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BCL ANNIVERSARY TODAY

Glorious past overshadowed by dark deeds

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League would probably never admit that the organisation had done anything bad in the last six years.

But since the Awami League's landslide polls victory in 2008, the organisation has hogged headlines for nothing but internal clashes, extortion, tender manipulation and beating and maiming rivals.

Within months of AL's assuming office in 2009, BCL's misdeeds prompted party chief and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resign from the post of the student body's "organisational leader". The Prime Minister's Office in April next year had to order the home ministry to take necessary action against the BCL's criminal activities.

Today the organisation celebrates its 67th founding anniversary. But a reflection of its motto "Education, Peace and Prosperity" or of its glorious past is nowhere to be found.

Born on January 4, 1948, the student body played a big role in the movements of '60s and the Liberation War, 1971.

But now if you google BCL or Chhatra League, the search engine will find you a bulk of images showing its activists wielding hockey sticks, iron rods and sharp weapons, brandishing or shooting firearms, and beating and hacking people.

BCL General Secretary Siddique Nazmul Alam still denies any image crisis of the organisation. "Chhatra League is now playing its due role," he claims when contacted.

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SELF PROMOTION ... Leaders of Chhatra League hoist huge billboards with large photos of themselves at Matshya Bhaban intersection in the capital to mark the birth anniversary of the pro-ruling party student body. They have done this ignoring a Chhatra League instruction not to use any photos apart from the ones of Bangabandhu, Sheikh Hasina and her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy.

Country faces problems in ensuring democracy

Irene Khan tells BBC dialogue

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh faces problems in the judiciary, human rights and press freedom to ensure democracy, Director General of Rome-based International Development Law Organisation Irene Khan has said.

"Whatever happened on January 5, we should look forward to what will happen in the future," she told a dialogue titled "Future of Democracy in Bangladesh" organised by BBC Bangla and its Media Action at Biam Auditorium in the capital yesterday.

She said democracy

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PRAYER TIMING January 4		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fazr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-30	5-35
Esha	7-00	7-30

AirAsia plane was on unauthorised route

Indonesia pledges probe; large parts of crashed plane found

AFP, Pangkalan Bun

Indonesia yesterday pledged to investigate flight violations by AirAsia, as search teams found four large parts of the airline's plane that crashed into the sea last weekend with 162 people on board.

The country's transport ministry said the ill-fated aircraft had been flying on an unauthorised schedule when it crashed, and the airline has now been suspended from flying the route from the city of Surabaya to Singapore.

"It violated the route permit given, the schedule given, that's the problem," director general of air transport, Djoko Murjatmodjo, told AFP.

He said AirAsia's permit for the route would be suspended until investigations were completed, while other airlines in the country would also be examined.

"We will carry out an audit or an evaluation on all airlines in Indonesia over whether there are any violations related to route, time and schedule," he said.

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Miracle!

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A seven-year-old girl has walked away from a plane crash that killed her parents and everyone else on board in the US.

The child, who has not been named, managed to climb out the wreckage of the light aircraft and knock on a stranger's door in Kentucky to raise the alarm.

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DB man held for looting gold

Ctg jeweller robbed of while seeking protection against 'criminals'; 5 others held; gold bars recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

After a jewellery shop employee ran to a police patrol team for protection from attackers, one of the law enforcers there robbed him off 23 bars of gold at Old Railway Station in Chittagong on Thursday.

Police yesterday recovered the gold bars from the possession of arrested Sub-Inspector Abul Hossain of the Detective Branch (DB) of Police.

They also arrested Tarek Haider, 32, Bappi Ahmed, 29, Alamgir Hossain, 24, Md Kabir, 28, and Jasim Uddin, 29. All of them were hawkers at the train station and the police believe they took part in the mugging.

Police said they were looking for another suspect Abdur Rahim, 34.

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Bags containing dead bodies are lifted onboard Indonesian Navy vessel KRI Banda Aceh during search operations for AirAsia flight QZ8501 in the Java sea yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

দোয়া-মাহফিল



পাটের জীবন রহস্য উন্মোচনকারী আন্তর্জাতিক খ্যাতিসম্পন্ন বিজ্ঞানী মরহুম প্রফেসর ড. মাকসুদুল আলম এর বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফিরাত কামনায় আগামী ০৫ জানুয়ারি ২০১৫খ্রিঃ তারিখ রোজ সোমবার বিকাল ০৪:০০ ঘটিকায় বাংলাদেশ কৃষি গবেষণা কাউন্সিল, ফার্মগেট মিলনায়তনে দোয়া-মাহফিল অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

উক্ত দোয়া-মাহফিলে প্রফেসর ড. মাকসুদুল আলম এর সহকর্মী, পরিবারের সদস্যবৃন্দ, আত্মীয়-স্বজন ও সকল শুভানুধ্যায়ীকে উপস্থিত থাকার জন্য সবিনয় অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

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