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Ctg Mayor will organise road march to gherao Khaleda's official residence

CHITTAGONG, Sept 15: Mayor A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury has said that he would organise a road march to gherao Khaleda Zia's official residence and confine her there for a week to 'make her realise' the sufferings of the common people during hartal, reports UNB.

Mohiuddin, also city Awami League General Secretary, said they would gherao the Minto Road official residence of BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in a month.

He was addressing a rally at New Market crossing organised by city Awami League to protest the marathon hartal called by the opposition parties.

Mohiuddin said he would lead a caravan of more than 100 vehicles with about 1,000 partymen to gherao and confine Begum Zia in her residence.

Jalal Murder Case Cross-examination of witnesses today

By Court Correspondent The Fifth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court yesterday adjourned the proceedings of Jalal Ahmed Shaif murder case till today following a time petition by the prosecution lawyers.

Decomposed body of Shaif, an informer of DE, was recovered from a roof-top water tank of DE office at Minto Road on March 25.

Of the four chargesheeted accused, Inspector Ziaul Ahsan, who was released from Dhaka Central Jail on Monday, appeared before the court yesterday.

The rest three accused - Havildar Bilal Hossain, constable Abdur Roush and canteen manager Anwar - were not produced before the court.

The judge Munira Mahfuz then fixed today for cross-examination of the witnesses.

3 JCD activists shot in Natore

NATORE, Sept 15: Three Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists received bullet injuries at Trimohini on Natore-Naldanga road at 2-30 pm today, reports UNB.

Unidentified assailants sprayed bullets on Farooq, social welfare secretary of NS Government College students union and two other JCD activists Shahidul Islam and Ishaq Ali as they were travelling in a rickshaw van.

Shahidul and Ishaq were admitted to Sadar Hospital and Faruq was rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Local BNP leaders blamed the ruling partymen for the incident.

A case was filed in connection with the incident.

BCL-Jubo League clash at Bakerganj College: 12 hurt

BARISAL, Sept 15: A clash between the activists of Chhatra League and Jubo League on Government Bakerganj College premises left at least 12 people injured today, reports UNB.

Local people said activists of Daka group of Jubo League and Faruk group of Chhatra League clashed with each other over control of college campus.

Of the injured Shawkat Hossain, 19, Mahbubur Rahman, 20, Chunnun, 19, and Helal Hossain, 19, were admitted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

During the half an hour-long clash, both sides used lethal weapons. Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Ctg Customs House to remain open over weekend

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Sept 15: The authorities of Chittagong Customs House have decided to work on next Friday and Saturday to ease the congestion at Chittagong port created due to opposition's 60-hour hartal and strike enforced by merchant workers.

The decision was taken in a meeting of customs officials at the directive of the chairman of National Board Revenue today.

The meeting decided to continue customs activities at both jetties inside the Chittagong port and customs house on Friday and Saturday to help continue export activities which remained suspended for three days due to hartal.



A farmer at Rasulpur, Munshiganj, inspecting his paddy field infested with pests. — Star photo

Flooding of Aman paddy fields in some areas along the Meghna river has miraculously saved the crop from being damaged by widespread pest attacks. The areas include Rasulpur, Mathabangha, Bhabar Char and Gazaria in Munshiganj district.

Farmers told this correspondent during a visit to the areas that inundation of their paddy fields due to swelling of the Meghna and heavy downpour in the last two weeks proved a 'blessing' when pest attacks took a serious turn. "It was nature's gift when we simply failed to control the pests," one farmer said.

Aman crops in low-lying fields were however partially damaged in the flood, the men-

For them flood came as a blessing

By Reaz Ahmad, back from Meghna Estuary

Mohammad Faruq, a farmer in his late 30s, lost the crop in his low-lying land at Rasulpur due to flood water. Yet he expressed great satisfaction that the pest menace is gone. "As flood is now receding slowly and steadily, we now hope to get a better Aman crop from other fields," he said.

Farmers in the other areas visited by this correspondent

expressed similar optimism about Aman crops this season. Dr Md Khorshed Alam, who is one of those who popularised Napier grass cultivation in Gazaria area, had something different to say. "Flood has also taken its toll on this popular fodder. Many Napier growing plots were submerged by flood waters," said Alam, a veterinary surgeon posted at Gazaria Veterinary Hospital.

Kidnapping: 3 arrested from Mohsin Hall

By DU Correspondent

Police raided Haji Mohammad Mohsin Hall of Dhaka University Tuesday night and arrested two students and one outsider for their alleged involvement in a kidnapping incident at the hall.

