



BNP OBSERVES HARTAL

Different scenes from the city during BNP's dawn-to-dusk hartal yesterday. The hartal supporters could not show down properly on the streets in the face of obstructions from the law enforcers and fear of arrest. But the ruling party men in a motorcycle rally at Shahbagh protesting the hartal. Sporadic clashes between the law enforcers and pro-hartal activists in the city left over 150 people injured. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ, AMRAN HOSSAIN & MUMIT M



Hiroshima reminds Hasina of '71 atrocities

UNB, Hiroshima

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday visited the historic Hiroshima Memorial Park and Museum and was overwhelmed with the deaths and destructions caused by the atom bomb "Little Boy" dropped on the city on August 6, 1945 during the World War II.

She was shown the pictures of this historic city both before and after the bombing. Hypo Centre on which the dreaded atom bomb was dropped, photo of "Little Boy", and radiated uniforms and shoes of school children who died in the atomic explosion.

Chairman of Hiroshima Peace and Cultural Foundation Steve Leeper took Hasina inside the museum and showed her the exhibits reminiscent of the devastations caused by the atom bomb.

Some 73,000 bomb-attack survivors are still alive leading a painful life in Hiroshima and 200,000 others all over Japan.

Hasina talked to 79-year-old lady Yoshiko

Kajimoto, a survivor of the atomic bomb, at the museum. In 1945, the year of the bombing, she was a 14-year-old student of Hiroshima Junior High School. She went to work in a local factory on that day the bomb was dropped.

Yoshiko narrates that inside the factory was as hot as sauna and she was already sweating while on work. The bomb detonated at 8:15am, she goes on, with a deep blue flash of light shot in through the front window of the factory. Yoshiko thought she had been bombed directly and her body was blown to pieces with the factory.

"I came round with the sounds of screams of distresses all around me," she said. "My surroundings were still pitch black. I noticed that my friend was pinned under me and I could see her foot right in front of my face."

Yoshiko said, "We tried moving alternately, we struggled using our heads and both arms...when we got outside all of the buildings around us had collapsed and we could see far into distance."

"The blazing sun was nowhere to see. It was

as dark as twilight... chilly and eerily silent. Everything was grey, covered with dust." After three years of the bombing, she got back home. Most of her friends died from cancer caused by atomic radiation.

"Whenever I speak to elementary and junior high school children who are now the age of my grandchildren, I feel so strongly that I never want these children to suffer the painful war experiences I had," Yoshiko said.

"I'll continue praying for peace. I want a world free of nuclear bombs."

The prime minister embraced Yoshiko and consoled her. Upon the visit to the museum, Hasina told local media, "I can't express in my words the horror and shock the atom bomb caused."

She said people of Bangladesh who suffered such dreadfulness and devastation of the Liberation War in 1971 could feel the pains of the people of Hiroshima.

Hasina said three million (30 lakh) people embraced martyrdom in the 1971 war. She personally lost her father, mother and other

members of her family in 1975 and she herself survived a grenade attack on August 21, 2004. "I can feel your distress," she added.

When a journalist asked about her role to ensure peace in South Asia where India and Pakistan possess nuclear bombs, Hasina said as the prime minister in 1998 had telephoned the prime ministers of India and Pakistan after those countries conducted nuclear tests.

Later, she visited New Delhi and Islamabad and requested their leaders not to conduct nuclear tests for establishing peace in the region.

Hasina also recalled her initiative to hold a tri-nation business meeting in Dhaka where Indian and Pakistani prime ministers attended and she again requested them to diffuse nuclear tension in the region.

Although the nuclear problem has not been resolved in South Asia, she said, "I feel encouraged for being able to make some contributions to establishing peace in the region."

Hartal in Chittagong observed peacefully, 11 arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police held back the BNP activists poised to enforce hartal activities in front of the party's unit office at Kazir Dewry in Chittagong city yesterday.

The law enforcers also arrested 11 supporters of the dawn-to-dusk hartal at different places across the port city.

