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Ctg Steel Mills workers' hunger strike deferred

CHITTAGONG, May 10: The planned mass hunger strike by the workers of Chittagong Steel Mills to protest payoff has been deferred at the eleventh hour to Wednesday, reports UNB.

Sramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad and the district unit of SKOP at a joint meeting last night announced the fresh date for the hunger strike that was scheduled to begin today.

Alleged criminal killed in shootout

By Staff Correspondent

An alleged criminal was killed in a shootout between police and a gang of miscreants at Tejgaon truck stand in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

The dead was identified as Liton, 15, son of Sona Miah, a resident of Tejgunipara Rail Colony.

Tejgaon police said the incident took place when the gang led by Liton attacked a truck driver, Shah Alam, with sharp weapons and snatched money from him at about 12.15.

Being informed, police rushed to the spot and chased the gang. The gang hurled bombs and fired at police. Police also fired shots, one of which hit Liton in the waist.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctor declared him dead.

They all knew about

From Page 1

For thousands of alcohol consumers in the town and the surrounding villages, rectified spirit served as a cheap mean of intoxication, said local people of different walks of life.

One person who worked as a source for the local Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) said thousands of people belonging to low income groups were "addicted" to the spirit which used to be made available through 10-12 homeopathic shops in Narsingdi. These shops obtained the spirit under a license issued by DNC in Dhaka for use in their medicines. The authorities sealed off nine of these shops. The police said they also closed down the only licensed liquor shop of the town that sold "genuine" liquor made by Darshana for consumption.

But as the business promised instant cash, "unemployed youths with political connections" started to procure the stuff directly from sources in Dhaka. One ounce (roughly one peg) of the spirit cost Tk 5 to 10 in the retail market and "about three ounces" are enough to "get the kick", he said.

"The police, DNC and every-

PM warns officials Tough action for anti-govt acts

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has warned tough action against government officials involved in acts against the interest of the government and the people, reports UNB.

"Action would be taken against the government officials who are working against the government and the people," she said.

Her warning came at a special extended meeting of Dhaka City Awami League at her Tejgaon office yesterday on the eve of a countrywide hartal called by the BNP-led opposition alliance today.

The meeting was attended by Mayor Mohammad Hanif, MPs of Dhaka city, ward commissioners and ward Awami League leaders.

Hasina, President of the ruling Awami League, alerted her party colleagues against opposition's "evil" design to create instability by unleashing terrorism in the country.

She denounced the opposition's frequent hartal as an illogical act and asked the Awami League leaders, activists and supporters to play their assigned role in maintaining peace and ensuring security of public life and property.

one in the local administration knew of the booming trade and collected regular *hapta* (weekly toll) and kept mum as long as it did not create any nuisance," said a DNC source.

Local DNC sources said there were four companies in the country producing an "unspecified" amount of ethanol. The companies are Carew & Co, Jamuna Distillery, Marshal Distillery and Rangpur Distillery.

The Deputy Commissioner of Narsingdi, Rafiqul Islam, told this correspondent that during the district law and order meetings over the last years, he had asked the DNC to be extra vigilant over the "supply" of alcohol. He said he had even warned the DNC following Gaibandha incident that took 69 lives.

Islam said he had offered the victims' families Tk 20,000 and five metric tonnes of rice.

At West Duttapara of the town alone, some 36 people have died after consuming the "spirit". The local graveyard had lines of fresh graves. Many families who lost their loved ones said they were too poor to send their dying relatives to Dhaka for treatment.

PM warns officials

City Awami League president and Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif presided over the meeting, attended by Awami League general secretary and LGED Minister Zillur Rahman as special guest.

Referring to current power and water problems, the Prime Minister said necessary initiatives had been taken to resolve these problems. She urged the electricity consumers to pay their actual bills and stop stealing power.

She said donors who had ceased to fund power sector because of corruption of the BNP regime regained confidence in the Awami League government and resumed assistance.

WDB officials

From Page 1

to give them all the contracts involving Tk 15 crore for renovation of the Rajshahi Town Protection Embankment.

