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Motijheel thana yet to take up case against 5 ministers

By Staff Correspondent
Motijheel thana is yet to take up a case against five ministers and an Awami League leader under the Public Safety Act.

Golam Kibria, a Supreme Court lawyer, filed an FIR (first information report) on Tuesday on behalf of a group of lawyers, accusing the ministers of making provocative remarks against the higher court judges in connection with the death reference of Bangabandhu murder case and terrorising the people by staging demonstrations with stick-wielding supporters.

When police declined to register a regular case, the lawyers said they will go to court if police failed to record the case.

The issue is under investigation," said officer-in-charge of Motijheel thana to the Star

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PM thanks President

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has thanked President Shahabuddin Ahmed for taking steps for ending the hunger strike of Shahjalal University students, reports UNB.

The Prime Minister called on the President at Bangabhaban yesterday evening and discussed the varsity issue and app-

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Our new numbers

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Inside Today

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Judiciary Under Attack

By Mansoor Mamoon
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Law and Our Rights

Defamation: A case study; and Criminals in uniform
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Prayer Timings

April	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
30	-	6-21 pm
May		
1	5-24 am	

Prayer Timings

April 30		
Fajr	Azan	Jamaat
4-15	4-45	
Zohr	12-45	1-30
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-25	6-30
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

SUST students break fast-unto-death after President's assurance Syndicate meets May 6 to decide on reopening

By DU Correspondent

The hunger-striking students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology broke their fast at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday at the request of President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, who is also Chancellor of the university.

In an unprecedented move, the President drove to the Shaheed Minar at about 5 pm and requested the students to break their hunger strike. He assured them that the SUST Syndicate would take steps to re-open the University after its May 6 meeting.

The students sipped water offered by the President and cheered and clapping, joined by their guardians, and some political leaders who staged a token hunger strike yesterday in support of their demands.

This is for the first time in country's history that a President and Chancellor of university broke protocol and interceded personally with a protesting group.

About 100 students began a fast-unto-death at the Central Shaheed Minar at 11:30 on April 26 under the banner of 'General Students of SUST' to press re-opening of the university and security on the campus.

The university was closed in November last year after incidents of violence on the campus over naming of some dormitories and building, an issue that also fuelled a flurry of political activities by major rival parties, one opposing the names and the other supporting those.

"I am trying my best. You know all power belongs to the Republic. I have no power. Even the recommendation for appointment of the VC by the Chancellor comes from the Prime Minister," he said briefly addressing the students without microphone. He reminded the students that there was a differ-

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President Shahabuddin Ahmed offering water to the students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology to break their hunger strike —Star photo

Govt firm to bring discipline in financial sector: Kibria Principal office of Bank Asia opens

By Staff Correspondent

The government will go ahead with the banking sector reforms despite criticism, said Finance Minister Shah A.M.S. Kibria yesterday.

"We will not shy away from the reforms process to bring discipline in the financial sector," said the finance minister at the launching ceremony of the principal office of the Bank Asia in the city.

The minister said a certain quarters has been criticising the move to introduce supervisory role of the central bank to look into the irregularities and anomalies in the banks from

the very beginning. Some of them even suggested to loosen the control of Bangladesh Bank on the banking sector.

"But they got frustrated as they couldn't succeed in their bid to prevent the government from strengthening the central bank's role as regulator."

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Chairman of the bank M Syeduzzaman, Vice-chairman A. Rouf Chowdhury, Managing Director Badrul Islam also spoke on the occasion.

The finance minister came down heavily on the private

sector banks as well as the entrepreneurs for not taking any interest in rural economy despite its huge potential.

He said a nationalised commercial bank's branch in Habiganj sanctioned only Tk 2 crore loan against a deposit of Tk 34 crore. "This is not acceptable. The investment should have been much more."

Emphasising investment in the rural areas, the finance minister said the banks can play the pivotal role in the rural economy by providing loan to potential investors.

