

**FedEx**  
Federal Express

**Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.**  
Licensee of Federal Express Corporation  
Tel # 9565114; Fax # 9565112

**MOTIJHEEL**
**IBRAHIM CHAMBER**  
95, Motijheel C.A., Dhaka  
Tel # 9565114, Fax : 9565112

**BANGSHAL**

Majed Court, 16/1 Siddique Bazar  
North South Road, Dhaka  
Tel # 9667462

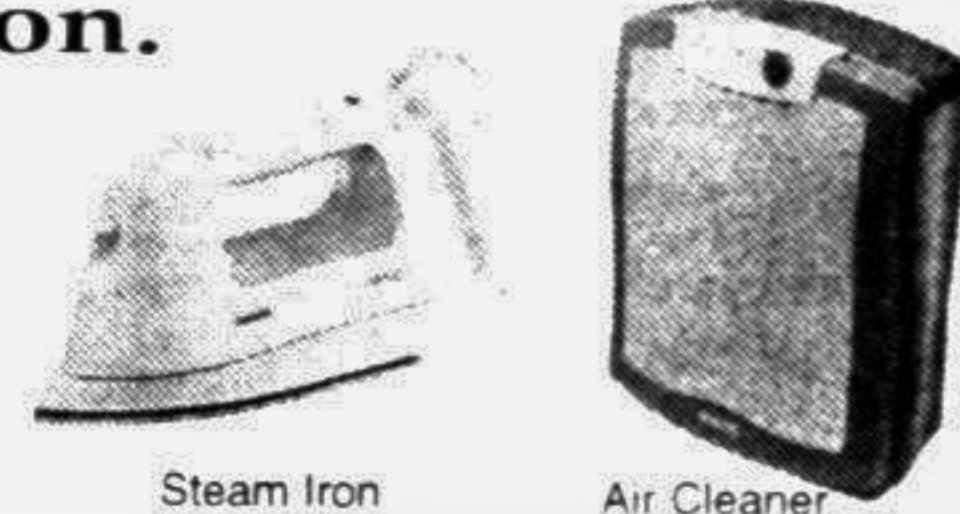
**NARAYANGANJ**

72, Sirajuddowla Road, Khanpur  
Narayanganj  
Tel # 9714336

Backed by  
Guarantee

**PHILIPS**  
Let's make things better

**Ideal gift for any occasion.**
**Instalment facility available**  
only for purchases above Tk. 7,500

**Transcom Electronics Limited**  
Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets.  
Dhaka: 815307-10 Ctg: 716353, 723578 Khulna: 720304 Bogra: 6215  
Visit your nearest Philips Display Centre today


Steam Iron Air Cleaner


**That's enough**  
The Deputy Commissioner at DMP's Detective Branch warns BNP demonstrators near the party central office not to blast anymore bombs after a series of explosions yesterday. — Star photo

## Peaceful hartal in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent

**CHITTAGONG, Dec 5:** The dawn-to-dusk hartal passed off more or less peacefully in the port city and on the outskirts today, leaving minor incidents, police and witnesses said.

Police and pickets clashed at Bahaddurhat crossing at 9 am. witnesses said.

There were reports of sporadic blasts of molotov cocktails in some places.

Opposition supporters organised rallies and brought out processions. Supporters of ruling Awami League held anti-hartal rally at New Market crossing this morning.

Vehicles except rickshaws stayed off the streets and highways.

Shopping centres and markets mostly remained closed during although some offices worked with skeleton staff.

Delivery of goods at Chittagong port remained suspended as trucks and lorries did not come out on the roads, but cargo handling was carried out as usual inside the jetties, port sources said.

Mills and factories at Patenga, Nasirabad, Kalurghat and Sitakundu industrial belts saw low production owing to thin attendance of workers, they said.

Railway officials said train services between Chittagong and other parts of the country was usual.

Airlines did usual business but most of the passengers got stuck up at the airport, officials said.

Additional police and paramilitary BDR personnel were deployed in all important points of the city to prevent any untoward incidents.

## Suhrawardy remembered

Different socio-political and student organisations yesterday paid rich tributes to Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy, reports BSS.

They placed wreaths at his mazar to mark the 36th death anniversary of the legendary political figure and the last prime minister of undivided Bengal.

A special prayer was also offered seeking divine blessings for the late leader.

