

Get prepared to make sacrifice for people

PM tells Chhatra League leaders, activists

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the Chhatra League men to build themselves with the mentality to sacrifice for better serving the people.

"Stay above personal demands and gains, hold the mentality of sacrifice, follow the path of ideology and keep up the ideology of Chhatra League to build yourselves for giving something to the people of this country so that the departed soul of the father of the nation can rest in peace," she said.

The PM was addressing a discussion, organised by the BCL at the Gono Bhaban, marking the National Mourning Day.

She said if anyone wants to build himself as a worthy soldier of Bangabandhu's ideology, that person must work as a dedicated activist like him to work for the country and its people.

"The father of the nation had served the country and its people sacrificing everything in his life. We have to take a vow to work for the country and its people."

Hasina said all have to think how much they gave to the country and its people for which Bangabandhu sacrificed his life.

She said nobody can become a true leader without an ideology and principle. "One may become a leader temporarily, but that leadership can't give anything to the country and the nation."

The PM said gaining the love

and trust of the people is the biggest achievement for any political leader. "And Bangabandhu had achieved that for which the people of the country as well as the world still remember him."

She said Bangabandhu's killers not only killed him, but also wanted to make Bangladesh a failed state by erasing the country's history.

Hasina mentioned that conspirators killed Bangabandhu as he liberated Bangladesh and put the war-ravaged country on a strong footing in just three and a half years.

"Had Bangabandhu been alive, the country would have been a developed and prosperous one in just 10 years. It would have been turned into 'Sonar Bangla' free from hunger and poverty. This was his lifelong dream."

Highlighting the sacrifice of her mother Bangamata Fazilatunnesa Mujib, the PM said, "My mother lived a simple life. She did so even after Bangabandhu became the prime minister."

Praising the role of Chhatra League in all previous political movements, she said all the successes of the people came through the sacrifices of BCL men.

BCL President Rezwanul Haque Chowdhury Shovon and General Secretary Golam Rabbani, among others, spoke on the occasion. At the programme, a one-minute silence was observed to show respect to the victims of the August 15 massacre.

Cops using tow trucks to extort money

Transport leaders, workers complain to DMP chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transport owners and workers yesterday alleged that policemen were using tow trucks in the capital to extort money from drivers.

They made the allegations during a discussion organised by Dhaka Metropolitan Police on bus services at Rajarbagh Police Lines.

The owners and workers even made a commotion when Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Asaduzzaman Miah in his speech said police do not use the tow trucks unnecessarily.

The commissioner later said action would be taken against police officials if they used the tow trucks "to show off power and make money".

The commissioner said police would use tow trucks if anyone obstructed the road by haphazardly

parking vehicles. Similar action would be taken for speeding and creating panic.

Khondaker Enayet Ullah, general secretary of Dhaka Road Transport Owners Association, said, "Vehicles owners are exasperated by the nuisance of tow trucks. It would be wrong if you term it misuse, it rather has become a business. This must be stopped."

Enayet also said bus stops designated by police should be rationalised.

Asaduzzaman said the DMP had held meetings with transport owners and workers several times in the last five years to discuss how to bring order on roads and to identify the challenges. But the issues have never been properly addressed as other

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Activities of 41 NGOs halted

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allegations that it made sharp weeding tools for distribution among Rohingyas.

That day, the minister had said action would be taken against the NGOs operating in Rohingya camps if evidence was found that they were doing things they were not supposed to do.

On Wednesday, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, "Some NGOs are cooperating with Myanmar. Among those, there are some pro-Pakistan NGOs. They have given shelter to the killers of Bangabandhu. They want to put us in trouble in every step."

He said the BNP was using the Rohingya issue as a political tool against

the government.

Thousands of Rohingyas had fled decades of systematic discrimination, statelessness and targeted violence in Rakhine State in Myanmar.

Over 743,000 of them fled military atrocities including killings, rapes, tortures and burning of houses in the Rakhine State since August 25, 2017. They joined the 300,000 others who had reached Bangladesh before.

Almost all Rohingyas have taken shelter in refugee camps in Cox's Bazar and have been living on humanitarian assistances provided by the Bangladesh government and international and national aid groups.

Our correspondent in Sylhet contributed to this report.

Stalked, schoolgirl takes her own life

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down every time.

Recently, the youth allegedly circulated a fake indecent photo of the victim to some social media accounts using a messaging app, he said.

On Friday afternoon, the stalker stopped her while she was returning home after her coaching classes and gave her the same proposal, which she rejected again. At this, the youth threatened that he would spread the photo to other social media users, Ruhul alleged.

Coming home, Rupa told her mother about the incident and later went to her room. Returning from work, Ruhul found Rupa's room locked from inside. He knocked the door several times and got no response. At one point, he broke the door and found Rupa lying on the floor unconscious, he said.

She was first rushed to Bhandaria

upazila health complex and then to Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital where she was declared dead, Ruhul said.

After the news spread, students of Rupa's school, their guardians and teachers formed a human chain in Bhandaria town, demanding the immediate arrest of the stalker.

Later in the day, police detained the youth in the same village, Hyatul Islam Khan, superintendent of police in the district, told The Daily Star.

"We will take further action on receiving the allegation in writing," he said, adding, "We're investigating."

He also said the body was sent for autopsy.

Two cases -- one for provoking suicide and the other for spreading the photo online -- would be filed, the SP added.



