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People's Right to Know

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Cops, BNP men attack protest processions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 15 Awami League (AL) activists were injured yesterday when workers of ruling BNP's labour wing aided by policemen swooped on a procession near Gulistan bus terminal to drum up support for the

dawn-to-dusk hartal today and tomorrow.

The transport workers of Jatiyatabadi Samik Dal also beat up six journalists when they were taking snaps of the attack on the AL activists, who were demonstrating against Saturday's terrorist attack

on an AL rally that killed 18 and injured at least 200.

City-dwellers passed another day in anxiety and insecurity with apprehension of fresh terror attack and violence ahead of the hartals.

Classes and examinations remained suspended at educational

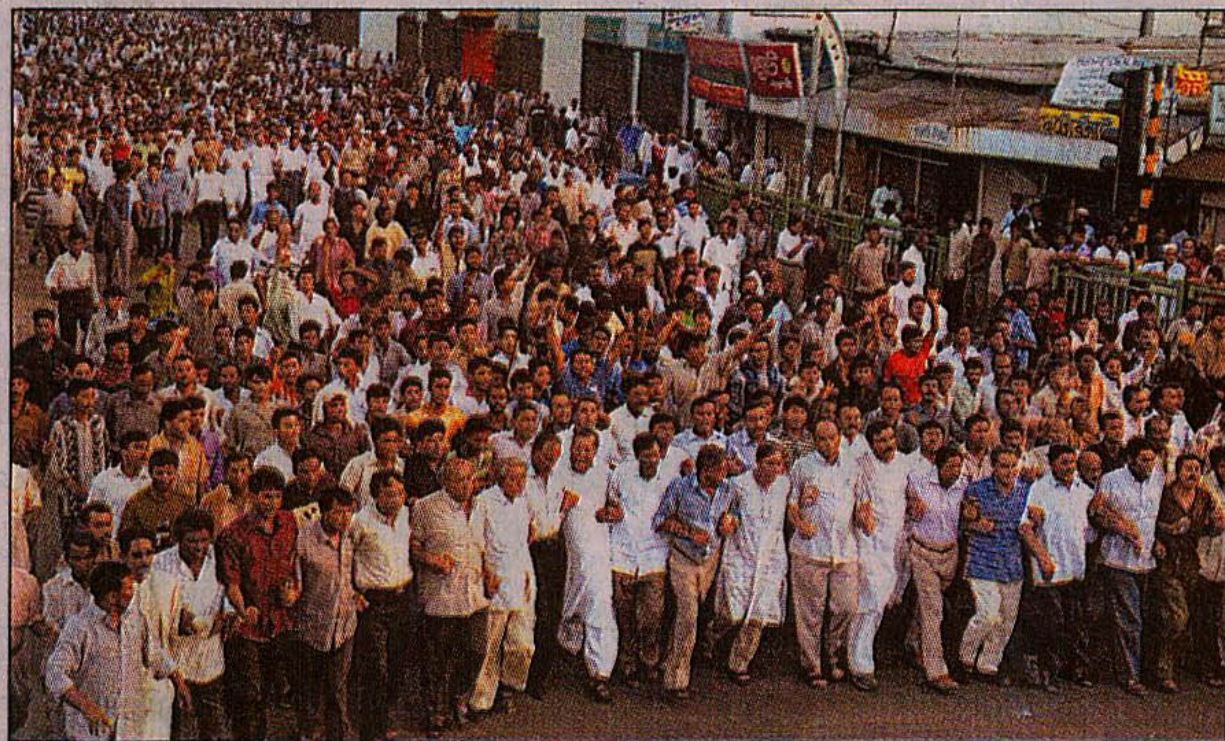
institutions across the country barring a few exceptions. Presence at the offices was thin and public lives were hampered as many transport owners kept their vehicles off the roads.

The AL ruled the entire Gulistan area with rally and series of proces-

sions, attended by top leaders Haji Mohammad Selim, Motia Chowdhury and Sohel Taj MP, in a show of protest against the gruesome grenade attacks on AL President Sheikh Hasina.