Awami League men, on the other hand, occupied the city streets and arranged rallies at around 30 spots along with processions.

The streets were seen having no public transports, except some rickshaws and motorbikes, in the streets and the shops remained closed till the filing of report at 5:00pm. Movement of trains and planes was normal, but no inter-districts buses and trucks plied.

Loading and unloading of goods went on as usual at different jetties of Chittagong Port, but no goods could be delivered due to lack of trucks.

BNP activists for several times tried in vain to bring out processions from their office at Nasiman Bhaban and different areas. Due to police cordon all day along, they were forced to hold rally on the footpath in front of the party office.

Seven BNP activists were arrested at Kazir Dewry and Almas Cinema Hall and two at Bahodderhat intersection, as they tried to bring out procession. Two others were arrested at Baluchara for damaging an old jeep.

Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, president of BNP Chittagong unit, at the rally alleged that the government was trying to mute the opposition party with police and goons, but it would not work always. He claimed the hartal was observed successfully in cooperation of the city dwellers.

BNP lawmaker Jarful Islam, former whip Wahidul Alam, City Unit General Secretary Dr Shahadat Hossain, and Senior Vice President Dastagir Chowdhury spoke at the rally among others. AL city unit held a rally at Andarkilla Moor where AL President ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, GS Kazu Inamul Hoque Danu, leaders AJM Nasir Uddin, Advocate Ifteker Saimul, Safar Ali, and MA Nasir spoke.

After the rally, a huge procession led by Mohiuddin was brought out. The procession marched through different city streets to AL city unit office at Darul Fazal Market. Another rally was also held at the same place later.

AL faction loyal to lawmaker Nurul Islam arranged a three-hour long rally in New Market area beginning at 11:00am. AL rallies were also held at Lalkhan Bazaar, Bahodderhat, Fakir Hat, Kala Mia Bazar, Boropool, Halishahar, and Kotwali.

The ruling party activists on some 500 rickshaws brought out a procession from Darul Fazal market around 12:00pm. BCL activists on around 50 motorbikes led the rickshaw procession.

No unwanted situation could take place for the presence of police.

Four killed, 11 injured in road accidents

METRO DESK

At least four people were killed and 11 others injured in separate road accidents in Chapainawabganj and Gaibandha districts yesterday.

Our correspondent from Chapainawabganj reports: Two people were killed and eight others injured in a road accident on Shibpur-Porsha road at Matindor village of Patnitala upazila in Naogaon yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Dulal Mia, 25, son of Ismail Hossain of Bhabanipur village of Naogaon Sadar upazila and Huzur Ali, 37, son of Abdul Malek of Goalbari village of Mohadevpur upazila in Naogaon. Both are vegetables trader.

Shafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Patnitala Police Station, said the accident occurred at about 6:15am, when a Porsha-bound vegetables laden truck from Patnitala skidded off the road and turned over at Matindor village, leaving dead

Dulal and Huzur on the spot. The vegetables traders were going to Porsha Bazar for selling their vegetables.

The injured were admitted to Mohadevpur Health Complex and Naogaon Sadar Hospital.

Police recovered the bodies and sent to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The driver and helper of the truck fled the scene. Our correspondent from Gaibandha adds: A union parishad member was killed and three other pedestrians were injured when a speedy three-wheeler hit them from behind on Gaibandha-Sunderganj road at Fakir Bazar in the district yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Moslem Ali, 55, a union parishad member of Sreepur of the district. Eyewitnesses said the accident took place at about 6:30pm when a speedy three-wheeler driver lost his control over steering and hit Moslem from behind, leaving him dead on the spot.



Chief of Army Staff General Md Abdul Mubeen addresses the officers of Ordnance Corps on the occasion of the investiture ceremony of 6th 'Colonel Commandant' and 30th Annual Commanders Conference at Ordnance Centre and School at Rajendrapur Cantonment in Gazipur yesterday.

PHOTO: ISPR