

**BCL council starts today**  
Elderly students to be dropped from fresh body  
DU CORRESPONDENT

The much-awaited national council of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of the main opposition Awami League (AL), begins today with an indication that the elderly student leaders will be dropped from the fresh committee.

"The AL chief has instructed to leave out the leaders who are over 29 years," AL joint secretary Abaidul Quader said yesterday after a meeting with the Leader of the Opposition and AL chief Sheikh Hasina where a number of former BCL leaders were present.

"Those who passed the SSC examinations before 1993 also can't be candidates for the council posts," Quader said quoting Hasina in the meeting at AL's Dhanmondi office.

Earlier, it was decided that only those who passed SSC in 1995 or later and is under 27 years of age could contest for the post in the organisation's central position. But Sheikh Hasina relaxed the age limit by two years considering the student body's council not being held on time.

In the greater interest of BCL, Sheikh Hasina took the decision to conduct student politics with the students, Quader added.

The council is going to be held two years behind schedule as the existing committee expired on April 3, 2004.

Aspirants have already submitted their CVs to the council preparations committee mentioning their years of passing the SSC exams.

The AL chief's decision, however, created mixed reaction among the BCL activists.

While the 'elderly leaders' of the organisation are frustrated with the decision, it has been appreciated by the young regular students.

Many aspirants, who had been campaigning for the secretariat posts in the central or Dhaka University units, are now approaching the AL leaders to grab the top posts of president and general secretary in the central committee.

Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the two-day national council and reunion at 10:00am on Dhanmondi Club Ground in the city.

The national council will be held at Engineers Institute auditorium at 9:00am tomorrow, where councilors will cast their votes to elect leaders for the next committee.

Incumbent BCL President Liaquat Sikder will preside over the reunion.

**'Adopt plan to supply water to meet city's demand after 20yrs'**

BSS, Dhaka

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday underscored the need for adopting a comprehensive action plan for water supply to meet the demand of 2.5 crore city dwellers after 20 years.

He said this while presiding over a discussion on the draft policy for meeting the demand for water of the probable population in the city after 20 years. The meeting was held at the Department of Local Government in the city.

The meeting predicted that the population of the city might be 2.5 crore after 20 years.

The draft policy, prepared in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and supervision of the Dhaka Water Supply Authority (Wasa), to face the

increasing demand for water in the city after 20 years attaching priority to use surface water.

The policy also recommended efficient sewerage and drainage management side by side with the supply of fresh water in the city. Narayanganj should be included in the plan.

LGD secretary SM Nazrul Islam, chief engineer of LGED Mohammad Shahidul Hasan and chief engineer of Public Health Engineering Department Mohammad Khorsheed Alam were present at the discussion. Managing director of Dhaka Wasa Dr Kazi Ali Azam presented the draft policy.

Bhuiyan emphasised the need for developing the water management system in the city and making it more effective and efficient, saying the sources of fresh water and its supply have to be increased through

all possible means.

It is urgent to make the sewerage treatment plants and the sources of fresh water in the city, including the Buriganga and Shitalakkhaya rivers, pollution free as part of the mid-term plan, he added.

He also gave importance to undertaking measures to increase the depth of the rivers around the Dhaka city and developing those as the sources of surface water as part of the long-term plan.

Bhuiyan asked the water supply authorities to supply water for the slum dwellers in the city with a minimum service charge.

A proposal for inclusion of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to ensure water supply to the city slums also came up for the discussion.



Weekly Begum Editor Noorjahan Begum launches a book titled 'Selected Begum: Social Picture of Half-Century (1947-2000)' at the National Museum auditorium in the city yesterday.

**'Selected Begum' launched**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a ceremony highly commended the role of weekly 'Begum', a popular Bengali magazine for women, for social advancement and women empowerment.

