



The new Market area in the city during hartal hours yesterday. The Awami League called the hartal to protest Saturday's grenade attack on its rally.

Hartal paralyses JU academic activities

JU CORRESPONDENT

Hartal paralysed all academic activities of Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday. Scheduled examinations were not held and all classes remained suspended due to hartal. The hartal was enforced by Awami League (AL) and other left-leaning political parties. Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association will observe a daylong strike today in protest at the grenade attack.

Security tightened at key installations in Ctg

BSS, Chittagong

The authorities of several strategic installations of the port city have tightened security in their respective establishments. The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has tightened security at all places of the port including jetty gates, container terminal and the CPA Bhaban to face any untoward incident. CPA acting chairman AK Rashid Uddin Ahmed said that the authorities

have installed metal detectors at all gates of the port jetty, administrative building and at Inland Container Depot in Dhaka. The security arrangements in the port area was reviewed at an emergency meeting of CPA on Tuesday. The meeting decided to tighten security at all major installations of the port and also formed a three-member vigilance team headed by the director of security Lt Colonel Mohammad Shaheed Sarwar. Sources at Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) said that they have already taken security measures at its oil installations in different parts of the

country as per the directive from the Prime Minister's Office. The BPC has directed the oil companies -- Padma, Meghna, Jamuna and Eastern Refinery -- to strictly maintain security at all the oil depots. If necessary additional force will be deployed to enhance security. Bangladesh Railway, Chittagong Export Processing Zone, Biman Bangladesh building, Customs House, Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport, and all the multinational companies in the city also took additional security measures to check any terrorist attack, sources added.

Attack on Hindu families protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) and Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday strongly condemned the attack on Hindu families at a Pirgachha village in Rangpur. Armed mobsters in a raid on Monday set fire to 22 houses of minority Hindus, injured 20 villagers and looted cash, crops and cattle. "Repression on the religious and ethnic minorities are clear violations of human rights enshrined in the constitution," said ASK in a statement. Such repression was taking place across the country but the government has not taken any effective step to check

such heinous act, it added. The ASK also urged the government to conduct fair investigations into the attacks on the minorities and demanded exemplary punishment to those involved. In another statement, BSD convenor Khalequzzaman alleged that the criminals were carrying out attacks on Hindus, Christians and indigenous people at the instigation of the four-party alliance government and religious fanatics. He called for united resistance against the religious bigots and demanded that compensation be paid to the Hindu families of Pirgachha.

BASILA EROSION

BIWTA goes for fresh dredging

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) yesterday finally resumed dredging work to open up the Buriganga channel at Basila point to stop huge erosion there. The river will flow in its normal course and stop eroding the banks at Basila point when it will be dredged 200 feet deep, BIWTA sources claimed. The dredging work was commissioned on Monday to create an opening in the huge dyke, which three brick manufacturers erected by dumping tons

of bricks in the river, BIWTA sources said. Six armed ansars will be deployed at the site since the brick-kiln owners on Monday resisted BIWTA's dredging of the river that has recently devoured 11 houses including a four-storey one. During the recent flood, the dyke and brick-kilns retained river waters, forcing the Buriganga to change its course and causing erosion in Basila between August 13 and 18. For the first few days of the devastating flood, hundreds of local residents manually removed the dyke to protect the area from rapid erosion.

APPEAL TO BRITISH PM Press govt to form int'l body to probe grenade attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixty-two Bangladeshi nationals in the UK demanded international probe into Saturday's grenade attack on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina. University teachers, researchers and students appealed to British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Monday to press Bangladesh government in this regard. "We appeal to you to pressurise Bangladesh government into forming a neutral international investigation committee to investigate the terrible attack and to bring the criminals to justice within the international legal framework," they said in a memorandum to the British PM. "We believe that this is not the last attack on Sheikh Hasina; we request you to convince Bangladesh government to ensure the security of her life by providing her with Special Security Forces (SSF)," said the memorandum, expressing grave concern over the incident. "We believe that the dreadful attempt to kill her and all her party leaders was intended to make Bangladesh an 'ideal' place for extreme and fundamentalist forces," it added. The memorandum also said, "Bangladesh is a Commonwealth country and the Commonwealth Secretariat tried to help the nation back in 1994 when it was facing a political and constitutional crisis on the issue of establishing a 'caretaker government'. In the given situation it is our legitimate right to appeal to you to stand beside Bangladesh when it is facing a serious national crisis."

Salim Mahmud, an assistant professor of Dhaka University and Doctoral Research Fellow at the University of Dundee, signed the memorandum on behalf of the Bangladeshi nationals. People rushed Bashir to the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases but doctors declared him dead on arrival. Later hundreds of people from the neighbourhood brought out a procession protesting the rise of crime in the area. Nasim Khan, elder brother of Bashir and local people alleged that they sought help from the police who were patrolling the area during the occurrence but to no effect. Maqbul Hossain, one of the chasers, said, "I was on the spot and saw the muggers flee right in front of the police."