The persons armed with firearms, attacked offices of Superintending Engineer K M Anwar Hossain, Executive Engineer Yasin Ali and some other officials on Tuesday and Wednesday. They ransacked the offices and manhandled them. They threatened the officials with death if the contracts were not given to their contractors by Sunday last, the source claimed.

The frightened officials left their quarters at the WDB Colony in the city on Thursday and did not come back yet, the sources said.

Some journalists including this correspondent visited the colony this afternoon and saw six quarters of the officials under lock and key.

Other residents said the persons visited the colony today in microbus and threatened them also. They are also thinking to leave their dormitories because of insecurity, they said.

None in the colony and the WDB office could say where the officials have gone with their families.

Rajshahi City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, Workers' Party Politbureau member Fazle Hossain Badsha, Jatiya Party city unit general secretary Mostafa Ahmed Labu, Jamaat-e-Islami city ameer Ataur Rahman and general secretary of WDB Contractors' Association Jamat Khan in separate statements condemned the attack on WDB officials and demanded immediate arrest of the "terrorists" to ensure renovations of the Rajshahi Town Protection Embankment.

Tk 18 lakh, gun of Mymensingh City Bank snatched

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, May 10: A group of miscreants snatched away Tk 17.9 lakh and a gun from two employees of City Bank local branch this morning.

Police said, Shariful Islam, cash officer and Fazlul Hoque, a guard of the branch located at Chhoto Bazar, were going to Sonali Bank main branch at Jubilee Ghat by a rickshaw to deposit the amount there. When they reached Bipin Park point at about 9:30 am, four miscreants waylaid them and took away Tk 17.9 lakh and the gun. During the incident the miscreants hurled several bombs.

Fazlul Hoque received severe bomb injuries. He was admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH). A case was lodged with Kotwali thana in this regard.

HC suo moto

From Page 1

(f) defamation and (g) incitement to an offence.

Referring to Dr Lohia's case, he submitted that the rights and freedom guaranteed by the Constitution are not absolute. It may sometimes be necessary to limit rights and freedom in circumstances where their exercise is inimical to the realisation of collective goals of fundamental importance.

Quoting from the Constitutional Government and Democracy by Friedrich, Dr Hamid said, "I have a right to be free from the impending threat that heathen cases. It is the state's responsibility to ensure my right."

As per the "Declaration on the Right of People's to Peace," it is the duty of all states to do their utmost to assist in implementing people's right to peace through adoption of appropriate measures both at national and international levels. Dr Hamid said.

Discarding the statement of Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, he submitted that he was justified in a colonial situation when "we were dominated by an alien regime and struggled for self-determination."

Referring his case study on Hawaii, Dr Hamid said, "The struggle for self-determination or ventilation of legitimate grievances in support of a secessionist claim by a people takes place under the situations where there is (1) denial of the right to physical existence (2) denial of racial equality (3) economic exploitation (4) forcible annexation through threat and/or aggression and (5) annexation through unequal treaty."

"We do not have any of the situations now."

Referring to the Doctrine of Necessity he said, "In order to respond to the crisis situation which has arisen, this Hon'ble Criminal Bench is fully equipped to declare any hartal-related activity illegal."

Both Zillur Rahman and Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan have argued purposely and directly or indirectly in favour of hartal, he said.

Therefore, to echo the decision of the Kerala High Court in Palicha Case, the court should take note of the fact that the increasing frequency of calling, holding and enforcing hartal ... and the destruction of public and private property cannot be ignored by this Hon'ble Court," he submitted.

Dr Aktar Hamid was assisted by Advocate Rafique-ul Islam Mehedi, Md Abdul Aziz and Salma Rahman.

Larma agrees

From Page 1

ri for Dhaka, he told newsmen that he would take charge of the interim RC as its Chairman on the basis of "assurance" from the Prime Minister to implement the CHT peace agreement. But he gave no date for the takeover, our Khagrachhari correspondent reported.

Larma had a meeting with high officials at state guest house Meghna in the capital last night. Details were not available.

He is seeking an appointment with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Middlesex

From Page 1

Electing to bat first, Bangladesh were on 203 for two in 43.4 overs when the rains came to deny Bangladesh their full innings.

