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Strike continues on waterways

Minister, launch owners blame each other for no solution

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

While the countrywide indefinite strike by the water transport workers enters its third day today, the authorities concerned blamed one another for not taking necessary measures to end the crisis.

The work stoppage has put thousands of passengers in difficulty as they had to suffer cuts in service.

Bangladesh Noujan Sramik Federation (BNSF), a platform of six organisations of inland water transport workers, enforced the strike on Wednesday to press home their 16-point demand including increase in wages.

The government has convened a meeting today at the office of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) at 3:00pm to end the crisis. Transport workers, launch owners and government officials are expected to join the meeting.

The meeting could not be convened in the last two days due to lack of coordination between the shipping and the labour and employment ministries. Both the ministries referred to one another for taking the initiative.

Contacted, Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan said, "We are very much concerned about the strike. We have sympathy for the workers, but the launch owners are

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PHOTO: STAR

Nari Nirjatan Birodhi Manch, a platform of 86 women's rights organisations, form a human chain in front of the parliament on Manik Mia Avenue yesterday demanding tougher laws to stop violence against women.

SOCIAL BUSINESS Muhith sees 'waste of resources'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said he was deeply disturbed by the misallocation of resources in the name of social investment projects such as social businesses.

"I can't overlook this at the moment as this is a major problem which is bothering me very, very strongly," he said while addressing a group of newly-appointed directors of state-run banks in his office in Dhaka.

The minister said the social investment projects, which he compares with those of social businesses set up in Bangladesh by Nobel laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus, offer a lot of scope for waste or diversion of resources.

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4 YEARS OF GOVT PM addresses nation today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will address the nation at 7:00pm today marking the completion of four years of the Awami League-led grand alliance government.

Her speech will be aired by Bangladesh Television, Bangladesh Betar and private television

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POLITICAL PARTY REGISTRATION EC to impose new conditions

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission has opted for imposing new conditions on political parties to retain their registration but made no move to develop any mechanism to enforce the criterion effectively.

A proposal drafted by the EC says a political party may lose its registration if it does not have a functional central office

and a central committee and effective offices in at least one-third districts. Besides, each party should have committees in at least one hundred upazilas or metropolitan thanas having a minimum number of 200 voters as members in each committee.

It is one of the EC's proposals drafted for bringing changes in the

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SHAHJALAL AIRPORT Biman may lose ground handling job

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civil Aviation Minister Faruk Khan yesterday said the government may consider giving the job of ground-handling services at Shahjalal International Airport to private companies if Biman continued to provide poor services.

His remark came days

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Use social media in public interest

The Daily Star roundtable in Ctg told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Social media should be used to uphold public interests, said Chairman of National Human Rights Commission Prof Mizanur Rahman yesterday.

He defined public interest as the interest of the poor and said social media could play a vital role to guarantee human rights.

Prof Mizanur was speaking as the chief guest at a roundtable titled "Role of Social Media in Advancing People's Right to Know" organised by The Daily Star at its Chittagong bureau office in association with London East Bank College, Chittagong.

Prashanta Bhushon Barua, director of

SEE PAGE 7 COL 2 PHOTO ON PAGE 5

NY TERROR PLOT Nafis' lawyer terms him innocent

UNB, Dhaka

The hearing on a case against Bangladeshi national Quazi Mohammad Rezwanul Ahsan Nafis started at Brooklyn's Eastern District Federal Court in New York on Wednesday.

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2,592 pass 32nd special BCS exams

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The final results of the 32nd Bangladesh Civil Service examination (special) were published yesterday with 2,592 candidates coming out successful.

The Public Service Commission (PSC) has recommended 1,680 candidates out of the

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PRAYER TIMING January 11		
Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	5:30	6:05
Juma	12:30	1:15
Asr	4:00	4:15
Maghrib	5:36	5:40
Esha	7:00	7:30



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Teachers and employees of non-government schools, colleges, madrasas and polytechnic institutes go for a fast-unto-death at Central Shaheed Minar yesterday demanding their institutions be included in the Monthly Pay Order system.

MPO AGITATION Police foil teachers' hunger strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday did not allow the agitating non-MPO teachers and employees to stage their prescheduled fast-unto-death programme for inclusion of their educational institutions in the government's Monthly Payment Order (MPO) system.

Yesterday was the third day of the agitation.

In the morning, the teachers and employees were barred from demonstrating in front of the Jatiya Press Club, their scheduled venue. Later police sprayed teargas when around 300 of them tried to hold the programme at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital.

At least 20 teachers were hurt by the teargas, teachers alleged.

Ramim Hasan, a journalist of private television Somoy, was also injured, witnesses said.

The agitating teachers

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3 Kurdish women activists shot dead in Paris

AFP, Paris

A co-founder of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and two other activists were found shot dead yesterday in Paris, a day after it emerged that Turkey and the jailed leader of the banned group were holding peace talks.


The women were found in the early hours with gunshot wounds to the head and neck inside a Kurdish information centre in the 10th district of the French capital, police and the centre's director said.

Interior Minister Manuel Valls visited the scene of the crime and described the killings as "assassinations".

"Three women have been shot down, killed, without

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The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with the prime minister that the next general election would be free and fair?

Yes

11%

No

88%

No Comments

1%

TOTAL VOTES: 437

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with the home ministry's investigation report on the last year's fatal blaze at Tazreen Fashions was an act of arson?

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