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### Medical, surgical items DMCH owes Tk 5 cr to some companies

**By Staff Correspondent**

Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) owes over Tk five crore in dues to various companies supplying medical and surgical items to the hospital.

In addition to that, the hospital owes Tk 74 lakh as unpaid and overdue bills to Bangladesh Telephone and Telegraph Board (BTB) for the last ten years, sources said.

DMCH officials confirming the facts said, "The hospital has been unable to pay the bills for last five years, as we have no extra funds to pay the dues. The annual budget for the 800-bed hospital is 3.5 crore taka," said one official.

The official regretted that out of the total budget, the hospital is obliged to spend 70 per cent of the money for procuring



A vehicle was crushed under the weight of a collapsed building in Bolu, north-western Turkey in the early hours of Friday during a strong earthquake that was felt across the country. The epicentre of the 7.2 quake was near Duzce where the death toll already crossed 300 yesterday. — AFP photo

### Tangail-8 election

**From page 1**

Presidium Member Tofail Ahmed led a huge procession in support of the party candidate on the last day of campaigning. Thousands of people — men and women — joined the procession carrying AL's election symbol 'boat'.

Some other AL leaders including MPs were also in the forefront of the procession that paraded different areas of Shakhpir.

Earlier on the day, the ruling party leaders addressed a big public rally to seek vote for Shahjahan.

Siddiqui also addressed a huge public meeting on the concluding day of campaigning.

Siddiqui in his last projection meeting at Jail crossing alleged that the by-election is not an election at all, rather it is like semi-repression (*upantijarat*), according to UNB.

On the other hand, ruling party candidate Shahjahan told his last projection meeting at Taitala that he would be ousted from his home if not elected.

### BNP bows?

**From page 1**

Khaleda Zia yesterday evening requested her not to call any 'shab-e-barat', especially at the time of the annual examinations at educational institutions.

The leaders told Khaleda Zia that guardians and different school authorities requested them not to call hartal before November 25. Besides, a number of top party leaders have strongly opposed hartal because of the examinations and conveyed their sentiment to the party chief.

BNP sources said leaders of its city committee and front organisations categorically told the party Chairperson that it would not be possible for them to make a short-noticed hartal that there were requests from all sections of the people, especially from the guardians and teachers not to call any hartal before the holy Shab-e-Barat.

She said the party chief herself also agreed not to call hartal before the Shab-e-Barat.

But all on a sudden three senior leaders of Jamaat — Matlur Rahman Nizami, Mohammad Kamaruzzaman and Abdul Qader Mollah — rushed to 29 Minto Road and met the BNP chief.

Party insiders said the Jamaat leaders came to meet Khaleda Zia reportedly at the request of a BNP leader, who was very much eager to call a hartal on Tuesday, and pursued her to go in favour of the "unscheduled" hartal.

In their presence in Khaleda Zia's room, BNP leader Anwar Zahid talked over telephone with JP Presidium member Kazi Firoz Rashid and IOJ Secretary General Fazul Haq Amini and confirmed Tuesday's hartal programme.

### Opposition

**From page 1**

Policy makers of the four parties yesterday continued their discussion on the future course of action and movement strategy, sources said.

Members of the Alliance's Liaison Committee, after discussion with their party policy makers, will sit at 11 this morning and finalise the fresh programme to be announced at the meetings this afternoon.

Sources in the Alliance said the parties have taken "massive preparations" to organise big processions and meetings in the city. They said party activists from Dhaka and adjoining districts may take part in the programmes.

City BNP Joint Convener Abdus Salam told The Daily Star that leaders and activists of party units in districts adjoining Dhaka have not been asked to join the programme in the city as similar programme will be observed there also.

"We will not object if activists from adjoining districts want to join the city programme. We have advised them to make the mass procession programme a complete success in their respective areas," he added.

In the city, BNP will hold its public meeting at Paltan Maidan in the afternoon, Jatiya Party at Muktangan, Jamaat at the North gate of Baitul Mukarram and IOJ at Purana Paltan.

Some other smaller parties — Jajpa, Democratic League, Progressive Nationalist Party and Nationalist Democratic Alliance — will also organise rallies and bring out procession in the capital.

Meanwhile, BNP held a series of rallies and brought out processions in different wards of the city yesterday in support of today's programme.

### Quake

**From page 1**

wailing sirens and weeping on-lookers.

"My mother and sister are inside. Many people have come out... (but) there is still no sound from them," said a distraught Aysun Pala waiting outside her mother's collapsed apartment building in Duzce — the town worst hit by the tremor.

It was a chilling reminder for many Turks of the devastating August 17 tremor that devastated the nearby towns of Izmit and Goluk.

In the provincial capital of Bolu, Reuters correspondent Jon Hemming watched dusty and shivering rescuers organise search efforts with new vigour as day broke. Survival chances for anyone trapped alive were said to be slim in the freezing temperatures.

Hundreds of people gathered in Duzce's park, huddling around fires of wood and old tires as temperatures in the city fell to 3 C (37 F). A thick layer of smoke from the fires hung over the city. The government cut electricity to the area following the quake to reduce the risk of fires.

