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May Day today

By Staff Correspondent
The historic May Day will be observed in the country as elsewhere in the world today with a renewed pledge to protect rights of the working class and increase production in the mills and factories.

On this day in 1886 workers in the American city of Chicago demonstrated demanding eight-hour working day, pay hike and improvement of workers' condition that led to the killing of workers.

The day is being observed as symbol of the victory of the working class.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday gave separate messages on the occasion.

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BB services essential

The government has declared all categories of service of the Bangladesh Bank as essential, reports BSS.

The order in this regard will go into effect immediately, a PID handout said here last night.

Holiday

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today on the occasion of May Day.

Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow.

Inside Today

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Death and Lesser Human Beings

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CONDOLENCE

We deeply mourn the tragic death of **Shazneen Tasnim Rahman**, the youngest daughter of Mr. Latifur Rahman, Managing Director of W. Rahman Jute Mills Ltd.

We all join the grieving family in such painful bereavement and pray to the Almighty Allah to give each member of the family the strength to bear the irreparable loss.

'May Allah rest Shazneen's soul in peace'. Ameen

The Management & all the Employees of W. Rahman Jute Mills Ltd.

Gulshan Lake up for grabs-II

50 bighas sold out to 3 leading developers

By Morshed Ali Khan

A large stretch of Gulshan Lake on the Shahajatpur side has been sold out to at least three leading developers for construction of apartment blocks and other structures, according to an investigation.

The developers who claimed to have bought the 'low-lying land' from private owners would soon start filling up the stretch of Gulshan Lake between the bridge at Section-2 and the road at Madhya Badda, sources concerned revealed.

This correspondent has seen signboards put up by developers — Shinepukur and Navana

Construction on two spots with guard rooms, claiming ownership of more than 80 per cent of the lake. The sources confirmed that Eastern Housing also bought up a huge chunk of the waterbody for the same purpose.

Local people and land owners at Shahajatpur said that the three developers together had bought more than 50 bighas of the lake from private owners in the locality.

The locality's headman (matbar) and a landlord, Mohammad Akhtaruddin of Shahajatpur, who claimed to have

sold acres of land inherited by him, said that although in 1961 and '62, Rajuk had acquired Shahajatpur, in 1994 the whole area was 'released' to its original owners.

In the original 'release order', Rajuk had mentioned that the whole of Badda area was out of Rajuk's housing project. Akhtaruddin claimed.

"More than 80 per cent of the lake is under Badda land index and, therefore, it belongs to the local people and they have sold it out," said Akhtaruddin, pointing his finger at Gulshan

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Three developers have bought a stretch of Gulshan Lake near Shahajatpur for construction of apartment blocks.

—Star photo

6-day fresh strike programme No progress in JCD's talks with DU VC

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University authorities began talks with the feuding student organisations yesterday to end the stalemate at the university for the last one week.

Academic activities at the DU came to a halt on April 23 following a gun-battle between Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) which left one BCL leader killed.

JCD, student wing of opposition BNP, had called a four-day strike at the DU since Monday, protesting the ouster of JCD activists from the VC's residence and on way back to JCD office after the talks.

The JCD placed a number of demands before the VC, saying those should be fulfilled before it could come to any agreement with the BCL.

JCD demanded that 'armed outsiders and terrorists' should be ousted from all halls including Surya Sen, Jasimuddin, Ziaur Rahman and Bangabandhu halls and bonafide resident students of those halls should be 'rehabilitated'.

Meanwhile, JCD yesterday called a fresh strike at the DU from May 2 to 7. The strike programme was announced at a press conference at its office.

Vice Chancellor of the university, Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, in a bid to solve the prob-

lem, first met with the leaders of JCD at his residence yesterday afternoon.

An 11-member delegation led by acting JCD President Abdul Khaleque was escorted by police to the VC's residence and on way back to JCD office after the talks.

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All the arrested JCD leaders including its president Shahiduddin Chowdhury Army should be released and 'false' cases against them should be withdrawn, it demanded.

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Cleaning campus of terrorism is more important than banning student politics

By Staff Correspondent

Deputy Leader of the Opposition AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury strongly condemned in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday the reported attack on Shaheda Obaid, head of English Department of the Government Titumir College, in the city on Wednesday.

Rising on a point of order, B Choudhury alleged that Shaheda Obaid, wife of BNP lawmaker KM Obaidur Rahman, was assaulted, her office ransacked and car damaged on Wednesday by pro-government armed students on the college campus. The incident took place after some admission-seekers, who did not qualify in the test, were denied admission, he added.

