



The Daily Star

VOL. IX NO. 247 REGD. NO. DA 781

INTERNET: <http://www.dailystarnews.com>

ASHWIN 17 1406 BS

DHAKA SATURDAY OCTOBER 2, 1999

JAMADIUS SUNY 21, 1420 HIRI

16 PAGES PRICE TAKA 6.00

Hartal tomorrow Rallies, torch processions today

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP-led opposition alliance has called a countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal tomorrow (Sunday) to press home its demands for resignation of the government and early parliamentary elections.

The BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote simultaneously called the hartal on September 22 to further gear up their one-point oust-governments movement.

The four parties will hold rallies and bring out torch processions in five divisional districts and thana headquarters today in support of tomorrow's hartal.

Some smaller parties, including Jaggpa, Democratic League, Progressive Nationalist

See Page 12 Col 8

Observe hartal, oust this govt: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has called upon the countrymen to make tomorrow's countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal a success.

In a statement yesterday, she said the hartal has been called to further expedite the ouster of this 'incompetent, corrupt, fascist, autocratic and subservient' government from power to protect the independence and sovereignty of the country.

She said the hartal is also to protest against killing of BDR jawans and people by the BSF, violation of border laws and illegal entrance, looting, occupying of Bangladesh's land by India and government's failure to check those, government decision to give corridor to India, introduction of black law in the name of public security, deterioration of law and order, eviction of slum, crisis of water.

See Page 11 Col 8

Sayed Iskander manhandled by JCD men

FENI, Oct 1: A clash between rival factions of BNP at Parashuram thana headquarters today left 13 injured, reports UNB.

Witnesses said supporters of BNP thana unit president Abu Taleb and its former general secretary Habibur Rahman clashed in the morning over preparations for party chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia's proposed visit to Feni on October 7. The injured were admitted Parashuram thana health complex. An embarrassing scene was created on the hospital premises when BNP central leader and Begum Khaleda Zia's brother Major (Retd) Sayed Iskander went to see local JCD leader Shahjahan in the afternoon.

Angry supporters of Shahjahan manhandled Iskander and did not allow him to enter the hospital. A tense situation was prevailing in the area following the incidents.

Inside Today

Article

Pluralism is key to unity

Column: Between the Lines
by Kuldip Nayyar
Page 4

Business

YEP—The Daily Star seminar calls for reducing entrepreneur-banker confidence gap
US-China trade talks on hold till mid-Oct
Pages 8 & 9

Star Literature

Essay: Secularism and the Bengali middle class; and Poems: Song lyrics of love by Rabindranath Tagore
Pages 6 & 7

Prayer Timings

October 2		
Azan	4:30	5:00
Fajr	4:30	5:00
Zohr	12:45	1:25
Asr	4:15	4:30
Maghrib	5:55	6:00
Esha	7:45	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

President observes Concessions in CHT accord were given for greater interest

President Shahabuddin has said some concessions had been given in the Chittagong Hill Tracts agreement for greater interest of the country and to establish peace, reports UNB.

Addressing a reception given in honour of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday at Bangabhaban on her winning the Unesco peace award, he spoke of 'ample similarity' between the problems in the CHT and the Northern Ireland, where many quarters still oppose the agreement.

The President said: 'There is

ample similarity between the problems in the Northern Ireland and the Chittagong Hill Tracts and till today there have been many quarters who oppose the Good Friday Agreement. Specially, the IRA is yet to surrender all its arms as per agreement.

'However, this is likely to be solved through discussions. The British government had to give some concession to reach the agreement.'

He added: 'For greater interest of the country and to establish peace some concessions

had been given in our CHT agreement too.' President Shahabuddin termed Sheikh Hasina's receiving the Unesco peace award 'a glory to the nation.'

There would be no fear or confusion in anybody's mind if the Land Commission completes its job in the CHT as soon as possible, he said.

The area of the Chittagong Hill Tracts is 5,500 square mile but its population did not cross 10 lakhs including tribal and non-tribal people. It would be

See page 11 Col 4

Shikdar now suffering from hypertension!

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 1: 'Ershad Shikdar, 48, is suffering from hypertension caused by blood pressure. The right side of his body is not functioning well making him quite unfit to move.'

The observation was made by the Assistant Civil Surgeon of Jessor Central Jail in three medical certificates he issued on August 1, September 15 and September 29, reportedly favouring the top terrorist for avoiding interrogation in police remand in Khulna.

