



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia gives away the Gold Cup to Moumita Tasrin Nodi, adjudged best artiste in Ka group in the Natun Kuri-2004 competition, at the Television Bhavan in the city yesterday.

Launch a new cultural movement: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia called for launching a new cultural movement imbued with the ideal of welfare, patriotism and righteousness in national life.

She was addressing the prize giving ceremony of 'Natun Kuri', a cultural competition of young boys and girls, at Bangladesh Television here yesterday evening.

Ministers, MPs, and a host of cultural activists were present at the function broadcast live on BTV amid a flourish.

Young boys and girls of two age-

DU Ga unit test results published

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University (DU) published the results of admission test under the Ga unit (commerce group) yesterday.

The lists of provisionally selected candidates have been put up on the boards at business studies faculty.

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- Friday □ 11 February, 2005
- Venue : Energypac Bungalow, Holapara, Rajendrapur, Gazipur
- Departure Place : National Museum, Shahbagh, Dhaka
- Time : 8:00 AM

CONTACT PERSONS & PHONE NOS.

Gm. S. Azam- 9551413, 9550632, Gm. Shameem Hussain-9558007, 9558015, Gm. Shahidullah Azim-8812630, 8812201, Gm. Aslam Khaled-9619818, 9128788
Gm. S. M. Baqui Billah-9882471, 9885716

Start campaign against repression of women: Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the leaders of the women's front of her party to launch a countrywide campaign against repression of women as part of the party's preparations for the next general election.

Addressing a closed-door meeting with the Mohila Awami League at the party's Dhanmondi office, Hasina called on the women leaders to work together putting aside all differences among themselves, sources said.

"Start taking preparations for the next election from now on and strengthening the organisation by involving women of all walks of life in its activities," said a source quoting Hasina.

The Mohila League will hold an extended meeting on February 3 in the capital, with leaders from different districts and upazilas.

"The February 3 meeting will

discuss the organisation's future plans and may take up some programmes," said a leader of Mohila League seeking anonymity.

"We are now planning to organise countrywide tours by separate teams in an effort to mobilise people, particularly women, to protest against the repression of women under the present regime," she said.

Emerging from the meeting, Hasina expressed deep concern over the incidents of violence against women.

Women were beaten up by alliance loyalists and also by police, she told the journalists.

The police also torture women in their custody and during the remand period, Hasina said, adding that the incidents of repression are increasing day by day.

Mohila Awami League President Ashrafunnessa Mosharrar and General Secretary Fazilatunnessa Indira were present at the meeting.

Homage paid to Zia 69th anniversary of birth celebrated

BSS, Dhaka

The 69th birth anniversary of late President Ziaur Rahman, founder of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), was celebrated yesterday.

Party leaders, workers and members of different socio-political and cultural organisations assembled at the mazar of Zia with banners, festoons and flowers to pay homage to the great leader.

Munajat was offered at the mazar seeking peace of the departed soul of the late leader in the morning.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia placed wreaths at the mazar. Members of her cabinet were present. She offered feteiha and munajat seeking eternal peace of the departed soul.

Khaleda, also placed wreaths at the mazar on behalf of her party. Ministers, members of BNP standing committee and central committee joined her.

Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar and

'Philanthropy and Law in South Asia' launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

'Philanthropy and Law in South Asia (Palisa)', a comprehensive study of the nonprofit legal systems in five South Asian countries, was formally launched in the city yesterday.

The 385-page book, published by the Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium (APPC), contains in-depth analyses and recommendations for improving the legal and regulatory frameworks that govern philanthropy and the nonprofit sector in the region.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed unveiled the cover of the book at the publication ceremony organised by the Bangladesh Freedom Foundation at the Brac Centre Inn.

"What we need to do is to see whether the laws related to philanthropy in Bangladesh also need modernisation or updating," he said.

The topics of studies presented in the book include evolution of nonprofit law, permitted organisational forms, registration procedures, permitted and prohibited purposes and provisions for the termination or dissolution of nonprofit organisations, fiscal policy and issues related to internal governance and public accountability of nonprofit organisations.

