

BNP preparing for Tuesday's hunger strike

By Staff Correspondent
BNP is contacting different professional bodies and opposition parties to draw their support for the planned dawn-to-dusk hunger strike by the party MPs on Tuesday at the Paltan Maidan in the city, sources in the party said yesterday.

BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia and other party MPs are scheduled to observe the hunger strike demanding repeal of the CHT accord and the laws enacted for its implementation.

The token hunger strike is also aimed at protesting 'deterioration of law and order, price hike of essentials and crisis of gas, power and drinking water'.

The programme is scheduled to start at 8 am and continue till 5 pm. The BNP lawmakers See Page 12 Col 2

Prof Mahmud to take initiative to end BUET deadlock

By Staff Correspondent

Prof Iqbal Mahmud, who resigned from the post of Vice-Chancellor of BUET on May 4, is now making a move to bring about an end to the deadlock at the university, sources said.

Prof Mahmud is likely to have a series of dialogues with the BUET Teachers Association today. The BUET teachers are on an indefinite strike since May 5 demanding return of Prof Mahmud as VC.

When contacted over telephone last night, Prof Mahmud confirmed that he would take an initiative to resolve the crisis. He, however, did not elaborate.

Some senior teachers of BUET, while talking to this correspondent, observed that a meeting of Association leaders

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CU classes resume amid tight security

CHITTAGONG, May 9: Classes of Chittagong University resumed today amidst tight security. No untoward incident took place, reports UNB.

On Wednesday, a student was killed during an attack by Islamic Chhatra Shibir activists to capture halls of the university.

Campus sources said the shuttle train of the university resumed its service today under police escort. The train stopped its service after a train driver was wounded in a gunfire by miscreants on May 3.

Restriction on entry of outsiders to DU halls

The Provosts Standing Committee of Dhaka University has decided to allow only residential students to enter their respective dormitories, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the committee yesterday afternoon. Vice-Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury and Proctor of the university were also present.

The meeting also decided that the main gates of the residential halls will be closed at 11 pm every night.

Nothing other than the resi-

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No fresh loans unless arrears repaid : Kibria

Star Business Report

Finance Minister Shah A M Kibria yesterday categorically said that the borrowers who did not repay their earlier loans would not get fresh loans from banks and other financial institutions.

He, however, said that those who paid back all bank loans would not face any difficulty in getting government help and financial support from the banks.

He was speaking as chief guest at a roundtable discussion arranged by the Federation of Bangladeshi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) at a city hotel.

Minister for Industries and Commerce Tofael Ahmed also addressed the meeting as special guest.

Leaders of different chambers and sectors like garments, textile, jute, leather, frozen food, steel and engineering, specialised textiles and capital market took part in the discussion, presided over by FBCCI President Yussuf Abdullah Harun.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Lutfar Rahman Sarker replied to questions on bank-related issues raised by the chamber leaders and businessmen during the three-hour discussion in presence of the two ministers.

The governor was assisted by managing directors of different nationalised and private commercial banks.

Arrest of BCL leader

Fresh violence feared at Mymensingh

By Reaz Ahmed, back from Mymensingh

Additional police force aided by two platoons of BDR personnel have been kept on alert to contain fresh violence over arrest of BCL leader at Mymensingh.

In the face of mounting pressure from local political high-ups for release of the student leader, the district administration of Mymensingh received directives from Dhaka to go tough in checking violence and not to bother about the political identity of those involved.

The trouble began on May 4 with a dispute over a small piece of land at Gohalkandi in Mymensingh town. Residents of the area caught an alleged toll collector, Mukul, on the day and handed him over to police.

But, later on the day, a section of youths reportedly led by Vice President of Ananda Mohan University College Students' Union, Moshtaque Ahmed Ruhি, stormed Kotwali to snatch Mukul from police custody.

The following two days were like a nightmare for the people of Mymensingh town as arrest of Ruhি and four others led to

rowdy protests from the ruling Awami League's student front Bangladesh Chhatra League. BCL activists put up barricades on rail tracks both on Tuesday and Wednesday, keeping thousands of train passengers stranded.

District administration officials, seeking anonymity, told The Daily Star yesterday that ruling party leaders in the district were mounting pressure for immediate release of Ruhি.

"We are in a state of restlessness. Every now and then they (the leaders) are visiting us and insisting on his release," said an official. "And, we are assuring them that law will take its own course."

He, however, said it was because of clear directive from the ministry concerned in Dhaka not to bow to any pressure. "We could, so far, withstand the mounting pressure."

During a day-long visit to Mymensingh town yesterday, this correspondent talked with local political leaders, police officials and also a cross section of people. They all appear-

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Talat Mahmood passes away

MUMBAI, May 9: Legendary singer Talat Mahmood, who held sway over music-lovers between the 40s and 60s — the golden era of Hindi cinema — with his melodious rendition of emotional songs, died here today following a heart attack at the age of 75, reports PTI.

Talat, whose forte was ghazal singing, transformed the music scene in the 40s with his soulful rendering of songs in Bengali, Hindi, Urdu and Gujarati.

Born on February 24, 1924, the handsome well-dressed man from Lucknow first got his foothold in the film industry in 1945 at Calcutta as a hero in

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Admission seekers coming out of an examination hall at Dhaka University after appearing in the admission test yesterday.

— Star photo

Gulshan Lake

Construction work still continues

By Staff Correspondent

Many developers are still continuing construction work on the banks of Gulshan lake.

Minister for Housing and Public Works Mohammad Nasim had directed Rajuk to take necessary steps to stop all construction on the banks of Gulshan Lake until completion of an investigation in to how plots were allotted after filling up the lake.

The business leaders who took part in the discussion were, President of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (MCCI) Laila Rahman Kabir, President of Dhaka Chamber Rashed Maksud Khan, President of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Mostafa Golam Qudus, President of Bangladesh Association of Banks Abdul Awal Minto, President of Bangladesh Frozen Food Exporters Association Golam Mostafa, Chairman of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association Mohammad Shahjahan, Vice-Chairman of Bangladesh Jute Association (BJA) Rezaul Karim, Chairman of Bangladesh Jute Mills Association Mirza Ali Behrouz Ispahani and Dhaka Stock Exchange Chairman Rakibur Rahman.

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The minister visited the lake area on Wednesday following reports on indiscriminate filling up of the lake in The Daily Star. He issued an on-the-spot directive to Rajuk to conduct a survey to determine the extent of encroachment in the area.

According to sources in Rajuk, the Estate section and the

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