



Guests pose with Prof Dr Sultana Sarwat Ara Zaman, 2nd from left, at a reception ceremony at the auditorium of Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation at Mirpur in the city yesterday. From left are Dr Shamim Ferdous, Dr Sultana Sarwat Ara Zaman, Mamtaz Begum Nilu, Shaheen Anam, Prof MR Khan, Mansur Ahmed Chowdhury and Khandakar Zahirul Alam. PHOTO: STAR

Prof Sultana dedicates her life to caring for deprived people

Speakers tell reception ceremony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Dr Sultana Sarwat Ara Zaman dedicated her life to caring for physically and mentally challenged children -- the most deprived group in society -- and proved that they also can contribute to society if they get proper opportunities.

programme said this yesterday, describing her as a worthy successor to Begum Rokeya's legacy.

Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation (BPF) accorded a reception to its founder and President Prof Sultana Zaman for her winning the 'Begum Rokeya Award-2008' and being nominated as emeritus profes-

sor of Dhaka University.

The reception programme was held at the auditorium of the head office of Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation she launched in the 80's to work towards betterment of the people with disabilities.

Speaking as a special guest, National Professor Dr MR Khan said Prof Sultana Zaman could

feel the pain of parents of children with disabilities. So, she started working for them.

"People used offensive terms to call the physically and mentally challenged people. In the 70's, Prof Sultana Zaman started using the Bangla word 'Protibondhi' to refer to them," said Khandakar Zahirul Alam, president of National Forum of Organisations Working for the Disabled (NFOWD).

He also announced that NFOWD would honour her with 'Lifetime Achievement Award' on March 28.

Prof Sultana Zaman, through her work and dedication, showed that how women can contribute to society despite all odds, said Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno foundation and member of Board of Trustee, BPF, who chaired the programme.

"Prof Sultana Zaman is a source of inspiration for all. She came forward to work for the people with disabilities at a time when nobody could think of doing something for them," she added.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Sultana Zaman said the mission to bring about changes in the life of physically and mentally challenged people has just started.

It is the duty of all to carry on the mission and step up the process, she added.

Mansur Ahmed Chowdhury, managing director of Bangladesh Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation, Dr Shamim Ferdous, executive director of BPF, and Zahirul Islam Mamun, secretary of NFOWD, also spoke.

BNP starts reorganising party next week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The high-ups of BNP, which faced defeat on the December 29 parliamentary election, have decided to start process of reorganising the party from the next week, said the insiders.

Following the initiative, the party's National Standing Committee (NSC) will sit on Sunday to finalise the strategy to revamp the party and its front organisations.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Khaleda Zia will preside over the meeting.

Talking to reporters at the chairperson's Gulshan office, BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday said, "We have already started working to revamp the party activities and standing committee will sit on February 1 which will be a policymaking meeting regarding the issue."

Party insiders said the standing committee might decide to dissolve all the

committees of the party's associate bodies.

BNP has 11 associate bodies and only two out of these bodies have valid central committees to run their own political activities.

Sources said the reorganisation process might be started through announcing new committees of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), most important associate body of the party, and Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal, which is running without a valid committee for about

one decade.

Major changes might also be brought about in the party's standing committee, though it is not clear whether the changes will come during holding the council or before, insiders added.

Party leaders said several teams comprising the party's organising secretaries have already submitted their reports to the secretary general on the current situation of the district-level committees. Reviewing the reports, NSC,

the top policymaking body of the party, may bring changes in many district committees.

The central body may announce fresh committees of some district through media if it would not be possible for the party to arrange election in those areas due to the political situation, they added.

Earlier, Khaleda said the party would be reorganised through an election in a bid to strengthen its activities across the country.

Nobel laureate Prof Lee to join chemical congress at DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nobel laureate in Chemistry Prof Yuan T Lee will attend the three-day Bangladesh Chemical Congress 2008 scheduled to be held on January 30 on the Dhaka University campus, says a press release.

This year's theme of the programme is 'Chemistry for Clean Water'.

Finance Minister Abul Mal Abdul Muhit will inaugurate the congress at the TSC compound at 9:00am.

Granger Challenge award winner Prof Abul Hussam of George Mason University, 30 foreign scientists and around 600 local experts will take part in the congress.

Lifetime member of Bangladesh Chemical Society and former Jahangirnagar University vice chancellor Dr Alauddin Ahmed will attend the programme as the special guest.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique is the sponsor of the congress.

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