They were speaking at the publication ceremony of 'Selected Begum: Social Picture of Half-Century (1947-2000)' organised by Pathak Samabesh, which published the three-volume anthology, at the auditorium of the National Museum in the city yesterday.

Termining the compilation 'remarkable', they said the book carries immense historical value.

Dr Anisuzzaman presided over the function while Rabeya Khatun, Abdul Mannan Syed, Selina Hossain and Maleka Begum, editor of the 'Selected Begum', addressed.

The speakers lauded the selection of contents as the three volumes include every aspects of the contemporary society. It can be used as reference book for the new generation, they added.

Selina Hossain presented a brief overview of the anthology as the first volume includes the role of women in the movement against communalism long before the year 1947, women at home and outside, women against social and religious prejudice.

The second and third volumes include the ongoing struggle of women and women in international level.

Speaking as chief guest, Weekly Begum Editor Noorjahan Begum said "It's a memorable day for me. I am really happy to be able to see the anthology in my lifetime".

She urged all to continue writing as a form of struggling against all injustices and thus continue advancement of the society.

**9 killed in road accidents**

STAR REPORT

At least nine people were killed and nine others injured in separate road accidents in Munshiganj and Mymensingh on Saturday night and yesterday.

BDNEWS from Munshiganj reports: Four people were killed and five others injured when a truck rammed a roadside saloon at 10:30am yesterday as its driver lost control over the steering at Bagra in Srinagar on Dhaka-Dohar road.

Sohel, 28, died on the spot. Jewel, 28, Malek, 42, and another unidentified man died while undergoing treatment at hospitals. Five injured were admitted to different local hospitals and in the capital.

Police seized the truck but the driver managed to escape.

Police said the Dohar-bound truck rammed Kadir's saloon and damaged it. Sohel, Jewel and Malek were having haircut at the saloon.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: A youth was run over by a speedy bus at Ramna in the city yesterday.

The accident occurred when a speedy Mirpur-bound passenger bus hit Md Sohel, 25, a resident of Haji Rahim Box Lane of Lalbagh, while he was crossing the road in front of the Engineers' Institute of Bangladesh leaving him dead on the spot.

Police seized the bus and arrest the driver.

The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Our JU Correspondent adds: A man was killed in a road accident in front of the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) on Dhaka-Aricha highway yesterday.

Md Maksudul Alam, 35, a resident of Baparipara of Nola in Ashulia and son of Khurshed Alam, was killed when a Dhaka-bound bus hit the bike he was riding in

front of BPATC main gate at 11:30am. The bus dragged him about 50/60 yards on the road killing him on the spot. Maksudul, a conductor, was going to Savar from BPATC.

Police took the body to Savar Police Station.

UNB from Mymensingh adds: Three vegetable traders were killed and three others injured as a pickup turned over at Madhupur in Tarakanda Police Station on Sherpur-Mymensingh road on Saturday night.

The dead were identified as Ansar, 41, Raju, 17, and Bahadur, 40, all hailed from Sadar upazila of Sherpur district.

Witnesses said, as the driver of the vegetable laden pick-up bound for Dhaka lost control over the steering it overturned on the road killing the three traders on the spot at 11:30pm.

Police seized the vehicle but the driver fled away.



President of Bikalpadhara AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury speaks at a press briefing at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right are President of Jatiya Oikya Mancha Dr Kamal Hossain and President of Bangladesh Tariqat Federation Moulana Najibul Bashar Maizbhandari.

**Take fresh vow to free country from repression: Jalil**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday called for taking fresh vow to make the country free from repression and corruption as dreamt by the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Speaking at a discussion, he also urged patriotic people to be united to rescue the country from the clutches of the evil forces.

The discussion titled 'Bangabandhu's Bangladesh' was organised by Sonar Bangla Jubo Parishad at the National Press Club in the city to mark Bangabandhu's 86th birth anniversary and 35th anniversary of Independent Day.

