

STAR REPORT

Aside from about 20 people, including eight policemen, sustaining injuries in clashes in Comilla and Sirajganj, the country-wide dawn to dusk hartal enforced by Islami Chhatra Shibir passed peacefully yesterday.

Jamaat-e-Islami backed organisation Shibir called the shutdown on Monday demanding release of its central leaders including its president Delwar Hossain.

Besides, Gonojagoron Mancha, defying the shutdown, brought out a procession from Shabbagh in the capital. The procession marched through Katabon and Dhaka University's TSC and returned to the starting point.

Meanwhile, unidentified miscreants exploded a cocktail in front of the Shabbagh branch of Pubali Bank half-an-hour before the procession.

Kishoreganj and Gazipur City Corporation area remained outside the hartal purview due to the upcoming election.

In Comilla, five policemen and seven Shibir activists were injured in a clash in Nayapara area.

Witnesses said pro-hartal activists brought out a procession from Nayapara area around 7:00am. When they were going towards Kandirpar, police resisted them.

In Sirajganj, at least 10 people, including three policemen, were injured in a clash between Shibir activists and police at Bohuli Bazar.

Police said the Shibir activists were picketing around 9:00am. When police tried to disperse the activists, they attacked the law enforcers.

The pro-hartal activists also vandalised vehicles in Nokla area of the Jamuna Bridge, Narayanganj, Gaibanda, Mirsarai upazila of Chittagong, Feni city and Rangpur. Presence of vehicles on the city thoroughfares was more than other hartal days, but there were no inter-district buses running.



Faruk Ahmed, executive magistrate of Chittagong district administration, in striped shirt, inspects rotten wheat and date-expired fertiliser at a warehouse in Majhirhat area of Chittagong city yesterday. He later sealed the warehouse. Inset, mixed up rotten wheat and date-expired fertiliser in the warehouse after the inspection.

PHOTO: STAR



Warehouse of rotten wheat sealed off in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A warehouse in Majhirhat area of Chittagong city was sealed yesterday for storing rotten wheat and date-expired fertiliser.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of police raided the warehouse in the morning and seized 2,000 sacks of rotten wheat and 50 sacks of date-expired fertiliser, each weighing 50 kilogrammes, said Pranab Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Sadargha Police Station.

Executive Magistrate of Chittagong district administration Faruk Ahmed said in the presence of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution officials, he sealed off the warehouse.

A case was filed with the police station in this regard. Police are trying to find the owner of the goods.

Hire more Bangladeshis for construction projects

Dipu Moni urges Brunei

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday urged Brunei to facilitate recruitment of more Bangladeshis for its future large scale construction projects.

Dipu Moni, who went to Brunei to attend the 20th ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Meeting, made the call during a meeting with Brunei Minister for Home Affairs Pehin Badaruddin at his office.

She also urged to further rationalising of the security deposit paid against recruitment of Bangladeshi workers and extending their contract period from the current two years to three.

Pehin Badaruddin expressed interest in recruiting more doctors, teachers and other skilled and semi-skilled Bangladeshi workers.

"Bangladeshi expatriate workers have a reputation for their hard work, good behaviour and law abiding nature and contribute to our national development," he said.

In another meeting with Brunei Minister for Education Pehin Abu Bakar, Dipu Moni invited more Bruneian students to study in Bangladesh's reputed higher educational institutions.

Pehin Abu Bakar expressed interest in sending their students for community service training in Bangladesh.

The two discussed possible bilateral education exchange programmes in areas of mining and petroleum engineering, forestry management and advanced Islamic studies.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL OF YUSUF Tribunal-2 receives case documents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday said it had received Jamaat-e-Islami leader AKM Yusuf's case documents from the tribunal-1 and fixed today for passing a further order.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan also directed the Gazipur jail authorities to transport the accused in a "vehicle friendly for health" before producing him in the court today.

The prosecution said the tribunal would now fix a date for holding hearing on indicting Yusuf, historically known as a founder of the infamous Razakar Bahini, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani army during the Liberation War in 1971.

Following a prosecution's petition, the tribunal-1 transferred the case against Yusuf to the tribunal-2 on Monday.

Yusuf's lawyer Saifur Rahman yesterday said Yusuf was "seriously ill" and sought court directives so that the prison authorities used microbus for transporting him from and to Gazipur.

On May 8, the prosecution pressed 15 charges against the Jamaat leader for his alleged involvement in genocide and crimes against humanity during the Liberation War. On May 12, the tribunal-1 took the charges against Yusuf in cognisance.

Meanwhile, the tribunal also completed recording the testimony and cross-examination of the 32nd prosecution witness against war crimes accused and former BNP lawmaker Abdul Alim.

Rafiqul Islam Ranju, who was advertisement manager of the Bogra-based Daily Bangladesh, showed two issues of the newspaper dated January 17 and 23, 1971, which were seized by the investigation officer from the newspaper office on April 21, 2011.

