

BCL greets PM

By DU Correspondent

Pro-government student organisation Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday brought out a colourful procession on the Dhaka University campus to greet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as she has been conferred academic doctorate degree by the Catholic University of Bangladesh.

Following the procession, BCL held a rally at the *Aparajeo Bangla* on the campus at noon.

Addressing the rally, the BCL leaders said that the recognition proves Hasina's contribution to democracy and world leaders. "We feel proud of our leader," they said.

Presided over by Bahadur Bepary, the rally was addressed, among others, by Anisur Rahman, Sabahuddin Farazi, Lekat Ali Sikder, Asraf Ali Azim Rubon, Prasanta Bhushan Barua, Sajjad Hossain, Miraj Hossain and A K M Azim.

Mohila AL criticises opposition hartal call

An extended meeting of Bangladesh Mohila Awami League yesterday strongly criticised hartals called frequently by some opposition parties including BNP, terming their activities destructive, reports BSS.

The meeting, held at the party central office, was presided over by its president Begum Ily Rahman.

Among others, general secretary and Whip of the Jatiya Sangsads Prof Khaleda Khanam, organising secretary Farida Rouf Asha, MP, central leaders Nasima Malek, Nasibun Ahmed, Tahmina Khatun, Taslima Chowdhury, Begum Nasima Montu and Anjali Sarker addressed the meeting.

Ily Rahman said: "Fearing the rising popularity of Awami League, the opposition is employing propaganda, one after another."

They are hatching conspiracy to capture power through coup, killing and conspiracy, she said, adding the people have already rejected this politics.

She called upon the people to rally round Awami League led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to build a hunger and poverty-free "Sonar Bangla" as envisioned by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman.

The meeting thanked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her contribution to the signing of the landmark Ganges Water Sharing Treaty and the historic Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord.

The meeting demanded immediate execution of the verdict against the killers of the Bangabandhu.

3 held in city
By Staff Correspondent

An accused in at least twenty cases, including a murder case, was arrested with his two accomplices from city's Uttara area yesterday.

Police identified the arrested as Mia alias Majnu, Habib and Masum.

According to police, Mia, a resident of Khilgaon area, had been involved in robbery, snatching, extorting and killing for a long time. Habib and Masum are also accused in a number of cases.

A team of Khilgaon police during an operation at Kamarpura and Katchkura area in Uttara arrested the three in the early morning yesterday.

All dev projects aimed at welfare of people!

CHITTAGONG, July 31: Civil Aviation, Tourism, Housing and Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain said today that all development programmes of the government aimed at ensuring welfare of the masses, reports BSS.

He said, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman had dreamt of a happy and prosperous "Sonar Bangla", but the conspirators had thwarted the dream. Governments came to power one after another but they had no development programmes to change the lot of the people, he said, adding it is Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government which has ensured the people of their rights to vote and food.

Speaking as chief guest at the three yearly conference of Sitakunda Thana Awami League at a local high school ground the minister said, BNP

Law Minister speaks at a seminar
Consensus a must for good governance

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru yesterday called for putting in concerted endeavour to ensure good governance in society, reports BSS.

Speaking as the chief guest at a seminar on 'Good Governance' organised by MBA Association, the minister urged all concerned, particularly the opposition political parties, to work together to extend best services to the taxpayers.

The Law Minister referred to widespread criticism about the red-tapism and other practices causing suffering to the people and said such tendency in the bureaucracy has developed due to the past colonial and military dictatorial rule in the country. Uninterrupted practice of democracy having transparency and accountability could help overcome such problems in the bureaucracy.

Referring to criticism against the behaviour and bad taste of some Members of Parliament in their acrimonious attack and mud-slinging against each other in the House during the last session, he felt such problems could be overcome through continued practice of democracy and election of good people as public representatives.

In this connection he referred to the introduction of caretaker government for conducting national elections and said the days of winning elections through musclemen with the help of twenty motor cycles and hoodlums in over today.

Dwelling on role of newspaper industry, the minister said in the past journalism was regarded as a mission. Nowadays people are publishing newspapers for business, he said. The chairman of the Public Administration Reforms Commission Prof Shamsul Haq said that the commission was bringing about appropriate reforms based on consensus.

In his key-note speech, Prof Mozaffar Ahmed said the concept of good governance is correlated with the socio-economic and political conditions.

BNP, allies conspiring to frustrate dev programmes'

CHITTAGONG, July 31: Civil Aviation, Tourism, Housing and Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain said today that all development programmes of the government aimed at ensuring welfare of the masses, reports BSS.

He said, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman had dreamt of a happy and prosperous "Sonar Bangla", but the conspirators had thwarted the dream. Governments came to power one after another but they had no development programmes to change the lot of the people, he said, adding it is Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government which has ensured the people of their rights to vote and food.

