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Countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal today

By Staff Correspondent
The BNP-led opposition alliance has called for a countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal today to press a number of demands, including resignation of the government and early parliamentary elections.
The hartal was called on September 22.
The BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islamic Oikya Jote said they were protesting recent killings of innocent Bangladeshi civilians and BDR jawans by the BSF. They alleged that the Indian forces were intruding into Bangladesh territory, occupying lands, violating border rules and massing troops along the border.
The parties said the hartal was called also to protest the government's reluctance and failure in taking action against Indian aggression. The "decision to provide corridor facility" to India, conspiracy to curb democratic rights through black laws, price hike of essentials, serious deterioration of law and order, crisis of electricity and water, eviction of slum dwellers without any rehabilitation plan, occupation of bank and state property by ruling party men, and repression on opposition through "state and party-sponsored terrorism".
The alliance is expected to announce fresh programmes after today's shutdown. Some opposition parties have already started their hartal today.
See Page 11 Col 7

Slow progress in land demarcation 'Settlement of enclave issue to ease border tension'

By M Anwarul Haq

Bangladesh will gain nearly 17,000 acres of land if the issue of enclaves is settled with India and it will have to cede some 7,000 acres in exchange.
Groundwork relating to land demarcation necessary for the transfer of enclaves between the two countries was initiated last year after a long gap. It is going on for the last six months and the transfer of enclaves is likely to materialise if the governments of the two countries so want, sources concerned said.
Bangladesh and India share a 4,095 km long land border. Of this, about seven km including 2.5 km in Muhurir Char are still to be demarcated. Only two years ago, nearly 42 km of border were un-demarcated, the sources pointed out.
According to Bangladesh Land Records Survey Department, there are 111 Indian enclaves comprising 17,000 acres of land inside Bangladesh and 51 Bangladesh enclaves with a total of 7,000 acres of land inside India.
The population in Bangladesh enclaves is around 4,50,000, according to an estimate.

"The issue of transfer of enclaves is an impediment to Indo-Bangladesh relations and we would like to resolve it as early as possible. Settlement of the enclave issue would also ease cross-border tension and would be in the best interest of both the countries," said a top government official.
As the enclaves are 'isolated islands' in another country, it causes immense suffering to the inhabitants in exercising their rights as citizens of their respective countries. During enrolment of voters, enumerators had to face difficulties entering the enclaves on several occasions, he mentioned.
It is also difficult to ensure law and order in the enclaves due to their location. Many of the enclaves have become safe sanctuaries for smugglers and other criminals. Some of the enclaves are safe zones for storage and transit of smuggled goods, drugs, arms and explosives, the sources said.
The enclaves are a legacy of the British colonial rule in the Sub-continent. British rulers left the issue of enclaves unresolved for reasons best known to them. The Radcliffe Bound-

ary Commission in 1947 decided not to award the enclaves to any of the new countries and opted to keep those as tiny isolated islands in another country.
Following the demarcation of borders, the two countries will try to exchange the enclaves at 'one go', an official said.
Meetings at the level of Joint Working Group comprising senior officials of the two countries last year decided that after the border was fully demarcated, the enclaves would be exchanged at 'one go', said a senior official.
Explaining the reason for exchange at 'one go', he said, it involves major land transfer and may require ratification by the parliaments of both the countries. "Transfer of the enclaves would be done in the spirit of Indira-Mujib accord of 1974".
The agreement on demarcation of land boundary was reached on May 16, 1974.
About the enclaves, the agreement stated that the Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and the Bangladesh enclaves in

Dhaka, Yangon to discuss ship service, trade issues

Star Report
Bangladesh and Myanmar will discuss finalisation of an agreement for coastal ship service between the two countries and feasibility of construction of a bridge over the Naaf river for expanding bilateral trade, BBC reported yesterday.
The discussion will take place with ministers and trade and industry leaders during the visit of Myanmar Commerce Minister U Aung Mye Thazan to Dhaka today on a four-day visit.
The two sides will also discuss how to reduce trade gap between the two countries, BBC said quoting Commerce and Industry Minister U Aung Mye Thazan.
See Page 11 Col 5