After the rally in front of the AL

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Main opposition Awami League leaders and workers, left, take out a procession from the party's Bangabandhu Avenue headquarters in Dhaka yesterday in protest at Saturday's attack on a party rally and in support of the hartal called for today and tomorrow; and policemen club AL lawmaker Sohel Taj near Golap Shah Mazar.

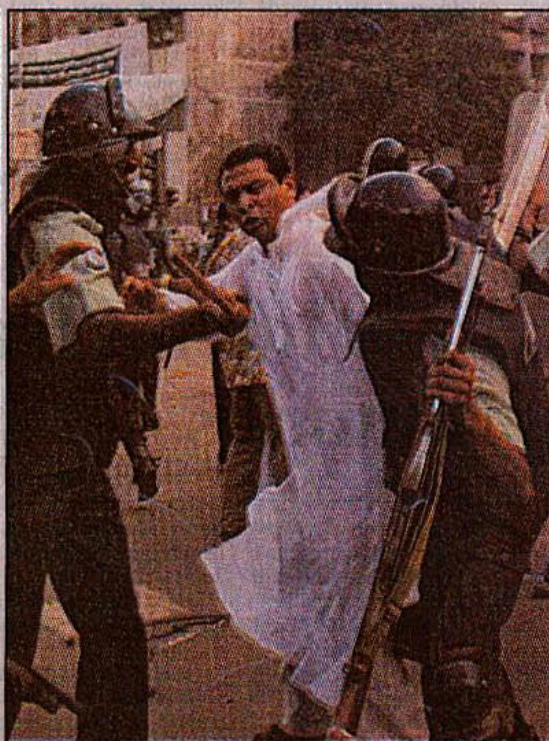


PHOTO: STAR

Khaleda cancels Hasina visit amid protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday reportedly scrapped her planned visit to the Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina at the latter's residence amid a strong surge of protests by several hundred opposition activists.

The visit was cancelled following signal from intelligence men stationed in front of the Sudha Sadan, sources said.

Top leaders of the main opposition termed the prime minister's probable visit a mockery and an attempt to distract people from the deadly grenade attacks on Sheikh Hasina and her rally.

On hearing news that prime minister was coming to see the Awami League chief to express her

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Ivy's kidneys, liver stop functioning

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The liver and kidneys of critically injured Awami League (AL) leader Ivy Rahman have stopped functioning, her family members and the Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR) told The Daily Star last night.

ISPR Director Colonel Nazrul Islam admitted that the condition of AL's women affairs secretary was still critical but declined to term her clinically dead.

Ivy, injured gravely in Saturday's bomb blasts, is alive on life support system at the intensive care unit (ICU) of Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka.

"Doctors informed us today (Monday) that her liver and kidneys are not functioning and she is still in

critical condition," Rokhsana Rahman, daughter-in-law of the veteran politician, told The Daily Star.

Her urinary system failed and other organs also started to weaken since yesterday, sources at CMH said.

"Her (Ivy's) pulse is still too low for the organs to function normally," Rokhsana said.

AL Presidium member and Ivy's husband Jilur Rahman, who was kept in the dark about her condition until yesterday, visited her last evening.

"We finally broke the shocking news to him today (Monday). You could understand how miserable he might have been feeling. But he

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Clashes as hartal begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tension prevailed in the capital and elsewhere ahead of today's country-wide hartal jointly called by the main opposition Awami League (AL), left-leaning 11-party alliance and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Jm) protesting Saturday's grenade attacks on AL rally in the capital and demanding immediate resignation of the ruling coalition.

Attacks on opposition activists, firing of tear gas shells by police and arrests preceded the back-to-back 12-hour hartals today and tomorrow that the mainstream opposition parties enforce from six this morning.

