



Police intercept a procession of teachers and employees of non-government schools, colleges and madrasas near Paltan police box in the city yesterday as they tried to march towards Shikha Bhaban.

Non-govt teachers vow to continue strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers observing indefinite strike yesterday vowed that they would not sit for a dialogue with the government unless they get formal letters inviting all the factions of teachers.

Teachers and employees of non-government high schools, colleges and madrasas who have been observing the strike at their educational institutes since July 6, said they would continue their non-stop strike until their principal demand of 100 per cent salary from the government exchequer is met.

However, education ministry said the dialogue is being delayed because Prime Minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury is at Sirajganj and Finance Minister Saifur Rahman is staying abroad for an official visit.

Shikkhak Karmachari Oikya Jote will observe a sit-in programme today from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon to press their demand for a rise in their basic salary by ten per cent.

At a press conference Jote President Shariful Islam said that they would observe a grand sit-in programme in the capital if the government does not take initiatives to meet the demands.

Another faction of Jote led by Selim Bhuiyan yesterday tried to besiege the Shikha Bhaban but police intercepted near Paltan police box.

Bangladesh Shikkhak-Karmachari Samonnay Parishad will hold representatives' grand rally at Muktangan in the city on August 4 and continue demonstration at upazila and district levels.

National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE) also blamed the government for wasting time in the name of dialogue.

JCD activists beat up 3 Shibir men at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) men beat up two Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) leaders and an activist of Ziaur Rahman Hall of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday.

The injured are Mohammad Mohiuddin, former president of Zia Hall unit ICS, Shafullah Hashemi, incumbent

president and Delwar Hossain Rajib, a second year student of Islamic Studies Department.

Mohiuddin was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with serious injuries in left hand and left leg.

Witnesses said some JCD activists of Zia Hall beat up Rajib at the playground adjacent to Kobi Jasimuddin Hall at around 12:30am, as he had returned to

the hall without prior permission of hall unit JCD leaders.

He was driven out of the hall about three months ago for his involvement with ICS politics, one of the hall unit JCD leaders said.

After the incident, Mohiuddin and Shafullah went to hall unit JCD president Sohan to inform him the matter.

As they were emerging from the hall

after discussing the matter with Sohan, JCD men launched an attack on them at around 2:30am.

Hall authorities and police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

ICS DU unit President Akhter Hossain said they have filed a case with Ramna Police Station in this regard.

BRIDGE OVER KARNAPHULI RIVER

New bridge with 6 pillars won't be harmful to seaport: Huda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday said Chittagong city Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury opposed the construction of an extra dosed bridge over the Karnaphuli river only to gain 'cheap popularity' ahead of the next general elections.

The cost of a suspension bridge over the river, as demanded by the mayor, would be at least Tk 200 crore higher than the extra dosed bridge that the government took up, the minister said.

Huda said he does not think the new

bridge with six pillars would do any harm to the Chittagong seaport and navigability in the river.

The government took up the project for construction of the third bridge over the Karnaphuli river after the Kuwait Development Fund agreed to provide necessary fund for it, he said, adding that the construction of the Tk 336 crore bridge will start next month and be complete in 38 months.

The minister expressed hope that the Chittagong mayor would retreat from his position and extend all-out cooperation to the government for building the bridge that is a long time

demand of the people of the area.

The new bridge will replace the existing Shah Amanat Bridge that has been in a dilapidated condition for long.

Abdul Aziz, director of Bangladesh Consultant Engineers that is working as consultant of the bridge project, said the extra dosed bridge would be more viable than a suspension bridge as the latter might fail to bear extra pressure.

A team of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology that made a study on the project did not find any reason of massive siltation in the river following the construction of a bridge, he said.

Hasina to meet Khulna leaders from July 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will exchange views with the grassroots level leaders from Khulna division at the AL central office at Dhanmondi in the capital from July 30.

Presidents and general secretaries of district, upazila, thana and poura committees of Khulna division will take part in the view exchange meeting from 9:00am to 2:00pm, says a party press release here on Tuesday night.

Presidents and general secretaries of Khulna city and district units will exchange views with Hasina, also Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, on August 2.

Meanwhile, preparations are going on here to make a list of intending candidates who will seek nomination in the upcoming parliamentary elections. A reliable source here yesterday said the grassroots leaders will urge the party chief to resolve intra-party feuds in Khulna to avoid election debacles in the six constituencies in Khulna.

There are more than one candidates in each constituency seeking nomination, said city AL General Secretary Alhaj Mizanur Mizan.