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The Daily Star

FOR HOARDING & NEONSIGNS

MODART
 PUBLICITY

17/6-8, Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000
 Tel: 238935, 405898

VOL. II NO. 28 REGD. NO. DA 783

MAGH 27, 1398 BS,

DHAKA MONDAY FEBRUARY 10, 1992

SHABAN 5, 1412 HIJRI

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

Inside Today

Article

**The Burma Road :
 An Interpretation**

For the first time in over a generation, a Burmese government is going to be permitted to use the Burma Road — albeit under Chinese protection and at China's discretion, as the major terminus of the Burma Road is Chungking. With the sale of Chinese gunboats to the Burmese, the other end of the Burma Road would seem to be shores of the Bay of Bengal.
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Dhaka Day by Day



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Degree exams today : Govt teachers join strike

By DU Correspondent

The government has made all preparations to hold the Degree examinations beginning today under the Dhaka and the Chittagong Universities in the backdrop of the government teachers joining the ranks of the striking non-government teachers Sunday.

The non-government teachers have not yet withdrawn their indefinite strike that started January 18.

The Dhaka University authorities have taken necessary measures to hold the degree examinations today.

Some 85,000 students under Dhaka University and 32,680 students under the Chittagong University are to appear the Degree examinations this year.

However, 101 out of 132 centres are at the non-government colleges in Dhaka.

Government officers in the districts and upazilas have

been ordered to conduct invigilation duties at the examination centres, official sources said.

The government has taken elaborate security measures to tackle any untoward incident during exams, the sources added.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka University authorities made special arrangements for the Degree examinees to collect admit cards yesterday.

The Examination Controller of the DU told The Daily Star that the University authorities have finalised all arrangements regarding the exams.

"We cannot say anything about the centres, whether they are prepared or not for the examinations", the Controller said.

Admit cards will also be issued from 8 am today till the examinations start, he added.

Meanwhile, official sources added that the government

and some external employees were busy making seat arrangements at the centres last night.

However, the Secretary General of the Bangladesh Federation of Teachers' Association (BFTA) told The Daily Star, "We are firmly determined not to hold exams as well as not to withdraw the strike till our demands are fulfilled."

The Bangladesh College-University Teachers' Association (BCUTA) held the government responsible for the uneasy situation prevailing in all the educational institutions in the country.

The Central Liaison Committee in the Teachers' Movement (CLCTM), an alliance of the three teachers' organisations, has announced its strike programme including sit-in demonstrations in front of the DC offices at all

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We need cooperation of all, says Sircar

Teachers' interest ignored: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

The government has sought cooperation of all concerned for peacefully holding the Degree examinations under Dhaka and Chittagong universities scheduled to begin today (Monday) and Wednesday with the college teachers on a strike.

The Education Minister, making a statement in Jatiya Sangsad on the situation arising out of the strike on the eve of the beginning of the examinations, told the House that the government had decided not to defer the examinations for the sake of protecting the future of hundreds of students of the country. He sought co-

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654 officials promoted

By Staff Correspondent

The government on Sunday announced the promotion of 654 officials to higher levels in the administration.

According to a government announcement, the promotions were given to officials from among the 30 cadre services based on talent, ability and seniority.

Of the total, four officials were promoted to the post of secretary, 32 were made additional secretaries, 191 were promoted to the posts of joint secretaries and 427 were made deputy secretaries.

The promotions are aimed at building up a dynamic administrative system by increasing the efficiency and removing the stagnation in the administration and also to remove the existing frustrations among the officials, the government announcement said.

In addition to providing these promotions, the government has set up a one-member commission with State Minister for Establishment Nurul Huda as its Chairman to increase the scope for promotions in every cadre and to establish parity in promotion among the various cadre services.

The commission will also recommend evolving a system for future promotions creation of new posts, upgrading of posts reducing or increasing the number of cadre services as per need and other matters.

The process of promotions to the post of joint secretaries began December 4 last year and a total of 484 persons from various cadre services were interviewed. Similarly, 868 persons were interviewed

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Countdown to Shaheed Day

Star Report

The Dairik Azad, East Bengal's highest-circulation newspaper in the late 1940s and early 1950s, came out strongly against Khwaja Nazimuddin's statement in the Constituent Assembly on February 25, 1948, that "most East Pakistanis regarded only Urdu to be acceptable as the state language of Pakistan".

However, the Azad, owned by Maulana Akram Khan, was not always in favour of Bengali. In July, 1947, the Azad published a number of articles which vigorously opposed the idea of having Bengali as a state language of Pakistan.

That opposition was not permanent. Badruddin Umar, in his three-volume "East Bengal's Language Movement", quoted a section from Professor Kazi Kamruzzaman's "Memories of the Language Movement", published in 1967, which threw some light onto the paper's cautious approach on the language issue:

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The on-going transport strike has put all the pressures on the BRTC buses in city. —Star photo

Transport strike raises prices

By Staff Correspondent

The transport strike passed its second day Sunday.

