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# Solution in short time

Public university teachers say PM assured them of addressing their grievances over pay scale disparity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday assured agitating public university teachers that she would see to their demands so that the stalemate over "disparities" in the new pay scale could be resolved in the quickest time possible, claimed teachers.

During a meeting with a delegation of Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association (FBUTA) at Gono Bhaban, the premier also urged them to resume classes immediately at the universities, they said.

"The premier assured us that she herself will look into the matter so that the problem could be solved quickly. We have absolute faith in her and we also believe that the problem would be solved quickly," Prof ASM Maksud Kamal, general secretary of FBUTA, told reporters after the meeting.

As for resuming classes, he said they would soon come up with an announcement regarding this after holding a meeting of the federation today. He said they'd also seek opinions from the teachers' associations at different public universities.

"We will announce our next step on the basis of opinions we get from the meetings," said Prof Maksud.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana along with eminent personalities, including university teachers, enjoy a cultural programme on the lawn of the Gono Bhaban yesterday. The programme, *Bikeler Pitha Utsab*, was organised at the behest of the PM and her sister. The guests were entertained with traditional winter *pithas* and other food items.

PHOTO: BSS



## Zia's birth anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 80th birth anniversary of late president Ziaur Rahman, the founder of BNP.

On this day in 1936, Ziaur Rahman was born at Bagbari under Gabtoli upazila of Bogra.

BNP and its associate organisations have drawn up several programmes, including rally, discussion and *milad mehfil*, to observe the day with due respect.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia along with leaders and activists of the

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**TOP QUOTE**

"Sub-inspector Masud Shikder has committed a criminal offence by detaining and torturing bank official Golam Rabbi. He should be dismissed from service as suspension is not enough for his crime."

**HIGH COURT**  
WHILE HEARING A WRIT PETITION

## Iran bins new US sanctions

Obama hails 'strong American diplomacy'; Saudi Arabia alarmed in private

AGENCIES

Iran denounced new US sanctions on its missile programme yesterday but pushed ahead with international cooperation after its historic nuclear deal.

Washington announced the new sanctions on Sunday, the day after the UN atomic watchdog confirmed that Iran

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## TORTURE OF BB OFFICIAL SI should be dismissed

HC observes, finds his offence criminal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday observed that Sub-inspector Masud Shikder of Mohammadpur Police Station should be sacked as suspension is not enough for detaining and torturing Bangladesh Bank official Golam Rabbi.

The SI committed a criminal offence,

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## COMMERCIAL USE OF BASEMENTS

# Rajuk restores some parking spaces

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajuk yesterday reclaimed basement parking spaces of a handful of buildings in Gulshan, Dhanmondi, and Uttara and sealed off illegal commercial set ups there during mobile court eviction drives.

The drive, launched simultaneously as part of a fortnight-long effort to recover car-park spaces illegally being used for other purposes and remove illegal access ramps on footpaths and streets, was throttled yesterday allegedly by the lobbying of powerful quarters.

The first day of the drive was delayed by four hours and had started after 1:00pm, as "the top authority held back the drive", said officials on

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## Australian Open rocked by fixing bombshell

AFP, Melbourne

A bombshell report alleging widespread corruption in tennis cast a shadow over the start of the Australian Open on Monday as officials vigorously denied suppressing evidence of match-fixing.

The BBC and BuzzFeed reported that a "core group" of 16 players who reached the top 50 in the past decade, including Grand Slam title-winners, had repeatedly caused suspicion but never faced action.

The claims, citing a leaked cache of secret files,

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Indigenous people of Chittagong Hill Tracts form a "400-km-long human chain" in the three hill districts yesterday, demanding full implementation of the CHT Peace Accord without further delays. The photo was taken at Noapara on Bandarban-Chimbuk road. Story on page 13.

PHOTO: STAR



## Shocking disparity

62 people own as much wealth as half the world's population

BBC ONLINE

The richest 1% now has as much wealth as the rest of the world combined, according to Oxfam.

It uses data from Credit Suisse from October for the report, which urges leaders meeting in Davos this week to take action on inequality.

Oxfam also calculated that the richest 62 people

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