Akram, who scored 58 against Essex in their first warm-up match at Chelmsford last Saturday, scored his back-to-back fifty to help Bangladesh cross the two-hundred mark.

Coming to bat at number three with Bangladesh on 30, Akram, the right-hander, shared an 82-run partnership with opener Shahriar Hossain before the latter was out on 52 off 80 balls.

Akram then shared an unbeaten 91-run stand with Aminul before rain hampered the proceedings.

Bangladesh will play another warm-up match against Northamptonshire tomorrow before they take on New Zealand in their first World Cup match at Chelmsford on May 17.

(Scoreboard on page 15)

7 more directors

From Page 1

challenging the notices which were dismissed on July 1, 1997. Eight of them excluding Mintoo went to the Supreme Court, which also dismissed the cases.

In the latest case, these seven directors of the three commercial banks had been continuing as directors defying the judgement of the courts. In August, they were served with notices by the Bangladesh Bank reminding them that they continued as directors of the banks.

In September, all these directors once again moved similar writs challenging the notices and obtained stay orders from the High Court.

Yesterday, the HC bench comprising Justice Kazi Ebadul Huq and Moazzam Hossain discharged their petitions after hearing both sides.

The same court on Sunday last discharged similar petitions by five directors of three commercial banks. The five, including Sohel and Salman Rahman of Beximco Group, yesterday went to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

Their appeals, made to Justice B B Roy Chowdhury, would be heard by the Full Bench on Thursday.

Earlier on March 16, a High Court judge asked three NBL directors and two senior central bank officials to explain why they should not be charged with contempt of court and directed them to appear in person before the court by April 12.

The court issued its ruling on the NBL chairman M Nurul Islam, its managing director Rafiqul Islam Khan, director Abdul Awal Mintoo, Bangladesh Bank executive director Ziaul Hassan Siddique and Bangladesh Bank general manager Yeasin Ali.

The court order came after a depositor had filed a contempt petition against them for violating court directives.

The court will resume hearing on the contempt petition next week.

Dweep Kanya

From Page 1

survived floating on a wooden raft for about four hours before being rescued by a fishing boat.

Aluminium bowls of the traders helped many others to float during the hour-long storm.

Fishermen said they saw a woman along with three minor children drown after more than three hours of struggle for life just when they had located them.

Health Policy okayed

From Page 1

The Foundation comprising civil servants and representatives from the civil society, would get Canadian funds to implement various projects for poverty alleviation in rural areas and empowerment of women, Cabinet sources said.

The idea of creating such a Foundation came as the donor wanted to make sure that every paisa would be utilised properly, a Cabinet member said.

However, the health policy, proposed by the health ministry, was approved by the Cabinet only after the Health Minister argued that just approval of the policy "would not affect" the national exchequer.

The Health Minister had to come up with the argument as the Finance Ministry had been objecting certain provisions of the draft policy on the ground that their implementation would require a lot of extra money, which the government could not spend right at the moment.

The Ministry of Establishment also objected certain provisions as their implementation would require recruitment of more manpower, which the government was not a position to do.

Referring to the objections, the minister told his colleagues in the Cabinet that mere approval of the policy would not require extra money and manpower. He assured them that his ministry would have prior consultation with other ministries concerned before it takes up certain projects that would involve extra expenditure, sources close to the Health Minister said.

However, the main objectives of the National Health Policy are to provide necessary and better medicare services to people of all sections of society, particularly the poor in rural and urban areas, an official handout said last night.

The objectives of the policy also include elimination of malnutrition, especially among children and mothers as well as effective and integrated programmes for improving nutritional intake of people.

The policy is aimed at ensuring full-time presence of doctors, nurses and other staff at thana health complexes and union health and family welfare sub-centres.

It provides for increase in facilities relating to reproductive health services.

The policy also outlines the need for maintenance of necessary medical equipment and medicines.

Manzur Kader arrested

Former state minister and BNP leader Major (rtd) Manzur Kader was arrested from his Dhanmudi office yesterday, reports UNB.