The government made a futile attempt to cool down the sponsors of strike that paralysed the normal life and had the prices of essentials soared in city and across the country.

A meeting between the leaders of the Bangladesh Road Transport Association, organisers of the strike, and Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury Sunday afternoon failed to reach a consensus.

The Secretary General of the association Muhammad Ashraf Khan said that they would continue their on-going strike because of the government's failure to respond to their foremost demand for reducing fuel price at the pre-Gulf War level.

The strike, called by the association, a platform for the owners, began at 6 am Saturday to press for their 19-point charter of demands which includes reduction of duty on the automobile spare parts, stoppage of illegal toll collection, increase in the time frame for payment of presumptive tax and decentralisation of the existing route permit issuance system.

The strike call followed a series of talks between the government and the leaders of the owners.

The association general secretary said that the Sunday's meeting, took place at the Home Minister's office at the Secretariat was held in a very cordial atmosphere where the two parties discussed issues in the charter of demands put forward by the owners.

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200 hurt in Sirajganj post-poll clashes

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 9: At least 200 people were injured in three separate post-election clashes between rival groups in Sonagacha, Shialkhol and Kaliaharipur unions of sadar Upazila today, witnesses and police said, reports UNB.

Union Parishad elections were held in the three unions on February 6.

Witnesses said supporters of two defeated chairman candidates Saiful Islam and Abdur Razzak Goher Ali of Batuaqata and Chandidasgati villages in Shialkhol union clashed this morning leaving about 100 people injured.

Five of the injured, including Abdul Majed (32) and Rajab Ali (24) of village Chandidasgati, were admitted to the Sadar Hospital with serious injuries. Others could not be identified immediately as they were unconscious.

Matiar Rahman (35) and Nannu (38), who also sustained serious wounds were admitted to the local Mohammed Ali Hospital.

Fifty people were injured in another clash between supporters of two defeated member candidates from Sonagacha and Bhurhuria villages in Sonagacha union.

In Kaliaharipur union, 50 people were wounded as supporters of newly elected Chairman Abdul Qader of village Rajabnagar clashed with those of his rival candidate Abdul Maleq of Kandapara.

Of the injured, three were admitted to Sadar Hospital. They included Ashraf Ali (35) and Majibur (28).

Repoll date

Repolling in 229 centres where voters were postponed during the Union Parishad elections will be held between

February 23 and March 3.

The Election Commission has directed the district election officers to serve notice in the concerned areas after fixing dates for fresh polls in consultation with respective Deputy Commissioners and Upazila Nirbahi Officers.

An EC press release said yesterday that authorities had put off polling in 229 centres of 174 union in 93 upazilas of 38 districts during the 16-day staggering elections which concluded on February 6.

Results

Meanwhile, the unofficial results of 38 Union Parishad Chairman elections out of 46 of the Peri district have been announced.

According to Election Commission sources, Fazal Ahmed was elected chairman of Chhagalnariya union, Abdullah Al Mamun of Paharnagar union, Nurun Nabi Chowdhury of Gopal Union, Jahurul Haque of Shubapur union in Chhagalnariya.

Kamal Mazumder was elected chairman of Porshuram union, Haji Moksedur Rahman of Chitola union, Khairul Alam of Box Mahmud union, AKM Mohiuddin of Fulgazi union, Kazi Akramullah of Darbarpur union, Aziz Ahmed Chowdhury of Anandapur union, Master Abul Kasem of Arzadha union and Rezauddin Sardar (Uncontested) of Mirzanagar union in Porshuram upazila.

Haji Abdul Mannan was elected chairman of Sonagazi union, Rezaul Karim of Moiganj union, Enamul Haque of Mongalkandi union, Md Ilias of Majlishpur union, Giasuddin of Char Chandia union in Sonagazi upazila.

Abdul Wadud was elected

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Food autarky by fourth plan end, JS told

By Staff Correspondent

Food Minister M Shamsul Islam told the Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) Sunday that the country was expected to attain food autarky by the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan.

Under the plan, he said, the government was now considering 82 project proposals involving Taka 2480 crore with a view to increasing the cultivable land under irrigation from 30 per cent to 52 per cent.

The projects include agro-based industries, essential fertilizer and quality seeds, agricultural equipment research in agriculture, marketing of agricultural products, the minister told the House while answering questions.

Replying to a question, the Food Minister said that the country had a food deficiency of 353.32 lakh metric tons in last 19 years ending in 1990-91. The highest amount of deficiency was in 1988-89, he said.

Quoting the Bureau of Statistics, he said that the food

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Milon murder case : Prosecution fails to produce witness

By Staff Correspondent

The prosecution side could not produce any witness in the Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon murder case before the court of the second Additional Session Judge on the second

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NEWS BRIEFS

Biswas assents to SC Judges Bill

The President Sunday assented to the Supreme Court Judges (Remuneration and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill, 1992, a Parliament Secretariat press release said. The bill was passed by the Jatiya Sangsad in its current session, reports BSS.

