

SEPT 18 HARTAL
CPB sticks to decision, blames AL

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday announced that it would stick to its earlier decision of enforcing countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal on September 18 although its allies in the 14-party shifted the shutdown programme to September 21.

The CPB leaders at a press conference also blamed the main opposition Awami League for its indecision to fix the date for hartal protesting price hike of essentials and fuel and other action programmes to press home their 11-point demand.

CPB General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim in his written statement said that the frequent changes of the date for the proposed hartal is the outcome of the hesitation and crisis among the allies in the opposition movement.

"This is simply a childish and ridiculous conduct," Selim said, adding "Retreating attitude and opportunism in opposition movement are hindering the out-governments movement."

CPB announced that the Queen's Baton Relay programme and some emergency services would remain outside the purview of hartal.

Missing butcher's body found in city lake

Shopkeeper shot dead in Tongi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals shot a shopkeeper to death at Tongi in Gazipur yesterday.

In Dhaka, police recovered the body of a missing butcher from a lake in Badda while another person was killed by poison yesterday.

Mohammad Farid Uddin, 25, owner of a shop at Tongi Boardbazar, was in his shop when some unknown men called him out from his shop yesterday at 2:00pm. They took him behind the shop and shot him in the head from close range. Farid was rushed to a Tongi hospital and later to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead at 3:30pm. The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately.

Noor Momin, 45, who is a butcher by profession, was missing since Sunday morning, his uncle Badal told reporters.

Momin, resident of Baraberaat at Dhopapara in Badda, left his home

for his workplace in Gulshan Basundhara Market on Sunday morning and had been missing since then, Badal said. "He was killed for business rivalry," he added.

Police, being informed, recovered his floating body from a lake under a bridge at Askartek in Badda at 7:45am.

It was later learnt that Momin went on a boat trip with some of his friends including one Badir Miah. Momin's brother-in-law Mohammad Masud filed a case with Badda Police Station against five including Badir. The police arrested Badir yesterday from Badda.

Mokhesur Rahman, 50, was found unconscious at his residence at 100/8 Mohakhali in Gulshan by his neighbours around 12:00 noon yesterday. His neighbour Ramzan Ali rushed him to the DMCH where doctors declared him dead at 1:00pm. A DMCH morgue source said poisoning might be the cause of his death.

BORDER KILLING

Two bodies returned at flag meeting

UNB, B'baria

Bodies of two Bangladeshi nationals killed by Indians four days ago were returned at a flag meeting between the Border Security Force (BSF) of India and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) at Akhaura yesterday evening.

Mozammel Haq Bhuiyan, 35, and Abdur Razzak, 32, of Kuripaika border village were taken to Indian side on a false pretext and killed by the Indians on Friday. Villagers said the action was revenge for the killing of a BSF officer on Bangladesh side several months ago.

Sources close to the flag meeting said the BDR refused to accept bodies of two other victims of the incident—Alam and Sujit Sarker—as they were Indian nationals.

Directory of Women's Rights Material launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A poster depicting a chained and exhausted woman, bent with a burden, reads: 'Throw the burden and break the chain'. While the poster portrays the reality of women's lives, such a courageous and forceful slogan will surely inspire them to achieve their empowerment.

But it would be difficult to find such a poster if one needs it for carrying out further research or activities with regard to women's rights. Now Yukta Publication has made it easy by launching a directory yesterday.

The Directory of Women's Rights Material contains information about 111 organisations working to protect women's rights and raise mass awareness in this regard.

It also contains brief descriptions of their publications, such as books, leaflets, posters, stickers, newsletters and booklets.

It is like a reference book on information about various works relating to women issues. It also offers guidelines for activities on specific issues.

Development Affairs Adviser of Royal Norwegian Embassy Zakia Hassan unveiled the cover of the directory at a function at the British Council auditorium in the city.

Edited by Nishat Jahan Rana, the 265-page book is priced at Tk one thousand and available at Yukta Publication.

"The navy blue cover of the directory seems to represent the agony of women and the bright golden writing on it symbolises encouragement and the prospect of their advancement," said Arifa Sharmin of Care Bangladesh.

Deputy Editor of the daily Samakal Muzammel Hussain also spoke.

Though the directory could not accommodate information about all the publications of the government and non-government organisations, it will be regarded as an important collection, said the speakers.

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

AKM Abdus Sattar, father of Dr Firoj Mahmud Iqbal, died at Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 83.

Sattar left behind his three sons and three daughters to mourn his death.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain expressed deep shock at the death of Abdus Sattar.

Death anniversary



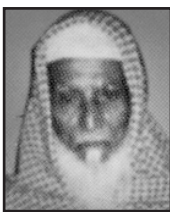
Today is the third death anniversary of Akmal Hossain (Kachi), an advocate of the Supreme Court and one of the

founders of the Padatik Natya Sangsad and the Bangladesh Law Association, says a press release.

Advocate Murtayish, who was also a consultant to the World Bank's Legal and Judicial Capacity Building Project, passed away in 2002 due to a cardiac arrest at the age of 45.

A milad mahfil and Qurankhwani will be held at Purana Paltan mosque after Maghrib prayers.

