

No room for tender manipulators in BCL

Says AL general secretary

AL General Secretary and LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful Islam yesterday said there is no room for tender manipulators or vandals in Bangladesh Chhatra League or Jubo League. The party chief and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had already given this message to all, he said, adding: "We want to bring about a big change in the AL, which has a bright and unique history of dedicated politics."

"We are also looking to hold the trial of jail killing and the trial of those who had repressed AL leaders and activists during the period from 2001 to 2007," Muhith said. LGRD Minister Ashraful Islam asked the party men to visit house to house for enrolling women and young generation as party members. Grassroots leaders and activists should play a role in the decision-making in the party, he said. He also said the full-fledged committees of Sylhet district and city units of AL would be announced in a week. The councils of the units were held in 2005 but the names of only president and general secretary were announced. Sylhet Mayor and city AL chief Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran, lawmaker Syeda Zebunnesa Haque and central Organising Secretary Misbah Uddin Siraj also spoke while lawmakers Mahmud Us Samad Chowdhury and Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury were present.



Students of mass communication and journalism department of Dhaka University form a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding fair investigation into the death of fellow student Mafruda Haq Sutapa.

MAYOR'S MISBEHAVIOUR Police foil protest

Police yesterday obstructed locals from forming a human chain protesting the misbehaviour of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury with a female ward councillor. Sources said police barred them when they (people) were trying to hold the programme in the Wapda Colony area near Oxygen intersection in the port city around 4.00pm in support of CCC female Ward Councillor Ferdous Begum Munni. Munni alleged that the police also stopped her female relatives and harassed some of them when they tried to get out of her residence to join the human chain. She said some criminals hired by two local miscreants Ledu and Tamanna in favour of the mayor staged a showdown in the area and threatened her supporters. Meanwhile, police also did not allow some 100 men who tried to bring out a procession under the banner of Bayezid thana Awami League (AL) in the same area at that same time. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Bayezid Police Station Abdus Sabur said they did not allow any of the groups to hold programmes on the busy Chittagong-Hatzari road to avoid traffic congestion. He, however, refuted allegations of harassment of any relatives of the female councillor. He said local Awami League led by unit General Secretary Md Sagir later arranged a rally in front of a community centre.

Nat'l Film Policy on cards: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the need for a specific plan for the film industry to face and compete with the present open sky culture. "Local films are now facing a tough challenge in the era of open sky culture. There is no alternative to patronising decent films as well merit, creativity and technological advancement... we must move ahead with a specific plan," she said. Hasina was addressing the National Film Award 2008 ceremony at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) in the city. Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad presided over the function, organised by the Information Ministry. Information Secretary Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury also spoke on the occasion. She said the government has taken an initiative to totally recast the Film Development Corporation. Projects have

been taken up to construct a modern Film Archive Building at a cost of Tk 75 crore and the government will soon formulate a Film Archive Policy. She said from this year, grants will be given to six films instead of earlier two and this will include two films for children. The amount of grant will be increased to Tk 1.9 million from Tk 1.5 million. "From next year, five short-films will be awarded." Hasina said from now on directors and producers will get Tk 50,000 instead of Tk 10,000 while other award recipients will get Tk 30,000 instead of Tk 5,000. "I know the amount is still very small. But I can ensure you this will be increased in the near future. You'll give me good films and I'll increase the award money." She said that digital technology is going to be introduced in the FDC for the production of film and in preserving those. The Prime Minister said that initiative has been taken to set up a film city in Kabirpur, on the outskirts of capital

Dhaka on 101 acres of land with all modern facilities for shooting of films. "Our government is working to formulate a National Film Policy." She also emphasized on producing films for children, saying they're future of the nation and "it is our duty to look to it that they could grow up with all human qualities." She urged the filmmakers to make films giving priority on women repression, dowry, child-marriage, drug addiction, HIV/AIDS and such other social issues. Hasina also said that importance would have to be given on resisting corruption, establishing good governance and justice in the country. "I hope you'll bring forth in your films the true history of Liberation War, trial of war criminals, and flourishing of intellectuality, non-communalism and poverty-alleviation." Later, the prime minister distributed 24 awards in 23 categories.