Shikdar was due to be taken to Khulna in connection with the Khalid murder case. But the medical certificate given on September 29 by the jail doctor allegedly helped him avoid interrogation by metropolitan police.

A reliable source in the KMP today said Ershad Shikdar would be taken on a seven-day remand on October 6 for questioning by the three-member high-powered special team that includes a representative from the defence.

If necessary, a medical board may be formed to examine his health to see if the three medical certificates given in his favour were proper, the source said.

Meanwhile, Hasan Gazi, a

security guard of Jessor Central Jail, has been suspended on charge of passing out information from Ershad Shikdar (Detenu No 226) to his relatives and associates.

When contacted, the jail authorities said the guard has been suspended not only for passing out information 'in favour of Ershad', but also for other corrupt practices.

The Senior Superintendent of Jessor Central Jail told this correspondent today that he has already informed the Home Secretary about physical indisposition of Ershad Shikdar.

'But I cannot say if the KMP authorities are determined to take him on remand on October 5,' he said.

In another development, Inspector Kamrul Islam of Detective Branch of KMP has been sent to Jessor to find out identities of six businessmen who were allegedly killed by Shikdar and his armed cadres in the ice factory in 1987. Their bodies were dumped into the river Bhairab, according to confessional statement of Shikdar's bodyguard Noor-e-Alam.

Police Commissioner M Anwarul Iqbal has appealed to people in general and relatives of the victims in particular to

See Page 12 Col 8

Deadline to shop owners at Rob Shopping Mall

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 1: Railway authorities have asked shop owners at 'S M A Rob Shopping Mall' to leave the place by tomorrow evening before the demolition drive begins Sunday morning.

In a notice the authorities also asked the shop owners to treat the notice as 'red alert', meaning they will get no further opportunity to remain there under any circumstances whatsoever.

Meanwhile, the KDA authorities are also going to ask the shop owners to move out of the land as the shopping mall was not built as per the plan.

S M A Rob, the owner of the mall and Mayoral candidate from Awami League, has also been asked to show cause why legal action should not be taken against him in case of his failure to extend active cooperation to the demolition works as the mall was built illegally.

The chairman of KDA told this correspondent that nothing can stop the demolition of the shopping mall build without any approved plan.

Police set 34 shanties on fire at the Railway land near Skidhat on Thursday. These

See Page 12 Col 3



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing a reception accorded to her by President Shahabuddin Ahmed at the Bangabhaban yesterday. — PID photo

Many big businessmen not on CIP list

By Rafiq Hasan

The government has declared 87 businessmen as Commercially Important Persons (CIPs) for their 'excellent contribution' to the country's trade and economy.

The list however does not include many big businessmen like FBCCI President Abdul Awal Minto and its former president Yusuf Abdullah Harun and Salman F Rahman.

The CIPs will be included in government's policy-making bodies on their respective sectors and fields. They will also get government support in getting visa for foreign tour and logistic facilities from Bangladesh missions abroad. They will also be invited to all national functions and municipal corporations' civic receptions.

The CIPs will have reserved seats in road, rail and air travel. Current vice-president of FBCCI M A Mumin and president of seven other leading chamber bodies have been included in the list.

The lone women in the CIP list is Mrs. Feroza Begum Managing Director of Dhaka Footwear Limited. She is from the leather goods sector.

Though the declaration was made for the year 1999, it would be renewed and remain valid till the end of 2000 because the process took much time, according to sources.

The list is divided into several categories. Seven chamber leaders were nominated by virtue of their official positions. They are: FBCCI Vice-president M A Mumin, Dhaka Chamber President M H Rahman, Metropolitan Chamber President Mahub Jamil, Bangladesh Chamber of Industry (BCI) President Khondakar Mosharraf Hossain, Kulna Chamber President S M Nazrul Islam, Chittagong Chamber President Kamal Uddin Ahmed and Barisal Chamber President M Rezaul Malik.

Others were chosen sectors like garments, raw jute, jute goods, leather, from food, leather goods, tea, chemical products, agricultural goods, handicrafts, knitwear and specialised textile.

The highest number of 28 CIPs are from the garments sector. They include BGMEA President Anisur Rahman Sinha, Vice-president Nurul Haq Shikder and Benajir Ahmed.