Speaking as chief guest at the three yearly conference of Sitakunda Thana Awami League at a local high school ground the minister said, BNP

Atlanta shooting on Thursday
No Bangladeshi killed or hurt

From Govinda Shill

ATLANTA, July 31: No Bangladeshi has been killed or hurt in slaying on Thursday that left nine Americans dead including two Asian-Americans in the Georgian city of Atlanta, according to the Bangladeshi community here.

A securities day trader killed nine people on Thursday afternoon in Atlanta's two office buildings in the city's glitzy Buckhead district. He evaded an extensive police manhunt for five hours, and then killed himself in his van after the police made him pull over. The incident left another 12 people injured.

Police in Atlanta said they believed Mark Orrin Barton, a losing day trader about to be left homeless in a divorce, started a bloodbath by killing his wife and his two children, then shooting nine people to death. It was in a gas station that the police finally tracked him down but he took his life before they could get to him, according to reports.

Some 5,000 expatriate Bangladeshis live in Atlanta,

CJF ad hoc body formed

A seven-member ad hoc committee of Chittagong Journalists' Forum (CJF) in Dhaka was formed yesterday with BSS Senior Reporter Enamul Hoque Chowdhury as its Convener, reports UNB.

The committee was formed at a meeting of the Forum held at the Jatiya Press Club (JPC).

Other members of the committee are: Shyamal Dutt (Bhorer Kagoj), Masumur Rahman Khalil (Dinkal), Anis Alangir (Ajker Kagoj), Shahenul Islam Chowdhury (Matribhumi), M Baker Hossain (Arthanit) and Saif Hossain Delal (Protom Alo).

The committee decided to hold the general meeting of the Forum at 11 am on September 12 at the JPC.

Journalists of Chittagong working in news agencies, national dailies and weeklies in Dhaka have been requested to contact the ad hoc committee members.

The *namaj-e-janaza* of late Yusuf will be held at Baitul Mukarram Mosque after Juhur prayers today and later will be buried at the Banani graveyard.

He left behind his only daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren, along with a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

The *namaj-e-janaza* of late Yusuf will be held at Baitul Mukarram Mosque after Juhur prayers today and later will be buried at the Banani graveyard.

News

Dhaka-Jamalpur commuter train service begins today

The second commuter train from Dhaka to Jamalpur will be inaugurated today, reports UNB.

Communications Minister Anwar Hossain will open the train at Jamalpur Railway Station at 6:45 pm.

Earlier, Dhaka-Brahmanbaria commuter train was inaugurated.

Construction work of cultural centre begins

The construction work of the National Music and Dance Centre, a part of the National Cultural Complex, starts today, reports BSS.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader will inaugurate the construction work of the centre at the premises of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy today morning, an Academy press release said.

The Academy authorities have arranged a *milad mahfil* on the occasion.

'Economic disparity — root cause of environmental degradation'

Advisory Editor of Daily Janakantha Toab Khan yesterday said political determination and direction are urgently required to reduce income disparity, and arrest socio-environmental degradations, reports BSS.

He was addressing as the chief guest the concluding session of the three-day workshop on 'Environmental Reporting' organised by the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) with support from the Ministry of Environment and Forest and UNDP in the city.

FEJB Chairman Quamrul Islam Chowdhury presided over workshop while Programme Coordinator of Sustainable Environment Management Programme of the Ministry of Environment Dr. Mahfuz Haque and FEJB general secretary Bakhtiar Rana addressed the workshop.

Toab Khan said economic disparity is the root cause of environmental degradation and there is a growing need for reducing economic disparity to help arrest environmental degradation in the country.

The Academy authorities have arranged a *milad mahfil* on the occasion.

He cited the encroachment of the Buriganga River and said political opportunists are the principal encroachers.

The Janakantha Advisory Editor said environmental degradation is correlated with the social degradation and underdevelopment.

He said industrialised nations are not suffering from environmental problems but the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) like Bangladesh are caught up in this trap of underdevelopment and degradation.

Dr. Mahfuz underscored the need for raising awareness among the people about environmental problems.

Quamrul Islam Chowdhury underlined the need for improving the quality of environmental reports, articles and features to exert pressure on the decision-makers to help avert environmental degradation and maintain the ecological balance.

Toab Khan also handed over certificates among the 21 participants of the workshop from different newspapers and news agencies.

Confco on SWMC

'Central database must for efficient running of all projects'

Eminent hydrologists yesterday opined that setting up of a central data base is a must for avoiding duplication of data provided by different agencies.

To improve the accuracy of the hydrological models aimed at enhancing proficiency of water resources and environment projects there is no alternative of comprehensive management of hydrological data, they said.

The water experts were speaking at the inaugural session of the users' conference of Surface Water Modelling Centre (SWMC) in the LGED auditorium at Agargaon.

"Establishment of a central database containing spatial, non-spatial and time series data involving uniform methodologies for data collection, processing and sharing would minimise tiresome duplication of efforts and improve the accuracy and productivity," the experts suggested.