Bangladesh Awami League, led by its president member Amir Hossain Amu, Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury and State Minister for Information Prof. Abu Sayed placed wreaths on behalf of the party in the morning and offered *fateha* there.

Wreaths were also placed by Shaheed Suhrawardy Jatiya Smriti Parishad, Jatiya Party (M-M), Jatiya Chhatra Samaj, Shaheed Noor Hossain Sangsad, Jatiya Jubo Sanghati, Bangladesh Chhatra League, Srani League and Bangladesh Gano Azadi League.

After placing wreaths they offered *fateha* at the mazar. Later, a discussion organised by Shaheed Suhrawardy Smriti Parishad was held on the mazar premises with poet Muhammad Abdul Khaleque in the chair.

Member of the Public Service Commission (PSC) Sirajuddin Ahmed, Sheikh Mohammad Ubaidullah Bin Sayed Jalalabadi, MA Jalil, Mostafa Kamal and ATM Siddique, among others, took part in the discussion.

Highlighting the eventful life and achievements of Shaheed Suhrawardy, they said that he fought for establishment of democracy and introduction of non-communal secular politics in the country.

## 20 hurt as AL, BNP clash in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

**RAJSHAHI, Dec 5:** At least 20 people were injured, six of them seriously, in a clash between the supporters of Awami League and BNP at Kaliganj Bazar in Durgapur thana yesterday evening.

Of the injured, four were identified as Shamim, Sadaruddin, Ismail Hossain and Habibur Rahman, were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with bullet injuries.

Police said the clash was a sequel to previous enmity between local Awami League leader and Joynagpur UP chairman Abdul Majid and local BNP leader Belal.

The trouble started when the supporters of Abdul Majid attacked the supporters of Belal in the evening.

The attackers also ransacked the houses of Belal's supporters.

Police rushed to the spot and rescued the injured people from the spot. They were later sent to the hospitals.

Police also arrested Awami League activist Abu Bakr from the spot. He was sent to the jail.

A case was filed accusing 26 persons, including UP chairman Abdul Majid and Belal, with Durgapur thana.

The government will start Aman rice and paddy procurement drive from December 15 with a view to stabilising the market price, providing incentives to the farmers and building stocks to meet any emergency domestic demand, reports BSS.

This year's rice and paddy procurement targets have been fixed at two lakh tonnes and 73,000 tonnes respectively with the purchasing price of per kg paddy at Tk 8 and rice at Tk 12.50, an official handout said in the city last night.

The procurement drive to be enforced in Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Chittagong and Barisal divisions will continue up to February next year, the handout said.

## Democracy

From page 1  
6,1990 by orchestrating a street uprising.

Ershad grabbed power in a bloodless coup on March 24, 1982 showing the door to the elected government of President Ahsanuddin.

Until 1995, both AL and BNP threw programmes to mark the fall of the military regime though the two parties started pursuing politics of convenience and changed their attitude towards Ershad later on.

AL turned soft to Ershad after his Jatiya Party helped form government following the 1996 general elections. The ruling party however continued observing the day of Ershad's ouster until 1997 but chose not to be too harsh on the general.

BNP also continued observing the day until 1997. But things began to change later that year when Ershad fell out with AL and started leaning towards BNP to fuel the anti-government campaign.

Last year, AL celebrated December 6, but BNP didn't thanks apparently to its further understanding with Ershad. This year too, the AL is scheduled to organise a public rally at Paltan Maidan at noon today to mark the fall of Ershad's autocratic regime.

Its relation with Ershad's JP hitting an all-time high, the BNP has no plan to observe the day this year, obviously not to embarrass him.

Only recently, chiefs of four opposition parties including BNP and JP sat together and declared to topple the government and establish a patriotic government on a broad based consensus.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages recalled the contribution of people in anti-autocracy movement.

## Bhuiyan slams 'Awami terrorists'

By Staff Correspondent

**BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan** yesterday asked the government to quit immediately handing over power to a caretaker government to pave the way for early parliamentary polls.

"Don't push the country towards confrontation and conflicts in the greater interest of the people," he said while addressing a post-hartal press briefing at 29 Minto Road in the evening.

He said people of the country spontaneously observed the dawn-to-dusk hartal yesterday despite attacks by police and Awami 'terrorists'.

