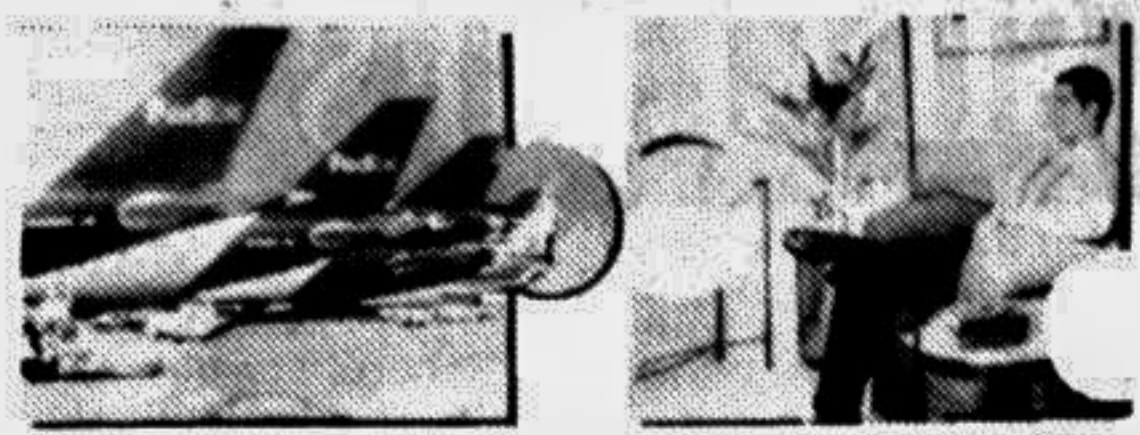


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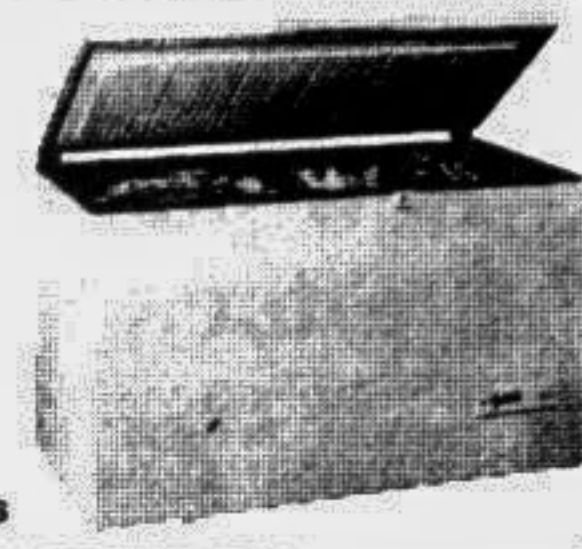
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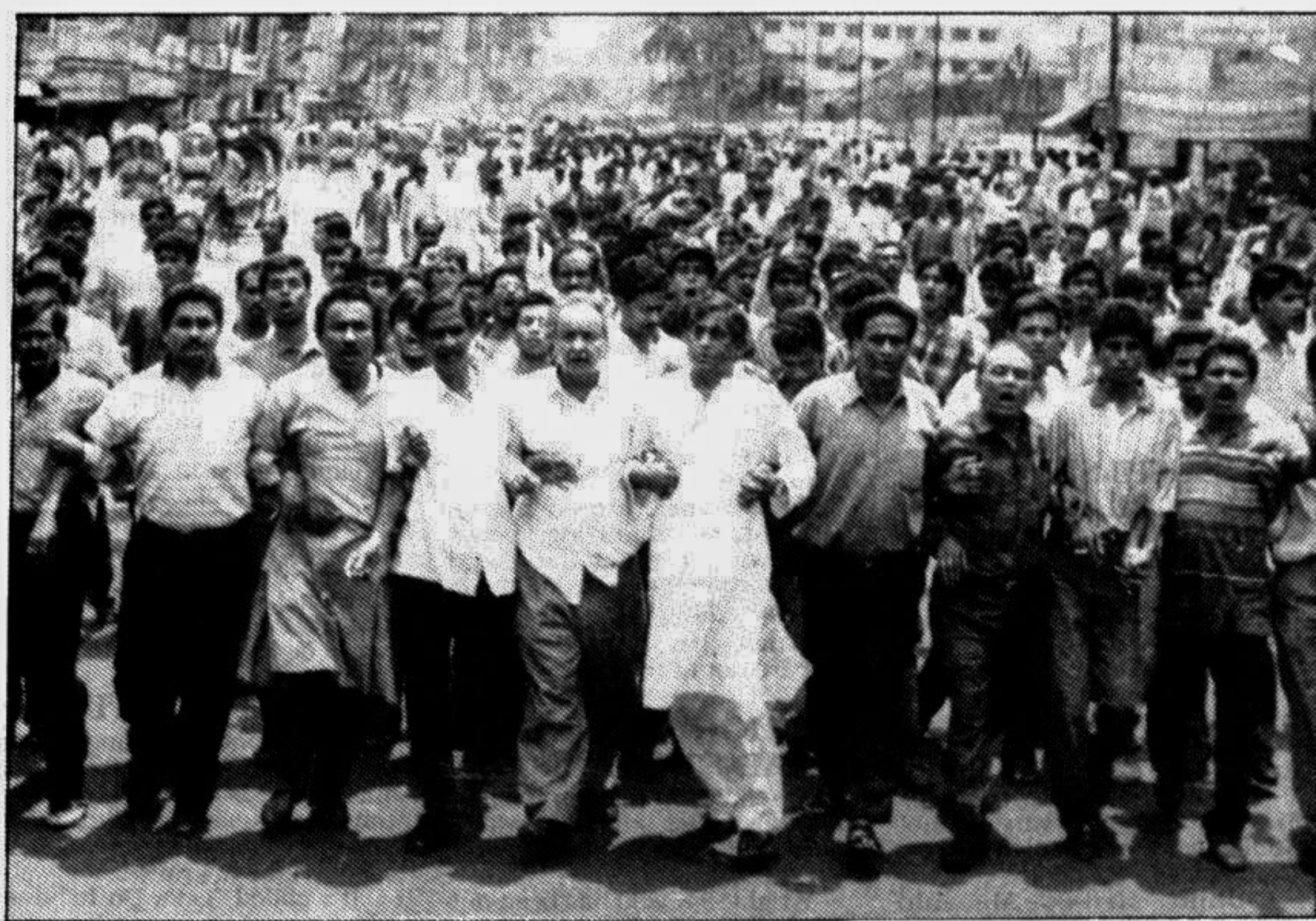
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An anti-hartal procession by Awami League in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Plane carrying Occidental workers crashes in Amazon: 74 killed

