



Opposition calls 7-hour hartal today

By Staff Correspondent
The BNP-led opposition alliance has called a countrywide hartal from 6 am to 1 pm today to protest 'police atrocity and attack' on its leaders and activists without any provocation and 'foiling' its joint public rally and procession in the city on Sunday.

Hartal observed in Chittagong peacefully

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Aug 7: All-Party Action Committee (APAC), Chittagong unit, observed an eight-hour hartal in greater Chittagong today to protest attack on Jatiya Party city unit president Jahangir Alam.

Normal life was partially disrupted during hartal hours.

No untoward incidents were reported during hartal hours, police said.

Most of the vehicles except rickshaws, stayed off the roads. Train service to and from Chittagong was as usual during hartal hours.

Delivery of goods to and from Chittagong port remained suspended while cargo handling in the jetties was as usual, port sources said.

Big shopping arcades and markets in the city remained closed. Some offices — both private and public functioned with thin attendance.

Production in mills and factories at the industrial belts of Patenga, Sitakunda, Nasirabad and Kalurghat was partially hampered due to thin attendance of workers, sources said.

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Hasina vs Khaleda and the Crisis of Leadership

Column: Heart Of The Matter

By Mansoor Mamoon
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August	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Aug 8		6:37 pm
Aug 9	5:31 am	

Prayer Timings

August 8		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:25	4:55
Zohr	1:00	1:30
Asr	5:00	5:15
Maghrib	6:55	6:58
Esha	8:15	8:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

PDB's 'sky high' budget for 2 power units

Lobbying on for getting Kaptai project okayed at Tk 250cr higher cost

By Sharier Khan

The Power Development Board (PDB) is pursuing installation of two new power units at Kaptai Hydropower System at a cost Tk 200-250 crore higher than what some experts estimate, sources said.

With backing from a strong political lobby and approval

from the Energy Ministry, PDB is pursuing the project on the basis of an unsolicited negotiation with a Japanese firm on the plea that competitive bidding would delay the project by at least 18 months.

The political lobby has already convinced officials con-

cerned to give the project a green signal, sources in PDB claimed.

The proposal was sent to the ECNEC in March for approval. But ECNEC sent it back on the ground that it "sounded too costly". It will be sent to the ECNEC again, sources in PDB

said. PDB recommended a sky-high budget of 15800 million Yen (Tk 710 crore at current rate) for the proposed gas-fired Kaptai-6 and Kaptai-7 plants, each with 50 MW capacity.

But some experts in PDB said a 50 MW land-based gas-fired

unit should cost much less than Tk 200 crore.

Citing examples, they said the 100 MW gas-fired land-based power plant at Baghabari is being built at a cost of Tk 123 crore. Three bidders had quoted Tk 123 crore to Tk 190 crore for

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The Ainjibi Oikya Parishad brought out a procession from the Supreme Court premises yesterday protesting the prime minister's recent remarks on the judiciary and the lawyers. — Star photo

PM's remark: Lawyers may meet CJ

By Special Correspondent

Senior lawyers of the Supreme Court yesterday continued discussions on the next course of action against the Prime Minister's remarks on the judiciary.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her recent remarks said that criminals released on bail committed more crimes and that the judiciary should have accountability.

Eleven prominent lawyers of the Supreme Court in a joint statement had said that her remarks violated the Constitution and fundamental rights and were tantamount to contempt of court.

Seniors lawyers including Dr Kamal Hossain and Barrister Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed are having consultations on the next course of action, sources said.

Some of them said that another statement could be issued

calling upon the government to clarify in which specific cases laws were flouted and whether the state had appealed against granting bail.

They may also meet Chief Justice Latifur Rahman to discuss the issue.

Others, mainly pro-opposition lawyers, are pressing for a contempt suit against the PM and are discussing legal aspects

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BB not biased against Islamic banks: Dy Governor 'A quarter is raising religious issues to conceal misdeeds'

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Bank Deputy Governor Khondokar Ibrahim Khaled yesterday brushed aside recent allegations that the central bank is biased against banks running on Islamic principles.

"A certain quarter is trying to undermine the role of the central bank with allegations that it is harassing Islamic banks by engaging non-Mus-

lims to supervise those," Khaled told The Daily Star yesterday.

The quarter is trying to raise religious issues in banking practices just to conceal their misdeeds, he said.

"The fact is that as Bangladesh Bank supervises all banking operations in the country, it imparts training to its supervising officers on all types of banking activities. Be-

sides operational knowledge, the officers have to develop expertise on banking law. So the question is whether they have the right banking expertise, and not whether he or she is a Muslim or not."

The question is whether he or she has knowledge or efficiency, the deputy governor said. The central bank sends an

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Hartal City AL to foil 'destructive activities'

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League has decided to foil any 'destructive activities' during hartal hours today, party sources said.

The decision was taken at an extended meeting of the Dhaka city unit of AL held at party headquarters at Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday evening.

AL city unit leaders and workers were asked accordingly to remain vigilant against any

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Reform parties to stop 'sick' politics

Armed cadres, money blamed for politics of confrontation

By Staff Correspondent

The political parties should go through certain reforms to get rid of the politics of confrontation and address the issues of public concerns in an effective manner.

The reforms should focus on freeing the national politics from armed thugs and the influence of money, and the practice of democracy within and outside.

The civil society should play a greater role in the process of such reforms. If the nation is not freed from such a sick politics, the future prospect of the country's economy is grim.

The suggestions were put forward at a seminar titled "Rethinking Confrontational Politics: A Reform Agenda" in the city yesterday. Governance

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Professor Rehman Sobhan (extreme left) of the Centre for Policy Dialogue makes a point while FBCCI President Abdul Awal Mintoo (middle), Feisal Hussain, country director, Action Aid Bangladesh look on at a seminar titled "Rethinking Confrontational Politics: A Reform Agenda" held at the IDB Bhaban conference room in the city yesterday. —Star photo

DCC runs out of insecticide, buying 'hazardous' one

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka City Corporation's drive to eradicate aedes mosquito has suffered a serious setback as it has almost run out of the required SICOFLYING insecticide and failed to procure it, sources concerned revealed.

Instead, the DCC authorities have now decided to buy a 'low grade' insecticide called ICON and already ordered for 50,000 litres at a price of Tk 300 per litre. ICON was termed a 'health hazard' at a meeting of DCC's Mosquito Control Committee and its use was also abandoned.

DCC's stock of both larvicide and adulticide is exhausted and it is unable to properly spray insecticide till the ICON supplier, ACI Limited, supplies it, the sources said.

In the face of growing public pressure to check the aedes menace to fight spread of dengue fever, the Mayor was forced to choose an insecticide which causes eye irritation, coughing, vomiting and other chronic health hazards.

ICON is mainly sprayed with

ULV (Ultra Low Volume) machines mounted on vehicles. But DCC mainly uses manually driven fogging machines and ICON may not be suitable for its use.

Some sources said that DCC See page 11 col 8

Dengue: Woman dies, 74 more hospitalised

By staff correspondent

An old woman died of dengue haemorrhagic fever yesterday, raising the toll from the dreaded disease to 19 in the city.

The 60-year-old woman, Hosne Ara of Urdu Road in Lalbagh, died at BIRDEM, hospital sources said. She was admitted to the hospital on August 3.

Meanwhile, more 74 dengue patients were admitted to different hospitals and clinics in the city yesterday.

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