Pro-hartal pickets Shop owners demand permanent force for protection

By Staff Correspondent

The authorities deployed police and paramilitary BDR in different shopping centres and business establishments last night in a bid to keep the shops open during today's hartal.
But shop-keepers and leaders of a number of market associations said yesterday that they would be reluctant to keep their shutters open fearing vandalism by pickets.
UNB quoting city's police chief A K Shamsuddin at 9:15pm yesterday said, "the police are being deployed in front of the markets so that unruly agitators cannot force the shutters down."
Police would remain posted at the markets during the hartal hours ending at 6pm today, he told UNB. Despite repeated attempts, the DMP Commis-

sioner could not be reached last night for details.
The government has also assured people that adequate vehicles would be made available and that security measures would be taken to keep the movement of vehicles unhindered.
Police sources said there would be 5,370 policemen who would be backed by BDR to guard key point installations, street corners and strategic places.
Bangladesh Shopowners Association, which hailed the government decision to deploy extra policemen in the shopping centres during today's hartal, in a statement yesterday left the option of keeping the shops open to "the individual shopkeepers in their respective areas."
See Page 11 Col 7

Pro & anti-hartal activists clash: 67 injured

At least 67 people were injured in clashes between pro and anti-hartal activists in Mymensingh, Netrokona, Jhalakati, Barguna and Jhenidah yesterday, report agencies.
In Mymensingh, at least 20 people were injured, two with bullets, in the town yesterday evening in a clash between pro and anti-hartal activists, reports UNB.
Witnesses said the clash started in Ganga area of the town when anti-hartal activists obstructed a BNP torch procession brought out by BNP in support of today's countrywide shutdown.
The BNP supporters first retreated in the face of obstruction. But soon they returned and attacked the rivals. Both the groups fired about 10 shots and exploded crackers.
Of the injured, 10 people, including BCL leader Saiful and pedestrian Sohag with bullet wounds, were admitted to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.
Police lobbed about 25 tear gas shells to disperse the protesters.
See Page 11 Col 8



Bangladesh's Shajuddin Tipu (R) tries to dodge past an Indian player during the first semifinal of the SAF Games in Kathmandu yesterday. —AFP photo

Bangladesh in soccer final

From Hasan Masood

KATHMANDU, Oct 2: A magnificent second-half goal against favourites India by substitute forward Shahajuddin enabled Bangladesh to move into the 8th SAF Games football final at the Dasharath Rangashala (stadium) here this afternoon.
After a barren first half, super-sub Shahajuddin, who replaced forward Mizanur Rahman in the first minute of the second session, unleashed a 25-yard angular shot from outside the box. The right-footed Bangladesh forward, in the 65th minute, landed in the right corner of the net fooling the advancing Indian keeper Virender Singh.
The goal delighted the 18,000 capacity crowd that included a few hundred Bangladeshis.
Bangladesh, who had a poor start in the seven-nation meet, losing to Maldives (1-2) and then just beating Sri Lanka (1-0), not only played much better in every department today against their illustrious opponents, but they dominated the match.
Although they played defensively leaving no room for the Indians, it was rather coach

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Samir Sakir's tactics which proved fruitful in the end, raising yet another football gold hope for 120 million people back home.
For the fifth time Bangladesh are in the football final of the regional Games. In their previous four appearances, Bangladesh lost to India in 1985 and 1995, to Pakistan in 1991 and to hosts Nepal in the first edition of the meet way back in 1984.
Back to the match, Bangladesh made a cautious start against the speedy Indians and kept the ball in their possession without going for any risk. In the absence of two regular defenders Masud Rana and Rajani Kanta Barman, who were serving a one-match suspension for two yellow cards in the meet, the defence, composed of Hasan Al-Mamun,

Nazrul, Jewel Rana, Faisal and makeshift Matur Rahman, played a phenomenal match today. They kept the in-form Indian defender Robert Fernandes and first partner Jo Paul Ancheri under tight marking right from the word 'go'. Custodian Biplab Bhattacharjee also made some brilliant saves.
In the first half, Bangladesh had only one chance to go up when Matur Rahman fed Alfaz in the 18th minute. But the dark and dapper forward failed to cash in on the opening in the face of a good tackle by Indian defender Robert Fernandes.
India also had a fair chance in injury time of the first half when an unmarked Jo Paul got the ball from a right-side corner inside the danger area. But the Indian forward lost his cool and shot the ball wide of the far post.
See Page 11 Col 6

Faridpur by-polls Saleha Begum AL nominee

Awami League has nominated Saleha Begum as party candidate for the byelection in Faridpur-4 Constituency, reports UNB.
Saleha is the wife of late Mosharrar Hossain MP. The seat fell vacant following the death of Mosharrar on August 19.
The election in the constituency will be held on October 27.
Awami League's parliamentary board announced the nomination yesterday.
AL Parliamentary party on Friday interviewed party's intending candidates for the by-polls.
See Page 11 Col 5



BNP brought out a torch procession in the city yesterday in support of today's countrywide hartal. —Star photo

