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Non-govt primary school teachers continue strike

By Staff Correspondent
Thousands of non-government primary teachers abstained from taking classes for the eighth consecutive day yesterday demanding nationalisation of their jobs.
According to a press release of the Bangladesh Non-government Primary Teachers Association (BNPTA), academic activities in some 23,000 non-government primary schools across the country remained suspended since February 27 as the teachers are kept schools under lock and key.
The work abstention programme will continue till March 10, the press release said.
Apart from the abstention programme, teachers will hold demonstrations at the thana headquarters, hand over memoranda to thana education officers (TEOs) and thana nirbahi officers (TNOs) today.
The BNPTA hinted that they would announce a tougher movement through a grand rally at Paltan Maidan in the last week of April if the government failed to meet their demand.
Earlier, the BNPTA held several programmes including the sit-in at Osmani Uddyan from January 2 to 31, token hunger strike and fast-unto-death for realising the one point demand.

One burnt alive, 5 hurt at Rupganj

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, Mar 5: One child was burnt alive and five others were injured in a fire at Rupganj in the district in the early hours of yesterday.
According to police and witnesses, the fire originated from an electric short circuit at the house of Haji Abdul Mannan near Kachpur Omar Ali High School at around 3 am and soon engulfed the adjacent houses.
Suman, 10, son of Abdul Mannan burnt alive as he was asleep inside the house. Other members of the family, however, managed to escape.
Fire fighting units from Demra rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze with the help of local people.

Human chain in front of Sect

By Staff Correspondent
Women from 64 districts formed a human chain in front of the Secretariat yesterday morning demanding direct election of women to the parliament and also increase in the number of seats for women.
The hour-long human chain, organised by Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS), comprised women representatives from each of the 64 districts.
They said women have contributed to successful movements but these are not being recognised.
The human chain was organised in observance of the 90th International Women's Day to be held on March 8.
BNPS has also organised street rally and drama to protest against repression on women on March 8, 9 and 10.
Among those who spoke were student leader Chaitali Tripura, Bangladesh Communist Party leader Krishna Rahman, journalist Nasimun Ara Huq and Shahjahan Shumi.

Jute, textile mills workers observe strike

By Staff Correspondent
About two lakh workers in jute, yarn and textile mills across the country yesterday observed a 24-hour strike demanding implementation of the Wages Commission's report, an end to denationalisation and payment of bonus and salaries.
Workers of Adamjee Jute Mills, Bawani Jute Mills, Karim Jute Mills, UMC Jute Mills, Platinum Jute Mills, Crescent Jute Mills, People's Jute Mills, Eastern Jute Mills, Ajeem Jute Mills, Rajshahi Jute Mills, Quami Jute Mills, Hafiz Jute Mills, R B Jute Mills and Amin Jute Mills peacefully observed the strike called by Jute, Yarn and Textile Mills Action Council.

2 killed, thousands arrested as protests paralyse Bihar

Dawn-to-dusk strike turns violent
PATNA, India, Mar 5: Two people died and several thousand were arrested as the eastern Indian state of Bihar was paralysed today by a general strike called to protest the appointment of a new provincial government after inconclusive elections, reports AFP.
Shops and hospitals were closed and civilian traffic stayed off the roads as violence rocked Bihar, India's most lawless province.
"The railways have been targeted by the protesters. There have been several cases of mob violence," K.A. Jacob, Bihar police chief told AFP.
"We have arrested about 5,000 people," he said, adding

BDR asked to curb border deals Smuggling a major cause of economic recession: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina identified smuggling as one of the main causes of economic recession and asked the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday to curb cross border smuggling for rapid economic growth, reports UNB.
"It is only possible for the skilled BDR men to protect the frontier, help maintain law and order, and effectively control smuggling," she said addressing the BDR parade at Peelkhana in the morning.
A smart contingent of BDR personnel joined the parade on the occasion of BDR Week-2000 and presented an impressive march past. The prime minister inspected the guard and took salute.
Addressing the BDR officials and personnel, Hasina said socio-economic development is linked with the curbing of smuggling and maintaining law and order.
The prime minister assured that the government would also continue its effort to make the BDR more modern and increase facilities for the force. She advised them to maintain physical fitness and enhance professional skill.
Referring to various problem of the frontier force, she said the government has taken some necessary steps to address their problems and added that a Rifle Square is being constructed under the supervision of BDR.
The money collected from the Rifle Square will be spent for the welfare of the BDR and their family members, she said, adding that the government has also decided to hand over the Diesel Plant at Gazipur to BDR.
The prime minister said the BDR strength would be increased by another 4,000 recruitment.
Home Minister Mohammad Nasim and BDR Director General Maj Gen ALM Fazlur Rahman were present at the dais with the Prime Minister who distributed the BDR and the President's Rifle medals.
Later, the prime minister addressed the sector commanders of the frontier force at the BDR headquarters building and asked them to take special steps for controlling smuggling.
Hasina specially directed the BDR officials to control smuggling of diesel, arms and ammunition, drugs, insecticide, sugar, salt and industrial products.
She also asked them to make

