

# Unite against misrule of alliance govt

## Hasina urges workers and employees

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the workers and employees to stand united against the misrule of the alliance government as it has closed down mills and factories, rendering thousands of workers jobless.

The government has also planned to retrench 1.2 lakh employees from different welfare institutions, she told a delegation of the Jatiya Sramik League.

The delegation called on her at her Dhanmondi residence on the occasion of 34th founding anniversary of the Sramik League, labour front of the AL.

"Workers and employees are now battered by transfers, harassment and repression," the opposition leader said and asked the Sramik League leadership to rejuvenate the organisation and resist such activities.

Awami League Joint Secretary Obaidul Qader, Labour Affairs Secretary Habibur Rahman Siraj,

Sramik League President Abdul Matin Master and General Secretary Roy Ramesh Chandra were present at the meeting.

Meanwhile, Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil condemned the police action that

### Crafts, Food Fair tomorrow

A day-long Crafts and Food Fair-2003, organised by ASEAN Ladies Association (ALA) in Dhaka, begins in the capital tomorrow, says a press release.

The participating eight ASEAN countries are Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Myanmar, Malaysia, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The sale proceeds of the fair will be donated to the Charity Welfare Organisations in Dhaka.

The exhibition will remain open at Udhayan Thai, Madani Avenue, Baridhara, from 11.00am to 5.00pm.

virtually confined party MP AKM Jahangir Hossain to local rest house and prevented him from joining a protest meeting and procession in Golachipa upazila of Patuakhali district yesterday.

In a statement, he alleged that the supporters of the alliance government attacked the Galachipa AL office on October 10 and vandalised the portrait of Bangabandhu and office furniture. Thana Awami League vice-president Kashinath Dutta and several other AL workers were injured during the rampage.

AKM Jahangir went there to join the protest rally organised by the upazila AL yesterday.

Jalil alleged that the criminals occupied the 'Poura Mancha', the meeting venue, and broke microphones twice.

"On the pretext of deterioration of law and order, Jahangir was not allowed to come out of the Upazila Rest House," Jalil complained.

He also demanded immediate arrest of the 'identified criminals' responsible for the trouble.



PHOTO: STAR

Leaders of the Jatiya Sramik League greet Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence yesterday on the occasion of 34th founding anniversary of the Sramik League, the labour front of AL.

### Sanitation coverage by 2010

## 'Poverty main problem in achieving target'

BSS, Dhaka

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan on Saturday called for innovating low cost sanitation technologies as poverty might bar the ongoing sanitation programme for all by 2010.

"Not only lack of awareness, poverty may also create a big problem in attaining 100 per cent sanitation coverage within 2010," Bhuiyan said at a dialogue in the city.

Centre for Environmental Resource Management (CERM), International Training Network Centre (ITNC) and the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) jointly organised the dialogue at BUET auditorium here.

The objective of the dialogue was to provide support to the government in achieving the government's target for full sanitation coverage within stipulated time.

Officially the national sanitation coverage stands at 43 per cent, but practically it is less than that, concerned sources said. Lack of proper attention in the past has been blamed as main reason for low sanitation coverage in the country.

The poor people both at urban and rural areas use hanging latrines widely. Many people still use open place as toilets, while the river waters are being polluted due to release of untreated human excreta from river transports.

Bhuiyan urged the persons concerned to develop sustainable technologies considering the geographic aspects, habits of the local people and their affordability. He said a common technology would not suit everywhere across the

country. So the experts should develop technologies that suits a particular area.

Chaired by BUET Vice Chancellor Ali Mortuza, the function was also addressed by Secretary of the Local Government Division AYBI Siddqui, BUET teachers Sekander Ali and Mujibur Rahman.

### Showcause on Press Club president, general secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka judge court has asked the president and general secretary of the Jatiya Press Club to show cause within 24 hours why the decision of the club's Acommittee to accept new members should not be declared unlawful.

The court also asked them to explain why interim injunction should not be enforced on the decision taken on October 7 at a meeting of the managing committee regarding new membership.

The fourth assistant judge's court issued the showcause notice on Saturday after two members of the club -- Mahmud Hasan and Rezwanul Huq -- filed a suit challenging the legality of the decision, said a press release of The Law Associates.

They appealed to the court to declare the committee's decision unlawful, saying that it violated the club's constitution.