



Khaleda's 'birthday' today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP, its front and associate bodies will observe today the 66th birthday of party chairperson Khaleda Zia, also leader of the opposition in parliament.

Leaders, workers and supporters including Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain gathered at party's central office last night and cut a cake at 12:01am to celebrate the occasion.

Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal General Secretary Shirin Sultana said her organisation took a cake to the chairperson's Gulshan office where chairperson herself cut the cake on her birthday.

Shafiqul Bari Babu, organising secretary of the Swachhchasebok Dal, said they cut the 66-pound cake at party's central office at the first minute of August 15. Other leaders and activists celebrate the moment showering flower petals.

Jubo Dal leaders said they would arrange a programme today there after Iftar to mark the day.

PM to place wreaths at Bangabandhu's grave

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will go to Tungipara in Gopalganj today to place wreath at the grave of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

She will place the wreath at 10:00am as a part of the programme to observe the 35th death anniversary of the Father of the Nation.

Hasina will also place wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu at Dhanmondi Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at 6:30am on the day and at the graves of family members of the Father of the Nation and other martyrs at Banani Graveyard at 7:30am.

A special munajat will also be offered on the occasion.

HARASSMENT OF 3 TEACHERS Three DU students expelled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) proctor's office yesterday expelled three students temporarily for their involvement with the incident of harassing three teachers during a clash between students of two departments at the university central playground on Tuesday.

The expelled students are Liton Parvez of philosophy department, Ashsan of economics department and Rajib of Islamic history and culture department.

Proctor Dr KM Saiful Islam told The Daily Star last night that they would send show cause notice tomorrow (today) asking them to reply within seven days to explain why they would not be expelled permanently.

Besides, the proctor office will also send notice to 10 other students in this connection.

Chehlum

METRO DESK



Chehlum of Mustafizur Rahman, a retired banker, will be held at his Banani residence at

House # 90, Road # 17/A, Block-E in the city at 5:00pm today, says a press release. Relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to attend the milad mahfil and pray for the salvation of the departed soul. Mustafizur passed away on July 10 this year.

Join struggle to build Sonar Bangla Nation now stigma-free

PM urges countrymen

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the countrymen to march forward with bold steps in the struggle to build a Sonar Bangla (golden Bengal) as dreamt by Bangabandhu by turning the grief of the eternal loss of the Father of the Nation into strength.

"Let us march forward with bold steps in the struggle to build a Sonar Bangla as dreamt by Bangabandhu by turning the grief of the eternal loss of the Father of the Nation into strength," Hasina said in a message on the eve of the National Mourning Day.

She added: "We must win the struggle to establish an economically-solvent democratic and non-communal Bangladesh which will be totally free from hunger, illiteracy and poverty."

Hasina said the killers could have killed Bangabandhu but they could not kill his dream and ideals. The 15 crore people of this country have been nurturing in their hearts the ideals of sacrifice of Bangabandhu, she added.

"We have freed the nation from the stigma to some extent through implementing the verdict of the Bangabandhu killing case. Steps have been taken to bring back the remaining convicts as well as to accelerate the trial of the killers of four national leaders," she said.

The prime minister said when the Awami League government has initiated trial of the war criminals and launched drive against the corrupt people, the rejected forces are out to

subvert the march forward of development and democracy through hatching conspiracy and creating chaos.

"I urge the countrymen to remain alert about the troublemakers," she said.

She said the present government has been working hard to build Digital Bangladesh to materialise the charter of change.

"We are marching forward to establish a modern Bangladesh free from hunger and poverty by 2021, which is the golden jubilee of Independence," she said.

Termining the 15th August as a grief-stricken day for the Bangalee nation, Hasina said on this day in 1975, the greatest Bangalee of all time, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, along with his 18 family members, was assassinated in one of the most barbaric carnages in the human history.