Urban air pollution Bangladesh incurs \$60-240m health costs a year: Temple

Economic value of health costs incurred from urban air pollution in Bangladesh is between 60 and 240 million US dollars per year, reports UNB.
World Bank country director Frederick Temple gave the estimate at a global workshop on the problem of air pollution in the city yesterday.
"The poor are particularly affected by air pollution. They are more exposed because they work on the street for long hours and at times live and die by the side of the road," he said.
He observed their poor nutrition and health meant they have less resistance to disease, which is compounded by their limited access to health care.
"With little or no savings, a day lost to ill health can mean a day without meeting basic needs, further contributing to a vicious cycle of sickness, reduced productivity and lower income."
In general terms, Temple said, the health costs associated with air pollution slow the economic growth that is essential if Bangladesh is to significantly reduce poverty.
The World Bank country



Sacrificial animals have started arriving at cattle markets as Eid-ul-Azha nears. This picture was taken from Sharulia Bazar at Demra. — Star photo

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"We have arrested about 5,000 people," he said, adding



Former president and Jatiya Party chairman H M Ershad (left) talks with a lawyer in the High Court yesterday. Ershad went to the court for arranging bail for his son Shad Ershad who was arrested on Saturday on abduction charges. — Star photo

Shahjalal Varsity Samad Azad offers talks with APAC

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Mar 5: A dawn-to-dusk hartal enforced by the All-Party Action Committee (Opposition) was observed here peacefully while Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad attended a reception accorded to him and a workers' meeting defying hartal amid tight security.
The Action Committee has been agitating for immediate withdrawal of the names of different halls and buildings of the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology.
All modes of transports were off the roads while the commercial establishments remained shut during the hartal. Attendance in the government and private offices was thin and there was no transaction in the commercial banks.
The vehicles carrying examiners and Hajj pilgrims were exempted from hartal. But they suffered much due to the non-availability of transports.
Hinting at the All Party Action Committee (Opposition), Samad Azad called for a dialogue on the Shahjalal University issue. He offered the dialogue while addressing a reception and a workers' meeting of the ruling party at the Saroda Hall this afternoon.
Though the minister was scheduled to arrive in Sylhet by a Biman flight this morning, he came here at 10 last night by Biman. He said, there is no alternative to dialogue. If you are sincere over the issue, come to dialogue to solve the crises, he added.
Otherwise, law will take its own course. We have tolerated for four months, we want to see the academic atmosphere is restored totally at the Shahjalal University, the minister said. Those who are engaged in creating chaos and confusion and made the life miserable will be dealt with seriously. The People's Safety Act will be used against those who are out to keep the situation unstable here by using illegal arms, he said. We want peace and we want rule of law, he added.
Getting no issue, the Action Committee people are out to destroy the Shahjalal University, Azad said adding we want to reopen the varsity. We have talked to the President and Chancellor, who had already suspended decision on naming of halls and buildings at the university, he said. But the Action Committee is engaged in creating a state of vandalism. The government has nothing to do with the naming, it is now up to the Chancellor and the Senate, he said. We urged the Action Committee to sit with the AL for talks, but they did not respond, he added.

Protesters disrupt distribution of admission forms at DU

By DU Correspondent
Some student organisations disrupted the distribution of admission forms of Dhaka University yesterday, the first day of form distribution.
The left-leaning student organisations under the banner of Anti-imperialism 12-party Students' Alliance (ASA) put up barricade at the three form selling centres at Agrani Bank at Curzon Hall, Janata Bank at TSC and Sonali Bank at the Registrar Building in the morning to bar applicants from buying form protesting increase in price of admission forms.
The price of admission form of first year honours courses has been fixed at Tk 225, which was Tk 200 earlier. The price has been increased after two years.
The university authorities said the price increase is due to some extra measures to check the fake admission. "The price is still less than some other universities including BUET and Chittagong University."
Later, at a press conference at the administrative building, the authorities termed the incident as "very regretful" as the admission seekers and their guardians did not make any complaint for the increased price.
"The price is not enough to meet cost involved in the admission procedure, and the authorities might have to subsidise more if the forms were not sold like last year," said vice-chancellor Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury.
He said the university will

BSCIC estates to be made industrial parks

In a major policy decision, the government decided yesterday to turn all BSCIC industrial estates in districts into industrial parks with more facilities and logistic supports, reports UNB.
A meeting of the Board of Investment (BOI) with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presiding over took the decision to facilitate industrialisation and increase in investment, both domestic and foreign.
"Take all-out steps for attracting foreign investment," she asked the authorities concerned emphasising fast decision and their speedy implementation for industrialisation and investment.

