



PHOTO: STAR

Citizens' Rights Movement forms a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday to protest bus and launch fare hike ahead of Eid.

## Bus, launch fare hike protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders and activists of the Citizens' Rights Movement formed a human chain in the city yesterday protesting the bus and launch fare hike.

They also demanded that footpaths be freed from illegal encroachment and foot overbridge be set up for the safety of passengers.

The Rights Movement in association with the Karmakutir Foundation also held a rally at Shahabagh, with former secretary Syed Marghub Morshed in the chair.

Although the government has fixed the bus and launch fare per km following an increase in the fuel price, the transport owners are now charging a rate 150 percent higher than the official rate, said Tushar Rehman, executive director of Karmakutir Foundation.

While it is the responsibility of the government to take necessary action to stop such harassment of the people, the communications minister recently admitted that he is unable to do anything in this regard, he said.

He called for raising awareness among the people and forging a unity to establish the basic rights of all citizens.

Marghub Morshed said skyrocketing prices of essentials along with fare hike ahead of Eid left the common people in a desperate state.

While some people are building high-rises in the capital, lakhs of people are being rendered homeless due to irregularities and anomalies prevailing in society.

Former joint secretary Syed Lutfullah, Advocate Julfia Akhtar, Dr Jasmine Ara Shathi, Advocate Ahsan Uddin Sardar, Advocate FR Khan, Haji Ansar Ali, Md Nazimuddin, Md Abul Kalam Khan and journalist MA Ghani also spoke.

## BGMEA IFTAR PARTY BNP, AL leaders to discuss political situation today

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The senior leaders of the ruling BNP and the opposition Awami League are likely to discuss about the political situation in the country at an iftar party to be hosted by Bangla-desh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) today.

Sources concerned said also issues like power crisis, rise of the 'so-called third force' to destroy the garment industry and reopening of Benapole port will figure prominently in the discussion.

The businessmen in the country have taken such an initiative for the first time in recent times.

BGMEA President Anisul Huq said that they had been planning to organise such a programme in a cordial atmosphere with the presence of the top leaders of the two main parties for long.

"It is undoubtedly a pleasant sign that the leaders of both the ruling party and the main opposition party responded positively to the initiative taken by the BGMEA," he told the BDNEWS.

The businessmen think that the initiative, taken by BGMEA would help build convergence of opinion between the two parties on different issues. But it is not a political initiative, they added.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil along with central leaders of their parties will participate in the iftar.

Both Bhuiyan and Jalil have given their consent to attend the programme.

"We are very happy. Both the leaders along with other key party-men have agreed to join our programme," Anisul Huq said.

He said political relation between the ruling and opposition parties will improve gradually. But this is not a

political initiative, he added.

Anisul Huq, referring to such programmes in previous years, said if needed, the BGMEA will also hold programmes where leaders of both the parties can exchange views.

Sources said the scheduled date for holding Iftar Party was on October 27. However, the BGMEA shifted the date to October 30 to ensure participation of both the parties. A total of 22 lawmakers involved in garment industry will also join the programme.

Editors of the print and electronic media, leaders of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) and the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) will also join the iftar party.

## Attack on BDB press confce condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former President of Bangladesh and Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh President Prof A Q M Badrudduza Chowdhury condemned the attack on its Secretary General Major (ret) Abdul Mannan's press conference at Majidi BRB auditorium in Noakhali yesterday.

Terming the attack "the highest manifestation of undemocratic activities of the government", he said from the very outset the ruling party unleashed its hooligans to attack BDB activists. Former President demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to the miscreants involved in the assault.

## Jubo Dal leader found dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Body of a Jubo Dal leader was recovered from Bijoy Nagar at Ramna in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

Ramna Police found the body of Ahsan Mia, 35, in the street of Bijoy Nagar and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue.

Police suspect the death might have occurred from high blood pressure. The morgue did not find any evidence of unnatural death in primary test. Morgue sources said everything would be clear after having a pathological test.

The body was sent to his village yesterday morning.

Ahsan was the general secretary of Begumganj Jubo Dal thana unit of Noakhali district.

## Keep towns clean: Bhuiyan

UNB, Dhaka

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday urged all pourasava chairmen to keep their towns neat and clean through proper waste management.

Addressing a programme at Nagarbhawan, he also stressed the need for planned construction of infrastructures for building a beautiful city.

The programme was organised on the occasion of distributing road-rollers among different pourasavas.

Assuring that all the pourasavas will gradually be provided with road-rollers, he said the poura authorities would have to ensure proper completion of public works.

Bhuiyan called on the poura chairmen for their all-out efforts to make the government's sanitation and birth and death registration programmes successful to check early marriage, eliminate dowry system and properly enforce the anti-food adulteration law.

## 250 cops leave for Congo today to join UN mission

BSS, Dhaka

A strong contingent of 250 police personnel leaves Dhaka today for Congo to join the UN peace keeping mission there.

The members of the team called "Formed Police Unit" were given directives yesterday at a meeting at the Rajarbagh Police Telecom auditorium.

State Minister for Home Affairs Lutuzzaman Babar attended the function as chief guest. Additional Inspector General of Police Mohammad Shahidullah Khan, NDC, PPM, DMP Police Commissioner SM Mizanur Rahman, and senior police officers were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Babar said members of the Bangladesh squad would work as the country's ambassador and try to enhance prestige of the nation.

Babar said for the first time 24 women police are also going to the peacekeeping mission as members of the Formed Police Unit. He said arrangement would be made so that more women police personnel could go to UN mission in future.