His family and office sources said some plainclothes policemen entered his office at noon and took him out with them.

A senior Special Branch officer told UNB that Manzur Kader was arrested. He was not produced before the court or concerned police station till filling of the report in the evening.

The law-enforcing agency sources said there were several cases against him.

Hartal

From Page 1

The hartal campaign in the capital, took out a dozen torch processions simultaneously from Nawab Yusuf Market, New Market, Mirpur No 1, Pallabi, West Kafrul, Mohakhali, Badda Hossain Ali Market, Moham-madpur, Farmgate, Shyampur, Khilgaon Chowrashtia and Uttara. Central and local BNP leaders led those processions.

BNP's main torch procession was brought out from Nawab Yusuf Market that ended at Paltan crossing. Central leaders Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Sadek Hossain Khoka, Major Gen (Retd) Z A Khan and Jonyal Abedin Faruq led the procession.

Prior to bringing out the procession, city BNP convenor Sadek Hossain briefly addressed a gathering. He said the half-day hartal will be observed peacefully and asked the ruling Awami League not to carry out any provocative activities as it did in the past.

"We must resist if we find the goons of Nasim (Home Minister) obstructing us in the street tomorrow. We will face them politically and establish people's fundamental rights," he said.

Jatiya Party brought out a torch procession from Muktangan area, Jamaat from Engineers' Institution while IOJ took out a procession from Purnana Paltan Square.

UNB adds: Some 5,000 police and paramilitary BDR are likely to patrol the city streets during the hartal hours.

The decision to deploy additional police and BDR personnel in the city was taken at a meeting of senior police officials at the Police Headquarters yesterday.

দ্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে সরকারী খাতে সকল ধরনের রাজস্ব জমা গ্রহণের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

জনসাধারণের সুবিধার্থে জেলা শহরসমূহের সোনালী ব্যাংকের ৫৯টি চেষ্টা শাখা, থানা সদরের ৩৯৯টি ননচেষ্টা দ্রেজারী শাখা এবং ঢাকা, রাজশাহী, চট্টগ্রাম, খুলনা, বরিশাল, সিলেট, বগুড়া এবং রংপুরের ৪৬টি শাখায় দ্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে সরকারী খাতে সকল ধরনের জমা গ্রহণ করা হয়। চেষ্টা শাখা এবং নন চেষ্টা দ্রেজারী শাখাসমূহ ছাড়াও সরকারী খাতে জমা গ্রহণের অন্যান্য শাখাসমূহ হলো-

- ঢাকা ১ : ফকিরাপুল শাখা
২। যাত্রাবাড়ী শাখা
৩। গুলশান নিউ নর্থ সার্কেল শাখা
৪। মালিবাগ শাখা
৫। খিলগাঁও শাখা
৬। বাড্ডা শাখা
৭। বনানী শাখা
৮। ফার্মগেট শাখা
৯। রোকেয়া সরণী শাখা
১০। মিরপুর শিল্প এলাকা শাখা
১১। মোহাম্মদপুর শাখা
১২। লালমাটিয়া শাখা
১৩। বিকাতলা শাখা
১৪। সোনারগাঁও রোড শাখা
১৫। মগবাজার শাখা
১৬। লালবাগ রোড শাখা
১৭। নবাবপুর রোড শাখা
১৮। ডিক্রিট কাউন্সিল হল শাখা
১৯। সদরঘাট কর্পোরেশন শাখা
২০। বঙ্গবন্ধু এ্যাভিনিউ কর্পোরেট শাখা
রাজশাহী ১ : রাজশাহী কর্পোরেশন শাখা
২। রাজশাহী কোর্ট বিল্ডিং শাখা
৩। রাজশাহী রেলওয়ে কমপ্লেক্স শাখা
৪। মতিহার শাখা

উল্লেখিত শাখা সমূহে ব্যাংকিং লেনদেন চলাকালীন সময়ে দ্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে জনসাধারণ তাদের সকল ধরনের সরকারী রাজস্ব জমা দিতে পারেন।

সোনালী ব্যাংক

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LIGHTS

A TASTE APART