

Utilise talents for dev

Prime minister asks civil servants

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the government officials to utilise their experiences, skills and talents for the country's development.

She was addressing the installation ceremony of the newly-elected executive committee of the Officers Club, Dhaka on the club premises in the evening.

The prime minister also urged the government officials to be more dutiful attentive towards keeping up these successes. "At any cost, we'll have to uphold the trust that the people have reposed on us."

She mentioned that the benefit would go to everybody only when the country could be developed economically.

Hasina said the system for giving promotion has been regularised as it has been done from

deputy secretary to secretary.

The prime minister mentioned that the government created posts for over 2 lakh jobs in the revenue sector in the last three years and employed 4.5 lakh people in different government agencies. "We've also taken initiatives to launch e-governance," she added.

Hasina expressed her optimism that each and every member of the newly-elected executive committee of the Officer's Club would set up new example of honesty, integrity and success while discharging their duties.

Ex-officio Chairman of the club and Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan spoke on the occasion. Local Government Division Secretary Abul Alam Md Shahid Khan delivered the welcome address while club vice chairman M Shahjahan Majumder the vote of thanks.



Leaders of Bangladesh Trade Union Federation (TUF) raise voices at a procession before the Jatiya Press Club yesterday to press home their various demands, including a stop to shedding and repression of workers.

PHOTO: STAR

Worker dies in rooftop fall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A construction worker died after falling from a rooftop of six-storey under-construction building in the city's Rayerbazar area yesterday.

The deceased is Dilip Kumar, 45.

Abdul Matin, sub-inspector of Mohammadpur Police Station, said Dilip fell down while he was working at the corner of the rooftop at around 12:00 noon.

Dilip's co-workers rushed him to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition where doctor declared him dead.

TEACHERS' AGITATION

JU academic activities in stalemate

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOB

The quagmire over the academic activities at Jahangirnagar University (JU) has worsened since the murder of Zubair Ahmed who succumbed to his injuries in an attack on the campus by Bangladesh Chhatra League men on January 8.

The teachers who were agitating since then initiated a 10-day protest programme from March 18 with a fresh set of demands. It includes the vice chancellor's (VC) resignation and formation of a judicial probe committee to investigate the murder.

Initially, the teachers, under the banner of "Shikkhak Samaj", mostly of pro-BNP and left-leaning and some of pro-Awami League mindset, demanded trial of Zubair's attackers and the proctorial body's removal.

Now they are blaming the VC for his alleged biasness in appointing teachers and not holding elections for the posts of VC, deans and senate and syndicate members.

Mentionable, JU expelled seven students for life and six others for two years after a probe committee found their involvement in the murder. It also replaced almost all members of the proctorial body.

But the stalemate failed to improve as the teachers continue to boycott classes while the university administration remains rigid on not fulfilling the demands.

Admitting that the academic activities were seriously being hampered, spokesperson of Shikkhak Samaj, Prof Nasim Akhter Hossain, said they have no other option.

"We are continuing our agitation as the administration is reluctant to meet our rational demands. We tried to reach a consensus but the vice chancellor broke his promises several times," she said.

On the contrary, VC Prof Shariff Enamul Kabir termed the demands irrational and harmful for JU.

"I always respect and welcome any democratic movement and demand from the respected teachers but they can not hamper the university's normal activities," he said.

He said declaration on the time schedule of the elections would come in proper time. However, he said teachers would be recruited whenever the university feels the need to fill vacant posts.

He urged the agitating teachers to reach a solution through discussions. For the students, the situation continues to threaten their prospects as delays in classes and exams means that

they are falling behind from their peers in getting on with their lives and careers.

Hasanuzzaman, appearing in his third year final exams at the economics department, vented his frustrations, stating that dates for the protest programmes coincided with his scheduled exams.

Another student, Mosabber Hossain, doing his masters in geography and environment, said most of his teachers were not taking classes for the past two months, citing the excuse that they are attending the protest programmes.

Allegations are rife that teachers loyal to the administration are also cancelling classes to counter the protest programmes.

The government should ban teachers from affiliating with politics so that students never have to suffer, said Ferdous Mahmud, in his final year in physics department.

"The situation should not continue for long in this manner, jeopardizing the academic activities. The administration, especially the VC, should take proper steps to resolve the issues through discussions," suggested JU Teachers' Association President Prof AA Mamun.

Save Boldha Garden

Demand environmental experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) yesterday demanded infrastructure development and proper management of Boldha Garden to save it from degradation.

A Bapa delegation led by its general secretary Dr Md Abdul Matin visited the garden and found negligence of its maintenance and taking care of different trees of rare species.

There are many trees in the garden which are weak and about to die. It is still possible to save them through proper care, the team said. It found the authorities concerned indifferent to cleaning activities in the garden.

Different infrastructures are very old which are needed to be reconstructed, the team said.

Bapa executive member Syed Abul Maksud, joint secretaries Shajahan Mridha Benu, Mihir Biswas, Sharif Jamil and Alamgir Kabir were among others in the team.

With Deep Gratitude

We are truly grateful for the outpouring of affection and support on the passing of our beloved husband, father and grandfather, Masum Ahmed Chowdhury. We are also thankful for all the prayers for the departed soul.

Naseema, Nafees, Anindita, Nabeel, Farya, Rania and Zaira Chowdhury.

"Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing.

And when you have reached the mountain top, then you shall begin to climb.

And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you truly dance." - K. Gibran