

AL kicks off membership recruitment campaign

Women, youths to get priority

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League kicked off its membership recruitment and renewal drive yesterday with the renewal of the membership of party president and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

This time, AL has planned to recruit several million members, especially women and youths, from across the country.

Hasina's membership was renewed at the extended meeting of the party at Gono Bhaban, attended by around 10,000 grassroots level leaders from across the country.

Addressing the meeting, the AL president asked the leaders to recruit members after examining their ideologies and beliefs and remain alert to opportunists who will try to take membership by identifying themselves as the ruling party supporters.

"There are many people who always become ruling party men. They change their colour with the change of government, but Awami League does not need such people," Hasina said.

Membership and renewal forms have already been given to the president and general secretaries of the party's 72 organisational district units across the country.

Hasina asked the district leaders to work closely with the upazila and union level leaders in recruiting party members.

AL general secretary Syed Ashraful Islam, also the LGRD and cooperatives minister, directed the grassroots level leaders to recruit women members accounting for at least 33 percent of members in a bid to fulfil the criteria regarding women membership (33 percent) at all levels of the party committees.

He also asked them to give priority to young people who have become the first-time voters and those who stepped into 18 years.

Ashraf also advised them to form next grassroots level committees with women in the 33 percent of posts and mostly young leaders.

He said the AL want to move forward with the young leaders and the experience of veteran leaders.

Lack of coordination distances AL from govt

Say grassroots level leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gap has opened between the ruling party and the government due to lack of coordination since the government assumed office in January last year, the grassroots level leaders of the Awami League said yesterday.

Addressing the extended meeting of the party at Gono Bhaban, they also criticised activities of many party lawmakers in their respective constituencies.

Some of them also urged the party lawmakers, ministers and state ministers not to create their 'own circle' outside the party.

In response, party president and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who chaired the meeting, assured them of taking necessary measures to resolve their grievances.

In her earlier speech, Hasina asked the grassroots level leaders not to make any complaints against anyone.

The extended meeting was held after a 20-month break.

Speaking as a representative from Rangpur division, Nurul Islam Sujon MP, president of Panchagarh AL, urged the government to take immediate steps to hold the trial

of war criminals.

Rajshahi division representative Sajedur Rahman, president of Natore AL, called on the lawmakers and cabinet members not to create their 'own circle' bypassing the party and its leadership.

Habiganj AL president Dr Musfiqur Rahman underscored the need to strengthen the local government and demanded immediate elections to the union parishes and municipalities.

Meherpur AL general secretary Advocate Miahjan urged the lawmakers to recognise the importance of local leaders since none could be elected to the Jatiya Sangsad without the help of the grassroots level leaders.

Pirojpur AL President Akram Hossain called on the lawmakers to work with the grassroots level leaders to strengthen the party.

Gazipur AL general secretary Ajmat Ullah alleged that the gap between the party and the government has been increasing day by day.

He also alleged that the local government is becoming dysfunctional day by day.

Bandarban AL general secretary Kazi

Mohammad Mujibur Rahma demanded that the lawmakers evaluate the local leaders properly.

Syedpur Upazila AL general secretary Awlad Hossain Badal alleged that the ministers and lawmakers think they hold absolute power, which must be stopped, and the gap between the party and lawmakers must be closed.

Several other upazila unit leaders also spoke.

In response, Hasina said that upazila parishad would be strengthened, zila (district) parishad would also be formed and election of its chairman would also be arranged.

The prime minister also told her party's rank and file that it would be better for the party if they keep in mind that their party is in power at least as possible.

She also reminded the lawmakers that they would need the support of the grassroots level leaders in future to get party nominations.

The AL Central Working Committee sat last night to review the decisions taken at the extended meeting.

Prof Delwar, Dr Kamal DU History Alumni president, secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof M Delwar Hossain and Dr AH Kamal were elected president and general secretary of Dhaka University History Department Alumni Association (DUHDAA) at its 11th reunion at TSC on Friday.

