



SNAPSHOTS OF HARTAL

Clockwise from top left, air passengers from Saudi Arabia come out of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport taking their luggage on the heads, as there was no vehicle in the airport at about 11:23am during yesterday's hartal called by main opposition BNP and its ally Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami. BNP female leader on the police vehicle at Naya Paltan. Police intercept a procession of BNP-backed lawyers in front of High Court. City-bound passengers are going to their destination on rickshaw vans at Gabtali. Chittagong City unit BNP President Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury at Bohaddarhat in the port city gets into the ambulance which he used during hartal hours. The Sadarghat launch terminal around 11:30am. BNP leader Hafizuddin Ahmed and former home minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury on the police pickup van after arrest from Mohakhali.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ, AMRAN HOSSAIN, RASHED SHUMON, ANURUP KANTI DAS



Iraqi envoy meets PM

UNB, Dhaka

Iraqi Ambassador to Bangladesh Shakir Qasem Mahdi Al Kaffaf paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday and discussed issues of bilateral interests.

They also discussed recruitment of Bangladeshi workforce for Iraq.

Hasina and Shakir Qasem Mahdi hoped that the existing bilateral relations would be further strengthened in the future.

The ambassador praised Hasina's role for restoring democracy in Bangladesh.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 35th death anniversary of L A Chowdhury, a social worker and politician, says a press release.

He was a close associate of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq. He was general secretary of the Jukta Front in 1954 and president of Krishak Samik Party, Chittagong branch.

He was the editor of the weekly Al Helal and a member of Chittagong district board.

On the occasion, qurankhwani will be held at his grave at Chittagong after Maghrib prayers and milad mahfil will be held at Naya Paltan Jame Mosque (VIP Road) in the city after Esha prayers.

WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

EU move to continue for eliminating worst forms of child labour

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

European Union (EU) will continue promoting improved protection of children and eliminating worst forms of child labour in its initiatives in multilateral bodies including UN General Assembly, Human Rights Council and International Labour Organisation (ILO).

EU High Representative Catherine Ashton, Vice-President Viviane Reding, Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs

and Commissioner for Trade Karel De Gucht issued a joint statement from Brussels yesterday commemorating World Day Against Child Labour.

They welcomed the steady decline in child labour since 2006 when ILO set a visionary target to eliminate the worst forms of child labour by 2016.

But 115 million children are still exposed to hazardous work and the global decrease in child labour is not prevalent in all

regions and among all categories of children, they said.

While EU announced a number of concrete initiatives last year, steps must be taken to combat child labour and consolidate children's rights through a comprehensive approach to addresses the root causes, they added.

EU development policy combats the root causes of child labour through targeted educational and poverty reduction

programmes, such as "Stop child labour campaign", "Education for All Fast Track Initiatives" and country-specific plans for education, said the statement.

"We believe EU and its member states should discuss what must be done collectively to reach the 2016 target of a world free of the worst forms of child labour, taking into account the Hague 2010 Roadmap," it added.

They called upon EU partners

to ratify and implement relevant ILO Conventions and UN Convention on Rights of Child and its two Optional Protocols.

Last year the commission launched a call for Proposal on Fighting Child Labour worth €11 million aimed at non-governmental organisations, the private sector and regional authorities. The commission has a €14 million project with ILO called TACKLE on Child Labour and Education.



BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir addresses a press conference at central office in the city's Naya Paltan yesterday.

PHOTO: BNP

2 killed, 17 injured in road accidents

METRO DESK

Our Gopalganj correspondent reports: A motorcyclist was killed and at least 17 people including 15 bus passengers and another motorcyclist were injured as the bus hit the motorcycle on Bhatapara-Basapur road at Khaerhat of Kashiani yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Shohor Sharif, son of Kubad Sharif of Faridpur.

The injured were admitted to Kashiani Upazila Health Complex.

Our Benapole correspondent says: A field level Brac employee was killed when a Jessore-bound truck crushed her while she was going to her work place riding bicycle on Jessore-Khulna highway at Rajarhat bazar yesterday.

She was identified as Ferdousi Khatun, 30, daughter of Ilias Biswas, of Baroporta village of Benapole.

Prof Golam Rahman AMIC country rep

METRO DESK



Dr M Golam Rahman, professor and former chairman of mass communication

and journalism department of Dhaka University, has been appointed Country Representative for Bangladesh of Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC), Singapore.

Prof Rahman served as the head of the Department of Language and Communication Studies of Papua New Guinea University of Technology. He also worked as the dean of Humanities and Social Science of Daffodil International University. Daily Amader Shomoy has made him Press Ombudsperson.

Dr Rahman was conferred "Ambassador for Peace" by Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace (IIFWP), New York at a ceremony in Bangkok in 2001.

He also served the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) as national media specialist. He has published about 50 research articles in journals. He published and edited 12 books and manuals and visited more than two dozens countries.