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JU students to lay siege to Shikha Bhaban today

By JU Correspondent
Students of Jahangirnagar University will lay a siege to the Shikha Bhaban today and submit a memorandum to the Education Minister demanding withdrawal of enhanced admission fees and re-opening of the university.

These are part of a series of programmes announced by the students on October 1 after the authorities closed the university *sine die* in the face of their movement for withdrawal of enhanced admission fees for first year honours classes. The students are continuing their movement under the banner of Admission Fee Hike Resistance Committee (AFHRC).

The JU Syndicate at an emergency meeting on September 30 decided to reduce the admission fees to Tk 860 from Tk 1703. But the students continued their agitation for withdrawal of the enhanced fees.

AFHRC will also organise a token hunger strike in front of 'Madhur Canteen' at Dhaka University on October 7, a human chain at DU on October 9 and launch a signature-collecting campaign.

See Page 12 Col 3

Heroin haul: 4 remanded

By Court Correspondent
Four persons arrested Saturday night in connection with the biggest ever heroin haul in the country were produced before the CMM's Court, Dhaka, yesterday and the court placed them on remand for interrogation by the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC).

Two of them— Akther Hossain and Mohammad Zakaria— were placed on two-day remand and the other two— Zamshed Alam and Ramzan — on one-day remand.

They were arrested from different areas of the city.

Nine persons including three Pakistanis have so far been arrested in connection with the heroin haul from a city hotel on September 20.

DNC investigators said they found with the four arrested on remand 100 kilograms of heroin and addresses of those arrested earlier.

They also said they received information that the four helped the three Pakistanis sell heroin.

Faridpur by-polls Five submit nomination papers

Five candidates yesterday submitted nomination papers for contesting the Faridpur-4 by-election to be held on October 27, reports BSS.

Election Commission sources said candidates who have submitted their nomination papers yesterday are Saleha Begum, Mostafa Amir Faisal, Prof Nasir Uddin, Ahmed Musa, Krishak Mohammad Sadek and Moniruzzaman Titu. Yesterday was the last date for submitting nomination papers.

Faridpur-4 constituency fell vacant following the death of Mohammad Mosharrar Hossain, a parliament member of Awami League, on August 19.

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Prayer Timings

October 4		
Fajr	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 Violence kills 39, most in northeastern states

NEW DELHI, Oct 3: Although half a million police, soldiers and officials were deployed to limit violence and vote fraud, 39 people were killed in shootings and bombings before polls closed today in the final phase of India's parliamentary elections, reports AP.

"We can take some satisfaction that with a difficult election with limited forces... it's gone off very well," said Election Commissioner Manmohan Singh Gill after a month in which 605 million Indians were given the opportunity to choose 543 parliament members.

About 500,000 troops and government officials were deployed across 10 states today to ensure free and fair polling for 133 million eligible voters. Gill said there was a 56 per cent turnout today.

Since voting started September 3, about 95 people were killed in clashes between rival party supporters and in bombings and shootings by separatist militants trying to enforce election boycotts in the several states.

Although a handful of constituencies must still vote tomorrow, on Tuesday and on Oct 28, because flooding, ballot fraud or candidates' assassinations forced postponement, the main vote counting will begin Wednesday.

Floods in West Bengal hit 362 polling stations and election officials could not reach many areas.

Ballot boxes covered in cloth bags and stamped with wax seals, were taken to state capitals for safekeeping.

Several opinion polls and exit surveys have favoured Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's National Democratic Alliance, a coalition of 22 national and regional parties.

The BJP is likely to return to power with more strength than ever, and its coalition will hold a clear majority in parliament, according to two exit polls today.

A second exit poll by private Star TV channel said the party and its allies could win 295 seats.

But Congress, headed by Sonia Gandhi, expects to have the largest number of seats for any single party. India's President K R Narayanan will have to decide which party to call first to form a new government.

Most of the deaths today occurred in Manipur, Assam and Tripura, where separatist militants had threatened bloodbaths if people voted.

Eighteen people, including six paramilitary soldiers, were killed when tribal guerrillas See Page 12 Col 5

10 hurt in blast during hartal in Ctg: Six pickets held

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Oct 3: At least ten people were injured in cocktail blasts in different parts of the city during hartal hours today, witnesses said.

The injured were admitted to private clinics.

Of them, six people were injured at Probartak Crossing at 8-30 am while four others at Bahaddarhat crossing, witnesses said.

Some trucks were damaged by pickets at Bahaddarhat and one rickshaw was torched on Nur Ahmed road near BNP office this morning, police and witnesses said.

Chase and counter chase between police and pickets took place at these two places. Police also arrested six pickets.

However, no major incidents of violence were reported today, police said.

All kinds of vehicles except few rickshaws were off the roads and shopping centres remained closed during the hartal.

Train service to and from See Page 12 Col 4

Bangladesh-WI match today

By Al-Amin
Bangladesh cricket enters a new horizon when the national team appears in their maiden official 'first class' match against the mighty West Indies at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

The Dutch-Bangla three-day match will start at 10 am. Bangladesh Television will cover the match live from the big bowl.