Students of Bhandaria Government Bandar Girls' High School form a human chain in Bhandaria town yesterday demanding exemplary punishment of the stalker responsible for the death of their classmate.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Bangladesh Chhatra League leaders putting a black badge on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday during a discussion organised at the Gono Bhaban marking the National Mourning Day.

PHOTO: BSS

No Bangladeshis among them

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(Bangladesh time), excluded names of about 19.07 lakh applicants. Indian media reported that most of them were Bangla-speaking people.

Talking to Indian news channel Times Now later in the day, Momen said, "Indian Foreign [external affairs] Minister Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar told me that this [NRC] is purely an internal issue of India, and Bangladesh doesn't have to worry about it. Under no circumstances, Bangladesh would be affected, he said. We leave it that way."

Asked whether those left out of the list were from Bangladesh, the minister said, "I don't think so."

He said, "There is no reason why Bangladeshis should move to India. Bangladesh is doing much better and therefore it does not look like there is any interest in any Bangladeshi to go to India. In Bangladesh, even the per capita income is higher than the cost of living. There is no possibility of [their] moving to India."

Jaishankar visited Dhaka last month and held a joint press briefing after a meeting with Momen on August 20.

Asked about concerns that some four million Bangla-speaking people were at risk of losing Indian

citizenship for failing to be in the draft NRC, Jaishankar had said, "This is an internal matter of India."

On that day, Momen told reporters that India asked Bangladesh not to worry about the NRC issue. "We said we are already in serious trouble with 1.1 million Rohingyas ... They [Jaishankar] said 'you don't worry at all about it.'"

Talking to The Daily Star about the NRC issue, Jahangirnagar University's International Relations Professor Shahab Enam Khan said, "This is a worrisome development. The obvious question is what will be the future of these people if they fail to prove their citizenship."

Former foreign secretary Humayun Kabir said the NRC has no implications for Bangladesh at this moment and that it was still an internal issue of India.

Talking to this correspondent over phone, the former diplomat said those left out of the list still have access to legal assistance.

"We don't need to worry. What we need to do is closely observe the situation there [Assam]. Depending on the situation, we can make our position clear when needed," he said.

INCREASED BORDER VIGILANCE

The BGB has increased vigilance in

border areas of Sylhet which shares frontier with India's Assam and Meghalaya states.

BGB officials in the district said they had been alert since the draft NRC list was announced last year. The vigilance was stepped up yesterday, they added.

Sylhet's Zakiganj, Kanaighat and Beanibazar upazilas and Moulvibazar's Barlekha, Kulaura and Kamalganj have border with Assam. Companiganj, Jaintiapur and Gowainghat upazilas of Sylhet shares frontier with Meghalaya.

Lt Col Sayeed Hossain, commanding officer of Zakiganj BGB Battalion-19, said, "We have alerted all our regular patrol teams to be more vigilant. We have also asked the locals to inform us about any irregular movement in the border area."

Lt Col Ahmed Yusuf Jamil, commanding officer of BGB Battalion-48 near the border with Meghalaya, said they were also on alert.

Our correspondents from Rajshahi, Nilphamari, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh and Kurigram also reported that BGB members there were asked to keep watch on the borders.

BNP's 41st founding anniv today

UNB, Dhaka

BNP is all set to celebrate its 41st founding anniversary across the country today with various programmes.

On September 1, 1978, late Ziaur Rahman founded the party with 19 points to build a self-reliant Bangladesh.

To mark the day, BNP and its associate bodies have taken up elaborate programmes like holding discussions, taking out colourful rallies, hoisting party flag and placing wreaths at the grave of party founder.

The party flag will be hoisted atop BNP's Nayapaltan central office and all other offices across the country at 6:00am today.

Besides, the party leaders and activists will place wreaths and offer munajat (special prayers) at the grave of its founder Ziaur Rahman at 10:00am.

BNP will also arrange a discussion at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh.

The party is scheduled to bring out colourful rallies all over the country, including in the capital.

Besides, the party's associate bodies and all of its units across the country will mark the day holding various programmes, including discussion meetings.

BNP acting Chairman Tarique Rahman and Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir issued separate messages, greeting the party leaders, activists, followers and people from all walks of life on the occasion.

After the assassination of Zia on May 30, 1981, in Chattogram, his widow Khaleda Zia took over the party leadership.

BNP is set to celebrate its founding anniversary sans its Chairperson Khaleda Zia for the second consecutive year as she has been in jail since February 8, 2018 after a lower court convicted her in a graft case.

In its 38 years' journey, BNP had been in power for four times and in opposition bench twice.

The party has been out of power for over 12 years since the 1/11 political changeover in 2007.

One held over murder of Rangpur boy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Members of Rapid Action Battalion yesterday arrested a man in Rangpur for his alleged involvement in the brutal murder of 14-year-old Abdur Rashid.

The arrestee -- Al-Amin Sardar Babu, 25, of the city's Satgara Mistripara area -- was held at his home, said Motahar Hossain, assistant superintendent of Rab-13.

Abdur Rasid, son of a vegetable vendor in the district, was stabbed by a group of alleged extortionists and then shoved in front of a speeding bus in Rangpur city on Thursday night.

Around 4:20am on Friday, the boy lost his battle for life at Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Shahidar Rahman, the victim's father, filed a case with the district's Kotwali Police Station on Friday accusing six persons.

He alleged that his son was killed his elder son Mohan Mia denied to pay Tk 500 as extortion to Mozaffar Hossain, prime accused in the murder case.

Abdur Rashid, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said they were trying hard to arrest Mozaffar.