Bangladesh needs more exposure, says Lara

West Indies expect a good fight from Bangladesh in the three-day match and two one-day internationals, skipper Brian Lara said here yesterday, reports BSS.
Bangladesh captain Aminul Islam also said that they would try their best against their opponents.
The Caribbeans arrived Friday to play a three-day match, beginning tomorrow and two one-day internationals on October 8 and 9. The one-day series has been titled "Birman Millennium Cup" while the three-day affair will be called "Dutch-Bangla Cup".
Speaking at a news conference the West Indian captain spoke highly about Bangladesh. He said more international matches would help Bangladesh in getting the Test status.
Aminul Islam said, "Despite just a month's practice, his team was committed to playing good cricket."
"We have missed some experienced batsmen in the middle-order, but the new comers are determined to play well and, accordingly, we are working hard," he said.
He, however, admitted that they were not accustomed with the longer version of the game at international level.

Mintoo campaigning to protect govt: Bhuiyan

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has criticised FBCCI President Abdul Awal Mintoo's remarks on the country's political situation and termed those "controversial, misleading and motivated".
In a statement yesterday, he said it appears from the FBCCI president's remarks that the motive behind his campaign is to protect this government from people's wrath.
Bhuiyan said the present government has brought the economy, domestic and external trade on the verge of ruin, but the 'business leader' (Mintoo) didn't utter a single word about this.
Thousands of mills and factories have been closed and the prospect of Bangladeshi commodities have become bleak in home and foreign markets due to unabated smuggling since this government took

over, he said. Maastani and toll extortion in business establishments have taken a serious turn while genuine traders are not being able to carry on normal business activities due to terrorism by ruling party activists.
But, Bhuiyan said, the business leader was never seen making any comment or putting forward any demand to the government even after a large number of incidents like repression and kidnapping of foreign investors, attack on his (Mintoo) father, occupation of bank, loss of credibility of Bangladesh's LCs abroad and two-day weekly holiday.
Every citizen has the right to speak about their rights and express concern on various issues. BNP always welcomes positive statements. But the comments and statements made by Mintoo in recent days are 'not only misleading but also dangerous'.
See Page 12 Col 4

Inside Today Article

Practice What You Preach
Column: Connecting the Dots
by Dr A R Chowdhury
Page 4

Business

Navy takes over Khulna Shipyard today
DSE, CSE price quotations
Pages 6 & 7

Supplements

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains two supplements: One on "The National Day of Germany" on Pages 13 to 16 and the other on "The National Day of South Korea" on Pages 17 to 20

Prayer Timings

October 3		
	Azan	Jamaat
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

Final phase of Indian polls today

Sonia contesting from Amethi, Vajpayee from Lucknow

From Pallab Bhattacharya

NEW DELHI, Sept 2: The fifth and final phase of balloting tomorrow will decide, among other candidates, the electoral fates of Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and top opposition leader Sonia Gandhi.
In the last phase, 118 Lok Sabha constituencies will go to polls with just over 13 crore electorates in 10 states and one federally-administered territory, including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal.
Vajpayee is contesting for the seventh time from Lucknow, capital of Uttar Pradesh, where his main rival is senior Congress leader Dr Karan Singh.
Congress chief Sonia Gandhi is in fray in Amethi, also in

Uttar Pradesh, which has seen her husband Rajiv Gandhi contesting successfully four times in 1981, 1984, 1989 and 1991.
Sonia's nearest opponent there is sitting BJP MP of dissolved Lok Sabha Sanjay Singh, a former close friend of Rajiv Gandhi.
Among other political heavyweights in fray tomorrow are Trinamool Congress Chairperson Mamata Banerjee pitted against political greynhorn Dr Subhankar Chakrabarty, Vice Chancellor of Rabindra Bharati University, in south Calcutta constituency, Bihar strongman Laloo Prasad Yadav facing his former Janata Dal colleague Sharad Yadav in Madhepura in Bihar, former

Prime Minister Chandrashekar and Bahujan Samaj Party leader Mayawati in Uttar Pradesh.
The Congress has pulled out all stops to ensure victory for Sonia Gandhi in Amethi, a predominantly rural constituency, where Priyanka Vadra Gandhi, daughter of Congress chief, has herself taken charge of campaign to ensure a successful electoral debut for her Italian-born mother.
Police on Saturday banned three politicians in Amethi. Officials identified two of them as a provincial minister and his supporter and the third as a local leader from Congress Party and said the move was to