Abdul Jalil, also the convener of 14-party opposition combine, said the terms 'Bangabandhu' and 'Bangladesh' are synonymous and none can create any division between them.

"We fought against the repression of 22 families of the then Pakistan in 1971, but the number of such families has now risen to more

than thousand and they are repressing the general people of the country," he added.

Bangabandhu did not dream of present Bangladesh, Jalil said, adding, if needed the people will join another war to materialise his dream.

Presenting a keynote paper, eminent economist Dr Atiur Rahman said some forces are trying to change the history of the country presenting wrong information about Bangabandhu's role in the liberation war.

He said event the Pakistani rulers did not try to change the role of Bangabandhu, but some Bangladeshis are now trying to change role of the founder of the country.

Presided over by parishad President Prof Dr Reza Kibria, the discussion was also addressed by former president of Dhaka University Teachers' Association Prof Dr AASM Arefin Siddique, writer Selina Hossain, Barrister Tanjia Amir and journalist Swapan Kumar Saha.

**Security guard shot in city**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three unidentified armed criminals shot a security guard in the city yesterday.

The victim was identified as Babul Akhter, 28, the security guard of a house at Dhanmondi.

The victim told the reporters that he received bullets in his right leg and hand at around 10:30am when he prevented the miscreants from entering a flat on the second floor of an apartment.

The criminals then left the place firing few blank shots.

The guard was rushed to Bangladesh Medical College Hospital from where he was shifted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

The reason behind the incident couldn't be known immediately.

According to Dhanmondi police, none was arrested and no case was filed in this connection.

**Justice Murshed's 27th anniversary of death today**

UNB, Dhaka

Today is the 27th death anniversary of former Chief Justice Syed Mahbub Murshed.

President Iajuddin Ahmed gave message on the occasion of his death anniversary.

He said the nation will always remember his role in establishing rule of law and justice with due respect.

"I hope that his wisdom and ideal will inspire all to work sincerely for forming law-abiding society and protecting human rights," he said.

The president prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

To mark the day, Qurankhwani and Fateha Khwani will be held at his mazar at Banani. Syed Mahbub Murshed Committee will place wreath at his mazar.

A milad mahfil will also be held at his Gulshan residence after Asr prayers.

**Janaza of DU teacher today**

BSS, Dhaka

Namaz-e-janaza of Syed Imtiaz Ahmed, an assistant professor of International Relations (IR) Department of Dhaka University (DU) will be held at the DU Central Mosque after Asr prayers today.

Before the janaza, the body will be kept at the IR Department for some time for his colleagues and students to pay homage to the deceased.

**Dinajpur truck owners' 48-hr strike begins today**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Dinajpur Truck Owners' Association will begin a 48-hour strike today protesting rampant hijacking of rice laden truck and killing of two people here.

The Association placed a 10-point demand with a seven-day deadline on March 25 to the authorities concerned to take affective measures to stop hijacking of trucks at a press conference at the Dinajpur Press Club.

The deadline expired yesterday. Dinajpur police recovered one of four hijacked trucks with decomposed body of its driver and helper from Birganj upazila on March 26. The truck was hijacked on March 24, police said.

The deceased were identified as driver Ameer Ali, 28, son of Banesh Ali of village Aricha Ghat of Shibaboy upazila of Manikganj district and Helper Abdul Slam 27, son of Adu of village Dalar Char of Bara upazila of Pabna. Police said the hijackers slaughtered the driver and helper.

The owner of the truck Kartique Ghosh identified the decomposed bodies at Dinajpur Medical Collage. The owners at the press conference said the transport industry in greater Dinajpur is facing severe trouble due to frequent hijacking.

At least 15 trucks were hijacked during the last three years and four drivers and helpers killed by the hijackers, they said.

Shaidul Islam, president of Dinajpur Truck Owner Association, threatened greater movement if their demands were not met immediately.

Hamidur Rahman, Officer in Charge (OC) of Dinajpur Police Station said they are trying hard to recover the missing trucks.