Student, autorickshaw driver murdered

By Staff Correspondent
A teenage student and an autorickshaw driver were murdered allegedly by the same gang at Balurmath under Pallab Police Station in the city within a span of 12 hours ending at 6 am yesterday.
The dead were identified as Moniruzzaman, 18, son of Abdul Latif Mollah, a student of German Technical School and Milon, 25, an auto-rickshaw driver, son of Golam Rabbani, of Pallab.
Moniruzzaman was attacked at Balurmath Basti in Mirpur by the gang at about 5:30 pm on Saturday.
Hospital sources quoting the victim's father said his son along with some of his friends came out of their house at about 2:30 pm to watch a movie at Pallab Cinema Hall.
Soon after they reached the cinema hall, a gang of miscreants comprising Anwar, Babu, Hannan, Salauddin and Kashem swooped on them and forcibly took Monir to Balurmath. They stabbed Monir indiscriminately and left the scene, leaving him critically injured. Local people rushed Monir to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he succumbed to stab injuries at around 1:30 am.
Father of the victim alleged that the local terrorists — Motaleb, Hossain Sarker, Kachi and Asif — masterminded the killing.
Autorickshaw driver Milon Hossain, a friend of Monir, became furious soon after he heard the news. Milon was shouting at the gang members yesterday morning while having his breakfast at a restaurant, where some of the killers of Monir were present.
They dragged him to Balurmath and shot him, hospital sources said quoting witnesses.
The victim was then rushed to the DMCH where the attending doctor pronounced him dead.
Pallab police said the case in this regard was in process, but none was arrested till filing of this report last night.

Clash at Shahjadpur leaves 49 hurt 1114 more SSC examinees expelled on third day

By Staff Correspondent
A total of 1114 examinees were expelled yesterday on the third-day of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination in different centres under five education boards of the country.
According to Dhaka Board officials, a total of 333 examinees were expelled for adopting unfair means during Bengali first paper examination in different centres under the board.
Of them, two examinees were expelled in Dhaka city, seven in Gazipur, 39 in Narsingdi, two in Munshiganj, 12 in Manikganj, 48 in Tangail, 72 in Mymensingh, 10 in Sherpur, 34 in Kishoreganj, 51 in Netrokona, 19 in Faridpur, 18 in Madaripur, five in Gopalganj and 14 in Shariatpur.
Our Rajshahi Correspondent reports: A total of 781 examinees, six teachers and one peon were expelled from different examination centres in 10 districts under Rajshahi Education Board.
Of them, 81 examinees were expelled in Rajshahi, 82 in Nawabganj, 43 in Naogaon, 65 in Pabna, 82 in Rangpur, 113 in Gaibandha, 54 in Nilphamari, 32 in Lalmonirhat, 131 in Thakurgaon and 98 in Panchagarh.
Our Shirajganj Correspondent writes: Copy-suppliers and police were locked in a clash in front of Shahjadpur Govt. College centre yesterday at 11 am, leaving 49 people, including a magistrate and 10 policemen injured.
According to police and witnesses, the trouble erupted following expulsion of 52 examinees at the centre. Police fired three shots and three tear gas shells to bring the situation under control.
The injured policemen were admitted to Sirajganj Police Hospital.
Magistrate Aminul Islam filed a case against three students.
See page 11 col 6

JS body discusses ways of stopping unfair means

Amid press reports on massive copying and cheating during the ongoing SSC Examinations, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education Ministry discussed ways of stopping the rot yesterday, reports UNB.
The committee stressed "the creation of mass awareness against copying in addition to taking stringent measures against cheating."
A sub-committee, formed to recommend ways to prevent copying, was told to complete

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Merit wise results of written test held on 18 February 2000, on different courses of BGMEA Institute of Fashion & Technology, 105, S.R. Tower, Uttara C/A, are published below. Viva Voce will be taken only for the candidates of two years under graduate courses and the One year Diploma Course. The Viva Voce will be held on 10 March to 15 March, 2000 From 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. as scheduled below. The finally selected candidates will get their results hung on the Notice Board of the Institute Just after each day's Viva Voce so that can get ready for admission instantaneously from the next day.