The epicentre of the quake was the small town of Duzce, pronounced "Dooze-Jay" — with some 150,000 inhabitants in hilly, forested region on the main highway between Turkey's political capital, Ankara and its main commercial city, Istanbul. The road was partly closed to traffic as a large chunk of one lane had crumbled into a ravine below.

Many buildings in the centre of Duzce lay in ruins. Outside its damaged hospital, evacuated as a safety precaution, surgeons operated on injured victims in the freezing open air.

Rescue officials said they expected the death toll to rise as workers unearth more bodies.

Just one day before Friday's quake, a smaller earthquake of magnitude 5.7 shook the nearby town of Adapazari.

That quake knocked out phone and power lines but did not cause damage to buildings. Two people were killed, one from heart attack and one from jumping out of a window in panic, and another 171 were injured.

### Onion price to fall before Ramadan

**By Staff Correspondent**

With less than a month left for the Ramadan, retailers in the city markets say onion prices would gradually fall unlike in previous years.

Price of onion soared to Tk 40 per kg recently, following which the government exempted duty on onion imports.

Retailers at New Market Kutchha Bazar (kitchen market) said a huge quantity of imported onion reached the city's major wholesale market, Shyam Bazar during the last one week. Besides, fresh harvest of local onion would also begin shortly. Prices would therefore naturally fall, they added.

Demand for onion rises sharply during the Ramadan as it is used in preparing most of the *iftar* items taken at the end of day-long fasting by the Muslims.

Local and imported varieties of onion are now selling at 32 to 40 per kg.

Meanwhile, price of dried chilly rose by Tk 10 per kg in the last one week and it is now selling at Tk 90 per kg. Price of newly harvested potato has come down to Tk 35 per kg from Tk 40, but that of potato from the old stock has risen to Tk 15-16 per kg from Tk 12-13 a week ago.

Prices of some other essentials are: brinjal — Tk 18 per kg, tomato — Tk 45, beans — Tk 30, carrot — Tk 50, soybean oil — Tk 38, mustard oil — Tk 48, cumin — Tk 140, garlic — Tk 32-40 (local) and Tk 56 (imported), mashur (pulse) — Tk 40 (local) and Tk 38 per kg (imported).

### One shot during gunfight in city

**By Staff Correspondent**

At least one person was injured during a gunfight between two groups of terrorists at Batur math (ground) under Paltan thana in the city yesterday.

The injured was identified as Idrish, 35. Idrish was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with bullet injuries.

Hospital sources said the two groups clash at about 11:30 am. The reason behind the clash could not be known immediately.

Both the groups exploded crackers during the clash, sources added.

When contacted, Pallabi police, however, said that they heard about the incident but yet to get any official complaint.



Army personnel controlling traffic at Hatkhola in the city yesterday. —Star photo

### Court orders detention of foreign ship

**CHITTAGONG, Nov 13:** The Admiralty Court of Dhaka to day ordered detention of a foreign ship following payment complications, reports UNB.

The court issued the order upon a complaint filed by Ms BB Majumdar firm of Dhaka.

Officials said the Malta flag-carrier ship 'MV Fantasy', anchored at Chittagong Port on November 3.

The ship is carrying 15,000 tons of pulses and mustard seeds worth Tk 21 crore that have been imported by two local companies.

### Kadianis attacked

**From page 1**

Some women were still "besieged" inside the village, they alleged.

When contacted the Deputy Commissioner of Natore said that the mosque was still being used by a wide range of people. "I have called both the sides tomorrow to sit and solve the problem," said the DC.

He, however, denied that anyone was injured. "Police are patrolling the area and the situation is under control." None was arrested, he said.

They said that most of the villagers fled after the attack.

### DC, TNO, UP chairman sued in Kurigram

**KURIGRAM, Nov 13:** The Deputy Commissioner, TNO of Fulbari, and chairman and a member of Naodanga Union Parishad were sued on Thursday for their attempt to evict a family violating a court order, reports UNB.

Court sources said family of thana Mahila Awami League President Tahrina Yunus has been living on a land adjacent to the Naodanga UP for long. But the union parishad officials have been claiming the land as the property of the UP.

After a case filed in this regard, Assistant Judge Court of Fulbari thana instructed both sides to maintain status quo until disposal of the case.

But DC Aminul Islam Khan, TNO Tahsinur Rahman, Chairman Abu Bakar Siddique and member Mominul Haq Mintu on November 2 allegedly tried to evict the family from the land and harassed Tahrina.

It was also alleged that they damaged the house and took away goods worth about Tk 40,000 to the UP office.

Meanwhile, the DC has been withdrawn and the TNO transferred.

### Wrist of young man severed in city

**By Staff Correspondent**

Terrorists severed a wrist of a young man near the city's Gopibagh rail gate yesterday noon.

Hospital sources identified the victim as Lablu, 30.

According to sources, a gang of terrorists dragged Lablu near the rail crossing and started assaulting him at around noon.

