



"This was a war of choice. Putin chose to fight it... And he can choose even now to end it, to go home."

White House NSA Jake Sullivan on Russia-Ukraine war



REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXIII No. 40

FALGUN 9, 1429 BS

www.thedailystar.net

SHABAN 1, 1444 HJURI

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The plague of illegal parking

## BCL stays off the leash

Its members increasingly getting involved in crimes, dragging the organisation further down

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Bangladesh Chhatra League will regain its past glory. This was what Sheikh Wali Asif Enan pledged once he became the general secretary of the pro-Awami League student organisation in December last year.

"We will work to make the organisation free from all controversies ...," he said in his first interview with a national daily a few days after the new central committee was unveiled.

Two months later, his promises now ring hollow as the organisation constantly hogs the headlines for all the wrong reasons.

From extortion and mugging to assaulting students and even teachers -- they continue what they had been doing for years. Internal feud and oppressing the activists of other student organisations went on as before.

After formation of the new committee, many hoped that the student organisation may gradually be able to shed the unenviable tag -- a student organisation infested with rogue elements.

The new leadership did initiate some steps to this end, taking disciplinary actions against 23 leaders and activists involved in misdeeds across the country.

For example, it relieved Imdadul Hasan Sohag, general

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A group of wayward BCL activists are responsible

BCL president about unpleasant incidents at edn institutions

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Chhatra League President Saddam Hossain has held a section of activists

of the student body responsible for the recent incidents of violence and scandals at educational institutions.

"Many Chhatra League activists who do not adhere to the ideology of the organisation properly are behind those unruly activities," Saddam told The Daily Star in an exclusive interview on Sunday.

He said that conducting a rectification campaign within the organisation has

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### BUSINESS

#### Impact of Ukraine war on Bangladesh

The economy of Bangladesh and its people have been paying heavy prices due to the Russia's war in Ukraine, which began on February 24 last year, as the conflict is impacting business and trade in a multitude of ways. From small and medium enterprises to conglomerates, the war took a toll on all segments, while sales and profits of manufacturers shrank bringing down investment in industries and hampering job creation.

STORY ON B1

## Research crucial to preserving mother tongue

Says PM at inauguration of programme marking Int'l Mother Language Day

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the need for research to preserve, revitalise and develop the mother languages of the world as many of those were being lost.

"I always put emphasis on research. The reason is that enrichment of anything is not possible without research," she said.

The PM was addressing an event marking the inauguration of a four-day programme of the International Mother Language Institute in the capital's Segunbagicha.

Hasina said the government will take steps to provide fellowship for language research at the institute.

"I think this institute has a responsibility to preserve all languages of the world, conduct research on those and know the history of languages. I think this can be done."

Hasina said she, if needed, will arrange funds to provide fellowship for language researchers.

She said Bangladesh has attained food self-sufficiency,

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## Putin suspends last nuke treaty with US

Accuses West of stoking global war to destroy Russia; Biden says Moscow will never defeat Ukraine

AGENCIES

US President Joe Biden yesterday said Ukraine would "never be a victory for Russia", hours after President Vladimir Putin suspended Moscow's participation in a nuclear arms treaty with Washington accusing the West of trying to destroy Russia.

"A dictator bent on rebuilding an empire will never be able to ease the people's love of liberty, brutality will never grind down the will of the free," Biden said as he delivered a speech in Poland ahead of the first anniversary of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

"Ukraine will never be a victory for Russia -- never," Biden told the crowd of several thousand people gathered outside the Royal Castle.

Speaking a day after his surprise trip to the Ukrainian capital, Biden said: "Kyiv stands strong, Kyiv stands proud, it stands tall and most importantly it stands free."

"Western elites are not hiding their goal -- to inflict a strategic defeat on Russia. It means to be done with us once and for all."

Russian President Vladimir Putin



"The West is not plotting to attack Russia as Putin said today... Ukraine will never be a victory for Russia -- never."

US President Joe Biden

Earlier, in his scathing state of the nation address, Putin also vowed that Russia would keep fighting in Ukraine and "systematically" achieve its aims.

Speaking nearly a year to the day since ordering an invasion that has triggered the biggest confrontation with the West since the 1962 Cuban Missile crisis, Putin accused the West of trying to destroy Russia.

"The elites of the West do not

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## SANCTIONED SHIPS Russia summons Bangladesh ambassador

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Russian foreign ministry yesterday summoned Bangladesh Ambassador Kamrul Ahsan over not allowing 69 Russian ships, on which the US has slapped sanctions, from calling at Bangladeshi ports.

"We drew attention of the head of the diplomatic mission to the reports about the decision of his country's authorities to ban Russian ships carrying cargoes for Bangladesh from calling at Bangladeshi ports," the Russian foreign ministry said in a statement, reports Russian state news agency TASS.

This step runs counter to the traditionally friendly character of bilateral relations and can have a negative effect on the

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Members of the Rover Scouts and Bangladesh National Cadet Corps yesterday decorated the altar of the Central Shaheed Minar with various kinds of flowers. The flowers they used were brought by visitors, who had come to pay their respects to the language martyrs and observe International Mother Language Day.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

### REVISED BUILDING CODE

## No dedicated body yet to enforce it

HELEMUL ALAM

The government is yet to form an authority dedicated to enforce the revised Bangladesh National Building Code, the gazette of which was issued two years ago.

The revised code mentions that Bangladesh Building Regulatory Authority (BBRA) must be formed to enforce the code.

Urban planning expert M Abu Sadeque, who was in the team that formulated the revised Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC), said the revised code is a complete set of rules to ensure the safe construction of buildings, use of quality materials, accountability of professionals, and conservation of the environment.

Urban expert Adil Mohammad Khan said loss of lives and properties continue to happen in building disasters in the absence of a national regulatory authority.

Meanwhile, fire safety measures are largely neglected in building constructions, he added.

"Negligence in complying to fire safety measures make high-rise buildings particularly vulnerable to fires," Adil told The Daily Star recently.

As per the revised code, the BBRA is the authority to monitor all safety issues.

In large cities like Dhaka and Chattogram, fire safety regulations mentioned in Building Construction Rules are often flouted.

Developers often do not ensure fire safety measures, and to increase the space for flats, they do not install fire escape stairs.

Following a devastating fire at the FR Tower in the capital's Banani in 2019, the Rajuk in April carried out a field survey on buildings with over 10 storeys and found 475 were constructed without its approval and 1,343 had more floors or floor space than approved by Rajuk.

Fire escape, alarm, fire suppression system, and fire safety drills are almost non-existent in high-rise buildings in Dhaka and other urban areas in the country, Adil said.

Citing last Sunday's fire at a 12 storey apartment building in Gulshan-2 that left two people dead and many injured, former Buet professor Maksud Helali said the fact that some people jumped off the building in order to escape the flames is an indication that fire drills were not conducted there.

"Fire safety training must be done at every high-rise building at least once a year," he said.

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