Condemning such acts of terrorism on the campus, the BNP leader said, "Cleaning the campus of terrorism is more important than banning student politics", he said in an interview.

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Army supervision during printing of SSC question papers suggested

CHITTAGONG, Apr 30: The inquiry committee formed by Chittagong Education Board submitted its report on leakage of the SSC question papers to the Education Secretary, reports UNB.

In its report, the committee suggested printing the question papers from Security Printing Press or under the supervision of army to maintain secrecy.

The committee also found out evidences and information about involvement of the staffs of BG Press in the leakage of question papers.

Chittagong Deputy Commissioner KM Habibullah and district Magistrate also submitted separate inquiry reports to the Education Ministry last week.

On the basis of the reports, a case has been filed against 18 persons, including 9 staffs of BG Press on April 24.

Police so far arrested 11 people in this connection.

The investigators found some contradictions while verifying his statements.

Shazneen murder

CID still looking for abettors, if any

By Staff Correspondent

It is now more than a week that Shazneen was murdered.

CID continued its interrogation and search to determine whether the confessed killer Shahid had any abettor in the Shazneen murder.

They were also investigating whether there was any mastermind behind the scene.

Amidst intense media coverage, CID officials became tightlipped yesterday, refusing to make any comment other than investigation was continuing.

CID officials were still looking for clues that might lead the investigators to trace any abettor. But Shahid, who passed the second day of a five-day CID remand yesterday, has not held any other person responsible for the killing, CID sources said.

The investigators found some contradictions while verifying his statements.

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15, was stabbed to death after being violated in her bed room at their Gulshan residence on the night of April 23. The youngest daughter of Transcom Ltd's Chairman Latifur Rahman, Shazneen was found lying in a pool of blood with about 22 cut injuries over her body at about 10:15 pm.

The Daily Star, from different sources including CID and Dhaka Metropolitan Police, has been able to learn some of the questions that the CID is investigating. These are:

1. It was earlier reported that there was blood on Shazneen's bed. It seemed that the girl was stabbed indiscriminately and fell down on the bed. Later her body was either dragged or lifted from the bed to where the body was found, about five to six feet from the bed.

In either case, there should be no contradiction in the statements.

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Male to support Dhaka's candidature for non-permanent UNSC seat

By Staff Correspondent
briefing newsmen after the talks.

Male will support Bangladesh for a Security Council seat for the period 2000-2001, for which Dhaka is contesting.

Male also expressed its desire to see Bangladesh as a member of the newly formed

IORARC. During the talks, the Maldives leader, who is also the current chairman of SAARC, assured support for Dhaka's proposal for creating a SAARC fund for the disabled.

The two leaders also discussed the talks.

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Female activists of the JCD covering their mouths with black cloth met DU VC Prof AK Azad Chowdhury yesterday to protest capture of halls by Chhatra League. —Star photo

Occidental blames Scimitar Faulty sealing caused gas leakage in Sylhet

By Shahriar Khan

The Jalalabad-1 gas well leakage in Sylhet last Tuesday occurred because of a faulty sealing procedure followed by its original developer Scimitar Exploration Limited, Occidental claimed.

US company Occidental, which is now doing the workover at the well, told Petrobangla Wednesday that the gas influx was caused by the failure of the "5-inch liner" installed by Scimitar.

Occidental, citing its initial findings, also claimed that the cement used by Scimitar to plug the well could be another reason of the leakage.

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Hartal in Ctg, Cox's Bazar passes off peacefully

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 30: The half-day hartal called by Islami Chhatra Shibir, in protest against Tuesday's clash at Chittagong University campus, ended peacefully in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar today.

During hartal hours, Shibir activists brought out processions and held rallies in support of their programme while the supporters of Bangladesh Chhatra League brought out processions at different places of the city opposing the hartal.

But no incident of violence was reported from anywhere, police said.

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Flaring of gas at Lakkatura may continue for a week

From Iqbal Siddiquee and Mizan Ali

SYLHET, Apr 30: US company Occidental has started "Flaring of gas" at the Lakkatura well site where a severe leakage occurred on Tuesday night.

"Flaring of gas will continue for about a week," said a company source requesting anonymity. The well is now under control and the area is safe, he added.

Asked about flaring of gas at

the well site, experts said the gas was being flared up to 'balance the well'.

The flaring of gas is likely to continue for about a week, they said, adding that the gas is flared so that it does not pollute the atmosphere.

Most of the dwellers near the well site returned to their homes today.

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মহান মে দিবস

এ দিবস শ্রমজীবি জনতার
এ শপথ দেশকে গড়বার



জনতা ব্যাংক
চাকা বাংলাদেশ

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