She said Bangabandhu's wife Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib, sons Captain Sheikh Kamal, Lt Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russel, daughter-in-laws Sultana Kamal and Rosy Jamal, brother Sheikh Naser, farmers' leader Abdur Rab Serniabat, youth leader Sheikh Fazlul Haq Moni and his wife Arzu Moni, Baby Serniabat, Sukanta Babu, Arif and Abdul Nayeem Khan Rintu were also killed on the fateful night. Bangabandhu's Military Secretary Col Jamil was also killed.

Some members of a family at Mohammadpur were also killed by canon-ball fired by the killers, she said.

"On the day of the National Mourning, I pray to the Almighty Allah

for the salvation of the souls of the martyrs of the 15th August," the prime minister said.

She said the people of this territory snatched the glowing sun of the Independence, breaking the shackles of subjugation of thousands of years, under the dynamic, courageous and charismatic leadership of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. "We got our own nation state and the pride of self-identity," she said.

But, the PM said, Bangabandhu was killed when he had devoted himself to the arduous task of building a Sonar Bangla reconstructing the war-ravaged independent country and unifying the whole nation.

"The defeated forces of the War of Liberation made an abortive effort to ruin the tradition, culture and advancement of the Bangalee nation. Their target was to destroy the non-communal democratic fabric of Bangladesh," she said.

She said the anti-liberation forces linked to the carnage initiated the politics of assassination, coup and conspiracy. Martial Law was promulgated suspending the constitution and overthrowing the government elected by the people and military ruler Zia established autocracy and destroyed democracy, she added.

Hasina said trial of the case for Bangabandhu's killing was blocked by promulgation of black laws and the killers were rewarded.

She said the people's right to franchise was established in 1996 through

sacrifices of the lives of hundreds of martyrs and AL got the opportunity to run the country through people's verdict.

She said the AL government achieved tremendous success in building a welfare society, imbued with the spirit of War of Liberation, through signing the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty, Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Agreement, self-sufficiency in food, poverty alleviation, unprecedented success in mass education and empowerment of women. "People got back their lost confidence and trust," she said.

Hasina said the nation was unfortunate that BNP-Jamaat alliance, with assuming the state power through rigged elections in 2001, undid the achievements and established autocracy. The wheel of development has been totally stopped, she said.

She said the 2001-06 period is a black chapter of the country's history to ruin the spirit of the War of Liberation, democracy and democratic institutions. The main objective of the then government was to annihilate the opposition political forces, especially Awami League, and establish one-party rule in the country, she added.

"As part of the design, a heinous attempt was made to kill me with a grenade attack on my rally on the 21st of August in 2004. By the grace of the Almighty Allah, I was saved but 24 AL leaders and workers, including Ivy Rahman, were killed in the attack," Hasina said.

BSS, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday said the nation has become stigma-free after the trial of the killers of Bangabandhu has been held in the soil of Bengal after 35 years of assassination.

"Now we should bring the death-sentenced fugitives back to country to complete the execution of the verdict," he said, adding, "The nation is aware of that killers have no room at any corner in the world."

Though the conspirators killed the Father of the Nation they could not wipe out the ideals and beliefs of Bangabandhu, who always upheld the people's interest throughout his life, president said in a message on the eve of the National Mourning Day. On August 15 in 1975, Father of the Nation, the greatest Bangalee of all times, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members, except his two daughters present Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana, were brutally assassinated by a group of misguided armed personnel and conspirators.

"I pay, with heavy heart, my profound respect to the architect of sovereign Bangladesh Bangabandhu as well as to the

memory of his family members who embraced martyrdom with him," Zillur said.

Recalling that the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu dreamt a 'Golden Bangla' throughout his life, the president said, "It is our utmost responsibility to materialise his dream in order to build a happy and prosperous country."

"If we can do so, I believe, we would be able to pay our true homage to him," he said.

"The contributions of Bangabandhu to our national history is paramount. The Bangalee nation, who had been struggling for a long period, achieved their long-awaited independence under his able and courageous leadership," he said.