The arrested were Mohammad Rashedul Alam Khan, first year student of General History Department, Murad Khan, second year student of Mass Communication and Journalism Department and Zia Uddin, an outsider.

Campus sources said police cordoned Mohsin Hall at around 1 am and arrested them. Police, however, failed to recover any arms or ammunition.

Resident students alleged that police arrested two general students instead of real culprits.

"All the culprits were at the hall during the raid, but police did not arrest them," alleged a resident of the hall requesting anonymity.

When contacted, Ramna police said that the arrested were sent to CMM's Court yesterday morning.

A case has been filed with Ramna thana in this connection.

Clash at Beanibazar OC, SI withdrawn, 3 Shibir activists arrested

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 15: Officer-in-Charge Rezaul Karim and Sub-Inspector Shahid Ali of Beanibazar thana have been withdrawn and closed to the district headquarters on charge of negligence of duty during yesterday's clash between the activists of Jamaat-Shibir and All-Party Alliance at the thana headquarters.

Today, a Shibir activist was stabbed at the thana headquarters.

Police later arrested three Shibir activists from village Supatala where they along with some others were holding a meeting. Police also seized four motorbikes, including one without number plate from there.

Meanwhile, the All-Party Alliance brought out a procession and held a rally at the thana headquarters today, protesting the attack by the Jamaat-Shibir activists and remarks by Maulana Delwar Hossain Sayeedi about Sylhet community, living in UK. The alliance comprising AL, BNP, JP and JSD.

At least ten people were injured in a clash between the activists of All-Party Alliance and the Jamaat-Shibir at Beanibazar thana headquarters yesterday.

Jamaat office and ten shops were also ransacked during the clash.

Stop repression or face befitting reply: BNP

By Staff Correspondent

BNP leaders at a post-hartal rally in the city yesterday warned of a befitting reply to the ruling Awami League if it continues "repression and attack" on opposition activists in future.

They lashed out at the prime minister and home minister for their "audacious" public statements against the people and the opposition. They asked Home Minister Mohammad Nasim to come out on the road without police escort if he has the courage.

BNP organised the rally at Siddeshwari Balur Math in the afternoon. A huge contingent of police was deployed at the rally and its adjoining area. It was BNP's only rally during last three days of opposition hartal.

Nearly 200 leaders and activists attended the gathering where the leaders used hand speaker.

Presided over by Motijheel thana BNP convenor Sajjad Jahir, it was addressed, among others, by BNP Standing Committee member Abdul Matin Chowdhury and central leaders Mujibur Rahman Sarwar, Mofiqul Hasan Tripti, Fazlul Haq Milon and Khairul Kabir Khokon. Local leaders Ariefur Rahman Arit, Sobrah Hossain, Nurul Haq Mollah, Kaiyum Chowdhury, Nur-e-Alam Helal and Jahangir Alam.

Abdul Matin Chowdhury alleged that the prime minister and home minister have repressed the administration and the people using police.

He asked police and other government servants to discharge their duties neutrally.

Teenager allegedly raped by police constable

TANGAIL, Sept 15: A teenage girl was allegedly raped by a police constable inside Bhuapur thana complex Tuesday night, reports UNB.

The 15-year girl from Singuria village alleged that Constable Olur Rahman stopped her near the thana while she was returning home after visiting a relative at the thana health complex. He took her to a room of the thana and raped her there.

Tangail Police Super said he has already instructed the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of the thana to inquire into the allegation.

25 hurt as AL, JCD clash in Sherpur

SHERPUR, Sept 15: A fierce clash between pro- and anti-hartal activists at Madhya Bazar in Nalibari thana today left 25 people, including five policemen injured, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the trouble ensued when an anti-hartal Awami League procession confronted a pro-hartal procession brought out by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

ALCWC meeting today

An emergency meeting of the Bangladesh Awami League Central Working Committee will be held at the party's office at 4 pm today, a press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

Members of the party's advisory council and members of the cabinet will attend the meeting to be presided over by acting president of the party Amir Hossain Amu.

Meanwhile, the party said it will hold a discussion commemorating the silver jubilee of the country's membership in the United Nations.

The discussion will be held at the Institution of Engineers at 4 pm on September 17.

Zillur Rahman has requested party leaders and workers to attend the discussion.

International Ozone Day today

Bangladesh will observe International Ozone Day as elsewhere across the world today reiterating the call to save the sky by using ozone friendly substances, reports BSS.

