

# Remove Huda from cabinet

## Mahi's letter to Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP lawmaker Mahi B Chowdhury has demanded immediate removal of Communication Minister Nazmul Huda from the cabinet and his expulsion from the party for his remarks at the inaugural ceremony of a three-day conference of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), student wing of Jamaat, in the city on December 30.

A press release signed by Mahi, also the son of former president AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, sent to The Daily Star yesterday, quoted the communication minister as saying "Jamaat did not commit any crime demanding

non-separation of Pakistan in '71."

"If so, then did Ziaur Rahman commit any crime by announcing the declaration of independence of Bangladesh and joining the War of Liberation against Pakistan?" Mahi asked.

He also quoted the communication minister as saying "Islamic nationalism is the only strength, and asked 'Is Bangladeshi nationalism declared by Ziaur Rahman wrong or not final then?'"

In a protest letter to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday, Mahi said "Nazmul Huda's

remarks are basically contrary and contradictory to BNP's emergence and existence."

"Nazmul Huda, in his speech as special guest at the conference, has seriously undermined Ziaur Rahman and betrayed the principles of BNP," said the lawmaker.

"I, along with innumerable followers of Ziaur Rahman, am deeply concerned and shocked by his remarks," Mahi said.

"If no action is taken against Nazmul Huda, the nation would think that the BNP has deviated from its principles and ideology," he added.



PHOTO: STAR

An Awami League activist comes to the rescue of his female colleague as a policewoman pulls her shawl at Bangabandhu Avenue during hartal hours yesterday.

## 'Hartal has lost its impact on politics'

BSS, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said hartal has lost its effectiveness as political programmes.

While giving his reactions on hartal at his secretariat office, Bhuiyan said it was a political weapon during the colonial era. "At that time the government was of the aliens and wealth were also pilfered to foreign countries," he said.

He, however, said destruction of public wealth by calling hartal means damaging public that is people's wealth.

Apart from damaging properties, hartal brings untold sufferings to the people, particularly the working class and down-trodden masses, BNP secretary general said. "There was excess application of hartal in the country", he said adding that people no more accept it.

He said, if one opinion poll is conducted it would definitely

reveal that majority of the people oppose hartal.

Bhuiyan said, no harm could be inflicted to the government through such a hartal lacking public support. But people and the country would be looser and affected, he added.

## BCL founding anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of the opposition Awami League, will observe its 56th founding anniversary today.

To mark the day, the BCL has taken month-long programmes across the country.

The BCL leaders will place wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Bhaban and will bring out a colourful rally from Aporajeyo Bengla at Dhaka University today.

The BCL has also organised discussions and cultural programmes across the country on the occasion.

A training workshop will be held at the Teachers and Students Center (TSC) of Dhaka University on January 14. Senior political leaders and intellectuals will impart training to the grassroots level leaders and workers.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will be present as chief guest at the reunion and discussion meeting at Paltan Maidan on January 27.

Meanwhile, BCL President Liakot Sikder said the organisation has played vital role in every democratic movements including the language movement and War of Liberation.