Other office-bearers include Prof Muntazir Mamun, Prof Abdul Khalek and SM Shafiquzzaman Khokon, vice-presidents; Md Golam Saqlain Saki, treasurer; Hasanuzzaman Hasan and Dr Ashfaq Hossain Dipu, joint secretary; Prof Dr ABM Mahmud, Prof M Mofakkharul Islam, Prof Kazi Shahidullah, Prof Sharif Ullah Bhuiyan, Mabin Uddin Ahmed, Ikram Ahmed, Magidul Islam Moni, Noor Muhammad, Tajin Ahmed, Shafiqur Rahman Patwari, Abdul Mannan Patwari, Touhid Hossain, Mostafa Kamal Haider, Mohon Khan, Habibur Rahman Khan, Ohidul Alam, Prof Samina Sultana, Uttam Kumar Sheel, Mizanur Rahman, SM Rezaul Karim, Shahidul Hasan Sajal and Maktbur Rahman Mukt, members.

Bridge divide among journalists: Azad

BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad yesterday called upon the journalists to take vow to bridge the divide in the journalist community in the greater national interest.

"Too many factions among the journalists harm the community itself," he said this while speaking as the chief guest at the biannual general meeting (AGM) of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) at Jatiya Press Club in the city.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Secretary General Altaf Mahmud and DUJ General Secretary Omar Faruque also spoke at the meeting with DUJ President Shah Alamgir in the chair.

Journalist leaders including former presidents and general secretaries of DUJ and BFUJ were present on the occasion.

Azad reiterated the media's role in making a balanced society by ensuring transpar-

ency and accountability in every spheres of life for carrying forward the country towards a powerful democracy.

He said the government believes in free flow of information. "I can tell you (journalists) with highest emphasis that the government has no control over the media," he said.

He hoped that no media people would publish baseless or unrealistic news, which might harm the country's interest.

Iqbal Sobhan came down heavily on the existing wage discrimination between the government officials and journalists.

He said most of the journalists are still deprived of getting their salaries as per the provisions of the 7th Wage Board Award due to non-implementation of the hard-earned wage board award. The journalist community does not want to accept businessmen to be the editor of media house having no experience in journalism, he added.



Bricks are stacked up in the middle of Sonargaon Janapath at Uttara in the city, causing massive traffic jam every day. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Arrested Pasha not our worker

Claims JCD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday claimed that Pasha, who was arrested on charges of wielding arms during a clash between two factions of JCD on the Dhaka University campus on January 18, is not its worker.

In a statement, JCD President Sultan Salahuddin Tuku and General Secretary Amirul Islam Alim said different newspapers have published confusing reports identifying Pasha as a JCD worker.

"Pasha who attacked the JCD leaders cannot be a worker of the student organisation. He is even not a member of any unit of JCD. He had no link with JCD at present or in the past," the statement said.

"JCD is committed to building a violence-free campus. It does not harbour any criminal," it said.

"Chhatra Dal is an organisation of meritorious students. The natural instinct of Chhatra Dal workers is to acquire knowledge through study," the statement added.



Birth anniversary of Justice Abu Sayeed today

METRO DESK

Today is the 88th birth anniversary of late Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury, the second president of Bangladesh, says a press release.

Justice Chowdhury was born in a respectable Muslim family of Nagbari in Tangail. He was the son of former speaker of erstwhile Provincial Assembly late Abdul Hamid Chowdhury.

He played a significant role in mobilising world opinion for the cause of Bangladesh as special envoy of the provisional government.

In 1985 he was unanimously elected chairman of UN Human Rights Commission. In the eighties he played a significant role in the anti-autocracy movement in the country.

Chayanur Publications of Tangail has brought out a souvenir marking his birth anniversary.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Dr Haider Ali Khan, chairman of SCLAVO Medical Centre and International Agencies, passed away at Square Hospital in the city on Thursday, says a press release.