ARSON ATTACK AT KAMRANGIRCHAR AL men force complainant to drop 6 names from case

Local Awami League leaders forced the complainant to drop names of six accused from the First Information Report (FIR) on Friday's arson attack at Kamrangirchar in the city, although they played a key role in setting fire to at least 25 business establishments. The six accused are either son or brother or close relatives of local AL leaders and activists, local people alleged. Complainant of the case businessman Mahbubur Rahman said around 100 local AL leaders and activists stormed Kamrangirchar Police Station when he went there to file the case at around 3:30pm on Friday. "In the police station, the local AL men almost snatched the draft FIR from the complainant and then deleted the names of six prime attackers out of the 18 accused," affected trader Mohammad Ali who witnessed the

incident told this correspondent yesterday. Among the six, Saidul Matbar's name was on top of the list of accused in the draft FIR, but his name was dropped. Saidul is the brother of a Sultanganj union AL leader. The five others are Shaon, Mizan, Ali, Alam, Alamgir, Sumon and Shahidullah. The two businessmen also alleged that the AL leaders also included some other names in the case. But the police have been mysteriously silent at that time, said the two businessmen who went to the police station to file the case. Complainant Mahbubur Rahman also said that he had to wait at the police station for seven hours to sign the final case statement. When contacted, Officer-in-Charge of Kamrangirchar Police Station Shafiqul Islam Sikdar said both the complainant and the accused had a discussion among them and then submitted a written case statement.

Int'l symposium on environment begins

An International Symposium on Environmental Degradation and Sustainable Development (ISEDSD) 2010 began at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) yesterday. The speakers at the symposium said human development and environmental issues are often looked at separately. But with environmental degradation spreading rapidly, it has become vital to search for a fit between natural, environmental, economic and the social dimensions for sustainable development. The two-day conference is jointly organised by the Environmental Engineering Division (EED) of Civil Engineering Department and Centre for Environmental and Resource Management (CERM) of Buet in association with the British Council, Dhaka. Speaking as the chief guest, Buet Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AMM Saifullah said low per capita land and rising amount of groundwater pollution are among the major issues in both the social, economic and environmental dimensions of our country. The situation calls for development activities that appropriately address the close relationship between environmental degradation, lack of basic infrastructure and poverty, he said. Dr Md. Monowar Hossain chaired the event. Prof Dr M Habibul Rahman, Prof Mujibur Rahman, British Council Director Charles Nuttall and Jan Moller Hansen of Danish Embassy and Prof Delwar Hossain also spoke. Seventeen experts and researchers from four countries, including Bangladesh, India, Netherlands and the United Kingdom, are taking part in the symposium.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL Call to strengthen probe agency

Expressing doubts about the success of the war crimes investigation agency, Forum for Secular Bangladesh (FSB) yesterday called on the government to strengthen it by inducting more competent and honest persons. It urged the government to appoint at least 25 lawyers and investigative officials to both the prosecution team and the investigation agency for their better performance. FSB leaders made the call at a discussion at the Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) auditorium in the city. The event was organised to mark the 39th anniversary of the proclamation of independence. "We are not satisfied with what the investigation agency has done so far to collect evidence, documents and other materials relating to war crimes," said Shahriar Kabir, acting president of FSB. "Such horrific and massive genocide, which occurred in Bangladesh, has not taken place elsewhere in the world since the Second World War. So it would be a huge task for the investigation agency. The government should realise it and increase the number of members both at the prosecution team and investigation agency," he added. Justice Gholam Rabbani said all success depends on how the investigation agency works. Verdict of the war crimes trial will depend on the evidence it will collect. Barrister Amir-Ul Islam said the government should rethink the process of trial of war criminals as it is a sensitive issue. Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said all should get united to make the trial of war crimes a success. Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haq Inu, Ambassador Wali-Ul-Rahman, Workers Party leader Bimal Biswas and Prof MA Akash of Dhaka University also spoke.