LIMA, May 6: A Peruvian air force Boeing 737 chartered by US-based Occidental Petroleum Corp. crashed in an Amazon jungle late on Tuesday, killing 74 of the 87 people on board, Occidental said today, reports Reuters. The first reports from the scene indicate that there are 13 survivors, who are being attended by medical personnel, Occidental said in a news release. Occidental gave no further information about the identities of those aboard, but US media reported that there appeared to be no Americans on the plane. The jet, carrying 79 Occidental workers and oil subcontractors as well as eight crew, crashed at about 9:30 pm on Tuesday as it was coming into land at Andoas, Occidental's main base camp in jungle near the border with Ecuador in northern Peru. Occidental is coordinating the rescue work with the air force and the relevant authorities. A helicopter is trying to evacuate the wounded, but the bad weather in the area has impeded the rescue up to now, the company said. It said that three rescue teams were dispatched to the site three miles (5-km) north of Andoas and arrived early today. The jet had taken off from the Amazon city of Iquitos, about 630 miles northeast of the capital Lima, for the 190-mile flight west to Andoas. A source in the Peruvian military, who asked not to be identified, said the Boeing 737 was one of the newest in service with the air force and was just three or four years old. Communications are difficult. The aircraft left Iquitos for Andoas and disappeared off the radar screens before arriving. It was marked down as lost at 2115 (0115 gmt). All communication was lost, he said. They've asked us for 80 body bags," the source said. The accident site appeared to be rocky terrain, without much tree cover to absorb the impact of the crash, he added. Los Angeles-based Occidental was Peru's largest oil producer in 1997.