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7777 more HSC examinees expelled

By Staff Correspondent

A total of 7777 examinees were expelled for cheating at examination in different centres under Dhaka, Rajshahi, Jessore, Comilla and Chittagong education boards on the second day of HSC examinations yesterday.

They sat for test on English 2nd paper. According to Dhaka Education Board officials, a total of 2039 examinees were expelled on the second day from different centres in 17 districts.

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Opposition's jt rally in city today

By Staff Correspondent

Four-party opposition alliance will hold a joint rally in the city today.

BNP chief Khaleda Zia, Jatiya Party chief H M Ershad, Jamaat chief Golam Azam and Azizul Haq of Islami Oikya Jote will address the rally at Paltan Maidan at 3 pm.

Fresh agitation programme of the opposition alliance is expected to be announced at today's public meeting.

Judgement in Khalid Murder Case today

By Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Apr 29: Judgement in the sensational Khalid Murder Case will be delivered tomorrow by Additional District and Sessions Judge who is conducting the special court for trying most of the cases against Ershad Ali Shikdar.

Jubo League leader Khalid Hossain was the last victim of the murders committed by Shikdar and his armed cadres. Khalid was murdered at Skid Ghat riverport on the night of May 16 last year.

Chalilara Begum, wife of a high official of the judiciary, filed a case with Tejaoga thana, Dhaka on May 18, 1999 against Shikdar and some of his armed cadres accusing them of attacking her two younger brothers Monir and Chayan who accompanied Khalid Hossain to Skid

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System of local ISP hacked

By M Shamsur Rahman

The system of a local Internet Service Provider (ISP) was allegedly hacked yesterday, much to the surprise of many local Internet subscribers.

Mails sent to any account of Brac Bdmall bounced back yesterday with a message reading: "We are sorry to inform you that Brac Bdmall has been severely hacked."

This correspondent sent a message to Brac Bdmall at 6:51 p.m. and found the return mail with the reply that most of the ISPs in Bangladesh only bother about money, not service and security. There is no unity among the ISPs in Bangladesh

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Poor service, faulty lines & outdated system Common allegations against BTTB

By Mustak Hossain

Telephone users are facing various problems due to Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board's (BTTB) poor service. On an average, every 50 out of 100 subscribers lodge complaints per month against faulty lines and outdated system of BTTB, according to a study report.

There are also considerable delays in fixing faults, with only about 50 per cent being repaired by the next working day, one expert said on condition of anonymity.

The ratio of faults per 100 lines per month is the highest in Bangladesh compared to some other Asian countries. The rate is about 49 in Bangladesh, 25 in Sri Lanka, 18 in India, nine in Pakistan and three in Indonesia, according to International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Faults repaired in next working day are also lowest in the country. The rate is 47 per cent in Bangladesh, 75 per cent in Sri Lanka, 80 per cent in Pakistan, 73 per cent in Indonesia and 84 per cent in India.

Even Bangladesh lags far behind in call completion rate in comparison with its neighbouring countries. The rate is 23 per cent in the country while it is 40 per cent in Sri Lanka, 70 per cent in Pakistan and 92 per cent in India.

The dual exchange system, for example analogue and digital exchange, has also been creating problem, the sources said. BTTB installed analogue exchanges back in '70s and some exchanges in the capital are being operated with analogue system side by side with digital systems. The digital phone ser-

vice was introduced in 1989. The successful local call completion rate is also very poor. The local call rate is around 23 per cent, one source said.

BTTB had a normal target of 65 per cent local call completion rate, which has been merely maintained.

If the call completion rate could reach the target of 65 per cent, as in many developed countries, BTTB could increase revenue substantially, said another expert preferring anonymity.

The high number of complaints may be attributed to the local network that utilises electro-mechanical telephone exchanges, the source pointed out.

BTTB's service is poor by international standards and has

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CU students begin fast unto death

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 29: More than 100 students of the Chittagong University under the banner of 'General Students Society (GSS)' began fast unto death in front of the administrative building on the campus today demanding reopening of the university.