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed in a message has urged all to create public awareness about the negative impact of ozone layer depletion throughout the world.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her message on the occasion welcomed the initiative to observe the International Ozone Day in Bangladesh. Expressing firm commitment of the government in protecting the environment, she said that the country has endorsed a number of protocols and conventions including the Montreal Protocol.

Bangladesh to get \$4.90 m more for NIPHP

Bangladesh will receive an additional 4.90 million US dollars for implementing its ongoing National Integrated Population and Health Programme (NIPHP), reports UNB.

An amendment agreement on "Strategic Objective: Fertility Reduced and Family Health Improved" was signed between Bangladesh and United States in Dhaka yesterday.

ERD Secretary Dr Moshirur Rahman and US Ambassador to Bangladesh John C. Holzman signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments.

Under the renewal agreement Bangladesh will get 214.90 million US dollars instead of 210 million dollars as USA has increased the volume of assistance following effective implementation of the NIPHP programme since its inception.



BNP lawmakers in a procession at Bijoynagar in the city during hartal hours yesterday. — Star photo

WTO DG tells G-77 confce Products of LDCs should get duty-free access

MARRAKESH, Sept 15: World Trade Organisation DG Mike Moore strongly pleaded unconditional and duty-free market access of products from the least developed countries to developed ones, reports UNB.

"All products of the LDCs should get duty-free access to all markets," he said in his address to the G-77 ministerial conference here in this Moroccan city today.

The opportunity derived from the globalisation process should be reached equally to all, the WTO boss told the trade ministers of G-77 countries.

Bangladesh's Commerce and Industries Minister, Tofail Ahmed, who is attending the conference, reiterated his call for duty-free market access for LDCs.

Products from LDCs should be accepted free of duties without delay and exempted from anti-dumping duties and safeguard action, he demanded. He said transitional periods for the implementation of URA should be extended for these underprivileged nations. He sought support of the G-77 members to the cause of the

4 BCL activists of DU Zia Hall expelled

By DU Correspondent

Pro-ruling Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday expelled four activists of its Ziaur Rahman Hall unit at Dhaka University for beating up the publicity secretary of Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall unit of BCL on the campus Tuesday night.

They are Momin Uddin, Sheikh Farid, Sajjad Hossain and Selim. All of them are resident students of Ziaur Rahman Hall and workers of the hall unit of BCL.

In a joint statement yesterday, Sajjad Hossain and AKM Ajim, president and general secretary of BCL, DU Unit, said that the four were expelled for their involvement in anti-organisational activities on the campus.

Campus sources said they took Farook Sikder, publicity secretary of Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall unit of BCL, to their hall at about 10:30 p.m. on Tuesday night and beat him up severely as he barred some activists of Ziaur Rahman Hall unit of BCL from having dinner without paying the bills at Jasim Uddin Hall.

Bangabandhu Hospital No wheel chair or trolley at OPD for 4 months

By Naimul Haq

No wheel chair, trolley or wheel bed has been procured for the Out Patient Department (OPD) at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMUH) even after four months of issuance of instruction.

"These tools are needed for carrying patients to respective wards after admission."

"We had to make our own arrangement to carry my paralysed brother to Block -C building from the outdoor department," Abdul Mia told this correspondent during a visit to the OPD yesterday. Abul Mia brought his brother from Feni. The Block - C building is about 500 yards from the outdoor department.

Patients admitted to cardiology, neurology and orthopaedic departments also made similar allegations.

When contacted, doctors also acknowledged that the outdoor department lacked these tools.

"Most of the patients who come for admission suffer from bone fracture and about one third of them need to be carried to the respective wards, located far away from the outdoor department," said Dr Shaiful Alam, Registrar of Orthopaedic Department. On an average, 40 patients come to the OPD daily for treatment.

He added, "Since there is no wheel chair or trolley, patients have to make their own arrangements to go to the wards".

An angry patient commented: This is ridiculous. The hospital management recently

raised fees to streamline services. But look at what services they offer. They don't even have a wheel chair to carry patients to wards from outdoor department."

"The situation is worse in neurology and cardiology departments. Doctors also acknowledged that there was no facility in the departments to carrying patients to wards after admission."

"We have no wheel chair here at the outdoor," said Dr Rizvi, Medical Officer at neurology department.

During an interview in April, Vice-chancellor of the University Prof. M A Quaderi had said that he would immediately look into the problems.

On the same day, he had ordered Superintendent Mujibur Rahman Bhuiyan to arrange purchase of wheelchairs and trolleys for the OPD.

When contacted yesterday, Bhuiyan said: "We are very concerned about the problem. I admit patients are suffering a lot. We will purchase those on priority basis as soon funds are arranged."

