

PROFESSOR'S KILLING
Ruta to observe
strike today

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (Ruta) will observe a strike today demanding immediate arrest of and punishment to the killers of Professor Taher Ahmed and Professor Muhammad Yunus.

The university authorities have postponed all classes and examinations scheduled for today.

The RU teachers and students also formed a human chain in front of the university main gate yesterday on the same demands. Carrying placards and banners, several hundred teachers, students and officials joined the human chain stretching from Binodpur Bazaar to Kaza gate.

Later, a meeting was held in front of the university main gate with Ruta President Prof Nazrul Islam on the Rajshahi-Dhaka road.

Addressing the meeting, Prof Islam said Ruta will form human chain on the Rajshahi-Dhaka road.

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TEJGAON BUILDING COLLAPSE

Tk 1cr rescue cost, owner pays nothing

JASIM UDDIN KHAN

The government spent about Tk 1 crore to clear the rubble of the collapsed Phoenix building at Tejgaon but the owners of the faulty building remain beyond any compulsion for bearing the costs due to lack of necessary law.

In absence of any law fixing the responsibility for bearing the costs of such operations, usually the government bears the expenses, said an official of the Dhaka City Corporation.

Such an accident seems to help the owner of the building as he can get the old structure removed without any cost, Fire Service and Civil

Defence Deputy Director Selim Newaz Bhuiyan said.

The cost of the operation that involved representatives of over half a dozen government agencies including more than 700 people in clearing the rubble would not be less than Tk 1 crore, he said.

He suggested enactment of laws to hold the owner and others concerned responsible for the clearing expense.

The DCC alone, deploying 26 pieces of heavy machinery, roughly spent more than Tk 10 lakh on fuel.

The 14 Independent Engineers Brigade of the Army coordinated the 119-hour-long rescue operation with arrays of rescue equipment and

people from the Fire Service and Civil Defence, Dhaka City Corporation, Bangladesh Rifles, Rapid Action Battalion, Police, Roads and Highways Department, Rajuk and the district administration.

Some private construction companies also helped with their excavators.

Rescue operation at the collapsed Tejgaon building officially ended on Tuesday after removal of some 2,500 truckloads of concrete debris since February 25.

The concrete debris was dumped on an open space 500 metres from the spot.

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Embattled Thai PM vows to fight on despite poll boycott call

REUTERS, Bangkok

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said yesterday his political future would be decided at the ballot box as the political opposition pressed ahead with a boycott of snap elections next month.

"You cannot defy the voice of the people and you don't have the right to make decisions on their behalf," Thaksin said after the three main opposition parties rejected his offer of political reforms on Friday aimed at defusing a growing political crisis.

"You cannot assume that your judgement is better than theirs," he said of the boycott of the April 2 poll the opposition says would legitimise a corrupt government.

He was speaking to reporters before flying to the northern city of Chiang Mai for a rally.

Thaksin told a huge crowd of supporters in Bangkok on Friday, which police and others estimated at 150,000 to 200,000, he would adopt political reforms within 15 months of the April 2 election, then call another.

He also offered to step down if his ruling Thai Rak Thai (Thais Love

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PHOTO: STAR

A displaced railing on the stairs of the foot over-bridge at Science Laboratory intersection in the capital remains unsecured for, leaving pedestrians in danger for over a week.



A RARE SIGHT...A female staff of a filling station pumps fuel into an autorickshaw yesterday. Five out of the eight employees of Plana Fuel Station in Langalbandh in Narayanganj are female.

Bomb blast injures 2 in Jhenidah

UNB, Jhenidah

Two people were injured in a bomb explosion near Government Women's College in the town last night.

The injured are rickshawpuller Mujibur Rahman, 38, and Shipu, 15, a student of Kanchan Nagar High School. They were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

According to the pedestrians, three young men blasted the bomb at about 8:00pm and soon left the place.

On Friday night, an explosion at Sher-e-Bangla Road in the town left five people wounded.

