

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF AZIMPUR GIRLS' SCHOOL MAR 2
Concentrate on studies to serve nation in a meaningful way

Hasina advises students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday advised the students to concentrate on studies so that they can serve the nation in a meaningful way in future.

Hasina was speaking at a gathering of students at Azimpur Girls' School and College in the city when she went there to register her name for the golden jubilee programme of the school.

As Hasina entered the school at

4:00pm, hundreds of students applauded and welcomed the former prime minister who passed the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination from there in 1965.

College Principal Hosna Ara Begum took Hasina to her room where the AL chief registered her name.

Hasina spent more than one hour there and chatted with her classmates and friends, some of them are now college teachers

including the principal.

The AL chief said she feels proud as she was a student of a school which is one of the most prestigious girls school in the city.

A college teacher Mujibur Rahman told The Daily Star that around 700-800 former students

including noted cultural personalities Papia Sarwar, Dolly Zahur and Shaheen Samad have already registered their names for the programme.

He said former students of the school and college could make registration until February 28.

Founding anniversary and golden jubilee of the school will be observed on March 2.

Press Club cultural programme tomorrow

The Jatiya Press Club has organised a poetry recitation and cultural programme of club members on the club premises tomorrow on the occasion of International Mother Language Day and Amar Ekushey, says a press release.

The poetry recitation will start at 4:00pm and cultural programme will be after Maghrib prayers.

Reputed cultural organisations will take part in the cultural programme.

All members of the club and their family members have been requested to attend the programme.

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Human development and security in South Asia is facing serious risks due to corruption, non-transparency and lack of people's participation in governance, said the academics and development experts at a meeting yesterday.

They said though economic growth in different countries of the region has taken a significant rise in recent years, one-third of its population around 50 crore are yet to be involved in economic, social and political process.

The first meeting of the National Steering Committee (NSC) on 'Imagining A New South Asia (IANSA)', a regional civic campaign, was organised by Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) and ActionAid Bangladesh (AAB) at the BUP auditorium in the city.

The meeting was presided over by NSC Chair Prof Anisuzzaman.

"We want to conduct policy research and campaign to create public opinions for making people-oriented policies and restructuring the institutions," said the NSC Co-chair Dr Qazi Kholiuzzaman Ahmed.

He said each of the country individually and the South Asia as a whole need sustainable and equity-based development to overcome the existing scenario.

There are huge prospects for regional and cooperative development in the region, but it has not been possible due to bureaucratic reasons, mistrust and lack of unity among people, said Dr Kholiuzzaman, also president of Bangladesh Economic

Association (BEA).

"We shall prioritise the opinions of those who remain excluded from the development process, and consider their aspirations to design our regional strategies against poverty and human insecurity," the economist said.

ActionAid Bangladesh Country Director Shoaib Siddiqui said states are basically responsible for ensuring basic rights, but experience suggests that they always cannot play due role and are not accountable.

"Peoples' participation therefore is very important," he said, adding that poverty in the region is somehow interconnected with each other, which is why poverty reduction is not possible if "we cannot strengthen the voice of the poor of this region."

Though there is a regional state player, Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation), but it cannot play its due role, which is why civil society groups of the region will work as pressure groups in this regard, he noted.

Tawheed Reza Noor, IANSA Project Manager of ActionAid Asia, said though 60 years have passed after the colonial era of the sub-continent, the region still faces the risks of increasing inequality, social and political conflicts, increasing sense of fragmentation and mistrust.

March towards establishing democracy in Nepal, claiming rights over natural resources like water of Narmada in India, and asserting share of farmers in public utilities like power at Kansat in Bangladesh are however some hopes for the deprived people, he said.

Tawheed noted that IANSA, through campaigns, would prepare policy papers to handover to the Heads of the States of the region by August 15.

The paper component for Bangladesh will be economic management, for India peace and justice,

for Nepal human rights, democracy and governance and for Pakistan natural resources and sustainable environment.

Former adviser to caretaker government CM Shafi Sami, Khushi Kabir of Nijera Kori, Editor of Sangbad Bazlur Rahman, Brig (Retd)

Shahedul Anam of The Daily Star, novelist Selina Hossain, former chairman of Power Development Board Nuruddin M Kamal, Rokeya Kabir of Bangladesh Nari Progoti Sangha and Shirin Akhtar of Karmojibi Nari were present on the occasion.



PHOTO: STAR

Dr Qazi Kholiuzzaman Ahmed speaks at a discussion at the BUP auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right are Prof Anisuzzaman and Brig (Retd) Shahedul Anam and on his left is Shoaib Siddiqui



PHOTO: STAR
 French Ambassador Jacques-Andre Costilhes, middle, speaks at a press conference at his residence in the city yesterday. The press conference was told that the National Guimet Museum will organise an exhibition of Bangladeshi archaeological treasures in Paris from October 23.