energy sector if it continued to defer urgent decisions.

Addressing a group of the country's top businessmen, Calvin Humphrey said that Bangladesh should consider co-operating with India and Nepal in the energy sector as there is tremendous potential in it multilateral benefit.

At a discussion with the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) in the city yesterday, Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs, US Department of Energy, Calvin Humphrey noted that the government should streamline the decision making process and ensure transparency.

The programme hosted by FBCCI chief Abdul Awal Mintoo was also attended among others by US Ambassador John C Holzman, and Additional Secretary of the Energy Ministry Syed Tanvir Hossain.

Humphrey noted, "It is not our role here to pick a strategy

US energy team to sign three accords today

The mission of a 14-member US energy delegation ends today with the signing of three agreements on extended American cooperation in Bangladesh's gas and power sectors, reports UNB.

Energy Secretary Dr Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury will initial the agreements on behalf of the Energy Ministry Syed Tanvir Hossain.

Acting Assistant Secretary

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By Special Correspondent

or impose a strategy, but rather to offer the benefit of our experience to help Bangladesh better assess the risks and rewards of various development options. But the decision on which strategy is best for Bangladesh lies with the people of Bangladesh; only they can decide what is their best interest."

"It is clear that Bangladesh's policy makers are committed to sober and calculated decisions

Time is money. Some development options are windows of opportunity that may close if they are not seized. I am hoping that Bangladesh will thoroughly review the merits of various options, and then move forward and decide on a strategy.

"I hope our energy partnership will help provide the information Bangladesh needs to build a consensus for the option that best suit the citizens of Bangladesh. But not to act would be the worst choice of all," Humphrey said.

He maintained that Bangladesh's energy potentials were tremendous but it would require enormous amounts of capital investment and technology from the private sector.

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Developing recommendations for improved practices in these areas will undoubtedly be a focal point."

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