US, Pakistan renew vow to fight terror

Bush convinced of Musharraf's commitment

AP, Islamabad

President Bush and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf recommitted their nations yesterday to the difficult task of hunting down terrorists still hiding here and across the globe.

Bush said his visit convinced him that Musharraf is as committed as ever.

"We will win this fight together," Bush said after more than an hour of private talks with Musharraf. "While we do have a lot of work to be done, it's important that we stay on the hunt."

The United States also sees Musharraf as a leader who favours a more open, moderate and tolerant Pakistan. Standing alongside the Pakistani leader whom Bush

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Indo-Pak leaders firm on ending Kashmir row

Says Bush

AFP, Islamabad

US President George W. Bush said yesterday that Indian and Pakistani leaders whom he met this week were committed to resolving the decades-old Kashmir dispute.

"In order for the deal to get done, it requires commitment at the leadership level and (from) my perspective, I have seen the commitment, and the role of the United States is to continue to encourage the parties to come together," Bush told a joint news conference with Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf.

"In other words, the atmosphere is changing," Bush said, referring to the confidence-building measures being taken by the two governments to ease tensions over the Himalayan region dispute.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars since 1947

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Inflation rate dips further in January

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The overall inflation rate on point-to-point basis declined in January by 0.48 percentage point and inflation rate of food, non-food items both in rural and urban areas dropped.

After marking a record inflation rise in November last year, it continued to drop in the next two months.

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) data say 7.95 percent national inflation rate in November came down to 7.07 percent in December last year. In January, the rate further decreased to 6.59 percent.

Experts noted that Bangladesh Bank's (BB) tight monetary policy,

Kushthia outlaw killed by rivals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushthia

A regional leader of outlawed Ganomukti Fouz was killed Friday night allegedly by the operatives of Biplobi Communist Party (BCP).

The dead was identified as Siddique Rahman alias Siddique of Ailchhara village under Sadar upazila.

Police sources said a group of BCP men abducted Siddique from his house around midnight and took him to nearby Sadiapur ground of Mirpur upazila. The kidnappers then slaughtered and shot him.

On information, police recovered the body the same night and sent it to the Kushthia General Hospital for autopsy.

According to police, Siddique was a listed criminal and accused in 12 cases, including four for murder.

Galib, Rahman on same boat of 'revolution'

Observe investigators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) chief Abdur Rahman started the so-called "Islamic Revolution" with support from international patrons and by joining hands with Ahle Hadith Andolon, Bangladesh (Ahab) chief Asadullah Al Galib.

Galib and Rahman came closer over their similar opinions about the revolution, say investigators. They became stronger when they were able to have contacts with Indian Ahab leader Abdul Matin Salafi. Salafi was expelled from

Bangladesh in 1988 for his role in militancy but he still continued to work with Ahab leaders.

In the late 70s, Galib was criticised for some actions he had taken and he was detached from Jamayate Ahle Hadith which was founded in 1945. He formed Ahle Hadith Juba Shangha (AHJS) and recruited members following the detachment from Jamayate Ahle Hadith.

On Galib's recommendations, Rahman studied in Madina University in Saudi Arabia and worked at the Saudi Arabia and

Two robbers lynched in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two unidentified robbers were lynched by an angry mob at a remote village in Lohagara upazila of the district in the early hours yesterday.

Police said a gang of 20 robbers broke into the house of Jamal

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Prayer Timing

March 5		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-10	5-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-07	6-11
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

CTG GARMENT FIRE
Human chain formed for compensation

UNB, Ctg

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) formed a human chain in front of the local press club yesterday demanding compensation for the fire victims of KTS Textile and garments Factory.

The leaders of the association demanded Tk 10 lakh for the family of each worker killed in the fire while Tk 2 lakh for the rehabilitation of each injured.

At least 54 workers were burned to death and over 100 suffered burn injuries in a devastating fire at the RMG factory at Kalurghat in Chittagong on February 23.

Experts noted that Bangladesh Bank's (BB) tight monetary policy,

which led to the fire, should be blamed.

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