

Resist attempts to distort history in textbooks: Jalil

DU CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday said the BNP-Jamaat alliance government has been trying to distort the glorious history of the country by undermining the spirit of the liberation war in 1971.

He was speaking as chief guest at a rally organised by the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) to protest the distortion of the country's history in textbooks at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city.

Jalil said any attempt to include fabricated story in textbooks must be resisted at any cost. He directed the BCL leaders and workers to visit every schools of the country to tell the new generation about the true history of the country.

AL Publicity Secretary Mohammad Asaduzzaman MP said unfortunately a certain quarter, who opposed the liberation war in 1971, is now in power.

They are trying to distort the

history of the country, but it would not be tolerated, he added.

Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said the country began following the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

This distortion could be observed in the textbooks from class one to intermediate level books, he added.

BCL leaders said the coalition government has been misguiding the younger generation by including false and fabricated story in textbooks.

Demanding immediate resignation of the education minister, they threatened to launch tougher movement if the government do not include correct history of the country in textbooks.

Presided over by BCL President Liaqat Sikder, the rally was also addressed by General Secretary Nazrul Islam Babu, Delwar Hossain and Hemayet Uddin Khan Himu.



State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mizanur Rahman Sinha speaks at the concluding session of 'South Asia Conference for the prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula' in the city yesterday. Dr Nafis Sadik, UNFPA special ambassador for fistula, also presented a paper.

ICT society to bridge digital divide between rich, poor

Khaleda tells World Summit Award

BSS, Geneva

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was given a high-profile as she graced the occasion of honouring the best multi-media realisations and e-content products at the World Summit Award at Palexpo on Wednesday night.

Khaleda Zia was selected for her special emphasis and contribution to the development of ICT in Bangladesh by the organisers of the ongoing World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) to honour the winners at the World Summit Award. This official event of the first-ever World Summit on the Information Society was the first contest in the history of mankind within the information society on a global scale.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister hoped that the establishment of a knowledge-based ICT society in Bangladesh and employing the newest forms of technology would bridge the fast-growing digital divide between the rich and poorer countries.

"This event has special meaning for Bangladesh... our presence in Geneva testifies to our deep and abiding commitment to promoting

the ICT sector as an engine of growth in Bangladesh", Khaleda Zia said.

She distributed awards and certificates among the winners who were adjudged for their best e-content products from around the world. The grand jury comprising the most eminent multi-media experts from 35 countries met in Dubai last October and evaluated more than 800 products from 136 countries.

The task was fulfilled and the most creative and innovative content was selected for the eight categories of the WSA and 40 outstanding projects was honoured and showcased at the United Nations WSIS Conference.

The prime minister said, "I am proud to represent South Asia as a patron of the World Summit Award giving ceremony... I am pleased to be a part of this celebration of human creativity and ingenuity on the doorstep of the new millennium".

Khaleda Zia said that the ICT content creators and producers from around the world had gathered here to demonstrate the unique qualities and diversity of their products and to submit them to an open and fair contest.

She said her government had adopted ICT as a key national policy strategy to promote growth and alleviate poverty. She called for keeping abreast of worldwide technology developments, their quality content and user friendly applications.

She said ICT could virtually transform all sectors of the national economy to bigger strength, promote empowerment of the citizens, bolster development and advance democracy.

Khaleda Zia congratulated all competitors for the world summit award. Armenian President Kocharian and State Secretary of Austria Morak were who distributed awards among the winners in eight categories.

Akhতারuzzaman of Bangladesh was a member of the 35 grand jury who selected the winners.

Members have been chosen from each of the contest regions-Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe, North and South America and the Arab region.

Report on Proshika

Economist apologises

The Economist, a London-based international weekly, has apologised for publishing an erroneous report on alleged misuse of donor-funds by Proshika, says a press release.

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) in its July 2003 country report on Bangladesh referred to allegations of misuse of funds intended for poverty eradication brought against Proshika following an investigation by the NGO Affairs Bureau.

In an editorial note published in its web site, viewswire.com, and to be published in its January 2003 issue, EIU said, "We should like to make clear that our report was entirely based on an article in New Nation dated May 18, 2003, no official report having been published by the government. It also contained several incorrect figures, relating to amounts paid or allocated by Proshika, which we had inaccurately transposed from New Nation."

The Economist further regretted not giving Proshika an opportunity to comment before publication of the report.