Bhuiyan alleged that the rulers created a reign of terror in the capital and other parts of the country by making armed attacks on peaceful processions and pickets during the hartal.

He condemned and protested attacks by AL 'terrorists' at Feni, Sirajganj and Narayanganj on Saturday. He displayed photographs of BNP MP Abdul Mannan Talukder, who was wounded at Sirajganj.

Speaking at the briefing, Jatiya Party president member Kazi Firoz Rashid said the government has become unnerfed after the summit meeting of chiefs of the four parties in the opposition alliance and has intensified its repression to foil the current one-point movement.

Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mohammad Kamruzzaman said the AL government must have to be toppled through movement as it is taking wrong decisions one after another to destroy the country.

IOJ leader ARM Abdul Matin said expressed the determination to continue the present agitation till the fall of AL government.

City BNP joint convener Abius Salam said police over the party central office was very aggressive and attacked party office twice without any provocation.

He claimed that at least 200 BNP activists were injured and 400 arrested in the city during the hartal.

The bomb attackers also damaged the bus, hospital sources added.

Senior police officials of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, however, could not confirm the incident till filing of this report.

## Hartal paralyses normal life

From page 1

bullets while chasing BNP processionists after home-made bombs were exploded. The BNP activists also hurled brick bats at police, witnesses said.

At about 12:20 pm, police fired rubber bullets and five tear gas shells, and chased BNP activists when three bombs were exploded while their procession towards the party office was passing through the Bijoynagar crossing.

Police chased them up to the BNP office. The activists took shelter at their party office and closed the collapsible gate. Angry policemen shook the gate that resulted in heated exchange of words with some leaders including city BNP Joint-convener Abius Salam. But police did not enter the office.

At least 12 BNP activists were injured in the clash. At about 4:45 pm, DB and riot police led by DC Riot Habibur Rahman went into action again as several bombs went off at nearby Igloo lane when BNP was holding a post-hartal rally in front of the party central office.

Police foiled the rally by firing tear gas shells and rubber bullets indiscriminately. The BNP activists dispersed and some of them entered the party office. Some window panes of BNP office were also damaged in the firing.

Police resorted to lathi charge and fired several tear gas shells on the BNP processionists.

Several bombs were also exploded in Kakrail and Shahjahanpur areas leaving at least five people and pickets were injured.

Pickets set fire to three rickshaws near the BNP central office and damaged some others at Bijoynagar.

Five bombs were exploded by some unidentified persons near the Bijoynagar crossing at 11:10am that left traffic police Bazarul Rahman and another person, Zakir Hossain, injured. Another four bombs were exploded there at 1:25pm, witnesses said.

BNP brought out two processions from the party central office and paraded Nayapaltn, Kakrail, Bijoynagar and Purnan Paltan areas and also held rallies.

BNP MPs and leaders including Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Tariqul Islam, Major Gen (Retd) ZA Khan, Major (Retd) Halizuddin Ahmed, Jaiul Abedin Faruq, Nazimuddin Alam, Ehsanul Haq Milon, Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu, Abius Salam, Ziauddin Ahmed Murad and Mahubul Alam Tara led the processions and addressed the rallies.

Two autotempos caught fire when petrol bombs were hurled on those at Khajurabang in Farmgate area at 10:40am. But none was injured.

At least three persons were injured when a bomb was hurled on an auto-tempo near Mohammadpur Town Hall at 1:25pm.

Three persons -- Jalal, Harun and Faruq -- were injured in separate incidents when bombs were exploded at Chakbazar, Shaorapara and Shahjahanpur. They were admitted to DMCH.

## PM launches Bhairab Bridge work today

By Staff Correspondent

**Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** will inaugurate the construction work of Bhairab Bridge over the river Meghna on Dhaka-Sylhet highway today.

Communications ministry sources said a ground breaking ceremony of the bridge will be held at the Bhairab Bazar, the western end of the bridge connecting Ashuganj.

The Bhairab Bridge will be the second largest bridge in the country after Bangabandhu Bridge over the river Jamuna.

The 1.231 kilometre long bridge will be constructed at a cost of Tk 533.47 crore with financial assistance from the UK government.

The UK will provide Tk 139.51 crore as grant from the Department for International Development (DFID) and a similar amount of money from Standard Chartered Bank as loan. Rest of the money will be spent from the government exchequer.

