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Call off hartal, sit for talks

Hasina asks Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Opposition Leader Khaleda Zia must withdraw the 60-hour hartal first to sit in dialogue over the formation of an all-party polls-time government.



"The door for discussion is still open. The hartal has to be withdrawn and you [Khaleda] will have to promise that you won't play with people enforcing hartal again," she said while addressing a rally at the historic Suhrawardi Udyan.

She directed leaders and workers of Awami League and its allies to be on the streets to ensure that pro-hartal activists could not harm people and their properties.

In her 33-minute speech that started at 4:35pm, Hasina, also Awami League president, requested BNP Chairperson Khaleda to withdraw the hartal for the sake of Junior School Certificate exams, which was scheduled to begin from today.

Criticising Khaleda for her recent remarks "on freeing the war criminals", Hasina said Khaleda would not be able to protect the war criminals by enforcing hartals and killing people.

Referring to the trial of BDR carnage, Hasina claimed that pro-BNP-Jamaat lawyers were giving legal assistance to the killers. "The BNP chief went into an underground hideout an hour before the mutiny. It has been proved today how

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While one side of the Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue has stand-still traffic, the other side is almost devoid of vehicles and people walk failing to find transport. The Awami League rally at Suhrawardi Udyan put city dwellers across Dhaka in a dilemma between having to walk and sitting in a jam. More photos on page 5.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Rally makes commuters suffer a lot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Traffic on the major streets in the city came to a standstill yesterday as ruling Awami League supporters rushed to the grand rally held at Suhrawardi Udyan.

The Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue was completely choked around 2:00pm with vehicles carrying supporters towards the venue. The road was the main route for supporters coming from Savar, Dakhinkhan, Uttara, Rupnagar and Mirpur, among other areas.

Processions further worsened the traffic situation with long tailbacks behind the marching supporters. At least three huge processions clogged up the

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PRAYER TIMING November 4		
Fajr	Azhan	Jamaat
4:55	5:30	
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:00	4:15
Maghrib	5:30	5:34
Esha	7:15	7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Jamaat behind all these crimes

Observes tribunal

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday said Jamaat-e-Islami played a pertinent and culpable role in killing notable pro-liberation intellectuals, the best sons and daughters of the soil.

Sentencing Al-Badr leaders Chowdhury Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman Khan to death for abducting and killing 18 intellectuals and professionals towards the end of the Liberation War, the court said Jamaat approved the killing squad formed by Al-Badr men, who in fact belonged to then Jamaat student wing Islami Chhatra Sangha.

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Day he waited so long for

Boy grows up to 42-year-old, finds justice finally in the killing of his father

WASIM BIN HABIB

The unseen walls inside which he kept, or rather treasured, his many emotions all these years fell apart yesterday. His brimming eyes could not hold back the large tears when the verdict against the killers of his father, martyred journalist ANM Golam Mostafa, was pronounced.

Anirban Mostafa was only nine-month old when some armed Al-Badr men abducted his father from their Copibagh house on December 11, 1971. Golam Mostafa never returned home and Anirban never got the chance to call him "baba".



Anirban Mostafa

Golam Mostafa was a journalist of the daily Purbadesh, where Chowdhury Mueen Uddin also worked. Mueen Uddin was the "key person" behind his abduction.

Yesterday, as the International Crimes Tribunal-2 was reading out the verdict against Mueen Uddin, Anirban and his wife Afroza Parvin wept. Even their 10-year-old son became emotion-choked.

To Anirban, the verdict is something more than his personal quest for justice for which he waited 42 years. This judgment, he thinks, is one that will bring Bangladesh one step

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Same people; change only in party name

Chhatra Sangha turned ferocious Al-Badr in 1971, Chhatra Shibir in 1977

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

It may sound like a fiction, but it's all true.

This is the story of how a student organisation turned into a killing squad in 1971, the role of its leaders and activists in the killing of intellectuals and its rebirth in an independent country that it vigorously opposed.

