



Dawn-to-dusk
hartal to
continue
today

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP-led opposition alliance has 'extended' its countrywide dawn to dusk hartal for the third consecutive day today to protest 'killing of three people' in the city during the hartal on Sunday and 'police firing' on senior BNP leaders yesterday.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of its Liaison Committee at the official residence of Leader of the Opposition in Parliament yesterday evening with BNP Vice Chairman M Shamsul Islam MP in the chair.

Announcing the hartal programme at a press briefing, Shamsul Islam said, "We had no plan to extend the hartal, but the government forced us to do so by killing three people and making armed attack on a procession that left an unspecified number of our leaders and activists injured. Our hartal is aimed at protesting state and party terrorism of the Awami League government."

After today's dawn to dusk hartal, 'tougher programmes' will be announced to bring about fall of this government, he added.

Islam alleged that police at the 'instruction of the government' yesterday created a reign of terror and attacked BNP leaders and activists without any provocation.

Police resorted to lath-charge and indiscriminately fired shots and tear gas shells on a peaceful procession at Jatrabari. This left at least 100

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Aman procurement target, Hajj policy okayed

By Staff Correspondent

The government will procure 2.5 lakh metric tons of Aman rice during the 1999-2000 financial year at a price of Tk 12.50 per kg.

The decision was taken at the weekly Cabinet meeting yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh in the chair, Cabinet in the chair.

The Cabinet also approved the government's Hajj policy for 2000. Some 45000 Bangladeshis will be allowed to perform Hajj. Of them, the government will take care of some 8000 intending pilgrims and the rest will have to make their own arrangements.

Last year, the quota for Bangladesh was 34,091. The government took the responsibility of 7187 persons.

The Cabinet refrained from approving a proposal for writing off electricity, gas, water, and telephone bills which remained unrealised in the last three years. The Cabinet asked the officials concerned to review it.

The proposal, applicable to residential consumers, was originally made by the Administrative Reforms Committee and was endorsed by the departments concerned. But the Finance Ministry and the office of the Auditor and Comptroller General objected it.

Notice

Due to hartal we are compelled to reduce our paper to 12 pages from regular 16 pages.

We regret any inconvenience to our readers. — Editor

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Prayer Timings

November 9		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-10	5-40
Zohr	12-45	1-30
Asr	3-55	4-10
Maghrib	5-25	5-30
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Khoka, 3 other BNP leaders shot by police during hartal

Star Report

City BNP Convenor Sadeque Hossain Khoka MP was shot and wounded along with party legislator Zainal Abedin Faruq, Joint Secretary General of the party Abdullah Al-Noman and another leader and DCC ward

commissioner Nabiullah Nabi in the city yesterday during hartal, triggering clashes between BNP activists and police in the capital and in different parts of the country.

Khoka, MP from the city's



BNP leader Sadeq Hossain Khoka being helped by fellow party leader Abdullah Al-Noman after he was injured in police firing yesterday.

—Star photo



Some BNP leaders sitting in front of the party central office as police did not allow partymen to enter or come out of the office after Sadeq Hossain Khoka was injured in police firing during hartal hours yesterday.

—Star photo

Sutrapur-Kotwali constituency and a veteran freedom fighter, was recuperating at a private hospital last night after three shot gun pellets were removed from his forehead, chest and throat. He was out of danger, doctors said.

The incident on the last day of the two-day dawn to dusk hartal led to extension of the shutdown from 6 am to 6 pm today. The two-day hartal was earlier called to protest cancellation of the public holiday on 'National Revolution and Solidarity Day' (November 7) and to resist filing of nomination for election of three city corporations.

Over 200 people were injured in clashes involving pro- and anti-hartal activists and police in the city and in Chittagong, Gaibandha, Bandarban and Joypurhat during yesterday's hartal.

In the capital, over 100 people including seven policemen were injured, according to police, witnesses and hospital sources. Seven of them were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

BNP leaders claimed that a number of their activists also fell sick at their party central office as police fired volleys of tear gas shells.

Police said they detained 49 people from different parts of the city for picketing and rioting.

The trouble spilled over to other parts of the city where

Trouble started after Sadeque Hossain Khoka and the three other leaders were shot by police at Jatrabari at about 12-40 pm while leading a procession. Police fired at least 50 rounds and several tear gas shells on the procession near Saidabad bridge.

Profusely bleeding, Khoka was rushed to a private hospital at Panthapath where doctors removed three shot gun pellets.

The procession was brought out protesting the killing of housewife Rina Ahmed in Jatrabari area during Sunday's hartal.

Police said they opened fire when a home-made bomb was thrown at them near Saidabad bridge. They were also showered with rocks, police said.

The procession was stopped by police earlier on its way to Jatrabari crossing. But the processionists broke the police barricade and proceeded towards Saidabad bridge. It was intercepted again by police when it reached near the bridge.

Police also beat two photo-journalists who were taking shots.

After he was injured, Khoka slapped the policeman who fired shots from a close range. Khoka was later charged with assaulting police and firing at them, police said.

The trouble spilled over to other parts of the city where

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15 hurt as police, pickets clash at Ctg: 8 held

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 8: At least 15 people were injured in sporadic clashes during hartal hours in the port city today, according to police and witnesses.

The clashes took place between police and opposition activists at Kazir Dewri near BNP office, Bahaddarhat crossing and in Jalalabad area, they said.

Eight people were also arrested during the hartal.

A clash between police and pro-hartal pickets erupted at Kazir Dewri at around 2 pm when BNP supporters brought out a procession protesting the attack on their leaders in Dhaka today.

