



COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know

www.thedailystar.net

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XX No. 162

DHAKA SUNDAY JUNE 27, 2010

ASHAR 13, 1417 BS

RAJAB 14, 1431 HJRI

28 PAGES PLUS STAR CAMPUS PRICE : Tk 10.00

Hartal today, after 3 1/2 yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP today enforces a countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal, first in more than three and a half years.

The main opposition party yesterday warned against attempts to obstruct their programme, while the government said tough actions will be taken if anyone tries to hamper law and order.

BNP insiders said the party activists will picket at least 30 spots in the capital. They will be led by standing committee members, chairperson's advisers, vice-chairmen and joint secretaries general.

As it is the first major opposition

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

7 vehicles torched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Miscreants last night torched seven vehicles at different places in the city injuring two people.

The injured were admitted to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

PHOTO ON PAGE 16

Black law always boomerangs

Law made by BNP waits to be used against BNP

SHAKHAWAT LITON

A legal weapon introduced by the last BNP-led government in 2002 for use against Awami League is likely to be a boomerang for them when they take to the streets today to enforce hartal.

In the face of strong protest from the then main opposition Awami League, the erstwhile BNP government in October, 2002, made a law titled "The Law and Order Disruption Offence (Speedy Trial) Act".

The then main opposition had then termed it a black law and accused the BNP-led government of suppressing the opposition agitations.

The then BNP government rejected the opposition's allegations and deployed law enforcement agencies to thwart hartals. It also extended the

term of the act after expiry of its first two years' term.

A large number of cases were also filed against the then opposition leaders and activists under the speedy trial act for their activities during hartals.

Now, it is the Awami League-led government that extended the term of the speedy trial act by two more years and has already directed law enforcement agencies to take necessary measures against pickets out to enforce hartal today.

The speedy trial act was for quick trial of some offences, mostly committed during major political agitation programmes, particularly hartals.

The law, in fact, strongly discourages pickets forcing unwilling people to observe hartal and holds activities of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

Matia blasts Muhith over tax proposal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury yesterday bitterly criticised the finance minister for imposing tax on savings certificates in the proposed budget and urged him to scrap the proposal.

Taking part in a discussion on the proposed budget, Matia also blasted the World Bank for their "interference" in the government activities and asked the monetary organisation officials to refrain from doing so.

She also lambasted

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Jute export booms

PORIMOL PALMA

The country's export earning from jute goods increased by 70 percent and that from raw jute went up by 44 percent during the first nine months of the current fiscal year.

The earning from jute goods during July-April period of FY 2009-10 stood at \$377.09 million compared to \$222.05 million during the corresponding period of FY 2008-09, says the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB).

And \$170.41 million was earned from raw jute export during July-April of this fiscal year against \$118.39 million during the corresponding period of the previous year, according to EPB estimates.

The earning went up due to increased price and volume of export.

According to Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC), export price of jute goods and raw jute rose by around 35 percent this fiscal year over that last year.

"BJMC's export this year is already 1.35 lakh tonnes while it was only 90,000 tonnes last year," a senior official of the state-owned BJMC told The Daily Star.

Private sector export of jute goods also rose, he said.

Moreover, price of raw jute in domestic market was Tk 1,000 to Tk 1,400 per maund during the peak harvest period last year. But this year the price is already Tk 1,800-2400 per maund, said Bangladesh Jute Mills Association (BJMA) Secretary Abdul Barik Khan.

Sources in the Department of Agriculture Extension say this year jute is cultivated on more than five lakh hectares which is 50,000 hectares more than in the previous year. And production would be about 55 lakh bales against 49.70 lakh bales last year.

Contacted, Jute Minister Abdul Latif Siddique said, "We see a bright future of jute." Decoding of jute genome by Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4



SUPER SUAREZ: Luis Suarez is overjoyed after scoring Uruguay's opening goal against South Korea in the World Cup Round of 16 match in Port Elizabeth yesterday. The striker also scored the match-winning goal late in the second half in his side's 2-1 win. PHOTO: AFP

Suarez sinks South Korea

Uruguay first to reach last 8

AFP, Port Elizabeth

Uruguay became the first country to make it into the World Cup quarterfinals with a 2-1 win over South Korea at a sodden Nelson Mandela Bay stadium here on Saturday.

Goals in either half from Luis Suarez earned Uruguay - who last made the quarterfinals in 1970 before finishing fourth - a last eight date with either the United States or Ghana - who meet later Saturday - in Johannesburg on July 2.

In a lively last 16 tie played out at a disappointingly only three quarter full venue South Korea almost caught Uruguay on the hop in the fifth minute.

