

## Steps to be taken to stop dropout from schools

### PM tells Sri Lankan envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government would take effective steps to stop dropout of students from schools.

She made the remark when Sri Lankan High Commissioner in Dhaka V Krishnamoorthy called on her at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in the morning.

During the meeting, they discussed various issues of bilateral interests and exchanged views on the elements and indicators of development.

Reiterating her government's strong commitment to eradicate poverty, the prime minister observed that education is one of the key elements for eliminating poverty.

As the high dropout rate of students mainly from the primary schools in Bangladesh came up for discussion, she said the government would take effective steps to stop the dropout.

High Commissioner Krishnamoorthy apprised Sheikh Hasina about the

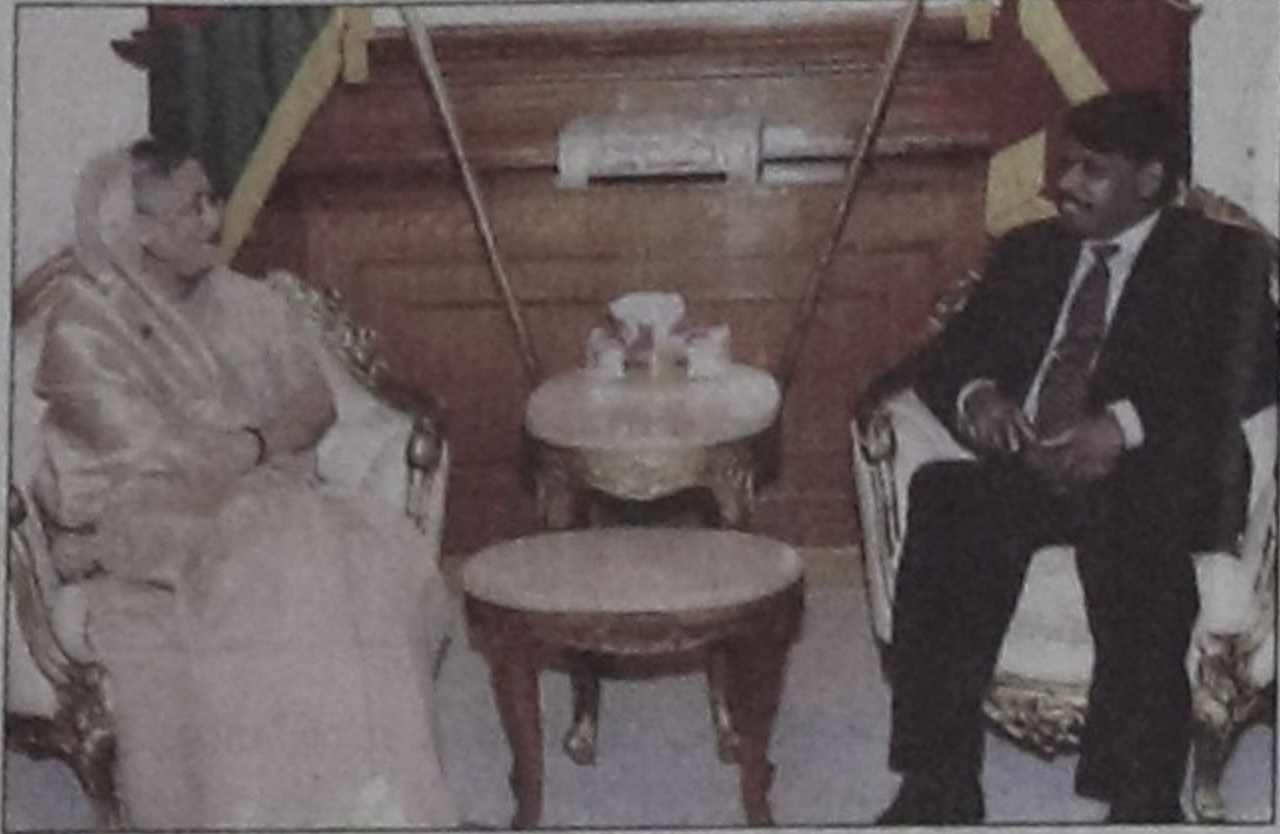


PHOTO: PID  
Sri Lankan High Commissioner V Krishnamoorthy calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday.

education system of Sri Lanka.