The president said starting from the historic language movement in 1952, Bangabandhu led the nation at every struggle and movement including 58's movement against martial law, 66's six-point movement, 69's mass upsurge and 70's general election towards attaining self-reliance and fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of our common mass.

"I am confident that the name of Bangabandhu will remain ever-imprinted in the mind of millions of Bangladeshis so long as the country and its people alive," he said.

Frequent loadshedding is to instigate people against govt

Says Dilip Barua

UNB, Dhaka

Industries Minister Dilip Barua has smelt a rat in frequent loadshedding during Iftar, Tarabi prayers and Sehri, indicating involvement of a section of Power Division employees.

It seems these employees, being motivated politically, are making frequent loadshedding to instigate people against the government, he said.

The Industries Minister made the remarks at the inaugural function of the month-long Dhaka International Eid Festival and Mina Bazar 2010 at the city's Samarai Convention Centre yesterday afternoon, organised jointly by Network and Event Bangla.

Chaired by Chief Executive of Network M Yasin Khan, the inaugural session was also addressed by Vice-Chairman of Women's Chamber of Commerce Selima Kader, Chief Executive of Event Bangla Ali Akbar and Chairperson of Mother Teresa Foundation Dr Capt Masudur Rahman.

Addressing the function as the chief guest, Dilip Barua urged all concerned to remain alert about any possible "acts of sabotage over electricity, gas and water by the partisan officials and employees of the last government."

He said "Disproving all apprehension, market prices of nearly all essential commodities remained stable during the Ramadan due to tough monitoring by the government."

About fairs, he said lively participation of foreign sellers and entrepreneurs in various fairs in Bangladesh proves that the country is now a good place for foreign businessmen and investors.

He said through these trade shows, scopes are being created to improve the standard of quality and design of Bangladeshi goods.

Dilip Barua said "Fairs also create opportunity for access of Bangladesh goods to the markets of different countries of the world including Asia through building close relation between domestic and foreign entrepreneurs."

India, Pakistan, China, Thailand, Iran, Bhutan and host Bangladesh are among the countries participating in the Dhaka International Eid Festival and Mina Bazar 2010.

Some 72 stalls in the fair are displaying an array of products - textiles, handlooms, fashion items, handicrafts and children's products.

The month-long fair will remain open for all from 10:00am to 10:00pm every day.

Listed criminal shot dead in Bogra

UNB, Bogra

A listed criminal was hacked and shot dead at Maltinagar in the town yesterday evening.

Locals said four or five criminals called Rokunazzaman Ripon alias Gaal Kata Rion, 30, out of his house. They hacked and shot him dead near his house just before the Iftar.

Ripon was killed by his rivals over domination of the area, locals said.

Awami Jubo League claimed Ripon as its activist. All shops in the town pulled down the shutters following the incident in apprehension of trouble. His supporters attacked the house of Shimul soon after the killing heightening tension in the area.

Bogra Sadar police station officer Khalequzzaman said Ripon was a listed criminal of the town. None was arrested till 8:30pm in this connection.

DU rights historic wrong

FROM PAGE 1

The father of the nation, then a second year student of law department, turned down those conditions.

And he left the institution as an expelled student.

To get rid of this historic stigma and put the records straight, the DU Syndicate, the highest decision making body of the university, yesterday withdrew the expulsion order against the greatest leader of the nation.

The DU, which can rightly take pride that Bangabandhu was once a student of this institution, took the step just a day before his 35th death anniversary.

And on March 26, 1971, twenty-two years after his expulsion from the DU, the father of the nation declared independence and called upon the people to fight against the then Pakistani occupation forces for liberating the motherland. His historic call spurred the nation to take up arms against the Pakistani forces, and it ended in victory on December 16, 1971.

The DU Syndicate that met yesterday at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban praised the role played by Bangabandhu in the movement of class four employees.

"It was an expression of democratic spirit and farsightedness of the young student leader," observed the syndicate meeting.