A superbly taken freekick by Park Chu-Young from 25m curled past the Uruguayan wall only for the ball to ricochet off keeper Fernando Muslera's right post.

Sloppy defending and poor goalkeeping by 2002 semifinalists South Korea contributed to Uruguay taking control of the game three minutes later.

Edinson Cavani was the instigator of the move, the Palermo



forward floating a high ball over to the left for Diego Forlan.

The in-form Atletico Madrid striker deftly slipped his marker to drill a sliderule pass across the Korean goalmouth.

Keeper Jung Sung-Ryong could have dealt with the danger but he seemed strangely lethargic in his reaction.

That was a pity for him as Suarez was lurking unattended to chip into an open goal from a tight angle by the right hand edge of the box.

Once the South Koreans regained their composure they put together a handful of sharp attacking moves, with Park Chu-Young for one forcing a dive out of Muslera.

They went into the break a goal down but encouraged by having been for the most part the better side.

Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez made one change in defence after the interval, Mauricio Victorino coming on for Diego Godin.

Tabarez's men had yet to concede a goal in South Africa but

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



PHOTO: SHAKHAT JAMIL

A van puller at the capital's Kamalapur takes a nap as no work comes by in yesterday's rainy weather.

1 killed, 2 trawlers missing in Bay

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A fisherman drowned and two fishing trawlers sank in the Bay of Bengal yesterday as the sea became turbulent with waves rising several feet high.

Stormy weather and heavy rains persisted causing the Met office of Cox's Bazar to hoist cautionary signal number 3.

The two trawlers sank as they were caught in the storm while returning from the deep sea.

Though fishermen of the other trawlers rescued 50 fishermen who were struggling to stay afloat, one of them died.

Sources said a trawler

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Saarc police proposed

Bangladesh misses home ministers' meet in Pakistan

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Formation of a regional police force patterned on Interpol to prevent trans-national crimes was proposed at the Saarc home ministers' conference in Islamabad yesterday.

Pakistan Home Minister Rehman Malik, who chaired the conference, proposed the idea of forming Saarc Police to facilitate information exchange in the region, according to the Dawn.

Sri Lanka also pushed for creation of the Saarc Police to investigate cross-border crimes in South Asia.

Excepting Bangladesh, home ministers from all other member countries of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) attended the 3rd ministerial conference.

Saarc is comprised of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

However, Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Shikder attended

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



PM opens Sultana Kamal Bridge

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the authorities concerned for strict monitoring of infrastructure development works of the government to ensure their completion in time.

"Issuing work order is not the final step... monitor the progress of the particular development work to ensure its completion in time," she said while inaugurating the 'Sultana Kamal Bridge' at Demraghat in the city.

The premier said her government is monitoring each and every development work minutely for the welfare of the people.

Hasina said development in the communication sector is essential to have balanced and overall development across the country.

She directed all concerned to consider seriously about uninterrupted flow of water before planning construction of any structure.

"Sometimes it has been seen that the water transports face serious difficulties while passing under the bridges that were not constructed keeping in mind the rise of water level during the rainy season," she also suggested.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Your dream of sweet home is now a reality with our Home Loan

At Prime Bank, we offer you an easy-to-avail Home Loan with convenient repayment options. With maximum limit on loan amount, you also have unlimited options of choosing your home. Drop in anytime, let us help you realise your long cherished dream.

Prime Bank Limited
a bank with a difference

www.primebank.com.bd

Al-Arafah Islami Bank Limited

Upgraded in
Credit Rating

	Rating-2008	Rating-2009
Long Term	A ₃	A ₂
Short Term	ST-2	ST-2
Date of Rating	22 June 2010	

Credit Rating Agency of Bangladesh (CRAB) Limited has upgraded the long term rating of Al-Arafah Islami Bank Limited to A₂ (Pronounced Single A two) and retained the short term rating at ST-2 based on audited financials up to 31 December 2009 and other relevant information. The rating reflects the Bank's strength in improvement in credit quality and capital generation as well as earning diversification. The rating also factors the improvement in income generation as well as lower cost of deposit and borrowing.

Commercial Banks rated A₂ in the long term belong to "Strong capacity & high quality" cohort. Banks rated "A₂" have strong capacity to meet their financial commitments but are somewhat more susceptible to adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than Commercial Banks in higher-rated categories. A₂ rated banks are judged to be of high quality and are subject to low credit risk.

The short term "ST-2" category are considered to have strong capacity for timely repayment of obligations. Commercial Banks rated in this category are characterized with commendable position in terms of liquidity, internal fund generation and access to alternative sources of funds.

Al-Arafah Islami Bank Limited
www.al-arafahbank.com



আল-আরাফাহ ইসলামী ব্যাংক লিঃ

A rare combination of Shariah & modern banking