



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks at a three-day Rabintra Utsav beginning in the city's Bangabandhu International Convention Centre yesterday marking the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. On her right is eminent economist and Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen and on her left are Prof Emeritus Dr Anisuzzaman and eminent Rabindrasangeet singer Rezwana Chowdhury Banya. (Story on Page 20) PHOTO: PMO

PM to receive D. Litt degree in Agartala on Jan 11

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will pay a visit to Agartala on January 11 next year to receive an honorary D. Litt degree from Tripura University.

She will return home the following day.

Her other activities during the two-day visit are under discussion, diplomatic sources said yesterday.

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarker, during his visit to Bangladesh with Indian PM Manmohan Singh, conferred the degree on Hasina.

Tripura, in general, and Agartala, in particular, were integral parts of Bangladesh's War of Liberation. Many Bangladeshis had taken shelter there and received aid and assistance during the time.

Distribution of textbooks begins

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday inaugurated free distribution of school textbooks among the students up to secondary level for the 2012 academic year.

She handed over a set of new textbooks to 15 students of five educational institutions under primary, secondary, madrasa and technical education at a ceremony at Gono Bhaban in the morning.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid handed to the premier a set of seven new books of class VI, VII and VIII.

Speaking on the occasion, Hasina said a modern, time-befitting education is the demand of the time and the government is working relentlessly to this end.

Emphasising on flourishing the talents of the students by applying science and ICT education, she said that without such education the development of the country would not be possible.

Terming the students as the future leaders of the nation, the premier hoped that they would build themselves as worthy citizens by acquiring proper education.

Books are now being printed and distributed through open tenders by breaking the syndicate to ensure their hassle-free distribution in time, she said.

The process has reduced the printing cost, and the quality of books will be improved further next year, the premier observed.

The free textbooks will reach every school by January 1 as the government will observe the day as 'Textbook Festival Day' across the country, she said.

Hasina said a total of 22,13,66,383 copies of books were printed this year for 3,12,13,759 primary, secondary, madrasa and technical school students, and these books have already been reached up to upazila level through 9,000 trucks.

Bashundhara chief sued for misappropriating Tk 5.26 crore

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Ahmed Akbar Sobhan Shah Alam, chairman and managing director of Jalal Ahmed Spinning Mills Ltd; and Ashraf Alam, a director of Shah Fatehullah Textile Mills Ltd; with the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of Dhaka.

The other accused are Sadat Sobhan, Shah Alam's son and a director of the development company; Mahub Morshed Hasan, the company's vice-chairman; Towhidul Islam, the company's deputy managing director; and MA Hassan, the company's assistant general manager.

In the statements of the cases, the plaintiffs said they each bought two five-katha plots from the company's Baridhara project on November 19, 2007 costing them Tk 2.63 crore per person, including registration fees.

Following the registration, they erected walls around the four plots.

But on October 10 this year when they went to discuss plans to construct their houses, the company asked them to pay Tk 4 crore more saying that the price had gone up.

On October 30, the company cancelled the agreements and put up their own signboard on the plots.

Metropolitan Magistrate Shahrir Mahmud Adnan recorded the statements of the complainants and directed the officer-in-charge of Badda Police Station to investigate the cases and submit reports by January 31 next year.

Earlier on December 27, the four accused were sued on charges of misappropriating Tk 3.93 crore from Selim Ahmed, the director of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association.

On December 18, North South University Chairman Mohammad Shahjahan filed another case against Shah Alam for embezzling Tk 2.63 crore.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the first death anniversary of Prof Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury, the first vice-chancellor of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), says a press release.

Relatives, friends and students are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Lawyer not a business person: CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain said a lawyer is not a business person like other professionals, and his or her main concern should be justice and rule of law.

"Lawyers play an important role in dispensation of justice and establishment of rule of law. A lawyer is an officer of the court and his main concern should be justice and rule of law, no matter who wins or loses in a particular case," he said.

He made these remarks while speaking as chief guest at the inauguration of the annual convention of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) at Hotel Rupashi Bangla in the city yesterday.

"We must remember that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Now it is said that a very small section of lawyers are only interested in obtaining an order or judgement favourable to their clients. This

mindset and attitude is not compatible with the glorious past of the lawyers' community of Bangladesh," said the chief justice.

He said the country's judiciary is supportive of the progressive policies of the government on women and a protector of constitutional and legal rights of all especially women, children and members of ethnic, linguistic or religious minorities.

"Both Divisions of the Supreme Court in the recent past have delivered landmark judgements in upholding women and children's rights in participating in sports, cultural activities and other professional activities," he said.

He said Bangladesh has made progress in the area of gender equality and women empowerment but girls and women are still prey to gender based violence at home, factory, on the street, in school, and in the community, which constituted serious violation of basic human rights.

"Despite promulgation of stringent

and women friendly laws, setting up of specialised tribunals and courts, increased public awareness and women friendly role of the media, the incidents of sexual harassment and gender based violence are on the rise," he said.

The chief justice said nearly all incidents of gender based violence are now reported and published due to "the vigilance of the expanding and rights sensitised media and increased public awareness" and "consequently the perpetrators are severely dealt with in accordance with law."

BNWLA President Fawzia Karim Firoze presided over the programme which was addressed, among others, by Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice M Imman Ali of the Appellate Division, Attorney General Mahubey Alam, acting chairman of Bangladesh Law Commission Prof Shah Alam, chairperson of West Bengal Women Commission Sunanda Mukherjee and executive director of BNWLA Salma Ali.



