

# Maintain discipline in organisational activities

Hasina asks BCL leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders to maintain discipline in their organisational activities.

Hasina said this as top BCL leaders led by its President Mahmud Hasan Ripon and General Secretary Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Rotan called on the premier at her official residence Jamuna in the city on the occasion of the organisation's 62nd founding anniversary.

"She [Hasina] asked us to work properly maintaining discipline and wished us success," said Iqbal Mahmud Bablu, a joint secretary of BCL central committee, after emerging from Jamuna.

The BCL leaders also cut a cake at Jamuna marking the day. Earlier, the celebrations began through cutting of a cake on Curzon Hall premises at Dhaka University (DU) at 12:01am.

BCL Leaders, led by

President Ripon and General Secretary Rotan, placed wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founder of the organisation at Dhanmondi in the morning.

Former BCL leader and incumbent Awami League President Member Obaidul Quader formally inaugurated the celebration by releasing pigeons and balloons at the DU campus.

Addressing the programme, Obaidul Quader said there is a single agenda before the BCL and it is -- changing the days.

"In order to do this, changes have to come in the attitude and mentality of the leaders and activists and in the organisation's culture," he said.

He also stressed involving meritorious students with the organisation saying that if student politics becomes merit-less, the national politics would become merit-less, too.

Al leader Mahbulul Alam

Hanif, former BCL leaders Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Abdul Mannan, Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Ahmada Hossain, AFM Bahauddin Nassim, Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, Mahbulul Hoque Shakil and Saifuzzaman Shikhor were present.

Later, several thousands of BCL men brought out a colourful procession that paraded different city streets.

Some BCL men joined the procession riding over 150 motorbikes.

Meanwhile, leaders and activists of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD)-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League also celebrated its 62nd founding anniversary on Dhaka University campus yesterday.

Leaders of the organisation hoisted the national and the organisational flags at its central office at 6:00am.

They brought out a colourful procession on the campus and held a rally near Dhaka University Students' Union (Ducusu) building.

# President pays tribute to army officials killed in BDR mutiny

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday told the parliament that a project of free education has been undertaken for the wives and the children of army officials killed during the BDR mutiny.

He also said that employments were given to 35 members of the families of the army officials killed in the mutiny. Zillur termed the BDR mutiny most unfortunate, saying that 58 meritorious officers of the army embraced martyrdom in the massacre.

"I express profound respect to the departed souls of those patriotic army officers and pray for salvation of their souls. Replacements of these officials can never be accomplished. It is an irrecoverable loss for the state and nation," he told the House in his New Year's speech.

The president said a total of 51 bereaved families have been given Tk 10 lakh each by the prime minister with the amount totalling Tk 5.8 crore.

The families of those killed as well as other affected families were given Tk 5 lakh each from the Army Welfare Fund, which amounted to Tk 5.25 crore.

# Deputy Attorney General Nahid resigns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deputy Attorney General Nahid Mahtab has resigned from her post.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday afternoon, Advocate Nahid said that she submitted the resignation letter to the attorney general on Sunday for forwarding it to the president.

She, however, did not mention the reasons behind her resignation in the letter.

The previous BNP-Jamaat four-party alliance government appointed Nahid as a deputy attorney general in 2002.



Leader of the House and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with her colleagues offers munajat following an obituary reference on the deaths of 10 distinguished personalities adopted at the inaugural sitting of the New Year session of parliament yesterday.

# Textbook website launched

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) are part and parcel of the history of the nation.

"If anyone wants to write the history of the country and the nation, the name of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Bangladesh Chhatra League will have to be there," she said while formally inaugurating the website of textbooks for the primary and secondary school students, opening up a new window for easy access to their textbooks.

This website for the school students is another milestone for the government in its forward march towards building a digital Bangladesh, Hasina said.

It will facilitate the students at home and abroad studying under Bangladesh curriculum to easily access their textbooks, she added.

Besides, she said, this website will permanently resolve the issues of shortage of textbooks and mismanagement in the distribution of textbooks.

Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad briefed reporters after the inauguration of the textbook website.

Hasina also said Bangladesh Chhatra League is linked to all democratic movements of the country, including the Liberation War. "The role of Chhatra League is unprecedented in the history of the country."

She congratulated the Chhatra League on its 62nd founding anniversary observed yesterday.

The prime minister recalled her student life as a worker of Chhatra League as well as the leading role of this student organisation in all democratic movements, the war of liberation and the establishment of the rights of the people.

# Police Week begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Police Week 2010 begins at Rajarbagh Police Lines ground today.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would inaugurate the three-day programme. She will take salute and inspect a parade, which was not held last year due to the Pilkhna carnage.

This year a total of 62 policemen would be awarded medals for their bravery and heroism.

UNB adds: President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages highlighting the role of the police in ensuring peace in society. They congratulated all members of the police on the occasion.

The home minister and the state minister for home affairs would hold a meeting with senior police officials today, said a press release of Bangladesh Police.

The Police Week will come to an end with the speech of the president on January 7.

# Obituary

DU CORRESPONDENT

AKM Abdul Hai, a former Bangladeshi diplomat, passed away in London on Saturday, says a press release.

He served as a diplomat tasked with labour and welfare matters in Pakistan and Bangladesh high commissions in London for three decades.

Though he was an official of Pakistani High Commission in London during the liberation war in 1971, he had worked for Bangladesh's independence.

During the liberation War, he provided information to the Bangladeshis from the Pakistan High Commission.

With the benefit of his long experience, he could also provide practical support to people mobilising international support in the United Kingdom for Bangladesh's independence.

In 1953, he had joined the Pakistan High Commission in London as a locally recruited Third Secretary.

Abdul Hai officially joined the Bangladesh mission in London at the beginning of 1972. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman promoted him to Second Secretary.

After his retirement in 1982, he continued to live in London.

Hai was born in Kishoreganj on December 16, 1917.

Bashrat Ullah Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bashrat Ullah Chowdhury, a freedom fighter, passed away due to old-age complications at Birdem Hospital yesterday morning at the age of 85.

Chowdhury, who hailed from Bhola, was also a prominent social worker and sportsman. He left behind five daughters, one son and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at the Allah Mosque at Dhaka Cantonment tomorrow after Zohr prayers and his qulkhani will be held at the same mosque on January 8.

# 'Destruction of forest resources leads to ecological disaster'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at the concluding session of the 3rd international conference on environment said massive forest resources are being destroyed for development activities, making the country more vulnerable to ecological disaster.

They called on the social, cultural and sports personalities to be involved in the movement to protect the environment.

The speakers said this at a session of the conference jointly organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Bangladesh Environment Network (BEN) at Nabab Nawab Ali

Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of Dhaka University.

Global Coordinator of BEN Dr Nazrul Islam in his paper on 'River and water body: Disaster management' said, "Rivers are part of the heritage of South Asian people. So, we all need to work to protect the rivers."

Cultural activist M Hamid chaired a session titled 'Role of social, cultural and sports movement to protect environment'.

Sports personalities Gazi Ashrafur Islam Lipu and Kamrunnahar Dana also spoke at the event.

Environmentalist Atik Rahman said this international conference in Bangladesh after the

Copenhagen conference is important to protect the global environment.

Bangladesh should propose the UN Human Rights Council for accommodation for the climate refugees, he added.

Environmentalist GK Boral at the session 'Water and environment of Bangladesh' said all the lakes in the city get contaminated and their water becomes useless. He proposed cultivation of water hyacinth to purify water instead of throwing waste to the water bodies.

Participants from Japan, India, the US, the UK, New Zealand, Australia and Malaysia took part in the conference.

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