- Two year Undergraduate Courses :-**
 - Garment Manufacture & Technology :** 030, 237, 027, 269, 248, 122, 018, 239, 250, 117, 199, 101, 227, 095, 025, 067, 264, 062, 124, 136, 017, 061, 161, 012, 247, 244, 073, 104, 162, 200, 215, 218, 011 = 33. Viva Voce on 10th March, 2000.
158, 296, 081, 150, 173, 123, 082, 175, 184, 271, 288, 155, 033, 050, 106, 125, 214, 300, 272, 052, 022, 114, 120, 172, 207, 235, 179, 194, 305, 236, 281, 319 = 32. Viva Voce on 11th March, 2000.
 - Pattern Cutting & Design :** 258, 010, 216, 004, 047, 174, 005, 176, 286, 287, 295, 034, 088, 191, 149, 217, 246, 028, 270, 228, 195, 025, 121, 162, 100, 166, 220, 298, 288, 222, 024, 049, 211 = 33. Viva Voce on 12th March, 2000.
097, 013, 231, 165, 016, 255, 044, 229, 037, 099, 167, 137, 023, 243, 256, 045, 038, 116, 302, 285, 291, 303, 068, 086, 144, 180, 181, 293, 090, 093, 109 = 31. Viva Voce on 13th March, 2000.
- One year Diploma Course : (Merchandising & Marketing) :**
094, 062, 060, 119, 048, 088, 079, 054, 144, 030, 071, 085, 032, 004, 020, 097, 174, 099, 111, 145, 029, 063, 007, 098, 130, 051, 044, 106, 112, 126, 001, 132 = 32. Viva Voce on 14th March, 2000.
105, 127, 023, 104, 003, 013, 080, 049, 091, 102, 087, 148, 005, 103, 025, 026, 113, 041, 015, 078, 101, 107, 086, 120, 099, 033, 052, 141, 014, 131, 143 = 31. Viva Voce on 15th March, 2000.
The merit wise selected candidates for the following courses need not appear at the Viva Voce. They are requested to contact the office of the institute directly for admission forthwith.
- Six month Diploma Course :**
 - Quality Control :** 025, 016, 061, 048, 021, 017, 016, 026, 068, 101, 012, 091, 010, 069, 081, 011, 015, 028, 102, 038, 085, 009, 070, 027, 062, 066, 056, 076, 037, 082, 029, 045, 051, 074, 088, 087, 065, 071, 063, 086 = 40. No Viva Voce.
 - Mid level Management :** 078, 096, 002, 058, 054, 092, 103, 003, 034, 054, 040, 080, 084, 089, 080, 107, 049, 031, 030, 046, 039, 004, 093, 077, 027, 033, 079, 050, 060, 041, 032, 075, 035, 008, 053, 100, 055, 036, 052 = 39. No Viva Voce.
- The rolls of the candidates who could not be successful to be on the merit list of admission test on Undergraduate Courses and opted for admission into the six-month Diploma courses are selected merit wise for admission into those courses as given below. After admission on the basis of their choice the candidates will be divided into two groups - one group for the Quality Control and the other for Mid level Management.**
060, 193, 178, 177, 262, 301, 019, 201, 92, 164, 040, 119, 187, 304, 308, 240, 245, 153, 210, 186, 158, 107, 241, 098, 014, 204, 310, 129, 146 = 30 No Viva Voce.
- Six-month Trade Certificate Course (Evening) :**
 - Merchandising :** 124, 089, 043, 082, 060, 080, 110, 125, 063, 052, 084, 029, 034, 083, 054, 062, 056, 102, 132, 134, 028, 033, 113, 144, 094, 026, 002, 009, 070, 107, 103, 057, 081, 098, 019, 024, 116, 154, 157, 061, 163, 018, 140, 148, 119 = 45 No Viva Voce.
 - Quality Control :** 017, 093, 046, 014, 044, 087, 059, 061, 085, 096, 005, 022, 067, 079, 135, 065, 072, 075, 047, 058, 069, 100, 104, 106, 114, 117, 121, 027, 142, 004, 023, 020, 137, 032, 037, 045, 006, 016, 130, 145, 141, 123, 150, 049, 010 = 45 No Viva Voce.
- Two-month Trade Certificate Course (Evening) :**
Production Management : 152, 090, 068, 071, 088, 095, 011, 031, 038, 086, 017, 147, 026, 030, 160, 101, 148, 040, 076, 092, 138, 036, 156, 097, 105, 055, 139, 073, 120, 091, 078, 122, 153, 021, 039, 013, 041, 051, 155, 053, 162, 151, 164 = 43 No Viva Voce.
N.B. The admission of successful candidates will continue from 10 to 23 March, 2000 during office hours and the classes will start between 25 and 30 March, 2000. The admission forms will be available in the office of the Institute at the above address.

Chairman
Standing Committee on BIFT

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Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215. Telephone Numbers: 8124944, 8124955, 8124966, Fax: 8125155, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net