**Lingering of cases delays justice**

Says SCBA new president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newly elected President of Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Barrister Amir-ul-Islam yesterday said people are not getting proper justice from the courts due to lingering of cases.

"There are as many as 3500 problems facing the SCBA, and of them, lingering of cases is the main obstacle to get fair justice. Political appointment specially in High Court and Supreme Court has aggravated the situation," he said while addressing as chief guest at SCBA annual general meeting at Shafiqur Rahman auditorium where he assumed his new responsibility as SCBA president.

Referring to Bangabandhu Murder Case, Barrister Amir said this case has been waiting for

hearing at the appellate division for six years.

He laid emphasis on the court management to resolve the problems.

He said the SCBA will arrange a training course very soon for new lawyers.

Outgoing SCBA president Advocate Mahbubey Alam said the government did not take measures to appoint honest and talented judges which is very needed to get fair justice.

Newly elected General Secretary Abu Mohammad Amin Uddin, renowned lawyer Rokanuddin Mahmud and other former and present committee members were also present.



Outgoing Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president Advocate Mahbubey Alam presents a bouquet to newly elected president of the association Barrister Amir-ul-Islam at its annual general meeting at an auditorium of the Supreme Court in the city yesterday.

**1,133 more held**

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,133 people on various charges from different parts of the country in the last 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.

During the drive, the law-enforcers also seized five firearms, two other weapons, 33 bullets and four explosives, says a police headquarters press release.

**Obituary**

Senior journalist Lutful Haq passed away due to old-age ailment on Saturday at his young daughter's residence at the age of 72, says a press release.

He started his career in The Pakistan Observer. He also worked for The Morning News, The New Nation and The Financial Express.

He taught at The Technical Education and Training Center at Mirpur as a professor and in Lagos, Nigeria and Indonesia.

He left behind his two daughters.

He was buried at the Azampur old graveyard after nazam-e-janaza at Gulshan Central Mosque after Zohr prayers.

His kulkhwani will be held at the residence of his youngest son-in-law at House No-3, Road No-95, Gulshan-2.

Relatives, friends, colleagues and admirers are requested to attend the kulkhwani.



**Appeal For Help**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Afzal Hossain, a meritorious student of Daffodil University, has been suffering from deadly disease cancer.

He has been undergoing treatment at C MC Hospital in Madras, India for seven months, says a press release.

According to doctors at CMC Hospital, around Tk 25,00,000 (Twenty-five lakh taka) is needed for his treatment.

Afzal's father Md Idris Ali, a retired employee and the only earning member of a seven-member family, is not in a position to manage such a huge amount of money.

He has therefore appealed to generous people to extend a helping hand to save his son.

Contributions can be sent to, Savings Account No: 6343, Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd, Mirpur Branch, Dhaka.

**Michael arrives today**

Michael Von Zitzewitz, Honorary Consul for Bangladesh in Frankfurt and the Chairman, Board of Management, Messe Frankfurt GmbH will call on important government and semi government officials as well as members of some of the associations, chambers and federations as part of his three-day tour beginning today, says a press release.

"I hope my visit will enhance the Bangladesh German economic cooperation further, specially seeing the impressive economic growth in Bangladesh", Michael said.

Messe Frankfurt GmbH is trade fair organiser in Frankfurt and all around the world.

**WEATHER TODAY**

**No change in day temperature likely**

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country having chances of rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore and Kushtia in the next 24 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met office said.

Highest temperature 37.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 20.0 degree Celsius at Mymensingh.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:16pm today and rises at 5:48am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.0	25.0	69	51
Chittagong	31.8	23.6	75	74
Rajshahi	37.2	23.6	75	52
Khulna	34.5	25.4	73	63
Barisal	34.0	3.5	83	--
Sylhet	34.5	25.3	76	47
Cox's Bazar	32.6	23.5	75	70