

Build prosperous Bangladesh

President urges all

BSS, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman has urged all irrespective of parties and opinions for building a prosperous country by upholding the democratic process in the spirit of the liberation war.

"We have to work together, leaving behind all stigmas and failures of the past to build our beloved motherland as a prosperous country with the spirit of the War of Liberation," he said, while delivering his welcome speech to the officials and staffs of Bangabhaban at the onset of his office yesterday.

Zillur sought cooperation from the countrymen and the government in discharging his responsibilities as the president saying, "Our main struggle will be against starvation, poverty and illiteracy as well as injustice and falsehood."

It is the time to institutionalise democracy that is flourishing now after experiencing ups and downs, he said, adding, parliament would be the centre to discuss all national issues.

Terming Bangladesh a country of immense potentials, the president said, "It is endowed with huge human resources, bonds of communal harmony and rich cultural heritage. We need to turn Bangladesh into a self-respectful country to materialise Bangabandhu's Sonar Bangla by utilising these invaluable resources."

"You all know that the daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Hasina has declared a charter of change to build an information technology based



President Zillur Rahman is at work at Bangabhaban on the first day of his office yesterday.

prosperous Bangladesh," he said, adding, "I hope, we will be able to achieve the goal with united efforts."

Zillur said the main objective of the War of Liberation was to build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh, but it could not be attained even after 38 years of independence.

"The path of democracy is not smooth and the desired development was hindered again and again, and our self-esteem and dignity as a nation was tarnished," he said.

The president expressed his gratitude to the prime minister and members of parliament for electing him as the head of the state.

Terming Bangabhaban the highest institution of the country, he said it reflects the hope and aspirations of the nation.

He called upon the officials and staffs of Bangabhaban to discharge their duties with

utmost sincerity and honesty so that no one could raise any question regarding their neutrality.

The president paid rich tributes to freedom fighters who laid down their lives during the War of Liberation in 1971.

He also expressed his sincere gratitude to the architect of independence Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who materialised the long-cherished dream of Bangalee nation through lifelong struggles and immense sacrifices.

He also paid his tributes to the language martyred as well as those valiant sons of the soil who sacrificed their lives in various democratic movements.

The president started his office at Bangabhaban following a guard of honour by a contingent of the President's Guard Regiment.

Language movement veterans honoured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Language movement veterans of the country were honoured at a programme in the city yesterday for their gallant role in the historic event that triggered the liberation war in 1971.

A total of 23 language movement heroes were honoured at the programme jointly organised by Committee for Celebration of 400 Years of Dhaka and Group Theatre Federation at the National Theatre auditorium at Shilpakala Academy as part of the 400th anniversary of Dhaka city as the capital.

The language veterans include ailing Gazilul Haque, Abdul Matin popularly known as Bhasa Matin, artist Murtaza Basir, Oli Ahad, Prof Anisuzzaman, Dr Ahmad Rafique, photographer Amanul Haque, Sayeed Haider, Sufia Ahmed, Halima Khatun, Raushon Ara Bacchu, Pranesh Samadder, Imdad Hossain, Aminul Islam, writer Rafiqul Islam, Muhammad Taqiullah, Nadera Begum,



Language movement veterans pose for photograph at a reception accorded to them at Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday.

Abdul Gafur, Sharfuddin Ahmed, Mustafa Nur-ul-Islam, Sadeque Khan and Tofazzel Hossain.

President Jilur Rahman was also honoured in his absence for his leading role in the language movement in 1952.

Speaking on the occasion,

National Prof Kabir Chowdhury said, "The use of Bangla and English language at the same time while speaking only pollute the language. We have to honour our mother tongue properly. Not just in the month of February, but we have to establish it properly in our lifestyle."

Group Theatre Federation Chairman M Hamid said, "It is not possible to repay the debt of these brave sons of the soil. All we can do is to honour them for their contribution."

Committee for Celebration of 400 Years of Dhaka Convener Rabiul Hussain, former finance minister M

Safiuzzaman, architect Samsul Wares, freedom fighter Habibul Alam and Dhaka city researcher Hashem Sufi also took part.