The university is closed for the last four months, making academic life of 14,000 students uncertain.

The stalemate began after two activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir were killed in a gunbatle with the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) on the campus on December 19, last year.

The guardians and relatives of three CU students killed recently in campus violence also observed hunger strike at Chittagong press club today, demanding arrest of the killers.

Meanwhile, Chittagong university authorities held a meeting with university teachers at its science gallery for exchanging views on the CU crisis. Pro-vice Chancellor Prof Abu Yusuf Alam was absent in the meeting that continued for two and a half hours from 12 noon, campus sources said.

Vice Chancellor Prof Abdul Mannan and other teachers, including Amran Hossain, Dr

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Eddie Barlow hospitalised

By Sports Reporter

Eddie Barlow, the national cricket team coach, suffered a brain hemorrhage at his Gulshan residence yesterday.

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The Daily Star & Bangladesh Scouts workshop on "Traffic Problems in Dhaka City"
Scout Bhaban April, 2000

DC Traffic Serajul Islam addressing a workshop on 'traffic problems in Dhaka city' at the Scout Bhaban yesterday. The Daily Star and Bangladesh Scout jointly organised the workshop. —Star photo

Remove road encroachment, encourage mass transport

The Daily Star-Bangladesh Scouts seminar told

By Staff Correspondent

Traffic, Chairmen of RAJUK, BRTA and BRTC, DCC officials, engineers, architects, teachers spoke at the workshop held at the Scout Bhaban.

Scouts, Rover Scouts and a good number citizens, rickshawpullers and autorickshaw drivers gathered at the workshop to express their opinion on traffic problems and their probable solution.

The speakers said commitment of major political parties is necessary to solve traffic problem and improve overall condition of the city. They emphasised strengthening traffic law implementing agencies. Tax exemption should be offered for more private investment.

Removal of encroachments from roads and more investment in a mass transport system can ease traffic problems in the city, speakers at a workshop said yesterday.

The workshop on "Traffic Problems in Dhaka City" was organised by The Daily Star in cooperation with the Bangladesh Scouts. The DC

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AL-ARAFAH ISLAMI BANK LTD.
Head Office : 161 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
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Scale of Salary : Tk. 15,700-700x4-18,500-800x6-23,300 plus other permissible allowances and perquisites.
- Assistant Vice President :** The candidates should have at least 2 (two) years' experience as Senior Principal Officer or in equivalent position having 4 (four) years' experience of handling foreign exchange business and/ or investments/ loans and advances in scheduled commercial Banks.
Scale of Salary : Tk. 13,000-600x4-15,400-700x6-19,600 plus other permissible allowances and perquisites.
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Scale of Salary : Tk. 10,300-500x4-12,300-600x6-15,900 plus other permissible allowances and perquisites.
- Principal Officer :** The candidates should have at least 2 (two) years' experience as Senior Officer or in equivalent position having 2 (two) years' experience of handling foreign exchange business and/ or investments/ loans and advances in scheduled commercial Banks.
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Applications are also invited from the **Chartered Accountants**, preferably having experience of handling accounts of Banks and Financial Institutions. Depending on their experience and eligibility, the selected candidates will be placed in any of the above noted scales of pay. Taking into account the candidates' educational and professional qualifications, experience and present compensation package, their initial compensation package will be determined in the appropriate scales of pay.

Very attractive compensation package will be offered to the really deserving candidates.

Applications, together with the detailed Curriculum Vitae (C.V.) and one passport-size photograph and photocopies of the educational and professional certificates duly attested by a Gazetted Officer or a Banker, should reach the Head of the Personnel Department, Head Office, Al-Arafah Islami Bank Limited, Dhaka, by the 15th May, 2000. Those applications who may not like to apply for any post in Al-Arafah Islami Bank Limited formally, may call on the Bank's Chief Executive (Administrator/ Managing Director) with the detailed C.V., etc., on any working day during office hours. Strict confidentiality will be maintained about the applications to be received.