



A group of children greet Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina with flowers and song on her birthday at her Sudha Sadan Residence in the city yesterday.

Hasina's birthday celebrated

UNB, Dhaka
Thousands of party leaders, workers and admirers thronged the Sudha Sadan residence of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday and greeted her with flowers, garlands and books on her birthday.
Hasina, the eldest daughter of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, stepped into her 57th year yesterday.
The joyous crowd, who came with boxes of sweets, cakes, crests, flowers and bouquet, met a smiling Hasina from early morning and wished her good health and long life.
A large group of children greeted her with song and wished her a happy life. Hasina's scientist husband, Wajed Ali Miah, accompanied her for a while as people from all walks of life exchanged greetings with her.
As there was no formal programme, she did not cut any birthday cake. She woke up early, offered her Fazr prayers and recited from the holy Quran as usual to begin the day.
'I never celebrate my birthday with festivity. When my mother was alive, she used to cook special foods and gave me gifts like a new dress or saree,' she told journalists when asked to make a comment on her birthday.
In an emotion-choked voice, Hasina, who lost her dear ones on August 15, 1975, said: 'I now miss the tender care and love of my parents and the affection of my brothers.'
Thanking people, who came to wish her, she said: 'Birthday is nothing to celebrate...they came and prayed for me and that's the only meaningful thing in my life, my great achievement.'
Leaders of Awami League, Jubo League, Chhatra League, Mohila Awami League, Jubo Mohila League, Shechhasebak League and Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote greet their leader.



Unemployed diploma nurses stage a demonstration at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday to press their various demands.

'Poor resource management an obstacle to development'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Poor management of resources is a major obstacle to development, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman said yesterday.
Increasing resources in the name of the poor is a wasteful alternative unless other measures are in place to correct the misallocation of the fund, he said at a 'Dialogue: Focus on pro-poor health strategies'.
All development efforts are targeted for the poor, but unfortunately much of the resources don't reach them, the minister said.
The two-day dialogue was jointly organised by the government, United Nations Population Fund and the World Bank at the National Economic Council auditorium of the planning commission.
At the opening session, World Bank Country Director Christine Wallich drew attention on accountability in the health sector. 'Accountability is a complex issue that includes delegation, finance, performance, information and enforcement of rules and regulations.'
Praising the government's draft action plan for the reforms in the health sector, Wallich said the plan aims at strengthening the link between policy-makers and the poor by devising mechanism to identify the poor and to target resources to them.
She also said the plan attempts to strengthen the line of accountability between the poor and the service providers through decentralisation of the authority and autonomy of the hospitals.
Suneeta Mukherjee, country representative of UNFPA, said,

Cancellation of PSC exam demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT
Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of the opposition Awami League, yesterday demanded immediate cancellation of the written test for the post of sub-registrars, saying that the questions were leaked out.
They said the Public Service Commission (PSC) took the test despite leakage of the question papers on September 25.
The BCL also demanded that the declaration making the four-year bachelor degree equivalent to the three-year honours and one-year master's degree be made effective during recruitment by the government and non-government organisations.
The BCL leaders placed their demands at a rally on the Dhaka University campus.
They also called for resignation of the PSC chairman and fresh examination for the post of sub-registrars.
The BCL will stage demonstration on the campus today and across the country tomorrow to press for its demands.
Presided over by BCL President Liaqat Sikder, the rally was also addressed by BCL General Secretary Nazrul Islam Babu, DU unit President Delwar Hossain and General Secretary Hemayet Uddin Khan Himu, Golam Sarwar Kabir, Ishaque Miah and Mamunur Rashid Shuvo.
Earlier, the BCL brought out a colourful procession to celebrate the birthday of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina.
Meanwhile, About one hundred students under the banner of general students of Dhaka University held a rally to protest the non-implementation of the government's declaration.
The government declared the four-year honours degree as equivalent to the previous three-year honours and one-year master degree amidst protests by the students.

Police atrocities on women condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Different organisations yesterday condemned the police atrocities on women in the city during the countrywide dawn to dusk hartal enforced by Awami League on Saturday.
Some organisations were also critical of few newspapers for carrying out 'indecent' photos of the tormented women saying that the photos have undermined the women before the society.
President of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) Hena Das and General Secretary Ayesha Khanom, in a joint statement, strongly protested the police attack on women demonstrators and demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible for it.
They said irrespective of gender identity every person has the right to take part in political programmes in a democratic society.
The incident has tarnished the image of the country, they added.
Dr Hamida Hossain, executive director of Ain-o-Salish Kendra and Khushi Kabir, executive director of Nijera Kori, also condemned the incident.
They said taking part in processions and rallies is constitutional rights of every citizen.
A government elected through democratic way can never ignore such a crime by its law enforcers, they added.
They demanded inquiry into the incident and punishment to the persons responsible for the attack.
They also criticised some newspapers which carried out photos of the tormented women without hiding their identity.
In another statement, Leaders of Sammilito Nari Samaj, an organisation for the women, also rebuked the government for the incident and demanded punishment of the police officials on duty.
Leaders of Bangladesh Jatiya Samik Jote also protested the police attack.
Awami League Ivy Rahman also censured the government for torturing the women during the hartal.
In a statement, she said the attack has unmasked the government's autocratic character.
Socialist Women Forum leaders Rawshon Ara Rusho and Shamsunnahar Jyosna also demanded punishment to police personnel involved in the attack.
Executive Director of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association Salma Ali said publishing photos of the tortured women and their identity is a direct violation of the existing laws on women and children.
Manjurul Ahsan Khan and Mujahidul Islam Selim, president and general secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), demanded trial of the law enforcers who assaulted the women demonstrators of the opposition during the hartal.
Convener of the Socialist Party of Bangladesh Khalequzzaman also came up heavily on the government for resorting baton charges on women demonstrators and demanded punishment of the police officials on duty.
Women Affairs Secretary of the