Diarrhoea patients on rise

Diarrhoea situation in the capital remains the same, as a total of 1,003 patients rushed to the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) on Friday for treatment. The hospital saw 762 more patients as of 7:00pm yesterday, the ICDDR,B authorities said. The scientists said that a huge number of patients are coming with severe dehydration, which is dangerous. The diarrhoea patients should be provided with oral saline and other fluids. The patients should immediately be taken to the nearby hospital if he or she is found dehydrated, the physicians said. They also advised the people to drink safe and boiled water and to avoid stale foods and foods selling on the street. 'Ban Jamaat politics'

Malpractice on in name of physiotherapy treatment Speakers tell seminar

Malpractice has been going on in the name of providing physiotherapy treatment to the patients as the country lacks trained physiotherapists, speakers said at a seminar yesterday. Bangladesh Physiotherapy Society (BPS) organised the seminar titled 'Physiotherapy in health service and Bangladesh perspective' at the National Press Club. The speakers said the scientific treatment procedure is being neglected very much in the country. More than 25 posts of physiotherapists at six government and private medical colleges and hospitals are lying vacant since 1990 and no step has been taken yet in this regard, said BPS Vice President Dr Dalilur Rahman. The speakers said there is no a single trained physiotherapist even at the National Institute of Traumatology, Orthopedics

and Rehabilitation (NITOR). But physiotherapy is a part and parcel of orthopedics treatment and more than 12 posts have been lying vacant at the NITOR for a long time, they said. They said the health minister laid foundation stone of a Physiotherapy College at Mahakhali in the city on July last year. But that is all and no further steps have been taken for establishing the college. Meanwhile, a section of people have started providing physiotherapy treatment after procuring some machines like short wave machine which is harmful to the patients. "If the cancer and tuberculosis patients are treated with the machine for reducing their pain, it further aggravates their disease" Dr Dalil said, adding "There are cases of burning patients' body for using the machine". The speakers said the number of aged and obese

BCL calls off movement at Ctg Veterinary University

Bangladesh Chhatra League of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University yesterday called off its movement on the campus following an assurance from Prime Minister's Education Advisor Prof Alauddin Ahmed. Prof Alauddin and Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin arrived the campus in the evening. They assured the agitating students of immediate government step regarding their 21-point demand including the resignation of the vice chancellor. Chhatra League Convener of the university unit Komol Kanti Majumder then called off the agitation and unlocked Vice Chancellor Nitish Chandra Devnath's office and residence. "We will consider the investigation of University Grants Commission and the remarks from the mayor and ministries concerned while making decision on VC Nitish," said Prof Alauddin. He also urged the academics to work hard to make up for the time lost due to the unrest on the campus for the last four months. The university was closed sine die on December 14 following an indefinite strike by General Students' Forum and Chhatra League unit. Their 21-point demand included resignation of the VC on charge of corruption and nepotism. The university reopened on April 4. After reopening BCL activists put the VC's office under lock and key confining him to his evening office-cum residence. Later, they locked his residence as he left for capital to join a conference.

Obituary

Rawshan Ara Sobhan, noted educationist and wife of former president of Supreme Court Bar Association late Advocate Ahmed Sobhan, passed away yesterday at the age of 79, says a press release. She left behind her two sons and one daughter to mourn her death.

WEATHER TODAY

Table with weather forecast for Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, and Cox's Bazar. Columns include Max, Min, Morning, and Evening temperatures in Celsius, and Humidity in percentage.

Advertisement for Blessing Homes Limited, featuring a luxury flat for sale at Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani. Includes contact information and a photo of the flat interior.