The fearless heroes were honoured with shawls with Bangla alphabet imprinted on them, flowers bouquets and crests.

29 shanties gutted in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-nine shanties and thatched houses and properties worth around Tk 4 lakh were gutted in a fire at Shaheed Abdur Rab Railway Colony in Chittagong yesterday.

The fire broke out at around 1.15pm at a shanty at the colony and spread fast engulfing the adjoining 18 shanties and 10 thatched houses, Fire Service and Civil Defence sources said.

Nine fire fighting units from different stations rushed to the spot and doused the fire after a three-hour effort.

The fire sparked from an electric short circuit. The damage in the fire was estimated at around Tk 4 lakh, sources said.

However, locals claimed that around 100 shanties were gutted and damages may exceed Tk 10 lakh.



(From left) Poet Nazia Jabeen, Ali Reza Iftekhar and Editor of the Prothom Alo Matiur Rahman hold copies of two books of rhymes titled 'Chhorar Taale Monta Dole' and 'Chharar Mala' published in Braille at the publication ceremony at Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday.

Braille books of rhymes launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two books of rhymes in Braille system were launched for the first time in the country yesterday for the visually challenged children.

The books titled 'Chhorar Taale Monta Doje' and 'Chharar Mala' written by Nazia Jabeen were at a publication ceremony organised by Prerona and Child Sight Foundation at Shilpakala Academy in the city.

"While working with Prerona, I observed that the visually impaired people couldn't read because the books are not written in Braille. I saw them fumbling through magazines and at one time leaving them aside. Since then, I had a desire to write a book for them," said the writer.

"It will be a great initiative if Bangla Academy can keep at least two books at the stalls of the Amar Ekushey Book Fair," she said, adding that newspa-

pers can try to write headlines in Braille at least once a month. Head of Impact Foundation Mansur Ahmed said, "We should remember five things in life to live with honour and dignity in the society which are dream, desire, determination, discipline and dedication."

"Just six months ago, I did not know that visually handicapped people can read through Braille. We helped launch the books as part of our corporate social responsibility," said Ali Reza Iftekhar, CEO of Eastern Bank Ltd.

The programme was organised to commemorate the 200th birth anniversary of Louis Braille, the inventor of Braille system.

Women's and Children's Affairs Secretary Rokeya Sultana was present at the ceremony where Editor of the Prothom Alo Matiur Rahman also spoke.

Khulna Power Station out of order again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna Power Station (KPS) went out of order again on Saturday night as the plant had caught fire.

The incident of fire occurred only three hours after technical faults were repaired.

Fire service personnel brought the fire under control after an hour of efforts with the help of local people.

Senior officials could not inform journalists any cause of the fire. But local people termed it as sabotage.

The 110-megawatt power plant went out of order 31 times in last two years.

A senior official said the plant expired its time ten years ago.

38 officials transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government in a major reshuffle yesterday transferred 38 officials of the education ministry, including two top officials of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) and National Academy of Education Management (NAEM).

In a statement, the ministry said Prof ANM Sharif, director of DSHE (secondary), was transferred to NAEM (planning) as its director, while Principal of Comilla Govt Women's College Zakir Hossain replaced him.

DSHE Deputy Director (college-1) Md Dobiur Rahman was transferred to Narayanganj Govt Tularam College. Deputy Director (college-2) Nurunnabi

to Gazipur Bhawal Badre Alam College, Assistant Director (college-1) Monirul Islam to Tangail Sadat College and Assistant Director (college-3) Benzir Ahmed to Sirajganj Govt College.

Besides, DSHE assistant director (college-2) Hasanul Kabir was made officer on special duty.

Brahmanbaria Govt College Assistant Prof M Jahangir Hossain was transferred to DSHE as its deputy director (admin), Sirajganj Ullapara Akbar Ali Govt College Assistant Prof Pritish Kumar Sarker to DSHE as deputy director (college-2) and Kushtia Govt Women College Prof Bimal Krishna Majumder to Barisal education board as secretary.

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