The bridge will be constructed approximately 110 meter upstream of the existing railway bridge. The scheme consists of a 1.23 km concrete bridge with approach viaducts and central spans crossing the Meghna river. The bridge sites will be developed above the 1998 flood level with 1.4 km long bridge approach embankment.

The approach roads include minor bridges, drainage culverts and retaining structures. A major river training scheme is being provided to both east and west banks of the river.

The two-day OIC Information Ministers' conference was opened by President Khatami on December 1.

Prof. Sayed while addressing the conference as Asian leader submitted a six-point proposal which includes formation of Islam Vision to promote art and culture of OIC member states.

Thirty-six ministers out of 56 member states of OIC attended the Tehran meeting.

**CPA to start dredging Karnaphuli next week**  
From Nurul Alam

**CHITTAGONG, Dec 5:** Chittagong Port Authority will start dredging the river Karnaphuli beside 13 jetties next week to facilitate smooth berthing of cargo vessels, port sources said.

Siltation of the river caused a fall in depth of water at the jetties.

The depth of water at Jetty No 1 to 13 has decreased to 7.5 metres from 8.5 metres earlier causing berthing problem for big foreign vessels.

Hindrance to free flow of tidal water and fall of waste into the river from Jetty yards at the time of loading and unloading of ships could be the reasons behind rapid siltation, one source said.

Earlier the port channel was dredged about a year ago. This time dredging will continue for over two months.

Dredgers and other equipments will be hired from Water Development Board (WDB) as per a renewed contract between the two sides.

Dredging will be done at least for 10 hours a day and the port authority will have to pay a charge of about Tk 19,000/- per hour for it.

Chittagong port has to hire dredger from WDB, as it does not have small dredgers for use at the jetties. It has a big dredger which is used for dredging at the main channel of the port, the sources said.

## Bombs hurled at Banglabazar Patrika office

By Staff Correspondent

**Unidentified miscreants** hurled two bombs at the building of the daily Banglabazar Patrika in Tejgaon Industrial Area in the early hours of yesterday, police said.

The reason behind the attack could not be known immediately, police said. None was arrested in this connection till filing of this report last night.

The miscreants on board a tempo hurled two bombs and drove off at about 4 am, police said. None was injured in the bomb attack.

Banglabazar Patrika authorities said that printing of the newspaper was going on during the attack.

A case was filed with Tejgaon thana in this connection.

**Shahjalal Varsity Agitators outline action plan**  
From Staff Correspondent

**SYLHET, Dec 5:** The All-Party Action Committee (Opposition) has announced a fresh agitation programme to press for withdrawal of the names of different halls and buildings of the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology.

The programmes include mass contact with professional groups from tomorrow and sit-in in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office on December 19.

The programme was announced at a rally held at the Courtpoint with the district BNP vice-president Advocate Nurul Haque in the chair.

The rally was addressed, among others, by the district JP Secretary Syed Abul Quasem Mannan, City Jamaat Ameer Dr Shafiqur Rahman and Secretary Hafiz Abdul Hal Haroon, city BNP president Aheia Reza Chowdhury and secretary Nasim Hossain.

Meanwhile, the Students' Action Committee, a combine of JCD, Chhatra Shibir and others has called an indefinite strike at the Shahjalal University and other educational institutions in the town from tomorrow. It also announced to lay a siege to the VC's office on December 19.

Chase and counter chase were also reported from Sheorapara and Mirpur areas.

Bombs were hurled at a double decker bus of BRTC at about 1:00 pm at Pallabi, police and witnesses said. None was injured. Pickets also attempted to torch one of the buses.

Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote also held separate rallies and brought out processions in the city.