A BNP procession at Motijheel in the city during hartal hours yesterday. — Star photo

'Owners' grabbing land

From Page 1 grabbed 6.92 acres of the lake-side green land at Road-15 at Section-1. The 'occupier' immediately set up a slum on the land and 'rented' it to people whom he can use to protect and guard the land against any bid to recover, an on-the-spot investigation revealed. After 'strong lobbying' with Rajuk by the 'occupier', the matter was raised in the 8th Board Meeting of Rajuk recently. The Chairman immediately asked for a review of the case. But at Road-16 in the same area, things were not like this. In one case, an individual grabbed some portion of the lake, filled it up and turned 'his territory' into a 'freehold plot'. Then he went on to get a plan approved from Rajuk for a 16-storied building. Rajuk sources revealed that for approving this plan no clearance was sought from the Planning or the Land sections. From Road-16 several signboards were seen inside the lake claiming ownership. Rajuk officials said when they saw this they filed a general diary with the Gulshan thana but to no effect. Investigation further revealed that between 1994 and 1995 Rajuk filled up the lake near the American Club in Gulshan North between Road-62 and Road-63 and extracted 17 plots. The land-filling work cost Rajuk Tk 2 crore. But no sooner had Rajuk handed over 'some plots' in that area, a developer moved in, encircled the area with walls, set up security posts and put up a huge signboard. The developer claimed that he was the 'original owner' of that land, Rajuk sources said.

BUETTA

From Page 1 nite strike against the backdrop of the resignation of Prof Iqbal Mahmud from the post of vice-chancellor on Monday. Following Prof Mahmud's resignation, 71 BUET teachers resigned from their administrative posts. Students and officers of the university have also supported the teacher's strike. According to BUET sources, some officials from the Prime Minister's Office visited the university on Wednesday and collected the names of senior teachers and other teaching staff. A copy of the appointment rules for BUET teachers was also collected by them. Condemning the reported remarks by Education Minister A S H K Sadek, the BUETTA president said, "The minister's utterances have forced us to review our decision regarding a meeting with him. The question of a meeting with him at this stage does not arise." Prof Akand further said "The education minister had called me twice on May 4, while we were conducting the general meeting of the Association. When I called him back after the meeting, he requested me to visit him along with the members of the executive committee of BUETTA. I told the minister that I would meet him, taking the opinion of the executive committee," he noted. The executive committee, at a meeting on May 5, decided to see the minister at his convenient time," he said, adding that they were planning to seek an appointment with him yesterday. "But the minister's utterances at the press conference have hurt the teachers." The BUET teachers have now suggested us not to visit him as his comments are not only objectionable but also venomous," he said.

Sec't employees' team calls on PM

A delegation of Bangladesh Sachibalaya employees called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her Jatiya Sangsad office yesterday afternoon, reports BSS. The delegation members apprised the Prime Minister of their problems and demands. She gave them a patient hearing and said she would look into their problems. The delegation was led by Habibur Rahman Habib, Ataur Rahman, Arif Ali and Zafar Ahmed.

One arrested for raping minor girl in Mirpur

CID investigators yesterday arrested a young man on charges of raping a three-year-old girl inside a bathroom of a school at North Bishil in the city's Mirpur area on April 6. Oluur Rahman Sharif, 18, son of Imamuddin Sharif and a neighbour of the little girl, was arrested from near his house, police said. The victim is now under treatment at Razarbagh Police Hospital. Oluur confessed to police that he violated the little girl. Police are likely to produce Oluur before the CMM's Court today and pray for a five-day remand for interrogation. The alleged rapist failed to pass the HSC examination last year, police added.

Shibir

Police also opened fire on the attackers, exchange of fire continued for about an hour. Some 350 police were deployed on the campus following the trouble on April 28 when Shibir activists were allegedly ousted from the halls by Chhatra League activists. Another contingent of more than 100 policemen, led by SP Abdur Rouf, rushed to the spot tonight to quell the situation.

