



PHOTO: STAR

Leaders and activists of 14-party opposition combine gather at Paltan intersection in the city during hartal hours yesterday. The Supreme Court Bar Association called the hartal to protest against the bomb attacks on courts in Gazipur and Chittagong.

Rich enjoy govt healthcare facilities more than poor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The richest 20 percent people of the country enjoy 32 per cent of the public healthcare subsidies while the poorest 20 percent receive only 16 percent of it. It was revealed at a policy dialogue on "Interaction between Service Providers and Community Leaders and Community Participation" held yesterday at the National Economic Council auditorium. Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman attended the dialogue as the chief guest.

While portraying the comparative facilities the richest and the poorest people receive from the public healthcare subsidies, Nazmul Haq,

assistant professor, department of statistics, Jahangirnagar University, also pointed out that expenditures by the NGO facilities are relatively progressive, benefiting the poor more than the rich, while private as well as public provisions were least progressive.

Presenting his keynote paper titled "Health and Family Planning Programmes in Bangladesh", Nazmul also said though fees charged in the government facilities are not a large burden for the poor, the informal fees required in the same are sometimes higher than the official ones.

Identifying the country's huge population a big obstacle, Saifur said it would be difficult to pull Bangladesh out

of the mire of poverty if the population growth cannot be checked.

Saifur also took the opportunity to take a dig at the journalists, saying they (journalists) are enjoying greater freedom than those of the USA and the UK and in some cases, abusing it.

UNFPA Representative Suneeta Mukherjee, Planning Division Secretary M Akter Hossain and Member of the Planning Commission KMSA Kaiser also spoke on the occasion.

Medical team formed for blast victims in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) formed a 4-member medical team to provide treatment to those who suffered injuries in the Tuesday's suicidal bomb blast on Chittagong Court Building premises, said a CCC press release yesterday.

The team, formed at the directive of Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, would assist treatment of the injured and provide medicine, if required.

The mayor gave separate letters to CMP commissioner and CMCH director to receive assistance and emergency medicines from the CCC medical team.

Chittagong City Mayor in a statement termed the killing of people in suicidal blasts by the militants as a national crisis jeopardising judiciary, administration and national security.

Criticising the government for its "failure" in this regard, he called upon the government to take immediate steps to check militant attack.

Fazlul Karim new envoy to Italy

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided to appoint M Fazlul Karim, currently director general in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as the ambassador of Bangladesh to the Republic of Italy.

A career diplomat, M Fazlul Karim joined the BCS (Foreign Affairs) cadre in 1986. He had his education in the University of Dhaka with Honours and Master's degrees in international relations.

Earlier, Fazlul Karim served in Bangladesh missions in New York, Jakarta, Washington and Hong Kong.

Climate change concert Dec 8

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Britain's Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the British Council, Bangladesh will jointly organise a concert on December 8 to deliver climate change messages by top Bangladeshi band musicians led by Habib.

The 90-minute concert will start at 6:00pm on British Council premises, says a press release.

For security and other formalities, the gate will open at 4:30pm and close at 5:30pm. Tickets @ Tk 90.00 will be available at the British Council from December 3 on the first-come-first-served basis.

Proceeds of this concert will go on to an environmental charity.

Saarc psychiatric confce begins in Agra tomorrow

PTI, Agra

The first conference of the Saarc Psychiatric Federation will begin here tomorrow to take up problems peculiar to the region.

Six hundred delegates from Saarc countries including the US, Britain, Australia, Malaysia and Japan are expected to take part in the conference, said Secretary of the organising committee Dr U C Garg and President of Indian Psychiatric Society Dr Shiv Nambi while talking to reporters.

The conference will take up post-traumatic stress syndrome following disasters like tsunami and earthquake.

It is also likely to deal with issues like suicide and criminal activities as a result of psychiatric disorders.

About 80 research papers would be presented at the conference to be inaugurated by Prof Juane Mezzich, president of the World Psychiatric Association.

376 killed by law enforcers in 11 months

Bomb blasts claim 37

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different rights organisations yesterday painted a grim picture of human rights situation in the country.

Police and the elite forces killed a total of 376 people in the last 11 months since January 1, said Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC) in a report based on the news published in different newspapers.

Thirty-seven others were killed in bomb blasts during this period and the death toll related to political violence hits 18.

A total of 27 people were killed in crossfire with the law-enforcers last month, according to the BHRC while Odhikar, another rights organisation, put the figure at 25.

Thirteen people were abducted and one was killed in Chittagong Hill

Tracts (CHT) during the period.

It also reported that a journalist was killed at his office and five others were injured and five others assaulted. Fourteen newsmen also received death threat.

Odhikar also reported a total of 29 women fell victim to dowry-related violence in the month of November. Among them, 15 were killed and one was forced to commit suicide.

It reported that 71 children were repressed in different incidents, including rape, abduction, acid attack and trafficking.

According to a report of Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha, a total of 158 incidents of violence against women took place in the country. There were newborn babies and middle-aged women among the victims.

COURT ORDER

Publish ad asking 3 JMB men to appear in court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday directed the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to publish an advertisement in two newspapers asking three Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) members to appear before it within 15 days.

The three absconding JMB members, accused in a case filed for the August 17 blasts, are Mustafizur Rahman alias Musa, 22, of Naogaon, Habibur Rahman, 23, and Mohammad Sagir Hossain, 35, of Dhaka.

Mohammad Rezaul Haque, 25, of Jamalpur, another accused in the case, is behind bars. Reza had given a confessional statement to a magistrate mentioning the other three JMB members involved in the blasts.

Judge Mohammad Momin Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court issued the order as they are absconding since the incident.

The court directed the authorities concerned to take necessary steps for publishing the advertisement in The Daily Inqilab and The Daily Sangbad.

The court also mentioned if the accused failed to appear before it in the stipulated time they would be tried in absentia.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police on November 24 pressed charges against four members of JMB. Former Islamic Foundation director Moulana Fariduddin Masud was exonerated in the case filed for the August 17 blasts.

DB Inspector and Investigation Officer (IO) Mohammad Fazlul Haque submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka in the case filed with Airport Police Station.

The IO petitioned for arrest warrants to be issued against the three and attachment of their moveable properties.



PHOTO: STAR

Against the backdrop of a spate of bomb attacks across the country, a group of Dhaka University students marches in the city yesterday demanding security of life.



PHOTO: STAR

The Supreme Court Bar Association stages a demonstration in the city yesterday during hartal hours yesterday. The association called the hartal to protest against the bomb attacks on courts in Gazipur and Chittagong.