Shab-e-Barat on Feb 19

The holy Shab-e-Barat will be observed in the country on February 19 (Wednesday). On this occasion bars and wine shops at all places of Bangladesh shall remain closed from sunset of the day to sunrise of February 20, reports BSS.

JS Accounts body meet tomorrow

A meeting of the Jatiya Sangsad Public Accounts Committee will be held at 7 pm tomorrow in Room no 934 of the Sangsad Bhavan with its Chairman L K Siddiky in the chair, reports BSS.

Shantibahini kills one

From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, Feb 9: Jahur Ali (22), a farmer was shot dead this morning allegedly by the Shantibahini activists at the Tanakkapara of Panchauri upazila of Khagrachhari district.

Cases pile up in CMM's court

By Farid Ahmed

The number of pending criminal cases in the court of the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) has doubled during the past year compared with that of the year before.

The court sources say that the number of pending cases on January 1, 1991, had been 21,906 while it increased to 41,564 on January 1, 1992.

During the past year, a total of 71,120 new cases were brought to the CMM court but the court could dispose of only 51,462 cases out of 93,026 criminal cases, the sources said.

Magistrates of the Dhaka Metropolitan Magistracy point

out that the delay in the disposal of the cases has resulted from the shortage of magistrates.

Only 11 magistrates including two part-timers were presently working in the CMM court, they added.

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate court officials said that they had appealed to the government for employing five more magistrates so that the cases could be disposed of smoothly.

Due to accommodation problems, the court rooms for two metropolitan magistrates have been set up at the district council office adjacent to the CMM court, the official said.

Employing five more magistrates would aggravate the problems, they added.

Talking to The Daily Star, a magistrate in the court said that dillydallying in submitting chargesheets against the accused by the police also causes delay.

According to the Section 339(c) of Criminal Procedure Code (Cr PC) an investigation officer (IO) of police has to submit chargesheet in 90 days and the court must dispose a case in maximum 150 days from the submission of chargesheet. But in many cases it is not followed, a senior lawyer in the court said.



By Mahfuz Ullah

The sacred book of Parliament, the Rules of Procedure, stipulates that a member shall not read any newspaper (even if it is The Daily Star) while the House is in session.

But they do read newspapers and sometimes in such a way as if they are trying to hide their faces.

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Power workers put off planned 72-hr strike

By Staff Correspondent

The power sector workers Sunday postponed their planned 72-hour nationwide strike scheduled to begin today following assurance from the government of meeting their demands.

The decision to postpone the strike was taken by the Bangladesh Bidyut Sramik Union (BBSU) following discussions with the Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Khondker Mosharraf Hossain and other government officials.

The "categorical assurance of settling the charter of demands as soon as possible"

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Per capita food availability below minimum level

By Chapal Bashar

Though the per capita food availability in Bangladesh has increased over the years, it is still below the internationally recommended minimum level of requirement.

Lack of minimum food availability has been identified as the primary reason for the high incidence of undernutrition in the country.

According to a recent study by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), an esti-

mated 1754 Calories in food were available to a person per day in Bangladesh during the four-year period 1986-89 compared with the minimum requirement of 1861 Calories.

The availability was 94.2 per cent of the requirement.

The minimum level of Calory requirement in Bangladesh and other countries was calculated in the FAO study using the 1985 FAO/WHO/UNU methodology.

Experts believe that the food availability situation in Bangladesh improved little after 1989.

A paper on the study was presented by Dr Rahmat U Qureshi, a FAO nutrition expert, at the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on Nutrition held in Bangkok last week of January.

The paper said that the food availability in Bangladesh increased during the 1983-85

period when it was estimated at 1715 Calories, about 92 per cent of the requirement.

Previously, during 1979-81, the per capita availability was 1653 Calories per day making up 88.8 per cent of the requirement. However, Dr Qureshi pointed out that the comparison of food availability to requirement was strictly based on national averages, which, according to him 'could be misleading'.

"In a free market economy, aggregate averages hid skewed distribution due to income disparities. Therefore, food availability only just meeting the requirement level in a country must deprive large sections of people of the access to sufficient food,"

Qureshi said adding, "this would be the case particularly in low income countries. He observed that when na-

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Government of the People's Republic
 of Bangladesh
 National Board of Revenue
 Dhaka

Special Notice

The Government has taken some steps for easy and speedy containerization and shipment of exportable goods and quick clearance of imported raw materials to be used in the export oriented industries, The Additional Collector of Customs, Customs House Chittagong, Joint Collector of Customs, Air Freight Unit, Customs House, Dhaka and Joint Collector of Customs, Chalna Customs House, Khulna have been directed to ensure these in their respective fields of Jurisdiction. All concerned are advised to contact the relevant officers directly for any query. However, in case of emergency, First Secretary (Customs-2) National Board of Revenue, Dhaka, may also be contacted.

DFP(G)-1830-5/2

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National Board of Revenue