The members of Islami Chhatra Sangha (ICS), the then student wing of Jamaat-e-

Islami, turned into militiamen of ferocious Al-Badr Bahini and killed several hundred intellectuals towards the end of the Liberation War.

After the victory on December 16, 1971, the government's decision to ban five communal parties including Jamaat-e-Islami resulted in the halt to Islami Chhatra Sangha's operations.

The fate of Jamaat as well as its student

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Arrest culprits in 24 hours

HC asks cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the police to arrest within 24 hours those who attacked the Bonogram Bazaar Hindus in Pabna on Saturday.

Issuing a suo moto rule, the court asked the inspector general of police (IGP) to deploy adequate law enforcers at the bazaar under Santhia upazila of the district immediately to protect the minorities.

It asked the police chief to submit a report within 72 hours before it after complying with the directives.

The HC also ordered the police boss to form a three-member committee to investigate the attacks on the Hindus and their property and to assess the amount of loss caused by the attacks.

The IGP will have to

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1



Idols lay in ruins after a mob attacked Hindu temples and homes in Bonogram of Pabna on Saturday. The pack also stormed houses and vandalized them, inset. PHOTO: STAR



Rich Hindu? So extort

His refusal led to attack on Hindus by Jamaat-BNP men in Pabna

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and AHMED HUMAYUN KABI TOPU, Pabna

Extortionists, mostly belonging to the BNP and Jamaat, had planned to frame Hindu school-boy Rajib Saha in Pabna for maligning Islam after his businessman father refused to pay them.

Rajib's father Babul Saha, a leading trader in Bonogram bazaar, has two grocery shops with warehouses. He had been paying the youths regularly until June when they demanded Tk 2 lakh.

On Saturday morning, the youths went to his house looking for Rajib but found only his mother. They then went to Babul's shop.

"Around 9:00am, Manik, Khokon and a few others came to my shop. One of them showed me something on his cellphone and said my son had maligned the Prophet. They asked me to bring my son or face dire consequences," Babul told The Daily Star yesterday.



Babul Saha

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MORE ON PAGE 13

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think the ruling and the opposition parties are sincere about holding talks to resolve the prevailing political impasse?

Yes (09%)

No (91%)

TOTAL VOTES: 264

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think that there is any hope for the current deadlock in Bangladesh's politics through discussion?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

Pran starts recalling turmeric powder

BSTI also detects high levels of lead

SOHEL PARVEZ

Pran yesterday began drives to withdraw its turmeric powder from the local markets after detection of high levels of lead by local and US laboratories.

"Representatives of Pran came at noon and took back all the turmeric powder we had in our store," said Abdul Matin, owner of Faisal Store at Karwan Bazar.

Other retailers at the kitchen market also shared the same experience.

On Saturday, the company in a statement requested retailers to return their entire stock of Pran turmeric powder to its representatives.

Khandaker Nur-e-Burhan, category manager (food) of superstore chain Agora, said Pran withdrew its stock of turmeric powder from the retail chain.

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Tk 1,174CR SCAM

ACC sues 53 Bismillah Group officials, bankers

M RAHMAN

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday filed 12 cases against 53 top officials of five banks and the controversial terry towel maker Bismillah Group for misappropriation of Tk 1,174.46 crore.

Thirteen of the accused are proprietors and top officials of Bismillah

Group and its sister concerns -- Shaharish Composite Factory Ltd, Alpha Composite Towel Ltd, Shaharish KT Ltd, Hindul Wali Ltd and Bismillah Towel Ltd -- and the rest officials of five banks -- Janata Bank, Prime Bank, Jamuna Bank, Shahjalal Islami Bank Ltd and Premier Bank.

The cases were filed under the anti-money laundering act, said Gulshan

Anwar Pradhan, assistant director of ACC and part of the five-member team enquiring the scam.

If convicted under the anti-money laundering act, the accused may get up to 10 years in prison and their moveable and immovable properties might also be confiscated, said a source in ACC.

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