DHAKA TODAY

- DUJ meet
A special general meeting of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) will be held with its President Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan in the chair. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10.00am.
Meeting
A meeting of the executive committee of Dhaka based Chattagram Samity will be held. Venue: Chattagram Bhaban, Tophkana Road. Time: 6.30pm.
Human chain
The Coalition of Local NGOs in Bangladesh will form a human chain to protest India's river-linking mega project. Venue: Mukhtangan. Time: 10.30am.
Installation ceremony
The 10th installation ceremony of the Rotaract Club of Sonargaon North will be held. Venue: ICMAB auditorium, Nikhet. Time: 5.30pm.
Blood donation
A voluntary blood donation camp, organised by Quantum Foundation, will be held. Venue: Democracy Watch, Circuit House Road. Time: 12.00 noon.
Health workshop
A daylong orientation workshop on Obstetric Fistula, organised by director general of health service, will be held with State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mizanur Rahman Sinha as chief guest. Venue: IJO conference room, Tejacon. Time: 10.00am.

DHAKA, Dhaka

Vice Chairman of National People's Congress of China Jiang Zhenghua on Sunday praised the policy and programmes of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) saying these policies are very much realistic, popular and befitting to the welfare of the people of Bangladesh.
He also acclaimed the programmes taken by the present government and assured of providing increased Chinese support in implementing the development programmes.
Zhenghua was speaking at a meeting with the BNP leaders in Beijing, says a BNP press release.
LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan led the delegation while Senior Joint Secretary General Tareque Rahman and Vice Minister of International Department of Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Dr Cai Wu spoke on the occasion.
Addressing the meeting Bhuiyan said he himself and his entourage are impressed seeing the unprecedented progress of China. Terming the people of China as very hard working and patriotic, he said China's per capita income is on rise every year whereas many big economies are facing serious hurdles of open market economy.
'Bangladesh government and BNP are pleased on the progress of China, which it had earned amidst many international hostilities,' he said, adding in many fields Bangladesh is following the experiences of China.



The Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation took out a procession in the city yesterday demanding withdrawal of VAT on the rent for the public auditoriums.

Child Rights Week-2003 begins today Children's parliamentary election early next year

DU Correspondent
For the first time in the country, a symbolic children's parliamentary election will be held early next year and the parliament will be formed in March where the children will express their opinions in every sphere of the society.
The children's parliament will be formed with 660 elected representatives including one boy and one girl from each constituency of the country. Ten percent seats have been earmarked for the physically challenged children.
Six different parliaments will also be formed in the six divisions. The children will discuss issues concerning their rights in the parliament sessions and send the recommendations to the national parliament.
The Bangladesh Child Rights Forum (BCRF) disclosed this at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday. The press conference was organised on the eve of Child Rights Week-2003 beginning today. The World Child Day 2003 will also be observed today.
The main objective of the week is to create awareness among the people about child rights. The theme of the week is 'Children in care, child in development'.

Orientation ceremony held at Presidency University

An orientation programme for the newly admitted students of Presidency University was held on its Gulshan campus on Sunday morning, says a press release.
Welcoming the students, Vice-chancellor (Designate) Muslehuddin Ahmad assured that they would be receiving quality education here.
Ahmad, a pioneer in establishing private university, underscored the need for proficiency in English to pursue higher education at the Presidency University.
He also said that although politics would be taught in the classrooms for preparing the students as future leaders, no political bodies or groupings would be allowed on the campus.
In the evening, the parents and guardians were invited to meet the teachers and the members of the governing board of Presidency University Foundation.
Rokia Afzal Rahman, chairperson of the governing board and former advisor of the caretaker government, congratulated the students on their accomplishment in the admission test and promised the board's full support for providing the best available education and services that would be emulated by other academic institutions.
She reiterated that quality, not quantity, would be the guiding principle of Presidency University.
Several students in undergraduate programme attained merit-based scholarship and all female students will receive a special 10 percent discount on tuition across the board.
Other board members and faculty members were also present and they exchanged ideas with the parents and students.
The Presidency University was inaugurated by Education Minister Dr M Osman Farruk and Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan on August 20 this year.

WEATHER TODAY
Light to moderate rain

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

DHAKA TOMORROW Film show

- Academy Film Society will screen an Iranian film titled 'Gabbah' (Life is colour). Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.
AIUB programme
The launching ceremony of Agribusiness MBA programme of American International University, Bangladesh (AIUB) will be held with Agriculture Minister M K Anwar as chief guest. Venue: Sonargaon hotel.
National conference
The fifth National Conference of Bangladesh Sangjukta Krishak O Khetmajur Samity will be held. Venue: Mohanagar Natyamancha, Gulistan. Time: 11.00am.



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