



Standing in front of a portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina takes a selfie with her sister Sheikh Rehana and daughter Saima Wazed at a photo and painting exhibition on the Father of the Nation at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on Friday.

PHOTO COURTESY: CRI

PM pledges economic emancipation of nation

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday vowed to build the Bangalee as a dignified nation with economic emancipation freeing it from hunger and poverty and ensuring tech-based knowledge.

"We want to build the Bangalee as a modern tech-based nation, ensuring its economic emancipation. We'll build Bangladesh as a country free from hunger and poverty with technological know-how, to make the nation a dignified one in the world as dreamed by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," she said while addressing a discussion organised by Awami League at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC), marking Amar Ekushey and International Mother Language Day.

Focusing on the history of the Language Movement, Sheikh Hasina said although February 21, 1952 witnessed the tragic incident, the movement for the mother tongue began much earlier.

She said Bangabandhu was sent to jail time and gain for his role in the Language Movement.

"Bangabandhu had been kept behind the bars at a stretch from 1949 to 1952," she said.

The PM said following Bangabandhu's proposal, the State Language Action Council was formed in 1948. This council had called a general strike on March 11, 1948 across the country, she said, adding that Bangabandhu was arrested while picketing in front of the Secretariat.

Sheikh Hasina said it was Awami League which included the provision of making Bangla a state language after its victory in the 1956 general election. "The AL government had declared February 21 as the Language Martyrs' Day and allocated fund for constructing Shaheed Minars," she said.

Govt move to stop 'Guide Books' Book sellers to keep shops closed Feb 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Publisher and Book-sellers' Association yesterday said they will keep their bookshops across the country closed on February 24, protesting the government initiative of stopping publication and circulation of "guide books".

The announcement was made at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU), where the association demanded separate definitions of "guide books" and "exercise books". Some 11 other organisations expressed solidarity with the demand.

"We stopped publishing guide and note books since the commencement of the 'creative system' at school level. We have only been publishing books which are used for the exercise of teachers and students," said Arif Hossain Chhoton, president of the association, while reading out a written statement.

The leader of the organisation claimed that "note books" or "guide books" only have answers of National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB)'s questions, but "exercise books" have content with explanations, analysis, sample questions

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Rizvi among 10 BNP men hurt as cops charge baton

UNB, Dhaka

At least 10 BNP leaders and activists, including its senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, were injured in the city's Mirpur area yesterday, as police charged batons on a procession demanding release of Khaleda Zia.

A day before the hearing on a bail petition of their party chief at a High Court (HC) bench, some leaders and activists of the party and its associate bodies brought out a procession from the kitchen market area at Mirpur-6 around 11am.

As the procession was moving towards Mirpur-11, police obstructed it and dispersed BNP leaders and activists charging batons, leaving Rizvi and nine others injured.

Talking to reporters later, Rizvi said they brought out the procession in a peaceful manner demanding their chairperson's release as she is very sick.

"It was not an anti-government procession, but police suddenly attacked it and charged batons to foil it. Many of

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Rab claims arrest of top-terror's aide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday claimed to have arrested a close aide of a top-listed fugitive criminal.

Top-terror Zeesan Ahmed's associate Mazharul Islam Shakil flew to Dhaka from Dubai to "murder a godfather" and take control of "underworld" of Bangladesh, Rab officials said in a press release yesterday.

"Shakil came to Bangladesh on January 12, just a few days before the city corporation election. He showed his presence through various activities," Sarwar Bin Quashem, director of Rab's Legal and Media wing, told a press briefing yesterday.

Rab claimed to have detained him from the capital's Mohammadpur early yesterday. However, Shakil's family members said he was picked up along with a friend from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) on Thursday night.

Rab could not say where his friend is now. The Rab members also recovered two pistols and bullets from Shakil's possession, added the official.

Sarwar said the underworld of Bangladesh was shaken after the recent casino drive, where crores of money used to "fly" everyday.

"Now the underworld has been dried up. To take control of it, Shakil came to Dhaka to lead the underworld for Zeesan," the Rab official claimed.

Though the Rab director claimed Shakil came to Dhaka on instruction of Zeesan, the official could not say anything about Zeesan's whereabouts. "Interpol is dealing with the matter," he added.

Top-listed fugitive criminal Zeesan Ahmed of Bangladesh was arrested

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