Jatiya Press Club president Kamal Uddin Sabuj addresses the extraordinary general meeting of the club in the city yesterday.

APPOINTMENT OF ZILA ADMINISTRATORS Government violates constitution: Hafiz

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government violated the constitution by appointing administrators to zila parishads (district councils), said M Hafiz Uddin Khan, former adviser to a caretaker government, yesterday.

According to the constitution, there is no option to appoint administrators in local government institutions as they are supposed to be run by people's elected representatives, he said.

Hafiz Uddin was presiding over a discussion, "Present situation of local government and what needs to be done", organised by Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan) in the city's Jatiya Press Club.

On December 15, the government appointed administrators to 61 zila parishads, most of whom are top Awami League leaders of the districts.

"We can not expect human rights and democracy to be protected in a country where the constitution is violated at state level," said Hafiz Uddin.

Addressing the discussion, Shujan Secretary Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar said the government's decision to split Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) was imprudent.

Though the government claims that the DCC split was to increase facilities to city dwellers, in reality, the decision was politically motivated and did not follow legal procedures, he said.

Due to the "peculiar" decision to appoint administrators, the parishads have become a conflict zone between the upazila nirbahi officer, the local parliament member and the upazila chairman or vice-chairmen.

Another adviser to a caretaker government ASM Shahjahan alleged that both the previous and present governments weakened the local government institutions instead of strengthening them.

Former Dhaka University vice-chancellor Prof Moniruzzaman Miah and a number of vice-chairmen of different upazilas from across the country spoke at the discussion.

Pro-AL panels sweep Duta, Juta elections

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The pro-Awami League teachers' panels yesterday swept both the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) and Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (Juta) elections.

As in the last year, the blue panel in Duta election secured 11 posts including all the key positions out of 15 posts while the pro-AL panel in Juta bagged 12 posts out of 15 including that of the president.

The pro-BNP teachers panels in Duta and Juta elections got four and three posts respectively.

Blue panel's Prof Anwar Hossain was elected as president with 642 votes and Prof Dr Ohiduzzaman as general secretary by bagging 570 votes in Duta election.

Prof ABM Faruk bagged 607 votes and was elected vice-president and Prof Sabita Rezwana Rahman was elected the joint secretary by securing 607 votes. Both of them are from the blue panel.

Dr Kamal Uddin, another blue panel candidate, was elected treasurer.

In Juta election, Prof AA Mamun backed by pro-AL panel was elected as president with 248 votes while Dr Shariff Uddin backed by pro-BNP panel was elected as secretary with 253 votes, reports our JU correspondent.

Another faction of AL-backed panel, which is a vice chancellor's panel, won 11 out of 15 posts including that of vice president, treasurer, and joint secretary.

BNP backed Nationalist Teachers' Forum secured three posts including that of secretary.

Abul Khayer was elected as vice president, Hasibur as treasurer and Motahar Hosen as joint secretary from AL-backed VC panel.

ADMISSION TO CITY GOVT SCHOOLS 1,475 selected for class-I out of 28,345

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 1,475 candidates were selected for admission in class-I through lottery in the city's public secondary schools as the final result of the admission tests in all classes in these schools was published yesterday.

Some 28,345 beginners took part in the lottery on Monday and Tuesday in two venues in presence of guardians, teachers, members of school managing committee, and officials concerned.

The capital has 24 government secondary schools, of which only 13 have class-I with an accommodation for around 1,500 school beginners.

Besides, the results of written tests for classes-II to IX were published. The results can be found at the respective schools and also at the website: www.dshe.gov.bd.

Distribution of the admission forms will begin tomorrow and the admission will begin from January 1 and continue till January 8, said an official handout.

Some 6,717 admission-seekers sat for the tests to get enrolled in class-II and 603 of them were selected. For class-III, 9,284 kids appeared in the tests and 1,514 of them were selected while a total of 537 out of 2,666 candidates were selected for class-IV.

For class-V, 2,822 examinees took part in the tests and 502 of them were selected. A total of 1,897 candidates out of 10,191 were selected for class-VI, 299 out of 1,814 examinees for class-VII, 388 out of 2,053 for class-VIII and 729 out of 3,042 candidates were selected for class-IX.

March foiled


STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday used tear gas and batons to disperse the leaders and activists of the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports as they marched towards the energy ministry to encircle it over a seven-point demand.

At least 25 activists were injured in the police action, the committee leaders alleged. Police obstructed the procession as it reached the north side of the Secretariat.

Nurul Islam, additional deputy commissioner of Ramna Zone, said they resorted to tear gas to disperse the agitators, as they tried to proceed by breaking police barricade.

In protest of the police action, the committee will stage demonstration across the country on January 2, said its secretary Prof Anu Muhammad. The CPB, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal and the Workers Party of Bangladesh will demonstrate in protest of the attack in front of the Jatiya Press Club today.



*On that cold December evening
When the Creator called you home
It broke our hearts to let you go
But your memory lives on and on.
We shall always treasure
Your kind and thoughtful ways
And we cherish them each day.
So on this day we remember
A kind and gentle soul
And how a spirit lives on forever
Deep within our soul.*

*In Fond Remembrance of Professor Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury
Vice Chancellor of IUB who passed away on 30 December 2010*

*Fondly remembered and sadly missed by
IUB trustees, colleagues, students and alumni*

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH

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