

## Withdraw hartal call, BGMEA urges BNP

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has appealed to the main opposition political party, BNP, to keep the garments sector out of the purview of hartal and all other agitation programmes.

Addressing a press conference yesterday BGMEA President Mostafa Golam Quddus urged BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia to withdraw her party's half-day hartal programme tomorrow or at least keep the garments sector out of its purview for the greater interest of the country and saving more than 25 hundred gar-

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Garments sector will be exempted from hartal in future: BNP

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday assured the leaders of the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) that the garments sector would be kept out of the purview of hartal in future, said a BGMEA press release.

The assurance was given when a BGMEA delegation led by its President Mostafa Golam Quddus called on the BNP Secretary General and requested him to keep the garments sector out of the purview of Sunday's hartal, called by the BNP, the press release said.

Mannan Bhuiyan also told the BGMEA leaders that BNP will participate with the government in any seminar to find a solution to such an issue, the press release added.

Energy seminars: 3 dropped from delegation

By Sharier Khan

A last-minute restructuring of the high-level delegation for holding two international seminars in London and Houston on the prospects of hydrocarbon in Bangladesh has left out some key figures, according to well-placed sources.

The Energy Minister, State Minister for Planning and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, who were originally in the 10-member delegation, have been asked to stay back, the sources said.

Instead of the Energy Minister, the Energy Secretary will now lead the delegation.

Another important person

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## AL council deferred again to May 7-8

By Staff Correspondent

The national council of the ruling Awami League was deferred for the third time yesterday.

According to the changed schedule, the already belated council would now be held on May 7 and 8, instead of March 28-29.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the 65-member AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC), held at the Ganobhaban yesterday afternoon with party President Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The meeting also formed a 101-member National Council Preparatory Committee, with Sheikh Hasina as its Chair-

man. Besides, 11 sub-committees were constituted.

The national council was deferred again as councils of some district units including four in Barisal Division could not be held till now. These include the party unit in Gopalganj, home district of Sheikh Hasina, and that in Kishoreganj, home district of party general secretary Zillur Rahman.

Out of 45 districts units, council which were held, full committees could not be formed in many units.

An AL press release issued late last night said Sheikh Hasina would open the national council at 3 pm on May 7 at the

Outer Stadium in the city.

The ALCWC meeting resolved that the previous BNP government had signed, accord to provide India with transit facilities and "now, it called hartal on March 23 keeping lakhs of examinees hostage and coinciding with visits of the heads of state and government of three foreign countries."

The meeting observed that BNP was pushing the country into a state of corruption and terrorism again by obstructing foreign investments. "It is proved by their (BNP) activities that once they are out of power, they don't want to let the people

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