Shazneen murder

From Page 1 at Rahman's residence under a contract. The three — Hasan, Badal and Shoni Kam — were remanded for two days on Tuesday. Our Staff Correspondent adds from Chittagong: A CID team led by ASP Mujibur Rahman came here from Dhaka at 10 pm Tuesday night along with Shahid. The team at first visited Kotwali thana where Shahid surrendered. ASP Mujibur Rahman talked to Sub-Inspector Nihar Ronjan Nath who was the duty officer at Kotwali thana when Shahid had surrendered. Later, the CID team along with Shahid went to Chittagong railway station and stayed there for 15 minutes, police said. As the CID came in civil dress, two teams of mobile police from Kotwali thana, led by SI Abdur Rauf and SI Mizanur Rahman Bhuiya, escorted the CID personnel to the railway station. SI Rauf, talking to this correspondent, said that Shahid showed the team the place at platform No 4 where he had passed his nights. Shahid also showed the overbridge at the Station Road where he had asked passers-by to know the location of Kotwali thana, SI Rauf said. But Shahid could not locate any red-brick building which he mentioned during his surrender to Kotwali police, Rauf added. CID team then left for Dhaka the same night, Rauf said.

Aid Group meet

From Page 1 tion, progress of reform programmes and successes achieved so far in various sectors. The issue of aid pledge will not come up in the meeting as the aid flow in the near future is not likely to be hampered, said an official handout yesterday. The main issue of the meeting will be the present status of the steps undertaken by the government for achieving intended economic goals. The decision to hold the mid-term consultative meeting was taken in the previous meeting held in the city on November 4-5 last year. It was also decided that the next full fledged meeting of the group will be held in Paris next year. Besides, the meeting renamed Bangladesh Aid Group as Bangladesh Development Forum, the handout added.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11, Road No. 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 866772-4, Commercial: 866771, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net

Regional Council Bill

From Page 1 concerned. The original provision in the bill had said that the government would have to consult the RC or the hill district council concerned in such cases. The JP lawmakers' amendment proposals, which were rejected by voice-vote, include renaming the Regional Council as Development Council. The Speaker allowed an unspecified time to the JP lawmakers to speak on their amendments. Each of them got 13 minutes on an average against the practised time of one minute to two minutes in such cases. Winding up the debate on the bill, Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru said the proposed Regional Council is neither a local government nor a local authority. "It's just a coordinating body," he said.

President assents to two bills

President Shahabuddin Ahmed on Tuesday assented to two bills passed by parliament in its current session, reports UNB. The bills are the Employment Bill 1998 and the Bangladesh Folklore Crafts Foundation Bill 1998, said a press release of the Parliament Secretariat.

Dhaka-Calcutta

From Page 1 berty. The Express said, the bus service between Calcutta and Dhaka may begin on May 26 as a "token" even if the centre's approval of the regular service did not come by that day. Three buses would leave Calcutta on that day, carrying the first batch of passengers, including journalists, The Express said. Subash could not, however, say if he expected the Vajpayee government's approval to come by that time. "We are mounting pressure on Delhi to clear it soon," the minister was quoted as saying. Meanwhile, when contacted, a Bangladeshi official said they had no knowledge about the reported bus service between Calcutta and Dhaka from May 26. "There are still some points which are expected to be settled at a subsequent meeting between the two governments," he said.

President: Banking sector

From Page 1 cials, directors and loan takers have been put under examination because banks deal with countless depositors whose interests, if threatened, will bring the economy to a halt. This underscores the heightened need for promoting ethics in banking and related institutions, the President said. The President expressed happiness over the government's strong worded commitments to take to task the loan defaulters, to punish the offending bank officials, to free the banks from undesirable union pressures and allow the banking sector to function professionally within a supportive legal framework. "But, people are still awaiting implementation of these commitments," he said. Speaking on the occasion, Finance Minister SAMS Kibria said the government is committed to bring the defaulters to the book. "People responsible for laundering money from the banks will not get away. Sooner or later we will get them." He, however, acknowledged that the government was a bit slow in this regard. Bangladesh Bank Governor Lutfor Rahman Sarkar said the Central Bank and the finance ministry are working hard to restore discipline in the banking sector.

Regional Council Bill

From Page 1 statutory body and in no way it will hamper the unitary character of the government. The government has the full authority to dissolve it," Khasru said adding that the Council will have no legislative authority. Citing relevant Constitutional provisions, he said the government has the power to form such public statutory body like the proposed Council. Criticising BNP's stand on the Regional Council bill, the Law Minister said they are making statements dishing out falsehood to confuse the people. The proposed Regional Council will supervise and coordinate all development activities under the three hill district councils.