5 soldiers killed Tanks deployed in Assam

GUAHATI, India, Oct 2: Five Indian troops were killed today in Assam by tribal guerrillas who have vowed to sabotage parliamentary elections here tomorrow, police said, reports AFP.
A police spokesman said five Central Reserve Police Force soldiers died on the spot and three were critically injured when a landmine blew up their vehicle in the state's Tinsukina district.
The soldiers were on their way to one of the 600 polling centres in Tinsukina, a stronghold of tribal guerrillas, the spokesman said in state capital, Guwahati.
So far no one has claimed

Shikdar's interrogation Khulna DIG 'unable' to help spl team

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 2: DIG of Khulna Range Lutfal Kabir sent an official letter to Police Commissioner M Anwarul Iqbal on Thursday expressing his inability to provide 20 police officers to help the three-member special team to interrogate Ershad Shikdar.
Shikdar is likely to be placed on remand on October 6 for interrogation.
The DIG in a letter to the Police Commissioner in the first week of last month had given a list of 20 officers "to make the best use of their services during Shikdar's remand".
But suddenly, on Thursday, the Police Commissioner received a letter from the DIG in which he expressed his inability to send the police officers. The DIG did not explain any reason.
When asked today, the DIG said that the officers expressed their reluctance to interrogate Ershad and his armed cadres arrested so far. They refused to be in the team due to security reasons, the DIG said.
But sources said none of the 20 police officers has given written objection to their inclusion in the team.
A team of 25 police officers selected from different districts under Khulna Range and the Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) was earlier formed at the instruction of the IGP to interrogate Shikdar in connection with the murders he allegedly

committed. The DIG did not explain any reason.
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Bangladeshi shot dead by BSF in Kurigram

KURIGRAM, Oct 2: Indian Border Security Force (BSF) killed a Bangladeshi national on Rowmari border of the district on Friday and took away his body, reports UNB.
Officials said Enamul Haq, 18, son of Lutfor Rahman of Noyarchar village in Rowmari thana, was shot dead by BSF men near border pillar number 1066.
BDR's Hjalmar Border Outpost (BOP) Commander sent a protest letter to BSF asking them to return the body and hold a flag meeting at 4 pm today.
BDR and BSF were holding a flag meeting till filing of this report at 11:20 pm today.

Heroin haul: 2 more arrested

By Staff Correspondent
Two persons were arrested yesterday for their alleged involvement in the 'biggest ever' heroin haul in the country.
Ramzan Bepari, owner of a real estate firm, was arrested from Shershauri Road in Mohammadpur thana area and Akther Hossain was arrested from Asad avenue on Friday night.
The Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) said that the two arrested person had visited Pakistan several times and that they might have link with the heroin haul.
The DNC personnel have been interrogating the arrested persons and would produce them before the CMM's court today and would seek remand for further interrogation.
The DNC officials said that they would be able to nab another suspect in this case shortly.
Seven persons including three Pakistanis have so far been arrested in connection with the biggest heroin haul in the country in which 24.1 kgs of heroin was recovered from hotel Razmoni Isha Kha on September 20.

Tk 25cr computer accessories sold at this year's show

Star Report
Computer accessories worth about Tk 25 crore were sold during BCS Computer Show '99 that concluded in the city on September 24, sources concerned said.
Last year's sale was about Tk 21 crore.
"We anticipated higher sale. But sudden hike in Ram prices in international markets dampened the buyers sentiment," said Ahmed Hossain, General Secretary of Bangladesh Computer Society (BCS).
The show was organised by BCS at the IDB Bhaban in the city.
More than 350,000 people visited the show this year against about 300,000 last year.
Visitors this year included a large number of enthusiastic school and college students. Students of 150 schools and colleges were allowed entry without ticket this year.
The highest number of visitors was from the city.
See Page 12 Col 4

Pak navy chief resigns

ISLAMABAD, Oct 2: Pakistan's navy chief resigned today following a meeting with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, according to a military statement, reports AP.
Admiral Fasih Bukhari's tenure was to expire on May 1, 2000.
The statement said only that he submitted his resignation on his own request.
There was no further explanation given. Vice Admiral Aziz Mirza, was appointed the new naval chief.

Shikdar rarely attended KCC meetings, but nobody dared to question

From Quazi Amanullah
KHULNA, Oct 2: The Mayor or a ward commissioner can be removed under Section 10 (I) of Khulna City Corporation Ordinance if he remains absent from three consecutive general meetings without showing any specific reason.
But as regards Ershad Shikdar, no one, even the Mayor, dared to raise the issue of his removal for remaining absent from twelve general meetings.
A spokesman of the KCC told this correspondent that mayors since 1988 did never ask Shikdar to show cause why he should not be removed from the post of ward commissioner for remaining absent from general meetings one after another.
Ershad Shikdar managed to become KCC commissioner of Ward No 21 in the election held