The corrigendum of The Economist mentioned that Proshika rejected all allegations of donations to politically motivated programmes and claims its assistance was government-approved and non-political.

All its accounts are duly audited by international accountants, Proshika said.

"We apologise for any wrong impression our report may have caused," The Economist said.

Banshkhali killings

Protest meet at Laldighi Dec 22

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad will organise a public meeting at Laldighi Maidan on December 22 protesting the brutal killings of 11 people at Banshkhali and 'continued repression' on religious minority.

Seminar on edn, social work in US, Bangladesh

City University and American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS) jointly organised a seminar on "Education and social work in USA and Bangladesh" on Wednesday at the City University auditorium, says a press release.

Six students from Winona State University, Minnesota, USA led by their teachers, Dr Ruth A Charles and Dr Cathelene Jo Faruque, Associate Professor of Sociology, visited City University and participated in the seminar.

The American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS), an association of fourteen universities and Institutions of higher learning of USA, has been working for the 14 years to promote scholarly level and enduring understanding of Bangladesh in the USA through exchange programmes.

Prof Dr M Shamsul Haque, Vice-chancellor, City University, Hossain Khaled, Vice-Chairman, City University, Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley, Chief Advisor, City University, students and concerned officers of City University attended the seminar.

DHAKA TODAY

- Tribute to filmmaker Niamat Ali**
In a tribute to acclaimed filmmakers Salahuddin and Sheikh Niamat Ali, a three-day film session has been organised by 15 active and like-minded film societies. Three films by Sheikh Niamat Ali -- 'Surjodighal Bari' (The ominous house, 1979), 'Dahan' (Affliction, 1985) and 'Anyajiban' (The other life, 1995) -- will be screened. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.00am, 2.00pm and 4.30pm.
- Painting exhibition**
The inaugural ceremony of an exhibition of paintings by Abdul Muktedir will be held. Venue: Gallery Chittrak, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.00pm. The exhibition will remain open till December 22 from 10.00am to 8.00pm daily.
- Art exhibition**
The opening ceremony of a group art exhibition will be held. The participating artists are Rejaul Karim, Alokesh Ghosh and Nazib Mohammed. Venue: Gallery Shipparag, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.00pm. The exhibition will remain open till December 22 from 11.00am to 8.00pm daily.
- Film show**
Bishwasahitya Kendra will screen a feature film titled 'Citizen Kane' directed by Orson Wellers. Venue: Bishwasahitya Kendra auditorium, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Time: 5.00pm.
- Solo musical evening**
Kranti, a socio-cultural organisation, will hold a solo musical evening of Mahbul Haider Mohon. It will be preceded by the unveiling of the cover of his cassette titled 'Amar Bhalobasar Swadesh'. Venue: Shawkat Osman Memorial auditorium of Central Public Library, Shahbagh. Time: 5.00pm.
- French film show**
Alliance Francaise will screen a film titled 'Manon des Sources' directed by Claude Berri (1986). Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.30am and 6.00pm.
- Recitation**
In order to collect fund for Liberation War Museum, Swarkalpan Abritti Chakra (a club of recitation) organises a session of recitation. Venue: Liberation War Museum Café Theatre, Segun Bagicha. Time: 6.00pm.
- Poetry recitation**
A session of poetry recitation titled 'Kabitar Darpone Bimboto Amra' will be held to mark the Victory Day. Venue: In front of TSC of Dhaka University. Time: 6.00pm.
- Discussion**
A discussion on 'Global Day against Child Trafficking', organised by Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF), will be held. Venue: BSAF office, Dhanmondi. Time: 2.30pm.
- Movie show**
The Academy Film Society will screen two films -- 'Black Hawk Down' and 'Sex, Lies and Videotape'. Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm, 6.30pm and 8.30pm.
- AIBS talk**
The American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS) organises a talk on 'The political inheritance of Bangladesh: Party politics 1947-1971' with Dr M Rashiduzzaman, senior research fellow of AIBS, as the key speaker. Venue: WVA auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.00pm.
- Memorial meeting**
The Angikar Bangladesh organises a programme in memory of those killed in an arson attack in Banshkhali to mark the World Human Rights Day. Venue: Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University. Time: 10.00am.
- SEU election**
The Siemens Employees Union (SEU) will hold its election. Venue: SBL premises, House- 20, Road - 108, Gulshan-2. Time: 9.00am.
- Reunion**
The Dhaka-based Nagarkanda Upazila Samaj Kalyan Samity will hold a reunion with Awami League presidium member Sajeda Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Ananda Ullas Community Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 2.30pm.
- Rotary meeting**
Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue: Rotary School and College, Mirpur-14. Time: 10.00am.
- Leo meeting**
Regular meeting of Leo Club of Dhaka Faridabad will be held. Venue: Kazi Abdur Rouf Road, Laxmi Bazar. Time: 3.30pm.