JCD activists

From Page 1 238 were ousted. Meanwhile, the DU Syndicate, at an emergency meeting yesterday, prohibited all kinds of rallies, processions and slogans on the campus during the rehabilitation process. The Syndicate requested the Vice Chancellor of university to take a decision, after consulting the student organisations, whether processions and rallies on the campus could be banned for some days to maintain law and order. UNB adds: Dhaka University Teachers' Association yesterday called for taking steps so that all genuine students of the university can stay at their respective dormitories without disturbance. The association made the call at its general meeting held with its President A F M Yusuf Haider in the chair. Taking stock of the overall campus situation, the meeting appealed to all concerned, including the students organisations, to refrain from terrorist acts on the campus. It also condemned police attack on general students at Jashuddin Hall on April 23 and demanded exemplary punishment to those involved in the incident.

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Sporadic clashes mark hartal

From Page 1 rrupted as pickets detained a train at Bogra station at 7 pm. They also put up barricade at Kahalu and Bonpara stations near Bogra station. In the city, pro-hartal activists set tyres on fire in various areas. They also damaged some vehicles in Naya Paltan, Mahakhali and Gabtali areas and set at least two rickshaws on fire at Nayabazar and Bijoy-nagar. A BNP procession started from party office at Tanti Bazar under Kotwali thana at about 11:30 am. The processionists were confronted by anti-hartal activists, with the support of police, at Dholakhal. At one stage, some of the processionists hurled bricks and crackers at police, in which Harez Talukder, a sub-inspector of police was injured. The chase and counter-chase between the rivals spread to entire Nayabazar area and clashes lasted about two hours. During the clashes, police picked up five of the processionists and the others fled. But they later retaliated with gunshots at police. Police responded with at least eleven rounds of gunshots, said police sources. Two police constables, identified as Mohammad Ali and Nuruzzaman, suffered bullet wounds during the two-hour long battle. Rashid Talukder, a photo-journalist of the Ittefaq, was injured when chased by pickets at Tanti Bazar. He was given first aid. Police lobbed about 50 rounds of tear gas shells to disperse the pro-hartal activists. Clashes between pro and anti hartal activists broke out at Motijheel when a BNP procession led by Sadek Hossain Khoka and Shahjahan Siraj came face to face with an anti-hartal procession of Freedom Fighters Rehabilitation Society near the Dhaka Stock Exchange at about 9:30 am. Chase and counter-chase between the two sides spread to the whole area from Shapla Chattar to the Ittefaq Crossing. Both the groups fired shots and hurled crackers that left four persons wounded. The bullet-hit were identified as: Kala Mia (50) and Ismail Mollah (45). Police lobbed at least 10 rounds of tear gas shells to bring back normalcy in the area. The activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and Jappa attacked some buses and tempos in Nayabazar area. Crackers were exploded there: A tempo driver was injured in the area, DMCH sources said. Rahmatullah, MP of Awami League, who was leading an anti-hartal procession on the Airport Road at Mahakhali told this correspondent "the decision to bring out anti-hartal procession today was taken at a

BNP condemns 'armed attacks' on processions during hartal

BNP blamed the ruling party and police for armed attacks on processions during the half-day hartal yesterday, reports UNB. Addressing a post-hartal press conference, City BNP Convener Sadek Hossain Khoka said the ruling party let loose its armed terrorists during hartal hours. He accused the police of helping the armed terrorists and condemned the attacks on pro-hartal activists in different parts of the country. Khoka said more than 500 people were injured, some with bullets, during the hartal across the country. He said the complete picture was not yet available from all the districts. He reaffirmed BNP's stand to thwart implementation of the 'black' CHT accord. In the capital, he said ruling party activists and his three goons equipped with arms and aided by police attacked BNP processions led by its central leaders at Motijheel, Ittefaq Crossing, Paltan, Farmgate, Mirpur, Dhanmondi, Mahakhali, Jatrabari and Demra.

Khaleda

From Page 1 the present government has been isolated from the people," she said. Begum Zia also accused the ruling party of making attack on the peaceful processions of BNP by its armed terrorists during the hartal hours across the country. "Several hundred BNP activists were injured in the attacks. Police also arrested a good number of BNP supporters yesterday," she said.

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