His qulkhani will be held at his residence at 352-B, Khilgaon Taltola in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Friends and admirers are requested to attend the programme.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the 11th death anniversary of Asghar Husain, a freedom fighter, an educationist and father of former Principal Information Officer (PIO) Iftekhar Husain, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad mahfil and Qurankhwani will be held at his village home Wahedpur under Debidwar upazila in Comilla district.

Aziz HA Sattar

METRO DESK



Today is the 17th death anniversary of Aziz HA Sattar, founding managing director of

GMG Group of Industries, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at GMG Industrial Corporation Ltd, 203/204, Tejgaon I/A in the city after Zohr today.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the programme.

A rare case of foetus growing outside womb

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Doctors at Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital yesterday operated on a pregnant woman to remove a foetus of 14 weeks, which was growing outside the mother's womb.

The 21-year-old woman, Mithila, came to doctors with a pain in the right upper part of abdomen. An ultrasonogram of her abdo-

men revealed that she was carrying a foetus under her liver, not in the uterus.

Such pregnancy is called intra-abdominal pregnancy, which is very rare, the doctors said, adding that only 11 such cases can be found in every one lakh pregnancy cases.

As there is no possibility of the survival of the foetus outside the womb and it could threaten the mother's

life, the doctors decided to remove it.

Dr Kishwar Sultana along with Prof Rowshan Ara Begum, head of the department of gynaecology, Prof Ahmed Sayeed of the department of surgery, anaesthetist Dr Shamsul Alam and Dr Siraji performed the operation.

The condition of the mother is now stable, the doctors said.

Vested quarters attack Santu Larma to foil peace process

Speakers tell protest meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a protest meeting yesterday said vested quarters opposing CHT Peace Accord attacked Santu Larma with a plot to thwart peace process in the hilly areas.

Expressing concern, they said recent attacks on several indigenous community leaders, including Santu Larma, Raja Devasish Roy and earlier on Sanjeeb Drong, are an effort to hinder democratic movement of the country.

Demanding proper investigations into the incidents, arrest and punishment to the perpetrators, they also called for implementing the peace accord immediately.

Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, Jatiya Adivasi Parishad and Bangladesh Adivasi Adhikar Forum jointly organised the meeting at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city.

Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori, said the government must take the responsibility to bring peace in the hilly areas by implementing the accord on an urgent basis.

Prof MM Akash, Pankaj Bhattacharya, Rakhi Das Purkayastha, Mujahidul Islam Selim, Haidar Akbar Khan Rono, Prof Robayet Ferdous and Dr Sourav Sikdar expressed their solidarity with the meeting.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the country during late night till morning, Met Office said.

Prevailing mild cold wave over the regions of Rajshahi, Barisal, Jessore, Kushtia, Barisal and Srimongal may continue.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:44pm today and rises at 6:40am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 29.1 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 7.4 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	27.1	16.0	68	44
Chittagong	26.5	14.5	66	37
Rajshahi	26.5	9.3	82	70
Khulna	27.5	12.0	76	65
Barisal	27.1	10.2	76	67
Sylhet	29.1	11.8	59	47
Cox's Bazar	27.7	15.0	68	63

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT




Uday Roy, a student of class three at Kaharuhat Shishu Niketon in Panchagarh, has been suffering from aplastic anaemia for the last six months.

He is now undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and Hospital (BSMMUH).

Uday needs immediate bone marrow transplant, which involves around Tk 25 to 30 lakh. But is impossible for his father Judhish Roy to afford such expensive treatment.

So, he has appealed to generous people to extend a helping hand to save the life of his son.

Contributions can be sent to Jagadish Roy, A/C No. 4093911100146545, National Bank, Dhanmondi branch, Dhaka. Interested persons can also contact him at 01718133088.



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The exchange reserves the right to accept/reject any application without assigning any reason whatsoever.