At one stage, the gang severed wrist of his right hand and left the scene. He was first rushed to DMCH and later shifted to Orthopaedic Hospital.

In another incident, a teenage boy received bomb injuries in the city yesterday morning.

The victim Khalil found a small container while searching waste materials in a dustbin behind Hotel Furbari at about 8:30 pm, hospital sources said.

The container exploded when Khalil was examining it. He received injuries in his face, chest and other parts of the body. He was admitted to DMCH sources added.

Motijheel police, however, could not confirm any of the incidents till filing of this report last night.

### Charity match today Cricketers date with Bollywood bombshells

**Sports Reporter**

Stars of the world's largest film industry Bollywood will put on a different brand of war paint as they lock horns with the World Cup cricket heroes of Bangladesh and Athar Ali Khan in a - believe it or not - football match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium this morning.

The 'mockery' is for a very noble cause, according to the organisers B J Films International of Dhaka. Proceeds from the match will go to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

Stars are in for a treat with Bombay's glamorous girls, Ravenna Tandon, Twinkle Khanna, Sonali Bendre, Atul Agnihotri, Namrata Shirodkar, Priti Zenta and Sumon Ranganath scheduled to arrive Dhaka early this morning; whether they can kick a ball is a different story.

The stars who are likely to sweat against Aminul Islam and his team are Govinda, Chunky Pandey, Sharod Kapoor and a battalion of Khans - Salman, Kamal, Arbaz, Sohail and Aftab.

The match will start at 11 am and gates will open at 9.

Tickets, priced from Taka 300 to 1000, have been on sale from Friday through Saturday and will also be available at the stadium this morning.

The stars of Dhaka and Bombay will be receiving appearance money.

### Opposition calls hartal in Naogaon tomorrow

**NAOGAON, Nov 13:** BNP and its allies called a dawn-to-dusk hartal here on Monday demanding unconditional release of local Jubo Dal leader Nazmul Haq Soni, reports UNB.

It was announced at a rally of the Liaison Committee of BNP-led four parties at the local Shaheed Minar in the town on Tuesday.

Soni and JCD worker Tipu were arrested from Muktir Crossing during the hartal on Monday. They were sent to Rajshahi jail.

### Combing operation in greater Noakhali soon: Nasim

**LAXMIPUR, Nov 13:** Combing operation by joint armed forces would begin soon in the greater Noakhali district to uproot terrorism and establish rule of law, Home, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim said here today, reports BSS.

Addressing a public meeting at Char Alexander Government College ground under Ramgati thana, the minister said 15 days would be given for surrendering illegal arms before launching the combing operation by joint armed forces - police, BDR and Ansar.

### Police commissioner says Vested quarters trying to foil trial of Shikdar, his beneficiaries

**By Staff Correspondent**

**KHULNA, Nov 13:** Police Commissioner Anwarul Iqbal has said vested quarters are trying to foil the trial of notorious criminal Ershad Shikdar and his beneficiaries.

This is the first comment by a high police official about Shikdar's beneficiaries since submission of a report to the government by a three-member probe body headed by Masudul Huq, Director of NSI.

Iqbal made the comment while inaugurating a two-day workshop at the local press club yesterday. Khulna unit of Bangladesh Photo Journalists Association organised the workshop.

The Police Commissioner urged local newsmen to expose killer Shikdar and his accomplices.

Meanwhile leaders of different socio-cultural organisations, Khulna Bar Association and local unit of Communist Party of Bangladesh demanded publication of names of Shikdar's beneficiaries including political leaders.

### Sec 144 on N'ganj municipality area

**From Our Correspondent**

**NARAYANGANJ, Nov 13:** The district administration today imposed Section 144 on the municipality area as two Islamic organisations tried to hold meetings at the same venue at same time today.

The Section 144 was imposed from 1 pm today and will remain valid until 5 pm Monday. After the police failed to convince the two opposing groups — Ashekey Rasul Parishad and the Oulamaey Keramang — to change the venue and time of their meetings, the district administration imposed the ban.

No untoward incident was reported.

### Sheraton expansion A joint venture firm may be appointed

**Star Report**

The government is going to appoint a joint venture firm for expansion of Hotel Sheraton for the Non Aligned Movement summit, to be held here in 2001, official sources said yesterday.

A Bangladesh-india joint venture is on top of the list of firms. The decision will be finalised on Monday, the sources said. The government owned Bangladesh Services Limited (BSL) runs the hotel under a joint management with Sheraton.

The 42 crore taka expansion work is expected to begin in January next and completed by March 2001.

Six joint venture Bangladeshi companies with their partners from Malaysia, Australia, UK and India offered bids in response to a tender floated about two months back.

A technical committee headed by Amir Hussain, Chief Architect, Government of Bangladesh, is now scrutinising the bids. Prof M Shahidul Ameen and Prof AMM Shafiqullah of BUET are also members of the technical committee.

As per the plan, the two storied extension building of the hotel on the western side will be demolished for expansion of parking facilities and raising structures for reception and lobby.

The five top floors of the eight storied office building on the southern side will be converted into guest rooms, the source said.

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