In the introductory chapter of the book, Mark Sidel and Iftekhar Zaman, editors of the publication, note that 'Nonprofit law in South Asia is a richly textured force that both controls and facilitates nonprofit and philanthropic activity'.

Maria Aurora Francisco Tolentino, executive director of the Manila-based APPC, said, "Improving the legal and regulatory environment for philanthropic and nonprofit organisations in Asia is one of our many goals. We also seek to contribute to improving the internal governance and public accountability of these organisations."

Dr Kamal Hossain, president of Gono Forum, Dr Iftekhar Zaman, co-editor of the book and executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), Dr Saira Rahman Khan, co-author of the Bangladesh chapter and a member of Odhakar, and Dr Ahmadullah Mia, director of Research, Planning and Policy Advocacy, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, were present at the ceremony.

The publication project was funded by The Ford Foundation, The Himalaya Foundation, The Myer Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation and The Asia Foundation.

13TH SAARC SUMMIT

14-pt WSIS proposal on ICT for inclusion in agenda

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh working group on World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) yesterday proposed a 14-point recommendation on ICT for inclusion into the 13th Saarc summit agenda.

Chairman of the group Syed Marghub Murshed, also the chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission

BEAUTIFICATION

PM visits different city spots

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday visited different roads and road islands to see the on-going beautification activities in the capital city.

She drove on the roads from the Foreign Ministry to Zia International Airport and visited different spots, including Kakrai and Sheraton crossings, Hare Road, Banglamotor, Manik Mia Avenue, Asad Gate, Zia Uddyan and Mohakhali Flyover in the evening.

(BTRC), sent the recommendations to Foreign Ministry Affairs Advisor Reaz Rahman.

In its recommendations, the group said the regional e-strategy should consider the problems of implementation of ICT policy in the region and develop an approach to ensuring successful implementation of ICT policy at country level.

The 14-point recommendation formulated and adopted in the recent South Asian Regional Meeting on UN WSIS after extensive discussion by participants from the government, civil society, private sector, academia and the media.

"We expect that Saarc will include the 14-point recommendation into its agenda in creating an inclusive information society in our region," Marghub Murshed said.

He said that Saarc undertake a study on the establishment of a regional Internet exchange to connect the national Internet exchanges to contain regional traffic within South Asia to promote equitable regional trade in services and save on the cost of international connectivity.

The recommendations envisage consideration of establishing a regional registry for IP address allocations (SANIC) to ensure that IP addresses are fairly distributed

in South Asia.

Other recommendations said that South Asian member states develop a common approach to the issue of Internet Governance and Financial Mechanisms for ICTD during the second phase of the WSIS, which culminates in Tunis in November 2005.

As part of this common approach to WSIS, consideration should be given to the transformation of ICANN into a multi-stakeholder body accountable to the global community.

A Global Fund for ICTD should be established to support the goal of increasing access to ICTs by 2015 and this should be recommended by South Asian member states at the WSIS Preparatory Committee-2 in February 2005.

Saarc should take inputs from member states, the private sector and civil society to formulate a regional e-strategy to implement the WSIS Plan of Action in South Asia as a whole.

'Communal forces launch bomb attacks to make country unstable'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday said the communal forces backed by a certain quarter of the successive governments have been carrying out bomb attacks to make the country unstable.

No government has tried to bring the real culprits behind the recent series of bomb attacks to book because of their own weaknesses, they said at a rally.

The CPB organised the rally at Mukhtangan in the city to mark the 4th year of a bomb attack on its rally at Injant Maidan that killed five people and injured several others.

Terming the probe report on the bomb attack as fabricated, CPB President Manzurul Ahsan Khan said, "The communal forces, responsible for a series of recent bomb attacks, get support from a certain quarter of the successive governments and the administration."

He also said criminals are being killed in the name of crossfire, but their godfathers go unpunished.

CPB General Secretary Muzahidul Islam Selim, Ruhin Hossain Prince, Mahbubul Alam and Hasamuzzaman Masud also spoke.



PHOTO: STAR

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) forms a human chain at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday demanding proper investigation into the bomb attack on its rally in 2001 and trial of the persons responsible. Five people were killed in the blast.



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