BCS Eco cadre resents lateral entry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A serious resentment has been created among the officials of Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) Economic cadre over a move for lateral entry of a female non-cadre official to the service.

Sources said Secretary General of the BCS (Economic) Association Mohammad Abdullah, in a letter to the secretary of the Planning Division, requested him to stop lateral entry of one Feroza Begum, a non-cadre officer presently serving at the information ministry.

He said such lateral entry into the BCS (Economic) cadre would create frustration and adverse reaction among the cadre officials.

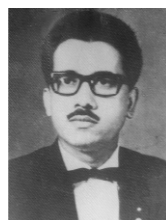
There is no provision of lateral entry into economic cadre without BCS examination, said officials.

Sources said the prevailing resentment among the economic cadre officials was further intensified when the Secretary of the Planning Division Fazlur Rahman reportedly misbehaved with the officials who met him with prior appointment on December 9 to discuss the matter.



The Jurain Tarun Udyog stages a demonstration at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday demanding steps to distribute warm clothes among the poor across the country.

Death anniversary



The 33rd death anniversary of journalist Syed Nazmul Haque, a martyr of the liberation war, will be observed today, says a press release.

He was picked up from his residence by the collaborators of Pakistani forces on the night of December 11, 1971.

The Shaheed Nazmul Haque Smriti Sangsad will hold a milad mahal at 5 New Eskaton Road after Asr prayers today.

Rashid Chowdhury



Today is the 17th death anniversary of internationally acclaimed artist Rashid Chowdhury, says a press release.

He was born in Ratandia village under Pangsha thana of Rajbari district on November 13, 1932.

Chowdhury was honoured with Ekushey Padak, Shipakala Academy award and Zainul award. He also received several international awards.

Rashid Chowdhury Smriti Sangsad will hold a discussion and milad mahal to mark his death anniversary.

Ehtesham Haider Choudhury



The 20th death anniversary of Ehtesham Haider Choudhury, former editor of Dainik Purbo Desh, Dainik Bangla and weekly Bichitra, will be observed today, says a press release.

He died on December 7, 1983.

Distribution of food among the destitute has been arranged at his residence today.

Chehlum



Chehlum of Towfiq Nazir, son of Ahsan Nazir, ex-governor of Lions Zone 315B-3, will be held at their Elephant Road residence today, says a press release.

Towfiq died in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Bhaberchar.



Today is the 33rd death anniversary of four brothers -- Mukarram Hossain Mukul, Mansur Hossain Manju, Mostaque Hossain Anju, and Mosharrar Hossain Ranju -- and their brother-in-law Yusuf Ali, says a press release.

All of them embraced martyrdom during the War of Liberation. On the occasion, quankhwani, milad mahfil and distribution of food among the destitute have been arranged at Hossain Nagar Baitus Mozammel Jame Mosque at Savar-EPZ Link Road.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka
Weather is likely to remain dry over the country till 6pm today. Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins and northwestern to central part of the country during the morning. Met office said. Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. Highest temperature 31.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 12.2 degree at Srirongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:13pm today and rises at 6:32am 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	27.4	15.8	65	69
Chittagong	30.8	16.2	77	52
Rajshahi	27.2	14.5	77	74
Khulna	28.8	16.0	86	76
Barisal	27.8	14.3	85	94
Sylhet	28.2	16.8	72	64
Cox's Bazar	31.0	18.5	74	74



Citibank NA has contributed Tk one lakh to the 'Nurul Matin Memorial Fund' of Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) to raise awareness and promote 'ethics in banking'. The picture shows Head of Human Resources, Citibank South Asia, Pradeep Mukherjee handing over the cheque to Director General of BIBM Dr Mohammad Sohrab Uddin in Dhaka on Wednesday.



Participants at a seminar on 'Education and social work in the USA and Bangladesh' held on the City University campus on Wednesday. Vice-chancellor Dr M Shamsul Haque, Chief Advisor Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley, Dr Ruth A Charles and Dr Cathelene Jo Faruque were present.