

Top officials greet PM

BSS, Dhaka

Cabinet Secretary Dr Saadat Hussain, officials of the Prime Minister's Office and leaders of Bangladesh Civil Service (Admin) Association congratulated Prime Minister Khaleda Zia Saturday on the occasion of completion of two years of her four-party alliance government.

Khaleda Zia thanked the officials, who called on her at the PMO, for their cooperation in the last two years which led to much progress in different fields.

She said many tasks are yet to be completed and asked the officials to work more vigorously with service-oriented mentality to fulfill the aspirations of the people.

Prime Minister's Political Secretaries Harris Chowdhury and M Mosaddek Ali were present.

BAF contingent leaves for UNMISSET

Bangladesh Air Force has sent a 34-member contingent including two Bell-212 helicopters to United Nations Mission in East Timore (UNMISSET), says a press release.

The contingent, led by Wing Commander Harun-Ar Rashid, left Dhaka for Dilli on Saturday night.

Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Fakhru Azam saw them off at the Zia International Airport.

Two more BAF contingent consisting of 210 members with five helicopters are currently deployed in the United Nations Military Operations in Congo (MONUC).

Earlier, another BAF contingent with two helicopters completed their seven and a half year's tenure in United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) in March, 2003.

IIUC Dhaka campus course completion ceremony today

The students of 8th batch of International Islamic University Chittagong, Dhaka Campus (IIUC) will celebrate their course completion ceremony today at the Grand Ball room of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, says a press release.

To mark the occasion, students have published a souvenir, which contains advance information on WTO affect on LDC countries, banking and organisational management. The ceremony will begin at 7.00 pm.

The course began in June 2001 and completed in May 2003 in due course of time. This batch comprises of industrialist, engineers, consultants, physicians, economists, army personnel, financial analysts, educationists, bankers and executives from different disciplines.

Speaker Barrister Muhammad Jamiruddin Sircar will be present as chief guest.

Shab-e-Barat observed

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Holy Shab-e-Barat was observed on Saturday night with due solemnity and religious fervour, seeking peace and welfare of the country and the Muslim Ummah.

The devotees spent the night offering prayers at mosques and homes seeking divine blessings for long life, peace, progress and happiness for themselves, the country and the Muslim Ummah.

The devotees crowded the mosques in the city for prayers and offered fateha at the mazars of saints and graves of their close relations.

The Muslims consider Shab-e-Barat, the night of 14th Sha'ban, most significant, for they believe that Almighty Allah writes the destiny of all men and women, including their 'Rijik' (livelihood), on this holy night.

Thousands of people including elderly, young and teenagers offered 'munajat' at different graveyards, including Azimpur and Banani, seeking eternal peace of the departed souls.

They offered 'nafal namaz,' Tasbihi-Tahlil and recited from the holy Quran in the mosques throughout the night and took part in the 'Fazr namaz' in the morning.

Many devotees also observed fasting on the holy occasion and distributed food, sweets, different

gifts and cash among the poor and helpless people.

The government had declared public holiday yesterday, the day following the holy night.

Bangladesh Television, Bangladesh Betar and private television channels aired special programmes while the newspapers published articles highlighting the significance of the occasion.

President Iajuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina in separate messages prayed for blessings of the Almighty for welfare, peace and prosperity of the country and the Muslim Ummah.

On the occasion, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) organised a discussion meeting, milad mahfil and special prayers at its Naya Paltan office.

Secretary General of BNP and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan attended the function as chief guest.

Agriculture Minister MK Anwar, BNP leaders Shamsuzzaman Dudu, Abdus Salam, Shah Mohammad Nesarul Haque and Hafez Abdul Malek, took part in the discussion.

Bhuiyan prayed for peace and prosperity of the countrymen and blessings of Almighty Allah to make the country free from terrorism and corruption.

Success story of govt 'fabricated': 11 Party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The left-leaning 11 Party yesterday dismissed the two-year success story of the ruling coalition as 'fabricated and deceptive'.

Referring to the Transparency International report in which Bangladesh has been shown as the most corrupt country, the party said it was indicative of government's character.

The government has grossly marred the people's welfare by closing down the industrial units one after another in compliance with the World Bank-IMF dictates, the party

leaders said in a meeting.

They called on the people to launch a movement against what it said the government's anti-people policy.

The party will stage a sit-in and hold public rallies in Khalishpur, Khulna, on October 14, in Rajshahi on October 15, and in Sirajganj on October 16 to protest industrial layoffs, growing crimes, widespread corruption and communalism.

Rashed Khan Menon, Muzahidul Islam Selim, Abdus Samad, Giasuddin Chowdhury and Bazlur Rashid were present at the meeting. Saifuddin Ahmed Manik was in the chair.