On March 26, 1949, the then executive council of DU expelled Bangabandhu and four other students on charges of 'instigating' a movement launched by class four employees demanding increase of salaries and allowances.

The executive committee gave some conditions for withdrawing the expulsion order. These included paying a fine of Rs 15 each and submitting a guarantee of good conduct from their guardians in prescribed form to the provosts concerned on or before April 17, 1949.

The four other students are Kalyanchandra Dasgupta, Naimuddin Ahmed, Nadera Begum and Muhammad Abdul Wadud. Their expulsion was withdrawn as they met the conditions.

Bangabandhu and the other students were expelled without issuing show-cause notices on them. It was against justice," Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, who chaired the syndicate meeting, told journalists.

"We have taken the decision unanimously and we feel proud of taking this decision," said syndicate member Prof M Akhtaruzzaman.

On March 3, 1949, class four employees called a strike to press home their demands as they could not realise those through discussions with the authorities. The DU students boycotted classes on the day in support of the strike.

The then East Pakistan Muslim Chhatra League had also called a student strike on March 5 and held a rally on the DU campus on that day. The rally decided to continue the strike until the demands of the employees were fulfilled.

The then DU authorities had also taken punitive action against 27 students to stop the movement.

WB sees good in regional deal

FROM PAGE 1

Bhutan and Nepal is an opening to improve cooperation on energy and multi-modal transport.

Despite promising progress during this government's tenure, further progress on regional cooperation and implementation of existing agreements hinges on maintaining strong political will and support of Bangladesh as well as across the regional country governments.

The WB referred to one of its past studies on economic cooperation in which it had said that Bangladesh could gain very significantly in trade and poverty reduction if opportunities for regional integration were fully exploited, particularly through increased cross-border trade and use of Bangladesh as a transit hub of the region.

ERD sources said the WB has also started a new study on how Bangladesh can benefit from such cooperation.

The report also said South Asia remains the least integrated region in the world in terms of trade in goods and services and management of common resources.

The report also said the World Bank Group will work across the South Asia, leveraging its financial and technical resources to advocate regional cooperation and initiatives.

The WB report said if the regional cooperation increases the GDP growth, Bangladesh will leap by two-percentage point.

As the lowest riparian country, Bangladesh occupies only 7 percent of the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna river basin, but receives water from 57 international rivers.

The country faces numerous challenges associated with the greater watershed beyond its borders.

management in Bangladesh requires moving beyond historic obstacles toward enhanced regional cooperation with all riparian countries, the report said.

A historic summit between the Bangladesh and Indian prime ministers was held early this year and resulted in the signing of accords on the border security, trade, transport and power interconnections, said the report.

Implementation of these accords and deepening of the dialogue on water resource management could herald the start of an era of improved cooperation with economic benefits for all countries of the region.

The WB and the ADB have long been pursuing for making regional cooperation effective, the report said.

The recently approved strategy for FY2011-14 proposes to double the WB assistance to Bangladesh from that of its previous period.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Principal Syeda Jahanara, a social worker, passed away yesterday in Dhaka due to old age complications at the age of 77.

She left behind her three sons and a daughter.

She was the founder principal of Thakurgaon Government Women College and founder of Munshirhat Mahila Proshikshan Bohumukhi Samobaya Samity.

She played an important role during the War of Liberation. After Liberation War she established 'Nari Punorbashon Kendra' in Thakurgaon town.

She was laid at Munshirhat graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Thakurgaon Jame Moshjid after Esha prayers.

Leaders of different political parties and social organisations including Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen, Senior Secretary General of BNP Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir expressed deep shock at her death.

Padmasen Sinha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Padmasen Sinha, freedom fighter and social activist, passed away at a hospital in Sylhet city due to cardiac attack on Friday at the age of 62.

He left behind his son and daughter.

He was the president of the Bangladesh Manipuri Welfare Association and also associated with a number of social organisations and educational institutions in Sylhet and Moulvibazar.

Sylhet mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed expressed deep shock at his death.