Rumours spread here that BNP leader Abdullah Al Noman was seriously injured in Dhaka during hartal today.

Police lobbed tear gas canisters to disperse the agitating processionists who blasted

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Fresh hartal frustrates citizens

By Staff Correspondent

Scores of anxious citizens rang up The Daily Star office since early afternoon yesterday seeking to know whether or not there were more hartals in the days ahead.

Those calls definitely spoke of general peoples' concern about continuous strikes that disrupted the normal life and security of the common man.

All the telephone lines of The Daily Star were busy with callers trying frantically to confirm if there was another hartal in the offing today (Tuesday). The air was apparently thick with rumours around the city that another general strike was in the offing.

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N'ganj BNP office ransacked, rally attacked, 12 hurt

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 8: At least 12 BNP leaders and activists were injured when rivals ransacked the district BNP office and hurled bombs at a rally during hartal hours here today.

The rally was attacked when the BNP activists were preparing to bring out a procession from near the district BNP office, witnesses said.

The attackers also ransacked the BNP office, damaged furniture and destroyed photos of BNP leaders.

The district BNP later held a rally protesting the incident. The leaders blamed 'Shamim Osman Bahini' for the attack.

"Four bombs were hurled at the meeting injuring 12 BNP leaders and activists," a witness was quoted as saying.

Two injured leaders were Narayanganj City BNP Joint Convenor Abdul Majid and former district JCD convenor Md Abu Al Yusuf Khan Tipu.

"Within minutes the BNP activists ran for cover deserting the area," the witness said.

No arrest was made till writing of this report.

The costly dog squad: What for?

Star Report

Even after recovery of explosives from two mosques and a newspaper office and at least six false bomb alarms in different areas of the city, Dhaka Metropolitan Police has failed to utilise its dog squad, sources concerned said.

Since the recovery of explosives first on October 8, army bomb squad is being called by police for assistance even in case of false bomb alarms.

The benefit from dog squad does not match the amount of money being spent for its maintenance. The squad should have been used for recovery of explosives in the city and detection of drugs at airports, the sources further said.

The commissioner replied in the negative when asked if the money was being wasted.

As the explosives were found in open spaces and were

not kept hidden, we did not use dog squad to detect those", DMP Commissioner A.K.M. Shamsuddin said in reply to a question.

Asked if there is any plan to utilise the dog squad for recovery of bombs, he said they are planning to form a bomb squad manned by police personnel.

About Tk 20 lakh is spent per month for maintenance of the dog squad since it was procured from abroad about a year ago.

The Tk three crore dog squad project aims at helping police conduct screening operation against potential terrorists and detect illegal arms and weapons". About half of the amount was spent to set up a kennel to house the dogs and provide breeding and hospital facilities for those, an official said.

The commission replied in the negative when asked if the money was being wasted.

Violence during hartal

Home minister warns of legal action

By Staff Correspondent

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim has warned of legal action against those resorting to violence in the name of hartal. Law enforcers must take action against those trying to create anarchy in the name of hartal.

The home minister claimed that shots fired at police by Opposition activists killed the Jatya Sangsad yesterday.

The people and the parliament have given us the right to maintain law and order and we will do the job at any cost," he told the Jatya Sangsad yesterday.

He was making a statement on law and order during the Opposition's hartal.

Blasting the opposition parties for calling hartals frequently "without any logical issue", the home minister said these parties have become "desperate after losing their illegal power base".

Explaining, he alleged that BNP and its allies started conspiracy to destabilise the government after it launched a bombing operation to free the south-western region from terrorists. These terrorists had long been used by these parties in their electoral battle against the AL, he alleged.

Nasim admitted that the Opposition had the right to stage demonstrations and call hartal. But they have no right to sponsor terrorism and create a

situation in the name of agitation. "We would not mind having their hartals been peaceful... Law enforcers must take action against those trying to create anarchy in the name of hartal."

The home minister claimed that shots fired at police by Opposition activists killed the Jatya Sangsad yesterday.

The body of the victim was sent to the DMCH for autopsy.

Suratpur police said Babu was not a Judo League activist or involved in politics either.

Moreover, he was shot while having tea in a tea stall in Narinda area.

Police lodged a case in this connection. No one could be arrested till yesterday evening.

Wounded Judo League activist dies in city

By Staff Correspondent

A Judo League activist who sustained bullet wounds when unidentified gunmen shot him on Sunday night in the city's Sutrapur area, died at the Pangu (Orthopaedic) Hospital yesterday morning. Hospital sources said.

The dead is Babu, 28, son of one Anwar Hossain and a resident of 86 South Moisundi of Narinda.

Hospital sources quoting witnesses said during the incident Babu was taking tea inside the club of Judo League at Moisundi at about 8pm. At that time nine youngmen riding three motorcycles appeared there and one of them started shooting at Babu.

Babu was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and later shifted to Pangu Hospital as his condition deteriorated further on Sunday night. Babu died at around 8 yesterday morning.

The body of the victim was sent to the DMCH for autopsy.

Suratpur police said Babu was not a Judo League activist or involved in politics either.

Moreover, he was shot while having tea in a tea stall in Narinda area.

A pellet from shotgun hit Rina's brain

By Staff Correspondent

Housewife Rina Ahmed was hit by a pellet fired from shotgun, said sources at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The sources quoting doctors at DMCH said the injury proved fatal as the pellet hit the brain piercing through the right side of her right eye.

The victim's body was taken from the DMCH under police protection yesterday, witnesses said.

The religious rites for Rina's burial were completed under police protection in presence of her family members.

Local MP Habibur Rahman Mollah of the ruling Awami