He expressed deep shock at the death of army officers and civilians in the February 25-26 Palkhaha carnage.

The envoy highly praised the prime minister for her wisdom and farsightedness in tackling the BDR crisis peacefully and quickly.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and High Commissioner Krishnamoorthy hoped that

the existing friendly relationship between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka would be strengthened further in the coming days.

Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Secretary Mollah Waheeduzzaman, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Abdus Sobhan Golap and former ambassador Ziauddin were present during the meeting.

## Garo students' memo to edn minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Garo Chhatra Sangathan handed a memorandum over to Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday with their five-point demand, including ensuring education of the indigenous community.

Around 50 Garo students who are studying under National University staged a rally at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla on the Dhaka University campus.

After the rally, leaders and activists of the organisation brought out a procession which was marching towards the education ministry but police intercepted them in Doyel Chatterarea.

Later, General Secretary of the central body Shauroin Areng Seng, General Secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Chhatra Sangram Parishad Sohel Hajong, Litus Chiran and Poorna Drang submitted the memorandum to fulfill their demands.

The demands include five percent admission quota for them in the National University and establishing their mother tongue in primary education to preserve and practise their own language.

The demands also include stipend and scope for higher education abroad for the indigenous students and constitutional recognition to the indigenous communities.

The leaders warned of waging a strong movement if their demands remain unheeded.

## Establish accountable parliament to ensure women's rights

### Speakers say at Mahila Parishad discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday underscored the need for establishing an accountable parliament and good governance to ensure equal rights of women in the society.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) organised the discussion in observance of its 39th anniversary at the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh in the city.

The BMP members vowed to establish a society based on equality, create a secular and fundamentalist-free nation and

bring the war criminals to justice.

Speaking as the chief guest, artist Qayyum Chowdhury said, "We feel proud to call the country our motherland and Bangla our mother tongue. Yet we are reluctant to give equal rights to our mothers, sisters and daughters. Development of the nation is not possible without ensuring their rights."

BMP General Secretary Maleka Banu said a corruption-free democratic nation with an accountable parliament, a secular society, efficient admin-

istration, effective local government is necessary to ensure equal rights of women.

Established in April 1970 by poet Begum Sufia Kamal, Mahila Parishad is working to establish rights of women. The organisation also worked to rehabilitate the women tortured during the War of Liberation.

It has 1.5 lakh registered members all over the country. They are now working for the disadvantaged women facing discrimination.

A total of 31 renowned women were honoured at the

ceremony for their contribution to various fields in the country.

They include Sayeeda Khanam for photography, Ferdousi Majumder, Dilara Jaman, and Wahida Mallik Joly for acting, Nilufer Yasmin (posthumously), Rezwana Chowdhury Banya and Shahin Samad for music, Shukla Sarker, Sharmila Bandapaddhaya for dance, Choyonika Chowdhury and Shami Kaiser for film making, Bibi Russel and Tahsina Shahin for fashion designing, Sarmin Akhter for sports, Samia Zaman as a presenter, Jharna Sarker and Laila Afroze for poetry reciting, Farida Zaman and Nazli Mansur for fine arts, Yasmin Kabir for documentary film making, Rizia Rahman and Aditi Faiguni for literature, Sanzina Jui for photography, Rakhi Mrong for human rights work, Samina Lufia Nitra for theatre performance and Laila Noor, Daisy Moudud, Farida Yasmin, Naznin Akter, Nadira Kiron and Sultana Rahman for role in media.

Mahila Parishad President Ayesha Khanom and Organising Secretary Rakhi Das Purokaiashta were present on the occasion.

The discussion was followed by a cultural programme. The programme began with a song rendered by Mita Haque.



PHOTO: STAR  
Renowned women who were honoured by Mahila Parishad pose for photograph with artist Qayyum Chowdhury at a reception at the Institute of Engineers in the city yesterday.

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