Dr A T M Shamsul Huda, Secretary of the Ministry of Water Resources presided over the session which it was also addressed by Dr M B Abbott, Professor emeritus, International Institute for Hydrological and Environmental Engineering, Delft, the Netherlands.

Director, Surface Water Modelling Centre (SWMC) Emaduddin Ahmed presented a keynote on "SWMC Models in decision-making". In his speech he said that the SWMC, a centre for environmental modelling, has been developing mathematical models in association with Danish Hydraulic Institute for the engineers and scientists.

Dr A T M Shamsul Huda emphasised the need for using the SWMC models in all water resources and environmental projects.

Representatives from different government, non-government organisations including Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) and WASA participated in the conference.

Rescue workers located the body using an underwater camera, police said.

Efforts were continuing Saturday to find the body of the 21st and last victim of the accident, which is believed to have happened when a storm caused a river's water level to rise swiftly.

According to survivors, a two-meter high wall of water swept through gorges which are about 300 meters long and only two meters wide at some points.

Prior to the accident, they were not considered particularly dangerous.

The victims were tourists from Australia, Britain, New Zealand, South Africa and other countries, and three of their guides. Only nine of the bodies have been formally identified.

The regional prosecutor, Michel-Andre Fels, on Friday opened an investigation to determine if the guides were aware of an imminent storm before the group set out.

Tortoises reported for noise nuisance

ROME, July 31: A pair of amorous tortoises have been reported to the Italian authorities by a disgruntled neighbour kept awake by their night-time love-making in the garden next door, police said Saturday, reports AFP.

But the magistrates ruled that the randy reptiles could not be prosecuted for committing an obscene act in a public place.

Police reported that both animals were in "excellent physical condition."

Chairman of Awami Juba League Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP and General Secretary Advocate Kazi Iqbal Hussain, in a joint statement yesterday asked all Juba League committees at different levels to observe the day in a befitting manner.

Chairman of Awami Juba League Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP and General Secretary Advocate Kazi Iqbal Hussain, in a joint statement yesterday asked all Juba League committees at different levels to observe the day in a befitting manner.

NEW DELHI, July 31: India will try to evolve a national consensus on a global test ban treaty it is committed to signing after the September-October parliamentary polls, Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh said Saturday, reports AFP.

Singh told a private television channel that the Hindu nationalist caretaker government would take up the issue on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) after the elections.

"We will take up the process of achieving a national consensus as announced by the government earlier," Singh said in an interview to Star News.

While most analysts expect the elections to yield a hung parliament, some opinion polls indicate the Hindu nationalist BJP party is regaining some of its support that had been sliding away until this summer.

"National consensus has to be created. India's national interests have to be explained. I have no doubt that people across the political spectrum will begin to see what the right course for India to adopt is."

India, which staged nuclear tests last year prompting a tit-for-tat response from arch-foe Pakistan, is not a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty but is committed to signing the CTBT.

Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpeyi's government, which forced its way into the nuclear club last May, had been in talks with Washington on the issue. But the dialogue has been suspended until after the polls.

The CTBT, concluded in 1996, has been signed by 152 countries, of which 33 have ratified it. For the treaty to come into force, it has to be ratified by 44 countries, including rival nuclear powers India and Pakistan.

The treaty's preamble requires that if it has not been implemented within three years -- that is by this September

ANKARA, July 31: Sixty-seven people were undergoing treatment in Diyarbakir in southeastern Turkey after being poisoned by contaminated drinking water, local officials said Saturday, reports AFP.

In a written statement carried by the Anatolia news agency, the local governor's office said that tests on water samples had shown high levels of ammonia and nitrate caused by the seepage of sewage into the local water network.

The statement said that local waterworks authorities had been told to locate and repair the leaks while hospital workers had their leave cancelled.

Diyarbakir is the main city in Turkey's underdeveloped southeastern Anatolia where separatist Kurdish rebels have been waging an armed campaign for self-rule since 1984.

The conflict has claimed more than 31,000 lives, led to massive migration to urban areas in western Turkey and stalled the regional economy.

Death toll rises to 20 in Swiss canyoning accident

INTERLAKEN, Switzerland, July 31: The death toll in an accident during a canyoning expedition in a central Swiss valley rose to 20 Saturday after rescue workers found another victim, Swiss police said, reports AFP.

The body was found 63 metres under water in Brienzer lake, at the foot of the Saxon-Bach valley where the accident happened on Tuesday.

Rescue workers located the body using an underwater camera, police said.

Efforts were continuing Saturday to find the body of the 21st and last victim of the accident, which is believed to have happened when a storm caused a river's water level to rise swiftly.

According to survivors, a two-meter high wall of water swept through gorges which are about 300 meters long and only two meters wide at some points.

Prior to the accident, they were not considered particularly dangerous.

The victims were tourists from Australia, Britain, New Zealand, South Africa and other countries, and three of their guides. Only nine of the bodies have been formally identified.

The regional prosecutor, Michel-Andre Fels, on Friday opened an investigation to determine if the guides were aware of an imminent storm before the group set out.

India