Chehlum



house at Sonapur village in Sonagazi, Feni, today, says a press release.

Qurankhwani, milad and doa mahfil and a mezban have been arranged on the occasion.

Tayez Ahmad, aged about 100, passed away on August 2 due to old-age complications.



PHOTO: PID

Cabinet members see Prime Minister Khaleda Zia off at Zia International Airport in the city yesterday prior to her departure for New York.

IT to strengthen good governance

Moyeen tells seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan has said there is no alternative to adopting information technology (IT) to strengthen good governance, accountability and democracy.

Speaking as chief guest at a seminar on Sunday, he said Bangladesh adopted technology like optical fiber and digital microwave long before many countries in the region.

The seminar titled 'Satellite and Optical Fiber Communication' was organised by the Military Institute of Science and Technology (Mist) at Mirpur cantonment in the city.

"We are at present exporting softwares to about 30 developed countries," said the minister.

He said Bangladesh is within the 20 top-listed countries in producing advanced softwares as per European Union's category.

Prof Saiful Islam and Prof Satya Prasad Majumdar of Buet presented two keynote papers at the seminar.

Earlier, Commandant of Mist Major General Md Ismail Faruque Chowdhury delivered the welcome address.

Chaired by Wing Commander Md Hossam-E-Haider, the seminar was attended, among others, by the representatives of both civil and military organisations.

Pak PM's finance advisor visits Brac programmes

Dr Salman Shah, Finance Adviser to the Pakistan Prime Minister, visited Brac Urban programmes at Ranavola at Uttara yesterday, says a press release.

He visited the programmes in order to widen the breadth of knowledge and understanding of micro credit, health and educational practices used by Brac in its mission towards alleviating poverty and empowering the poor.

Dr Shah visited the urban poor organisation and observed the microfinance activities -- the range of loan sizes, how they are used by the women in the organisation and the means of repayment of the loans.

He interacted with the women and enquired about their economic condition after obtaining loan from Brac.

Khaleda, Hasina greet Koizumi

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia greeted Junichiro Koizumi after the landslide victory of the Liberal Democratic Party in the just concluded elections for the Lower House of the Japanese Diet.

In a message Khaleda Zia said, 'On behalf of the people and government of Bangladesh I offer you our heartiest congratulations'.

"This Victory reaffirms the trust and confidence of the Japanese people in your dynamic leadership and statesmanship. I am confident that you will continue to lead Japan and its people to greater prosperity."

"Bangladesh deeply values its excellent bilateral relations with Japan. I fondly recall my recent visit to your great country in July this year and my very fruitful discussions with you on matters of bilateral relations and international issues of common concern."

UNB adds: Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina also congratulated Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on the Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) landslide victory in Japanese Diet (Parliament) elections.

In a message of felicitation, she said, the victory reflects the trust and confidence of the Japanese people in statesmanship of Prime Minister Koizumi.

Chinese engr dies at Boropukuria

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A Chinese engineer died on Saturday morning after he fell from the roof of a building at the Boropukuria power plant in Dinajpur.

Witnesses said, Zhang Ziang Ghee, 35, the engineer of the Chinese company CMC, fell from the roof of a three-storey building at the under-construction power plant at around 8:30am.

He was rushed to the Rangpur Medical College and Hospital (RMCH) at around 10:45 am with fatal injuries to head and chest. He succumbed to his injuries soon after he was admitted.

The body was sent to Dhaka the same day.

Build up united agitation against govt's misrule

Menon urges people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon yesterday urged people to build up a united agitation against the government's misrule, price hike and conspiracy of harbouring the militants.

He was addressing a workers' meeting at Shaheed Asad auditorium in the city.

Menon said the fuel price has been increased at the directives of the World Bank and not because of its high price at international market.

He said common people are deeply worried as prices of daily essentials during Ramadan will be further increased due to fuel price hike.

Menon said although police investigations into serial bomb blasts have suggested Jamaat-Shibir's involvement with the Islamic militants, no action has been taken against them.

Presided over by Dhaka city unit President Kamrul Ahsan, the meeting was also addressed by Rabiul Alam Khokon, Tarek Ahmed Topon, Mozammel Haq Tara, Altaf Uddin Ahmed, Abdul Khaleq, Zakir Hussein Raju, Kazi Rashed, MA Sayeed, Mostafa Alamgir Ratan and Rafiqul Islam Sujan.

The party also announced a weeklong programmes that include road march and distribution of leaflets at Motijheel, Mirpur, Lalbagh, New Market, Hazaribagh and Jatrabari in the city from today.

GP Zainul-Qamrul int'l children's painting contest launched

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Gandaria Kisholaya Kachi-Kanchar Mela launched the GrameenPhone Zainul-Qamrul International Children's Painting Competition-2005 yesterday and invited entries from home and abroad for the contest.

Sponsored by the GrameenPhone, the competition is open to children aged between 3 and 16 years classified into four different age groups.

The organisers announced the rules and regulations of the contest at a press conference at a city hotel.

The last date for sending entries is December 15 for Bangladesh participants and December 31 for the foreign participants, they said, adding the children can use any subject and medium for their paintings.

