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BNP to bring changes in party charter

No leader can hold more than one post; national council after mid-March

RASHIDUL HASAN

The BNP last night decided to hold its sixth national council in late March.

With Khaleda Zia in the chair, the meeting at the BNP chief's Gulshan office decided to amend the party's charter, keeping the provision of "one leader, one post", meaning no leader would be able to hold more than one post, meeting sources said.

The decisions were made at a meeting of the party's standing committee, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told a press briefing in the middle of the two-hour-long meeting that started around 9:30pm.

He, however, said the date and the venue of the council would be announced later.

The party's last council was held on December 8, 2009.

According to the BNP constitution, the party's national executive committee shall be elected though a national council every three years, but the party could not hold it in the last six years.

The meeting also decided to bring another change in the party's charter incorporating a provision prohibiting MPs from holding posts in their districts, upazilas and unions, SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Former students of Dhaka University at a get-together organised by the DU Alumni Association on the central playground of the university yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

DU ALUMNI Together, after long time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An air of festivity permeated the Dhaka University's central playground yesterday with hundreds of its former students converging to share their joy with old friends and classmates.

They took part in joyous interactions, sang their hearts out, danced and took photographs during the daylong programme -- "Hironmoyee Alumni Melbondhon" -- organised by the Dhaka University Alumni Association (DUAA).

Amid laughter and hugs, they took a stroll down memory lane, reminiscing about the good old days.

The alumni started gathering at the playground from early morning. Some joined the function with families and some with friends. As the day rolled on, the gathering got bigger.

The inaugural ceremony began with Mesbah-Ul-Bar Chowdhury, the most senior alumnus, hoisting SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Ershad's decisions undemocratic

Raushan opens up for first time after Ershad changes party leadership

STAR REPORT

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Raushan Ershad last night termed "undemocratic" party Chairman HM Ershad's decisions to make his brother GM Quader the party's co-chairman and change the party's secretary general.

In a press release, she expressed hope that Ershad would revise his decisions "in the interests of the party's greater unity and making it more organised and strong".

Raushan also said the issue of making her

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Hearts of stone

SHAMIM ASHRAF

The man was lying flat on the road, bleeding profusely. He raised his right hand and waved weakly for help. His motorbike was lying two feet away near the road divider only 50 yards off Hotel Radisson.

It was 8:50am on Friday.

The Airport Road had by then a significant flow of traffic, but no one stopped and came to rescue the man, aged around 35. Some cars slowed down a bit just to avoid hitting the man and his motorbike. Some vehicles even honked for the youth to move off the road.

I stopped my car near the spot. My driving instructor quickly got down and picked up the man onto our car. The man badly grazed his left side and he was bleeding from his hands, waist and legs.

Lying in the backseat - unable to move - he

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Massive blizzard hits US

6 killed, 4,200 flights cancelled, 10 eastern states affected

REUTERS, New York/Washington

A winter storm dumped nearly 2 feet (58 cm) of snow on the suburbs of Washington, DC, yesterday before moving on to Philadelphia and New York, paralyzing road, rail and airline travel along the US East Coast.

At least 10 states declared weather emergencies, aiming to get a handle on highways made impassable by the drifting snow and to shore up coastal areas where the blizzard conditions raised the danger of flooding.

High winds battered the region, reaching 70 miles per hour in Wallops Island, Virginia, late on Friday, said meteorologist Greg Gallina of the National Weather Service.

High tides washed through the streets of Jersey Shore towns, mixing with snow and pooling in drive-

ways, televised images showed. Video footage on CNN showed water pouring into downtown Margate, New Jersey, near Atlantic City, an area still recovering from Superstorm Sandy three years ago.

The heaviest snow was engulfing New York City yesterday but was expected to ease by early afternoon, though not end until today.

At least six people were killed in car crashes due to icy roads in North Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee.

The worst appeared to be over for Washington, although moderate snow was expected to keep falling until late yesterday, with the deepest accumulation of 23 inches recorded in Poolesville, Maryland, north of the nation's capital.

"Records are getting close - we're getting into the top five storms," Gallina said.

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CRACKDOWN IN INDIA Jihadists planned attack on foreigners

PTI, New Delhi

In a major nationwide swoop ahead of Indian Republic Day, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested 13 suspected IS sympathisers for plotting attacks in different parts of the country intended to target foreign tourists and policemen.

The NIA had picked a total of 14 people on Friday. Of the 14 suspects detained on Friday, 13 have been arrested, a home ministry official told TOI.

The busted module, comprising former operatives of jihadi outfit Indian Mujahideen (IM) -- who have switched allegiance to the Islamic State -- calls

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is all smiles as she hugs a female scout at the Gono Bhavan yesterday. The PM inaugurated the 8th National Cub Camporee at the National Scouting Training Centre in Gazipur's Mouchak through a video conference from her official residence.

PHOTO: BSS

Don't impose anything on children

President urges guardians

UNB, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid yesterday urged guardians not to impose anything on children against their will as it hampers their natural growth.

"Keep confidence in the personality and interest of children ... Don't try to impose anything against their will illogically because it hinders their natural growth," he said.

He said this while speaking at the National Children Prize Competition, 2016, organised by the Bangladesh Shishu Academy held at its auditorium in the city.

Addressing the programme, the president underscored the need for ensuring proper environment for the development of children.

"Any unexpected entry into the domain of children doesn't bring any positive result. It's the moral responsibility of all of us to ensure their proper development."

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Subhash Bose's niece Krishna Bose looking at his army uniform at his ancestral house, Netaji Bhavan.

Why govt didn't want to bring back his ashes

AGENCIES

The Indian government was reluctant to bring back Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's ashes from a Buddhist temple in Tokyo because it feared a political backlash, says a "top secret" file from the late 1970s declassified on Saturday.

The home ministry document was among the

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BSF kills 1 at Naogaon border

UNB, Naogaon

A Bangladeshi national was shot dead by Indian Border Security Force at Adatala border point in Sapahar upazila early yesterday.

The dead, Joynal Abedin, 40, was a cattle trader from South Patari village in the upazila.

Witnesses said BSF members from Rangamati camp opened fire at a group of

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4 killed in Canada school shooting

AFP, Ottawa

Shots rang out at a school in western Canada Friday, leaving four people dead and several others critically injured in the nation's worst such shooting in a quarter of a century.

"Obviously, this is every parent's worst nightmare," said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Trudeau held a news conference in Davos, Switzerland, where he was attending the World Economic Summit, to announce the death toll in the remote northern

aboriginal community of La Loche in the province of Saskatchewan.

Trudeau earlier said five people had been killed and two others were in critical condition but a Royal Canadian Mounted Police spokeswoman later revised the death toll down to four.

The suspected shooter was taken into custody after police received an emergency call about "a person discharging a weapon in the community," RCMP superintendent Maureen Levy told reporters.

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