



CPD WORRIES

The think tank says monetary policy stance to slow down investment

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'ROMANCING TAGORE'

A collection of 101 Tagore poems translated into Urdu

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'AS LONG AS NECESSARY'

Israel will continue air strikes against Gaza, Netanyahu says

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Home boss denies it all
Cops impose 11 conditions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has neither ordered law enforcers to bar city hoteliers from receiving guests nor asked transport owners to withdraw their vehicles, Home Minister Shahara Khatun claimed yesterday.

"Police were simply checking hotels and restaurants as part of their regular duties," she told journalists at her secretariat office.

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Closed, nervy city braces for today

Govt actions disrupt communications, life; Khaleda to announce fresh agitation for caretaker govt at restriction-strung rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Almost all highways and waterways leading to the capital remain blocked, hotels and guest-houses closed and intra-city traffic movements restricted -- all in frantic government attempts to keep opposition activists and supporters from joining the BNP rally today.

Unprecedented highhandedness of the law enforcers and intelligence men

caused immense sufferings to people and bred panic and confusion yesterday.

Virtually under siege, the city was on edge as the spectre of violence rose with the government appearing hell-bent on frustrating the opposition's plan for the "biggest rally in recent times" to press for the restoration of the caretaker government system.

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MORE ON PAGE 20

Pakistani play didn't work

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

Militancy dug deeper roots among Bengalis, especially among the young, as the non-cooperation movement went on in March 1971. The Pakistani military regime, unable to stem the tide of revolutionary fervour among the people, hit upon the crude

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BNP thrives on govt blunders

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

The BNP and its allies hope to hold the "biggest rally in recent times" today, ignoring all sorts of obstruction put up by the government.

The party yesterday said the rally would be held "at any cost" as its leaders, workers and supporters had arrived in the capital from other parts of the country through defying the government's obstructions to movement.

The BNP-led four-party alliance is to hold the rally before the BNP's Nayapaltan office, where a few other like-minded parties are also expected to join.

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AL on alert

14-party combine forms human chain, vows to resist chaos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League-led 14-party combine will resist any bid by the BNP to create chaos in the capital today in the name of holding a grand rally.

Leaders of the ruling combine gave the warning from a human chain in the capital yesterday. It

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

An activist of pro-ruling party labour organisation Sramik League tries to drag the conductor of a bus out at Gabtoli in the capital. Sramik League activists yesterday beat up several drivers and conductors for keeping their vehicles in service ahead of the opposition rally today. More photos on page 2.

Highways: No way in

The Daily Star sent three of its reporters down the main highways that lead to the capital to get a first-hand experience of how people trying to reach Dhaka are being restricted. This is their story.

DHAKA-PATURIA

M ABUL KALAM AZAD, back from Paturia

Only a few dozen passengers managed to reach Gabtali bus terminal by 6:30am. Within half an hour, the number rose to several hundreds. By 10:00am, thousands of

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DHAKA-CTG

TAWFIQUE ALI, back from Comilla

The Dhaka-Chittagong highway was virtually empty of traffic yesterday as only a few public buses plied the road amidst fear of vandalism and police harassment.

A small number of inter-district

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DHAKA-SYLHET

HELEMUL ALAM back from Bhairab

Commuters using the Bhairab route to reach Dhaka faced an unusual ordeal yesterday ahead of the BNP's rally in the capital as most buses were not operational.

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