Alim's lawyer Ahsanul Huq Hena completed Ranju's cross-examination before the court adjourned the case proceeding until today.

Alim was indicted on 17 charges including murder and genocide he allegedly committed in 1971.

Free health sector from political influence

Urge govt physicians at TIB meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Government doctors yesterday recommended that the recruitment and promotion of the employees in the health sector be freed from political influence.

They urged the government to end the irrational intervention of the leaders of the doctors' associations in the health sector.

If the practice of fulfilling doctors' personal interests through political loyalty is not controlled, the health sector will never get rid of mismanagement, they said.

The physicians made the observations at a meeting in the capital's Biam auditorium where district and upazila medical officers from 45 districts were present.

The meeting, organised by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), followed a daylong workshop on "challenges in establishing good governance in the health sector".

Director of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital Brig Gen Saidur Rahman and Faridpur Sadar Hospital Civil Surgeon Sirajul Islam read out the participants' recommendations.

Criticising specialist doctors for showing negligence in performing their duties in the sadar hospitals, Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque said, "If our doctors sincerely provide services to the people, more than 65 percent of the problems will be solved." TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman also spoke on the occasion.

Country's 10pc urban children overweight: ICDDR,B study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ten out of every 100 children in urban areas of Bangladesh are overweight and four are obese, shows a study of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B).

The findings reveal that 56 percent of the children have normal weight, while 30 percent are underweight because of malnutrition.

The study, "Obesity prevalence and patterns of diet and physical activity among children and adolescents in urban areas in Bangladesh", was conducted in seven divisional cities from April 1 to June 30 by ICDDR,B's Centre for Control of Chronic Diseases with support from National

Nutrition Services of the Institute of Public Health Nutrition.

Around 4,100 children, aged 5 to 18, from 207 wards of the cities were surveyed.

The study indicates that there is a double burden of under-nutrition and over-nutrition, speakers told a seminar at the capital's ICDDR,B where the findings were shared yesterday. The findings also show that the children are not involved in rigorous physical activities. About 70 percent have access to a playground.

Principal Investigator Prof Louis Wilhelmus Niessen and Co-principal Investigators Dr Aliya Naheed and Nazratun Nayeem Monalisa of the study also spoke.

Delhi again assures Dhaka of stopping 'border incidents'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India has reiterated that it would work with Bangladesh to ensure that there are no incidents at the border between the two countries which "periodically disturb the relationship balance".

Indian External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid said this to Foreign Minister Dipu Moni in a meeting on the sidelines of Asian Regional Forum in Brunei on Monday.

"We have reiterated our commitment to work jointly with them to ensure that there are no border incidents, which periodically disturb the relationship balance," said a statement issued by Indian External Affairs Ministry quoting Khurshid.

His remarks came in the backdrop of Dhaka's repeated concerns over incidents of firing by BSF along the border.

He termed his meeting with Dipu Moni as "outstanding" during which there was a detailed discussion.

"The Bangladesh foreign minister explained to me what is happening in Bangladesh, and also indicated that for the first time in many years the main opposition is attending parliament. It is a good sign that the opposition is attending parliament."

"In the streets, of course, there are still a lot of divided opinions but that is the case in any democracy," Khurshid said.

He also said, "The two countries must make a vision plan at sharing electricity and power because we are just going to provide grid connectivity and give them 250 MW from the state sector and they are looking for another 250 MW from the private sector."

Road crashes kill 10, injure six

CITY DESK

Ten people were killed and six others injured in road accidents across five districts in the last two days.

In Dhamrai outside Dhaka, four people, including three of a family, were killed and three others injured when a truck collided with an auto-rickshaw yesterday.

The deceased were Prem Kumar Chandra Das, 32, his son Saikat Das, 10, from South Keraniganj, Prem's sister-in-law Kalapati, 24, from Savar, and auto-rickshaw driver Babul, 35. Prem's wife Bhanumati, 26, was missing.

Our Jamalpur correspondent reports, Anwar Hossain Ujjal, 35, general secretary of Awami League Dighait union, was killed

after a truck rammed his motorbike in the sadar upazila on Tuesday. In Bakshiganj upazila, an unidentified woman died after a bus hit her in Tinanipara area yesterday.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports, Nurul Kabir, 35, of Bandarban died after a truck rammed the auto-rickshaw carrying him in Sitakunda upazila yesterday.

Our Moulvibazar correspondent adds, Matiur Rahman, 30, and Pavel, 20, of Habiganj were killed and another man was injured as the microbus carrying them hit a roadside tree in Khalilpur on Tuesday.


Our Dinajpur correspondent adds, Tariqul Islam, 23, of Birampur upazila was killed and two others wounded after their motorbike hit a roadside tree at the upazila's Ghasuria yesterday.


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