



Indian External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid, left, meets Opposition Leader and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at the latter's residence in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: BNP

# Jamaat-Shibir hartal flops in Sylhet, Cox's Bazar

Rangpur businesses decide to defy today's hartal

STAR REPORT

An 8-hour hartal enforced by Islami Chhatra Shibir ended in Sylhet amid some stray incidents while the second day of a 48-hour hartal called by Jamaat-backed Mukti Parishad passed off largely disregarded in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Meanwhile, businesses, shop owners, the ruling alliance and demonstrators demanding death penalty for war criminals in Rangpur declared to resist Jamaat-e-Islami's countrywide hartal today at any cost.

Our Sylhet correspondent reports: Shibir men vandalised several auto-rickshaws and blasted at least 20 cocktails during chases and counter-chases with police at Mira Bazar, Pathantola, Madina Market and Darga Gate in Sylhet city.

Police arrested four people and seized four motorcycles at Shibganj.

Though rickshaws and auto-rickshaws dominated the streets, SSC examinees faced immense sufferings on way to exam halls due to a lack of motorised transports.

Shibir, a pro-Jamaat organisation, enforced the hartal protesting "police action" that left two of its activists with bullet wounds during a clash at Naya Sarak in Sylhet city on Saturday.

Our Cox's Bazar correspondent reports: Shops and educational institutions remained open and all types of vehicles plied the streets while additional members of police, Rapid Action Battalion and Border Guard Bangladesh were posted at key points of the district to avert any untoward incident.

The hartal was called demanding release of war crimes accused Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer Delawar Hossain Sayedee.

Our Rangpur correspondent reports: Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Rangpur District Doka Malik Samity, "Jagorani Mancha" of the demonstrators and the ruling Awami League-led 14-party alliance declared to stay on the streets to resist Jamaat-Shibir.

Jamaat called the hartal protesting against the deaths of three Jamaat-Shibir activists during a gun battle with police in Cox's Bazar on Friday.

## SKYPE SCANDAL Ziauddin gets time extension to explain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday extended time by 10 weeks for Ahmed Ziauddin, an expatriate legal expert in Belgium, to explain why legal proceedings would not be initiated against him for "obstructing fair process" of cases pending with it.

It also fixed April 30 for further order in this regard. On January 3, the tribunal, on its own, issued a show cause notice asking Ziauddin in this regard.

The court had issued the notice after rejecting a retrial petition of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Muhammad Kamaruzzaman which was filed based on the alleged Skype conversation between Ziauddin and former Tribunal-1 chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq.

## Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Alhaz Nur Hossain, owner of Kofiluddin Bread and Biscuit Factory, died due to old-age complications at his Kofiluddinpara residence in Pabna early yesterday. He was 85.

He left behind his wife, four sons, seven daughters and a host of well-wishers to mourn his death.

He was buried at his family graveyard after his namaz-e-janaza in Vocational Institute field of the district.

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the second death anniversary of Ali Ul Islam, former

chief selector of Bangladesh Cricket Board and also the owner of Alees Marketing.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at his workplace and residence today.

## Dr Habibur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the second death anniversary of Prof Habibur Rahman,

former dean of the Department of Pharmacy, University of Dhaka.

He died at the age of 50.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held today after Asr prayers at Jame Masjid in Shahid Giasuddin Ahmad Residential Area on Dhaka University campus.

## PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES Accreditation council soon Says education adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will soon set up an accreditation council consisting of a group of experts which will independently review the academic standards of private universities, said Education Adviser to Prime Minister Prof Alauddin Ahmed yesterday.

The council will allow everyone know where each university stands, ensuring healthy competition and quality education, he added.

Prof Alauddin said these as chief guest at the eight convocation ceremony of Brac University at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

He also emphasised decentralisation of higher education away from the capital to ensure quality education for all.

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, founder of Brac University, said the university focuses on liberal education, encouraging students to learn the effective art of asking questions.

Around 741 students, including 276 post-grads and 465 undergrads, were awarded their degrees. Among them eight were conferred gold medals.

Vice Chancellor Prof Ainun Nishat and Pro-Vice Chancellor Golam Samdani Fakir were present among others.

## ACC starts probe into irregularities of its officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has launched an investigation to find out if any of its officials is involved in taking undue favour from any individual or organisation, said its Chairman Ghulam Rahman yesterday.

Ghulam said, "I instructed the ACC secretary to find out such officials, and once the job gets done, proper steps will be taken against them."

The move came after a news report surfaced in Bangla daily the Prothom Alo yesterday that ACC Deputy Director Harunur Rashid has been using a vehicle belonging to Dhaka South City Corporation illegally.

The deputy director told the Prothom Alo that he has been using the vehicle for two-and-a-half years.

DSCC Superintendent Engineer Ashiqur Rahman submitted an investigation report to the corporation's administrator Nazrul Islam around two weeks ago.

In purchasing vehicles for the DSCC, irregularities have been found, said a DSCC high official.

আমি ডা: এ. ওয়াহিদ উদ্দিন  
(Assistant Professor,  
Monno Medical কলেজ)

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