One gunned down, elderly woman beaten to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people were killed in a span of 18 hours that ended at 9:30am in the morning yesterday, in different parts of the city. Snatchers gunned down a man when locals chased them after an act of mugging at the Mohammadpur Housing Limited area in Mohammadpur at about 9:30am. Eyewitness said about 60 people ran after the group of six muggers who had just snatched a mobile phone from a pedestrian. The six in a desperate bid to escape opened fire that hit Mohammad Bashir Khan, a local and a driver by profession. People rushed Bashir to the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases but doctors declared him dead on arrival. Later hundreds of people from the neighbourhood brought out a procession protesting the rise of crime in the area. Nasim Khan, elder brother of Bashir and local people alleged that they sought help from the police who were patrolling the area during the occurrence but to no effect. Maqbul Hossain, one of the chasers, said, "I was on the spot and saw the muggers flee right in front of the police."

murder case was lodged in this connection. In a separate incident, Mohammadpur police recovered an incinerated body from a city bus on Sahajahan Road behind the Dhaka Residential Model College at around 12:45am yesterday. Police identified the dead as Abdul Alim, 17, an electrician, who used to spend night on the bus with his brother. Alim's elder brother Sawkat Ali, a technician of the bus, said he did not know anything about the incident, as he spent the night somewhere else outside the bus. "I identified the body by the clothes and shoes on the bus," he said. Meanwhile, police termed it an accident while the locals said someone might set fire to the bus. In another incident on Monday, alleged land grabbers beat an elderly woman to death in Shyampur and looted goods worth over Tk 2 lakh. Raju Bibi, 70, was in her daughter's house in Merajagar when some 50 people led by local Babul Hazi massed at the house to take away the valuables at around 10:00am. As Bibi's daughter Anwara, her husband Abdus Samad and some locals resisted, Babul and his men beat them up. Later relatives took Bibi to Mitford Hospital where doctors gave her only a

first aid treatment. She died as soon as she reached her house at Sharafat Lane in Sutrapur at around 5:00pm. Shahid, her son, filed a case with Shyampur Police Station naming Babul as the prime accused.

CPA fines 20 vessels

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has fined 20 vessels and two stevedore companies about Tk 2 lakh on charge of tax evasion, environment pollution and violation of shipping rules during its weeklong drive that ended yesterday. Of them, 12 vessels were penalised for tax evasion, three for environment pollution and a Hong Kong flag-carrier for river pollution. Magistrate Munir Ahmed Chowdhury conducted the drive from August 19 to 25.

More bodies condole Ivy's death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More individuals, organisations and political parties yesterday expressed their deep shock at the death of veteran Awami League (AL) leader Ivy Rahman. Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed expressed his profound shock at her death. In a message of condolence, he recalled the pioneering role of Ivy Rahman in various democratic movements including mass upsurge of '69 and War of Liberation. Moudud expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for peace of the departed soul. State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haq Milon condoled the death of Ivy Rahman.

Bangladesh Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon and General Secretary Bimal Biswas expressed their deep shock at the death of Ivy Rahman. They also recalled her contribution in all progressive and democratic movements. Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB) said Ivy Rahman played a pivotal role in establishing democracy and women rights in the country during her long political career. The FNB, in a statement, also urged the government to bring the culprits to justice through proper investigation. Condoling the death of Ivy Rahman, Women Entrepreneurs Association of Bangladesh (WEAB) prayed for the peace of the departed soul and expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family. It also demanded exemplary punishment to the criminals involved with the grenade attack on AL rally. Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) also condoled the death of Ivy Rahman and recalled her pioneering role in establishing the rights of women. It also demanded immediate and exemplary punishment to the attackers. Bangladesh Women Journalists Forum expressed its deep grief at the death of Ivy Rahman. It also expressed sympathy for the members of the bereaved family. Bangla Academy expressed its deep shock at the death of Ivy Rahman, a prominent politician and freedom fighter. In a condolence message, academy Director General Prof Mansur Musa said her death is an irreparable loss to women movement. Other organisations, that condoled the death of Ivy Rahman, included Dhaka University Officers Association, Sammilita Ainjibi Samannoy Parishad, Greater Sylhet Lawyers Association in Dhaka, Fair Election Monitoring Alliance, National Bar Association of Bangladesh, Governance and Rights Centre, Bangladesh Council for Child Welfare, United Nations Association of Bangladesh, and Australian unit of Bangladesh Awami League.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League leaders place a wreath at the coffin of Ivy Rahman, women's affairs secretary of the AL, on the Baitul Mukarram premises yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

US Ambassador Harry K Thomas places a wreath at the coffin of Awami League leader Ivy Rahman at her house in the city yesterday.

# WEATHER

## TODAY

### No change in day temperature likely

**UNB, Dhaka**

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagaon and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna and Barisal divisions till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest 25.5 degree Celsius at Rangamati.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:22pm today and rises at 5:38am tomorrow.**

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

| City/Town   | Temperature in Celsius |      | Humidity in percentage |         |
|-------------|------------------------|------|------------------------|---------|
|             | Max                    | Min  | Morning                | Evening |
| Dhaka       | 34.2                   | 28.2 | 76                     | 92      |
| Chittagong  | 31.0                   | 26.0 | 87                     | 80      |
| Rajshahi    | 34.0                   | 27.3 | 89                     | 83      |
| Khulna      | 34.5                   | 28.0 | 87                     | 86      |
| Barisal     | 32.8                   | 27.4 | 89                     | 92      |
| Sylhet      | 32.9                   | 26.5 | 81                     | 96      |
| Cox's Bazar | 32.2                   | 26.5 | 92                     | 82      |



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Jubo Mohila League activists protest as police prevented them from taking out a pro-hartal procession