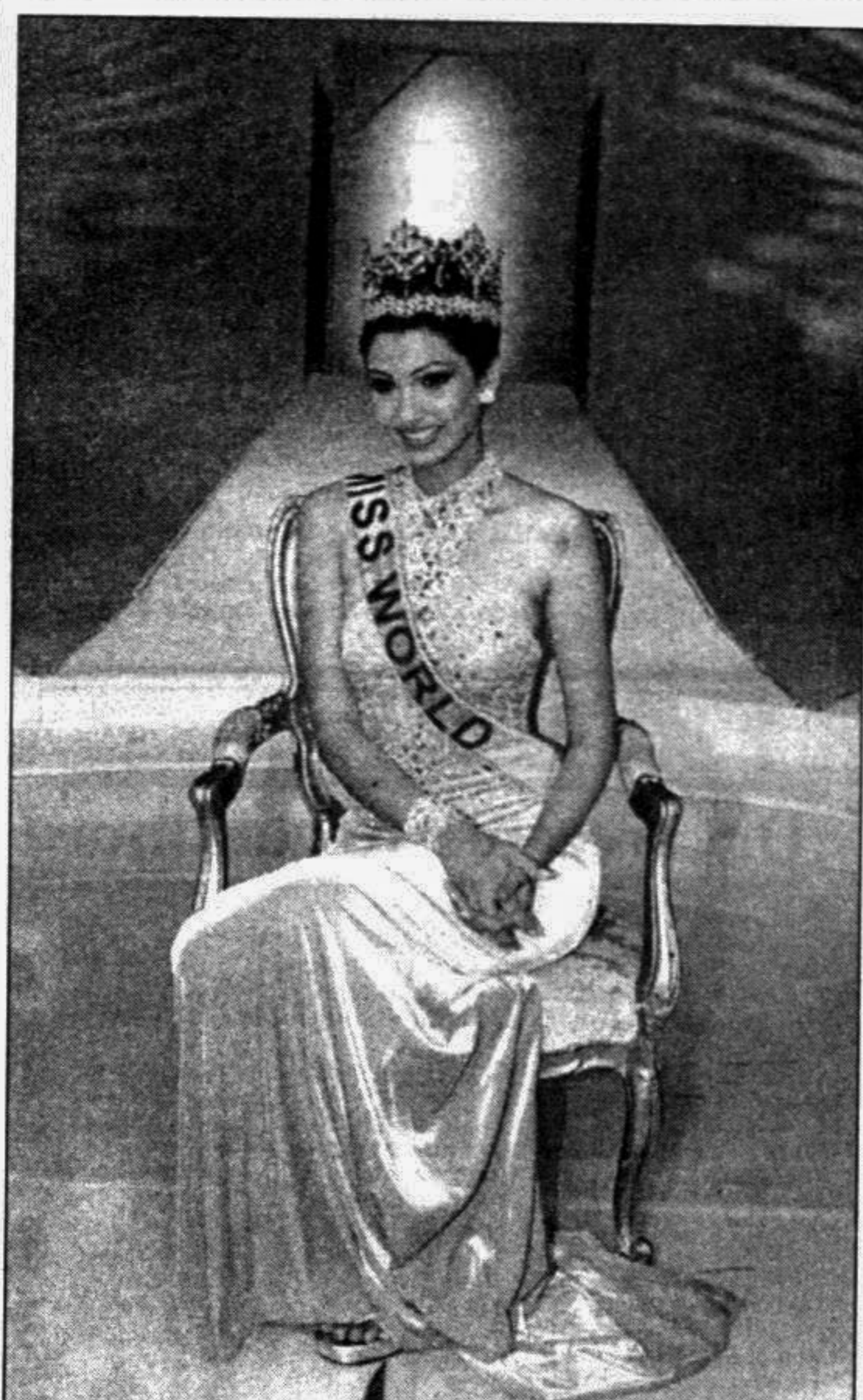
Inter district buses kept off the roads, but trains and launches operated normally. Domestic and international flights operated on schedule at the Zia International Airport but private airlines rescheduled their flights, sources said.

During the dawn to dusk hartal hours in the city motorised vehicles remained off the road, but some state run BRTC buses were seen plying in a selected routes.

In the city, business houses, shopping centres, private banks and educational institutions remained closed. There was no trading at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) in absence of share traders, sources said.

Only some BRTC buses plied some selected routes. The number of rickshaws was less than normal.

Our Sirajganj Correspondent reported that at least 10 people were injured in clashes between pro- and anti-hartal activists.


**Miss India Yukta Mookhey, 20,** takes the throne after winning the Miss World 1999 title in London Saturday. Miss Venezuela Martina Thorogood was runner up and Miss South Africa Sonia Raciti was second runner up. Miss India beat 93 other contestants from around the world. — AFP photo

## Miss India wins the crown

**LONDON, Dec 5:** Miss India, 20-year-old Yukta Mookhey, was chosen Miss World 1999 on Saturday over 93 other contestants from around the world, reports AP.

