



Not content with only imposing a countrywide 24-hour commercial transport strike till 6:00am today, transport workers take to the streets blocking off this intersection before Gabtoli Bus Terminal in the capital yesterday, leaving no room for the movement of vehicles not under the purview of the strike. Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation declared the strike demanding release of its central committee Joint Secretary Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas and arrest of those who killed 27 drivers during the opposition's recent hartals.

DHAKA-CTG HIGHWAY Normalcy returns

Jamaat-Shibir vandalise vehicles at Sitakunda twice on Wednesday, 20 arrested yesterday
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Traffic movement resumed on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway early yesterday after being blocked for the second time by Jamaat-Shibir activists on Wednesday following the recovery of a local Jamaat leader's body.

Initially, Jamaat-Shibir men had torched two trucks and a minibus and vandalised five other vehicles on the highway in Chittagong's Sitakunda upazila prompting local police to arrest 20 people in raids yesterday.

However, the names of the arrestees were not disclosed and a case was being filed.

The first congestion lasted nearly six hours till 8:00pm. Around 11:00pm, SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Defend spirit of Liberation War

Hasina urges all from Armed Forces Day reception

UNB, Dhaka

Expressing her strong commitment to make Bangladesh a peaceful and dignified nation in South Asia, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged all to defend the spirit of the Liberation War so that the future generation could feel proud of it and live with dignity.

"We'll have to keep in mind that we've achieved independence through the sacrifices and blood of lakhs of martyrs. So, all of us will have to uphold the spirit of the Liberation War," she told a reception for the gallantry award recipients in Dhaka Cantonment.

The reception was accorded by the Armed Forces Division (AFD) in Dhaka Cantonment marking Armed Forces Day 2013.

Having gained a hard-fought independence, Bangalees do not bow down, Hasina said. "We want to establish Bangladesh as a developed, prosperous, dignified, and peaceful nation in South Asia so that we can move on in the global arena with our heads high."

The PM cited various steps to protect the freedom fighters and their families against the pangs of poverty. "As long as I live, whether I am in power or in the opposition, I give my word that I'll do whatever possible for the treatment and accommodation of the freedom fighters.

"Our goal is to better their lives. I feel hurt when I see freedom fighters suffering from poverty and engaged in such a work, which is not at all respectable for us."

Recalling the contributions of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, four national leaders, freedom fighters and others, Hasina said the nation had been enjoying independence for their sacrifices. "Their (martyrs) dignity and honour would always remain above everything else."

Mentioning the Recover Plan 2010 for Bangladesh Muktijoddha Welfare Trust, she said her government had formulated a guideline to raise at least Tk 135 crore for the trust by 2014.

The PM said the retirement age of the government officials and employees, SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Opposition alliance rallies in capital today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led 18-party alliance will hold a rally at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan today, protesting the "all-party" election-time cabinet and demanding a non-party, neutral caretaker administration.

The alliance will also rally at all upazila, district and divisional headquarters. BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir announced the programme on November 18, the day six lawmakers were sworn in as ministers and two others as state ministers.

The main opposition BNP has rejected the newly-formed cabinet, saying it was nothing other than a "reconstitution" of the Awami League-led alliance government.

Pro-BNP university teachers urge govt to hold inclusive polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some pro-BNP university teachers yesterday urged the government to ensure the participation of all parties in the upcoming general election to make it acceptable.

At a press conference at the capital's Jatiya Press Club, they criticised the newly-formed election-time cabinet as comprising only leaders of the Awami League-led ruling alliance.

If the election is held under the current administration, it would lose acceptability, said the teachers under the banner "Sacheton Shikkhak Samaj". They fear that the ongoing political impasse could bring in a non-political force to power like the 1/11 and trigger a civil war in the country.

"If the government fails to ensure an inclusive poll, SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

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