The size of the painting should be a minimum of 11-inch by 16-inch and a maximum of 16-inch by 22-inch and only those works created during this year will be eligible for the competition.

The participants should fill up application forms which can be downloaded from the website at www.gp-zainul-qamrul.com and send it with the paintings attested at the back by the head of the educational institution.

No entry fee is required for the competition.

The entries should be sent to Gandaria Kisholaya Kachi-Kanchar Mela, 15 Dinanath Sen Road, Gandaria, Dhaka-1204, Bangladesh.

A panel of judges will select the winners by January 31, 2006.

An exhibition of the winning entries and the prize giving ceremony will be held in February, said the organisers.

Gandaria Kisholaya Kachi-Kanchar Mela Director Shafiqur Rahman Dulu read out a written statement at the press conference.

Former director of the Mela Prof Abdus Sattar, Advisor Mohammad Jalal Uddin, Director (marketing division) of the GrameenPhone Kaphil HF Mueyed and Deputy General Manager (marketing division) Galib Ahmed Ansari also spoke.



PHOTO: STAR

Members of Bangladesh Village Police Workers' Union stage a demonstration in Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding payment of salary arrears and nationalisation of their jobs.

Jamaat MP Prof Kafi dead

UNB, Dhaka

Prof Abdullah Al Kafi, a Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker, passed away due to liver cirrhosis at the PG Hospital yesterday at the age of 65.

He left behind his wife, four sons and two daughters to mourn his death.

Kafi was elected MP from Dinajpur-1 constituency (Birganj-Kaharol) in 2001.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at south plaza of Sangsad Bhaban at 2:00pm. His body was flown to his village home in Birganj upazila in Dinajpur district for burial.

BSS adds: Speaker, ministers, parliamentary affairs adviser to the Prime Minister, deputy leader of the opposition in parliament, whips, MPs, officers and employees of parliament secretariat attended the janaza.

Speaker Barrister Muhammad Jamir Uddin Sircar placed wreaths on the coffin of Kafi.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan on behalf of the Prime Minister and Deputy Leader of the Opposition Advocate Abdul Hamid on behalf of the Opposition Leader also placed wreaths on the coffin.

President Iajuddin Ahmed expressed his deep shock at the death of Kafi.

Speaker Sircar, Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, Foreign Minister M Moshed Khan, Education Minister Dr M Osman Faruq and Water Resources Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed also condoled his death.

Freshers' reception debate at DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A freshers' reception debate was held at the Institute of Social Welfare and Research of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday.

Acting vice-chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider attended the function as chief guest.

Presided over by the Director of the institute Prof Syeda Feroza Begum, the function was also addressed by Prof M Hafizul Islam, Provost of Bangladesh-Kuwait Friendship Hall Tahmina Akhter, Chairman of National Debate Federation Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiron, President of DU Debating Society Arif Al Mamun, and President of Social Welfare Debating Club Mohammad Mustafizur Rahman Khan.

16 garment workers get 3 years' RI

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced 16 females of M/S Honorary Textiles and Apparels Private Limited in Savar, to three years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for ransacking BEPZA office in April this year.

On hearing the verdict, most of the convicts broke down in tears and got fainted.

Mohammad Ziauddin, First Class Magistrate of the Speedy Trial Court handed down the sentence in presence of the convicts.

The convicts are Abdur Rashid, Nashima, Roman Mollah, Kamala, Beauty Saha, Shumi Akhter, Rafiqul Islam, Parvin, Khaleda, Moktar Hossain, Lutful kabir, Lal Miah, Sufia, Abdur Rahman, Aparna Mondol and Bazlur Rahman.

All the convicts except Aparna and Bazlur Rahman were present in the court during the delivery of the verdict.

The punishment of the fugitives will be effective from the day of their

arrest or surrender, the court said.

The court fined them Tk 2,000 each, in default, to suffer six months more in jail.

The court also acquitted 20 others of charges.

Over 1500 garment workers attacked the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA) office and ransacked its furniture, doors and windows at about 10:00am on April 10 this year following the conflict over the ownership of the garments factory.

Later, ATM Saiful Islam, deputy general manager of BEPZA, filed a case against 64 garment workers under the Speedy Trial (Law and Order Disruption) Act the same day in this connection. But the investigation officer pressed charges against 36 workers on April 17.

The convicts told The Daily Star that they were implicated in the case to save the owners of the garment factory and divert the issue to a different course. "Our family members will starve following the judgement," the convicts said.

WEATHER TODAY

Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Dhaka divisions and at a many places over Sylhet and Rajshahi divisions till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also expected at places during the period, Met Office said, predicting that day temperature may fall by 1-3 degree Celsius over the country.

Highest temperature 35.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.2 degree Celsius at Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:04pm today and rises at 5:45am 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	33.0	26.3	66	74
Chittagong	34.6	25.8	68	77
Rajshahi	33.2	26.2	75	69
Khulna	31.0	25.5	80	--
Barisal	31.0	25.0	82	87
Sylhet	35.5	25.9	73	57
Cox's Bazar	31.0	25.8	81	93