

## BCL celebrates 51st founding anniversary today

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) celebrates its 51st founding anniversary today (Monday) with a fresh vow to remove illiteracy society in order to build a happy and prosperous nation, reports BSS.

On the eve of the 51st founding anniversary, BCL leaders expressed their determination to continue their efforts to meet the challenges of the next millennium.

"It is our vow to face the challenges of the 21st century, improving the quality of education and establishing a terrorism-free campus, the ultimate goal of our student politics," BCL President Bahadur Bepari and general secretary Ajoy Kar Khokan said Sunday.

In a joint press statement the BCL leaders said that the Bangladesh Chhatra League had played key roles in all the movement since its inception in 1948 including the Language Movement in '52, Mass Upsurge in '69 and the Liberation War in 1971.

The BCL was also the key player

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## BCL

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in the movement against the military dictators that captured power after the assassination of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman 24 years ago.

The organisation is the maker of most of the leading figures of the country including the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who was elected Vice-President (VP) of Eden Girls' College Students Union.

The BCL was formed on January 4, 1948 as "East Pakistan Muslim Chhatra League (EPMCL)" on the Carzon Hall premises in Dhaka with Naimuddin Ahmed as its convenor.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman played an active role in organising this organisation.

Immediately before the Language Movement, the EPMCL was renamed as East Pakistan Chhatra League at a special convention with a view to accommodation students from all shades of opinion.

The BCL has chalked out an elaborate programme to celebrate the anniversary in a befitting manner. The day's programme will begin by placing wreaths at the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Bhaban at "Zero" hours today (Monday).

The BCL members would lit 51 candles on the Carzon Hall, its birth place. A colourful procession would be brought out in the city streets marking the anniversary former BCL leaders will participate in it.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to attend a reunion of former and present BCL leaders and workers at the Paltan Maidan at 11