Reports received from our corre

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Bush expresses concern

Powell phones Hasina; Straw slates attack, envoys visit her

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US President George W Bush has expressed concern at Saturday's grenade attacks on Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina on Bangabandhu Avenue.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell who conveyed Bush's concern to Hasina by phone on Sunday night, said in a statement in

Washington: "The perpetrators of this heinous attack clearly intend to undermine democracy in Bangladesh. We reiterate our steadfast support for Bangladesh's democracy and call for those responsible to be brought to justice."

A host of countries including United Kingdom yesterday con-

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Lawyers won't call 'My Lord' to new HC judges

Term their appointments political

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The appointment of 19 additional judges to the High Court has triggered resentment among lawyers who described the recruitment as the worst-case example of political motives.

The Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday at an emergency requisition meeting resolved that the judges whom the lawyers called unqualified should not be addressed as "My Lord" which should be replaced by a new term in consultation with the association.

Bar members conveyed a written resolution to Chief Justice Syed JR

Mudassir Husain, requesting him not to swear the appointees into office -- an appeal that fell flat as the judges took oath administered by the chief justice later in the day.

"The appointment breached the principles of integrity, honesty and professional efficiency," the Bar alleged in the resolution, adding the government wants to hold sway over the judiciary, handpicking persons for the bench.

The BNP-led coalition government appointed the 19 in a fourth recruitment, taking the number of judges appointed to the High Court to 45 since 2002.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Commentary

It was an attempt to kill our democracy

MAHFUZ ANAM

Once again assassination stalks our politics. Because of terrorists our democracy stands threatened, our freedom jeopardised and Bangladesh as we know it on the verge of destruction.

Not since the vile and brutal murder of Bangabandhu along with most of his family in August 1975, the killings of Tajuddin and other leaders in jail in November '75 and the killing of Ziaur Rahman in May '81 did Bangladesh face such a threat as it did last Saturday. Let it be said without even an iota of ambiguity that the attempt on Sheikh Hasina's life was in fact an attempt to destabilise Bangladesh in a very fundamental way and thereby destroy it as a democratic state.

The search to find the would-be killers of Hasina, therefore, should be considered not just an attempt to catch some assassins or professional killers but a quest to preserve whatever Bangladesh has gained as a democracy, as a liberal society and as a nation of tolerance and diversity. Those who threw those grenades at her were actually throwing them at us -- at our love for politics of diversity and dissent.

We vehemently condemn this attempt on Hasina's life and express our relief that she escaped unhurt. Our heartfelt condolences for those who lost their lives and sincere sympathy to the bereaved families of the deceased. We are deeply saddened by the terrible plight that has befallen Ivy Rahman, a woman

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

Leader of the Opposition President Sheikh Hasina speaks to journalists at her Sudha Sadan house in Dhaka yesterday.

How many more deaths would I have to see?

Emotion-choked Hasina asks visitors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Horror of deadly grenade attacks on her rally Saturday still haunts the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh

Hasina. Talking to visitors at her residence, Sudha Sadan, Hasina faltered recalling in emotion-choked voice

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Prevailing lending rates of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited

Serial	Particulars	Rate of Interest	Remarks
01	Export (Packing Credit)	7.00%	Minimum Interest Rate
02	Term Loan under FMO Export Credit for importing capital machinery	8.50%	
03	Agriculture: a) Loan to primary producer b) Agro-based industry (Term Loan)	9.00% 9.00%	
04	Term Loan to Small & Cottage Industry	10.00%	Maximum Interest Rate
05	Commercial Lending (Internal Trade/Import Financing etc.): Composite facility: i) Import/Export related facilities ii) Other than Imports & Exports e.g. LDBP iii) OD, COD, CC (Hypo), Loan General etc.	11.50% 12.00% 12.00%	
06	Industrial Term Lending (Large & Medium)	12.00%	
07	Other Term Loan	12.00%	12.00%
08	Working Capital for Industry	12.00%	
09	Housing Finance	12.00%	
10	Lease Finance	12.00%	

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