184 RU teachers condemn govt's 'repressive acts'

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Sept 15: One hundred and eighty four teachers of Rajshahi University in a joint statement today condemned governments repressive measures against the opposition parties.

They said the government has decided to extend 'corridor facility' to India in the name of transshipment ignoring the opinion of the opposition parties and now become desperate to implement it.

The RU teachers also expressed grave concern over the government's decision to enact Public Security Law and observed that the law would violate human rights and hinder the practice of democracy in the country.

The signatories to the statement include former vice chancellors Prof Yusuf Ali, Prof Anisur Rahman and Prof Abdul Hamid, former pro-vice chancellor Prof Altaf Hossain, Prof Abdul Qadir Bhuiyan, Prof Nazrul Islam, Prof Mokhesur Rahman, Prof Korban Ali, Prof Shamsur Rahman, Prof Sayedul Islam, Prof Delwar Hossain and Prof ATM Obaidullah among others.

Mid-term review meet Lost valuables yet to be recovered

By Staff Correspondent

Police failed to make any headway till yesterday in their efforts to recover the lost valuables of three foreign delegates Tuesday during the donors mid-term review meeting held at the National Economic Council (NEC) auditorium.

World Bank's Country Director Frederick Temple lost a camera, Swiss Development Co-operation official Suzan Muller lost her purse with about Tk 2000 and a master card and Director of AUSAID Sunee Lee lost US dollars 600 in cash and US dollar 700 in TCS Tuesday at the auditorium.

Meanwhile, Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has been assigned to probe the incident.

2 killed by lightning in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Sept 15: Two people were killed by lightning in Anwara thana of the district today, reports UNB.

Local people said Hafez Abdur Rahman, 42, and Abdul Mannan, 20, of Chanajib died on the spot when the lightning struck them on way back home from village mosque after offering Pazar prayers.

Dhaka lodges protest with Time magazine

The government has expressed its displeasure and annoyance with the US international news magazine Time for "its failure to include" the name of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in its special edition on prominent Asians of the century, reports BSS.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a letter faxed on Tuesday to Time magazine, New York, expressed its "surprise" at the dropping of the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from the weekly's cover story entitled, "The most influential Asians of the 20th century."

The letter addressed to the Editor said that Sheikh Mujib who spearheaded the birth of a new nation and changed the political map of Asia and the course of history of South Asia, was acknowledged as one of the world's charismatic leaders and a forceful advocate for peace. Considering his immense con-

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Hartal: Hilsa worth lakhs of taka rotting in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Sept 15: Hilsa traders here are at a loss with catches worth lakhs of taka due to a three-day countrywide hartal.

Tons of fish have already rotted as the traders and exporters could not send them to expected destinations.

Traders from Alipur, Mahipur and Kalapara in Patuakhali, Patharghata in Barguna, Paderhat in Pirojpur said they incurred huge losses due to disruption in road communication because of hartal.

Hundreds of trawlers loaded with tons of hilsa are still coming to wholesale markets, they said adding "but only to be rotten and wasted".

Opposition

From page 1

ernment movement and tougher programmes will be announced soon to dislodge this autocratic and subservient government", Mannan Bhuiyan said.

"We will not return home till the fall of the Awami League government. Its fascist character has been unveiled once again through its repressive and undemocratic activities during the three-day hartal," he said.

The BNP Secretary General said, police at the instruction of the government did not allow BNP and its front organisations to hold any rally or bring out procession in last three days.

Over 100 party leaders and workers were arrested and 158 cases were filed against an unspecified number of party workers and leaders including Sadek Hossain Khoka MP in Dhaka and another 14 against 200 others in Chittagong, he claimed. At last 55 party activists were injured in police action in the capital only on the last day of the hartal, he alleged.

He demanded immediate arrest and trial of the killers of Mofiqul Islam and compensation for his family. He also demanded immediate withdrawal of all "false" cases and release of leaders and activists.

Bhuiyan thanked the people for observing the hartal "spontaneously".

The liaison committee meeting also demanded release of BNP leader Anwar Zahid.

Meanwhile, representatives of the liaison committee held a meeting with BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia at her official residence and discussed the latest political situation, sources said.

BNP leaders Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, M Shamsul Islam and Tariqul Islam, Jatiya Party leaders Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Kazi Firoz Rashid, Jamaat leaders Mohammad Kamaruzzaman, Abdul Qader Mollah and ATM Azharul Islam, IOJ leaders Fazlul Haq Aminul, ARM Abdul Matin and Abdul Latif Nizami attended the meeting.