Other CIPs from the sector are: Khalilur Rahman, Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, Mahmudur Rahman, Nasir Uddin, Nazrul Islam Majumder, Anisul Haq, A K Azad, Taj Uddin Ahmed, Khondakar Muniruddin, Almagir M Z Rahman, Kutubuddin Ahmed, A Ferdous Chowdhury, Anwarul Alam Chowdhury, Azizul Islam, Hafiz Ahmed Bhuiya, Jalal Uddin Chowdhury, Arifur Rahman Sinha, Saidur Rahman, Mahmudul Haq, Shakhawat Hossain, Mijor (Retd) Abdul Mannan, Anwar Kamal Pasha, Khalilur Rahman Chowdhury, Hedaetul Islam, and Delwar Hossain.

The knitwear sector followed the garments sector with 16 CIPs. But its President Munjurul Haq failed to be included in the list. The CIPs from the sector are: Alhaj M Nurul Alique, Mohammad, Mubekkur Rahman, M A Rahman, Abdol Kalam Pathan, Mahubul Ala, Golam Faruq, Monsurul Islam, Shajahan Mian, Gaus Uddin Khan, Joyal Abedin Mollah, A Rashid Chowdhury, Abu Ahmed Siddique, Nasir Uddin Ahmed, Intekhabul Hamid, Rehman Sharif, Alhaj Abu Taleb and Ahmed.

See Page 11 Col 7

Slum dwellers Govt proposal impracticable, says ADAB

By Staff Correspondent

The Association of Development Agencies of Bangladesh (ADAB) has said the government proposal to rehabilitate the city's slum dwellers back in their villages is 'impracticable', sources said.

ADAB Director Shamsul Huda in a letter to the DG, NGO Affairs Bureau on Thursday said government's 'unilateral decision' will affect ongoing NGO project and also future development programmes in slums.

Health, education and income generating projects will be halted and the slum dwellers will be deprived of their basic needs, the letter said.

The letter also expressed doubts whether the slum

See Page 12 Col 4

2 Indians held with arms in Moulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Oct 1: Two suspected Indian separatists were arrested in Kamalganj thana of the district today.

Kamalganj thana police arrested Alok, 23, and Jony, 43, at around 1 pm while they were going to Rampasa village by a rickshaw.

Police also recovered one AK-47 rifle and 60 bullets from their possession.

The arrested told police that they had crossed Karmalpur border under Tripura state and entered Kurma area of Moulvibazar district. However, they did not say when they entered Bangladesh territory.

Police suspect the arrested are activists of an Indian separatist organisation.

Police are interrogating them till filing of this report at 7:30 pm today.

Young man stabbed to death

By Staff Correspondent

A young man was stabbed to death allegedly by his nephew at Shaheed Mannan Lane in the city's Cantonment area in the early hours of yesterday.

The dead was identified as Zakir Mohammad, 25, son of Abdul Bapari, a resident of tin-shed colony at Shaheed Mannan Lane.

Police and hospital sources said Zakir had an altercation with his nephew Mohammad Ali over a land dispute at about 12:30 am.

At one stage, Ali stabbed Zakir in his chest, abdomen and back. Zakir was rushed to Combined Military Hospital (CMH) where he succumbed to injuries at about 2 am yesterday.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was lodged with Cantonment thana, but none was arrested in this connection till filing of this reports last night.

Shell starts drilling Sangu-I

By Staff Correspondent

Shell Bangladesh has started drilling Sangu I offshore well in the Bay of Bengal on September 30. The drilling is likely to continue till the end of this year, said a Shell press release.

South Sangu I is being drilled under the Block 16 Production Sharing Contract (PSC) with Petrobangla by a joint venture of Shell, Cairn Energy and HBR Energy.

'By drilling South Sangu I, the joint venture partners are



ACE UP WHOSE SLEEVES? West Indies skipper Brian Lara (2nd From R) playing cards with teammates Shvinnarine Chanderpaul (L), Adrian Griffith (2nd From L) and Pedro Collins at the VVIP lounge of the Zia International Airport yesterday (Story on Page 13).

Steps being taken to modernise Ctg port

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Oct 1: Steps are being taken for implementation of four projects involving Tk 1132 crore for modernisation of Chittagong port, sources concerned said.

Approved by the government recently, the projects are likely to be completed by 2004.

The projects aimed at making the port capable of handling the growing import and export cargo are construction of a container terminal at Newmooring involving about Tk 800 crore, procurement of 142 modern equipment including a gantry crane at a cost of over Tk 300 crore, purchase of a high powered tug boat with Tk 22 crore and installation of a 33 KV power sub-station in the port area at a cost of over Tk 10 crore.