Although both the hosts and the visitors were deprived of outdoor training due to a dawn-to-dusk hartal called by the major opposition parties yesterday, the team management of both Bangladesh and the West Indies said they were going to field their best eleven for the much-anticipated match.

Bangladesh captain Aminul Islam will have the privilege of accompanying the celebrated West Indies skipper Brian Lara, arguably one of the best batsmen in the world, to the middle.

Bangladesh will also field three medium pacers in the match with young right-arm seamer Ahmed Kamal making his debut by replacing Hasibul Hossain in the first eleven.

Ahmed Kamal, who impressed Bangladesh's South African coach Eddie Barlow most during the practice matches, is likely to open the Bangladesh bowling with left-arm seamer Monjurul Islam. Saliuddin Ahmed will be the third seamer in the side.

The lone specialist spinner in the team will be slow left-arm Enamul Hoque.

Mehrab Hossain and Shahrir Hossain, who played exceedingly well in the World Cup, are likely to open the Bangladesh batting followed by a doughty Javed Omar, skipper Aminul Islam, Naimur Rahman, Khaled Mahmud and wicket-keeper batsman Khaled Masood.

Although it would be a welcome return to the top flight for Javed, who was not considered for the World Cup, the coach chose Naimur ahead of an itchy-foot Al-Shahriar for today's match.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has made all the arrangements for successfully See Page 12 Col 8

Hopes run high for first soccer gold

From Hasan Masood
KATHMANDU, Oct 3: With the objective of winning their first-ever football gold, a rejuvenated Bangladesh will take on hosts Nepal in the 8th SAF Games final at the Dasharath Stadium here tomorrow afternoon.

The match will kick off at 4:45 pm (BST).

Before the final, India and Maldives will play off for the bronze at the same venue.

Bangladesh reached the final with a morale-boosting 1-0 win over India in the first semi-final on Saturday while the home side qualified by defeating Maldives 2-1 on the same day.

Bangladesh has never won the coveted gold in football, despite reaching the final four times out of the previous seven occasions, including the last Games held in Madras in 1995.

Bangladesh lost to Nepal 2-4 in Kathmandu in the 1984 final. In the following year at Dhaka, the final against India was tied 1-1 before the latter clinched the gold in the tie-breaker. In the fourth SAF See Page 12 Col 1

Hartal kills one in Sherpur, hurts 100 across country

Star Report
One person was killed in Sherpur and over 100 others were wounded in violent incidents in different parts of the country during the dawn-to-dusk hartal called by the opposition parties yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents and news agencies.

The authorities in Sherpur summoned BDR and armed police to patrol the town where tension was prevailing after the death of Biddhut Talukder, 20, a BNP activist, in police firing.

A dawn-to-dusk hartal was called by BNP in Sherpur today protesting the killing. The party accused a ruling party MP of ordering police to shoot him.

The 33rd shutdown since the Awami League took charge in June 1996 widely disrupted normal life across the country. It passed off peacefully in most See Page 11 Col 6



(Top) Police in riot gear stand guard as BNP leaders and activists hold a rally in front of the party's central office during hartal hours yesterday. (Above) An angry Nazimuddin Alam MP grabs a chair occupied by a police officer who along with others was sitting at the entrance to the office in the morning. — Star photo

PM's call to Khaleda Shun hartal, let's discuss demands

KACHUA, Bagerhat, Oct 3: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today invited Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia to sit across the table and settle their demands through discussion, reports UNB.

"Shun hartal and come up with your specific demands. We'll discuss and decide whatever is good for the country," she said while addressing a huge public meeting at Kachua College ground in the afternoon, as the opposition enforced a shutdown across the country today.

The Prime Minister offered the olive-branch to her political opponents in line with the remarks she made to the

Nurunnabi's statement Udichi massacre was planned at Tariqul's house

AKM Nurunnabi, elder brother of Hasan, an accused of the Udichi massacre in Jessore, yesterday made a confessional statement in the CMM's court in the city, reports BSS.

According to the statement, senior BNP leader Tariqul Islam gave financial assistance, provided plans and political shelter to the accused of March 6, 1999 massacre.

Court sources quoting the statement of Nurunnabi said, a meeting of the plotters was held at Tariqul house in the last week of February where Islam, Hasan, Nurunnabi, Siraj and Maran were present.

The statement said, the explosives were imported from India on March 4, 1999 and were kept in the house of Siraj See Page 12 Col 6

CFTC retreats as congestion at Ctg port eases

From Nurul Alam
CHITTAGONG, Oct 3: The congestion surcharge drama that drew stormy protests from trade circles and port users has ended at last as Chittagong Feeder Trade Committee (CFTC), a Singapore-based organisation of leader vessel operators, 'retreated' sources concerned said.

Seeing both at the outer anchorage of Chittagong port and its jetties prompted CFTC to withdraw its decision to impose surcharge, the sources added.

CFTC announced imposition of 33 per cent congestion surcharge on all container cargo at Chittagong Port from August 23, but it was postponed on August 25 for one month in the face of severe protests from Chittagong Port Authority (CPA), BGMEA, shippers council and Chittagong Chamber. At that time, CFTC set a deadline— September 23 — to observe the congestion situation at the port for total withdrawal of the decision.

Congestion situation at the See Page 12 Col 3

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