The slender brunette in a pale blue evening gown won 100,000 dollar and a year of travel around the world.

"it is the best day of my life because I had this as a beautiful dream as a child and now it's come true," said Miss Mookhey. "It is going to take a very long time for this to sink in. I know that the people at home will be ecstatic."

Miss Venezuela, 24-year-old Martina Thorogood, was runner up and Miss South Africa, Sonia Raciti, 21, won third place.

While a panel of judges at London's Olympia theater watched nearly 100 young women parade in evening gowns and answer such questions as "What is your favourite food?" about 20 women's rights campaigners gathered outside holding placards that read "Stop this sexist catwalk market."

In an apparent effort to update a fundamentally old-fashioned competition, the organisers avoided a swimsuit competition and instead showed viewers a film of the contestants at play on a beach in Malta.

During the judging, Miss Mookhey, the winner, said she would like to have been born Hollywood film star Audrey Hepburn whom she admired for her "inner beauty, compassion and great aura."

Judges got a first chance to meet the contestants on Friday, in a secret session during which they drew up a shortlist of 20 women from among whom the winner was chosen.

The seven judges included boxer Lennox Lewis, Formula 1 motor racing driver Eddie Irvine, Television's Superman, Dean Cain, and fashion photographer Terry O'Neill.

The pageant was created in 1951 by a public relations executive for a small leisure and entertainment company. It was envisioned as a single event that year, but was kept going after the United States started the rival Miss Universe contest in 1952. It has been held in many countries and was last held in London in 1988.

## ASP of CID made new IO of Advocate Fatik Murder Case in Khulna

**From Staff Correspondent**  
**KHULNA, Dec 5:** ASP Moksdedul Islam of CID, Dhaka has been made the new IO of the sensational Advocate Fatik Murder Case.

Advocate Fatik, a young lawyer of Khulna was murdered by Ershad Shikdar and his associates on April 6, 1998 inside the Ice factory at the Skid Ghat.

ASP Khandakar Iqbal of CID, Khulna was the IO of this case. But he has been transferred to Sarda Police Academy after Ershad named him as one of his beneficiaries.

The new IO will recheck the charge sheet submitted by the Officer Investigation Officer. Fresh investigation is expected to be completed by December 20, said a source in the KMP.

## Bijoy Mela opens at Ctg

**From Our Correspondent**  
**CHITTAGONG, Dec 5:** The 11th vijay fair "Muktijuddher Bijoy Mela" began here today.

Minister for Labour and Employment M A Mannan inaugurated the 12-day victory fair at the premises of Chittagong M A Aziz Stadium and Outer Stadium at 4:07 pm.

The fair was scheduled to be inaugurated by Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury. But the Speaker could not attend the function due to country-wide dawn-to-dusk hartal enforced by the opposition alliance. The inauguration was also delayed by one and half hours.

## French building collapse claims 10 lives

**DIJON, France, Dec 5:** At least 10 people were killed when a four-storey apartment building collapsed after an explosion in the eastern French city of Dijon, according to the latest toll today, reports AFP.

A local government official said the bodies of five women, three men and two girls aged between eight and 10 years had been pulled from the rubble of the building which collapsed just before midnight on Saturday. Three people were injured.

Two or three more people were believed to have been in the building when it collapsed, the head of the rescue operation, Colonel Remi Lecarme, said shortly before the 10th body was found.

## A K Khandakar clarifies

**Air Vice Marshal (retd) A K Khandakar** gave a clarification yesterday about his speech delivered at a city programme covered by The Daily Star on its December 5 issue, which is as follows:

"On the night of 25th March 1971, Pakistani Army treacherously launched brutal attack on Bengali officers and men of East Bengal Regiments, the then East Pakistan Rifles and police forces. Suddenly attacked Bengalis initially fought for self-defence and our War of Independence started."

On another aspect of our Liberation War, I said that in the context of the then Cold War situation, the signing of Indo-Soviet treaty on August 9, 1971 was a turning point. I never said that the Independence War started from August 9, 1971."

**Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

Published by the Editor of City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News &amp; Commercial Offices: House No. 11, Road No. 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 8616772-4. Commercial: 8616771. Fax No: 88-02-8613035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net