He further said that so far three Formed Police Units from Bangladesh were sent to UN peacekeeping missions. "More proposals are coming from the UN headquarters in this regard," he said.

Babar said the role of the Bangladesh police has been highly appreciated in the UN peacekeeping missions and, as a result, more proposals are coming from the UN to send Bangladesh police to the UN missions.

## Morshed slates Hasina's comment on Saarc Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday criticised Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina for raising question on the Saarc Award.

Addressing an iftar party at a city hotel, the foreign minister said Hasina has dishonoured the eminent personalities nominated for the Saarc award and tarnished the image of the country by raising question in this regard.

Urging the editors and journalists of different newspapers to help the government make the upcoming Saarc Summit a success, the minister said, "We have to face economic challenges if we fail to expand regional cooperation through Saarc."

The ruling BNP's student-wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) hosted the iftar party at Hotel Purbani in honour of the editors and journalists of different newspapers and news agencies.

BNP Senior Joint-Secretary General Tarique Rahman, Political Secretary to the prime minister Haris Chowdhury, State Minister for Home Affairs Lutuzzaman Babar and adviser to commerce ministry Barkatullah Bhulu attended the party.

## Seawater manufacturing training centre opens in city

BDNEWS, Dhaka

BGMEA Institute of Fashion & Technology (BFTI), and Bangladesh Garments Manu-factures and Exporters Association (BGMEA) launched the country's first seawater manufacturing training centre in the city yesterday.

South Asian Enterprise Development Fund (SEDF) is providing financial support to the training centre set up at city's Uttara.

BGMEA President Anisul Huq, director Tipu Munshi, SEDF deputy general manager Deepak P Adhikari and BFTI president Benajir Ahmed spoke at the opening ceremony.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between BFTI and SEDF for financial support.

Anisul Huq said the centre will impart training to produce skilled manpower to meet the demand of required workers in the exiting 800 sweater factories.

Benajir said the centre is expected to produce about 4000 skilled sweater operators and linkers per annum.

According to some estimation, Bangladesh RMG sector needs about 60,000 skilled sweater and link operators.

Eighteen national and international business houses donated the machines of this centre. The centre has 80 flatbed knit machines and 66 dial linking machines. SEDF provided Tk 8.70 lakh for publicity of the centre.

## 'Ensure equal rights for the visually impaired'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called on all to come forward to integrate the visually impaired people with the main stream of the society to ensure their equal rights.

They also called for launching an awareness campaign to change the attitude towards visually impaired people in order to promote self-dependency among them.

They urged the voluntary and private organisations to supplement the government efforts for the welfare of the people with sight disability.

The Jubo Karmasangasthan Society (Jubok) and Bangladesh Visually Impaired People's Society (VIPS) jointly organised the seminar to mark the World White Cane day 2005 at Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium in the city.

"Like others, disabled people can also lead a self-reliant life if we can ensure proper education, train-

ing, and use of information technology for them," said advocate Mosharraf Hossain Majumder, general secretary of VIPS, who himself a visually impaired person.

Presenting the keynote paper, he called on the media to disseminate information and highlight their needs to create awareness among the people.

Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan said, "It is our civic responsibility to help bring a positive change to the life of the people with sight disability."

Information technology can play an important role in making the disabled self-dependent, he said.

The minister also announced a donation of Tk five lakh for procurement of equipment for the visually impaired people.

Dr Md Mahbubur Rahman, information secretary, Dr Ferdous Ahmed Qureshi, editor of daily Deshbangla, Dr Md Khairul Islam,

country director of Orbis international Bangladesh, Munsur Ahmed Chowdhry, president of VIPS, and singer Mamtaz Begum were present at the seminar.

Later, the minister distributed 150 white canes among the visually impaired people.

## Fakhrul Munshi made AL advisor

UNB, Dhaka

Former Deputy Minister for Finance AFM Fakhrul Islam Munshi has been nominated advisory committee member of Bangladesh Awami League.

Munshi, also a former MP, has been nominated AL advisory committee member by party President Sheikh Hasina, says a press release.



PHOTO: STAR

The Communist Party of Bangladesh stages a demonstration in New Market area in the city yesterday to protest skyrocketing prices of essentials.

## COURSE ON DEBATE

# Call to use logic at every stage of life to reduce intolerance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The certificate award ceremony of a four-month course on debate, initiated by the Bangladesh Debate Federation (BDF), was held in the city yesterday.

Eminent scholar and philosopher Sardar Fazlul Karim gave away certificates among 90 young debaters. He also launched a bimonthly cultural magazine, 'Sanglap' (dialogue), at the ceremony.

The BDF School of Debate organised the course in association with Stamford University for the students of class V up to class XI.

Speaking as the chief guest, Prof Sardar Fazlul Karim said one generation starts the process of building a society and the other generation completes it. So, the young generation needs to be enlightened, with logic playing a significant role.

He also called for using logic at every stage of life to reduce intolerance among people.

Prof Syed Anwar Hossain, vice-chancellor of Darul Ihsan University, said, "As a nation, we read and think less but want to talk and write more, which create hindrance to our advancement."

Television personality and former president of BDF Abdun Noor Tushar, Md Morshed Hossain, member, board of trustee, Stamford University, and Hasan Mamun, former president of BDF, also spoke.

BDF President Bulbul Hasan presided over the ceremony.

Trinity College of London and Extra-Concern sponsored the function.

Top ten participants on the merit list also received certificates from the Trinity College of London.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Technical College Teachers' Association forms a human chain at Muktangan in the city yesterday to press for its 12-point demand, including payment of full festival bonus.