Besides, a Tk 60 crore project for expansion of container handling facilities is awaiting

government approval.

The government has ordered the Chittagong Port Authority to finance the projects from its own funds, the sources pointed out.

The projects remained shelved for several years due to bureaucratic tangles, hindering timely development of the over 100-year-old port.

Earlier, the government tried to mobilise funds from donor countries for the projects and this also delayed implementation.

The Newmooring container terminal project was approved by the cabinet purchase committee last week. It was given a 'go-ahead' by the ECNEC in May this year, port official said.

Now steps have been taken to engage consultant for construction of the container terminal.

With the installation of the

See Page 11 Col 7

Awareness only way to check AIDS

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar in the city yesterday called for launching massive campaigns by the government and socio-cultural organisations to create public awareness about the dreaded AIDS.

Creating awareness is the only way to check spread of the incurable disease, they said.

According to official sources, there are about one hundred AIDS patients in Bangladesh now but transmission of HIV is quite alarming particularly among the sex workers and drug addicts.

Almost 90 per cent of all those infected with the deadly virus — Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) — are in developing countries and most of them are not aware of the infection, the speakers said at the seminar on AIDS Prevention: Response by Civil Society.

Held at the BCIC Bhaban, the seminar was organised jointly by the Lions Club and the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) on the occasion of the club's service week.

Shaikh Kabir Hossain Acting Chairman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Maj Gen A S M Matiar Rahman Chairman of National AIDS Committee (NAC), Geeta Sethi Country Programme Adviser of UNAIDS and A K M Shamsuddin President of FICCI presented papers at the seminar.

The NAC Chairman said AIDS is a major public health concern and we must make all out efforts to prevent the deadly disease.

Showing slides to a large gathering at the seminar, Rahman said, 'Prevalence of

See Page 12 Col 3



A silver & 4 bronzes on the 7th day

From Hasan Masood

KATHMANDU, Oct 1: Bangladesh earned a silver and four bronzes today, the seventh day of the SAF Games being held here.

The silver and two bronzes came from the shooting competition at the Birendra International Sports Complex, whereas the wrestlers bagged the other two bronzes.

Ace shooter Saiful Alam, who earlier won the team silver with Huene Zahan and Badrul Islam Alam in the 10m air rifle event on Wednesday, clinched the men's 50m small bore free rifle prone silver in the individual event scoring 677 points.

Sri Lankan Rajasinghe Lakshman bagged the gold with 685 points.

Bangladesh's Kamrul Islam, who had the highest score in the team event and had a chance to win the gold, lost his cool in the individual event and had to re-

main content with the bronze managing 671 points. In the team event, Bangladesh won the bronze on Thursday.

Bangladesh's other shooting bronze came from the 50m small-bore sport rifle three-position competition. The eve's team of Kazi Shahana Parveen, Sabrina Sultana and Lovely Chowdhury, who won Bangladesh's lone gold by topping the team competition of the 50m small bore sport rifle prone event on Wednesday, won the three position bronze today.

The Bangladesh girls scored 1625 points. The Indians grabbed the gold with 1710 points while the silver went to the Sri Lankans, who collected 1658 points.

The shooters have so far won one gold, three silvers and five bronzes.

See page 11 Col 3



ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশন, ঢাকা

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন

করপোরেশনের হোল্ডিং করে রিবেট সংক্রান্ত জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের সম্মানিত করদাতাগণের অনুরোধের প্রেক্ষিতে চলতি আর্থিক বৎসরের (১৯৯৯-২০০০) চার কিস্তির পৌর কর একত্রে পরিশোধের উপর ১০% রিবেটের সময়সীমা ৩১/১০/৯৯ইং পর্যন্ত বর্ধিত করা হইল।

২। সম্মানিত করদাতাগণকে এই বর্ধিত সময়সীমার মধ্যে বকেয়াসহ হাল সনের সমুদয় কর পরিশোধ করিয়া চলতি অর্থ বৎসরের চার কিস্তির করের উপর ১০% হারে রিবেটের সুযোগ গ্রহণ করিয়া মহানগরের উন্নয়ন কাজে সহায়তা দান করার জন্য সম্মানিত করদাতাগণকে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

ডিসি/পিআর/১০৯/১৯৯৯-২০০০
জিডি-১৬৫

প্রধান রাজস্ব কর্মকর্তা

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা।