



Carrying a symbolic coffin of slain Awami League leader and former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria, Sylhet Bibhag Unnayan Parishad stages a demonstration in the city yesterday demanding trial of the killers and protesting serial bomb attacks.

## Independent recruitment body if AL voted to power

Hasina tells teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday said if her party is voted to power in the next election, they would form an independent recruitment commission for teachers, formulate a new policy to raise the standard of educational institutions in the country to international level and free them from politicisation.

Speaking at a meeting with a delegation of Shikkhak-Karmachari Oikya Front (teachers-employees' united front) at her party's Dhanmondi office, she said if in power, they would give full salary of teachers and employees of non-government schools and colleges as in the case of government educational institutions, and also increase other facilities for them.

Hasina, also leader of the opposition in parliament, also pledged to fulfil other demands of the teachers and employees of non-government institutions if the AL returns to power.

The BNP-Jamaat alliance government has politicised all organisations including educational institutions and thus destroyed the nation's achievements in the field of education.

She stressed establishing more educational institutions to attain 100 percent literacy rate. Multi-track education is needed to eliminate poverty, she said.

Turning to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's remarks that a party wants to come to power through backdoor, Hasina said certainly that party's BNP. Militancy, extra judicial killings, repression, looting, price hike of essentials and spread of corruption have marked the rule of Khaleda

government, she said.

Front President Principal Quazi Farook Ahmed told Hasina that the alliance government has stopped giving salaries to 36,000 teachers and lodged around 10,000 cases to harass the teachers and employees.

Those who spoke at the meeting included AL leader Nurul Islam Nahid, Prof Sheikh Amanullah, Prof Mirza Mohiuddin, Prof Abu Taher, Prof Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Prof Asadul Haq, Prof SMA Jalil, Prof Mujibur Rahman, Prof Bayejid, Prof Saidur Rahman and Prof Firoj Mia.

AL senior leaders Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, Abdur Razzak, Sheikh Fazil Karim Selim, Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Abdul Mannan Khan, and former Dhaka University vice chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury were present.



Shikkhak-Karmachari Oikya Front President Principal Quazi Farook Ahmed presents a bouquet to Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina at the Awami League Dhanmondi office yesterday.

## Set up one English medium school in each dist: Khaleda

Results of registration certification test of non-govt teachers handed over to PM

UNB, Dhaka

The Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday asked the Education Minister to take initiatives to gradually set up one English medium school in each district, which will have a common curriculum, including a subject on computer.

Khaleda said this while she was receiving the results of the first-ever registration certification test of non-government schools, colleges, madrasas and vocational institutes.

Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk along with chairman of Dhaka Education Board Prof Harunor Rashid Sikhdar and chairman of Non-government Teacher Registration Certification Authority (NTRCA) Dr Ahsanul Kabir handed over the result sheet to the Prime Minister at her office.

Receiving the result report, Khaleda thanked them for doing a good job in a short period of time, and said the government gives top priority to education and provides

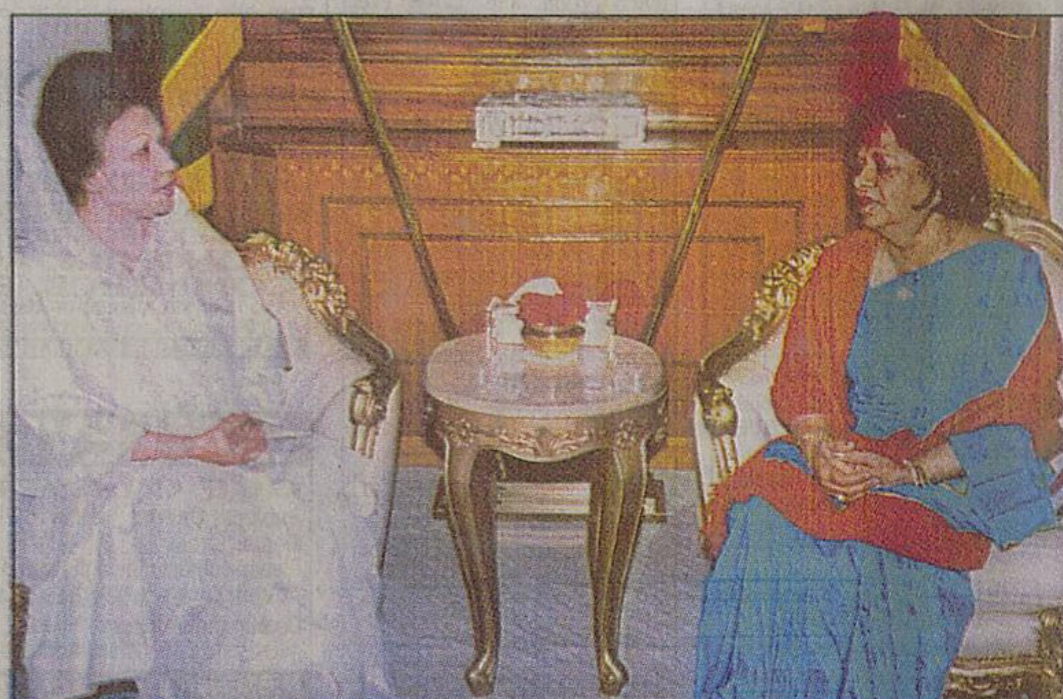
highest allocation for the sector aiming to develop a best education system as per demand of the time.

"This initiative of non-government teachers' registration certification system is part of that goal," she said.

For getting appointments as teachers to non-government schools, colleges, madrasas and vocational institutes, candidates now must have the registration certificates of passing the examination conducted by NTRCA.

A total of 33,787 candidates out of 58,620 came out successful in the examination held in November 2005. The validity of this certificate is five years and if any candidate having the certificate fails to get job within the stipulated time he/she will have to re-appear at the test. NTRCA will take the examination every year.

The total marks in the test examination are 200 of which 100 compulsory marks are for English, Bengali, Mathematics and general knowledge while 100 for optional subject.



Dr Nafis Sadik, special envoy of the UN Secretary General for HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, calls on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday.

## 5m children affected by rickets

Experts tell international confce

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Due to calcium deficiency, around five million children are affected by rickets which results in physical deformities specially in legs, said the speakers at a conference yesterday.

They said the coastal belt of Bangladesh mainly Chakoria-Cox's Bazar and Moheshkhali are rickets-prone area although the other parts of the country are also vulnerable to the disease.

The international conference on rickets was jointly organised by Social Assistance and Rehabilitation for Physically Vulnerable (SARPV) of Bangladesh, Aide Medicale et Developement (AMD), a French medical association and Kinesitherapeutes Du Monde, a physiotherapists association of the world in France, in the city.

Vice-chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) and Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) President Prof M A Hadi, attended the confer-

ence as chief guest while Jacques Andre Constilhes, French ambassador in Dhaka, as special guest.

Prof Hadi said the prevalence of rickets is another health issue to be addressed seriously.

He assured that the BMA would provide necessary cooperation in this regard.

The French Ambassador hoped that the collaboration between the surgeons, physicians and biologists of the two countries will help improve the techniques of prevention and treatments of the disease.

J P Cimma, a paediatrics of France, presented a paper on 'Prevalence and symptoms of rickets in children' while J Arnaud, a biologist of France, presented a paper on 'Prevention of rickets around the world'.

Shahidul Haque, chief executive of SARPV, in a paper presented the history of the rickets in Bangladesh.

Rickets was discovered first at Chakoria of Cox's Bazar in 1991, he said, adding that the disease at present is not a problem of

coastal belt alone but also the entire country is now at risk as rickets cases have been found in all the six divisions.

Shahidul said there is however no nationwide data on rickets.

On prevention and cure, he said rickets is preventable as well as curable if identified at the beginning.

On the other hand it takes long time and large amount of money if identified lately," he added.

C Meisner, an agronomist of France, chaired the first session which was followed by two other sessions on how to treat and prevent rickets.

SARPV has been running projects at Chakoria to prevent rickets since 1991 and they are encouraging people to take food that contains calcium alongside treating the children free of cost.

It has so far treated and cured 400 children and 2000 more are undertaking treatment, said the project officials.

Around nine percent children of Chakoria is affected by rickets, they added.

## CTG DIVISION 14-PARTY MEET

### Vow to wage united agitation

CU CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of 14-party opposition combine of Chittagong Division yesterday vowed to launch united and tougher agitation to oust the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition government from power.

They were addressing a meeting of the divisional representatives of the alliance at the Muslim Hall with Awami League president member Aatur Rahman Khan Kaiser in the chair.

The opposition leaders pledged to give collective efforts and work hard to reap benefit from the next general election.

They criticised the appointment of two new commissioners to the Election Commission and alleged that the government has done this deliberately with an ulterior motive to manipulate the election results in their favour.

Terming Chittagong as the 'lighthouse' of all movements, AL Joint General Secretary Obaidul Quader urged the grassroots leaders to take preparations for the next election.

"Start right now your preparations for the next parliamentary election. Stand behind the man whoever gets the nomination and motivate the activists, supporters and sympathisers," said the cen-

tral leader.

City AL General Secretary and Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury threatened the administration with tougher agitation if the Dhaka-bound long-march, scheduled for February 5, is intercepted anywhere.

Gono Forum presidium member Advocate Zahirul Islam said the 14-party combine is looking forward for a positive change in the country for the greater benefit of its people.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal central leader Mainuddin Khan Badal said Chittagong is well-known for its contribution to all democratic and successful movements since long, and days are not far away when Chittagong would make another history.

Former minister Mosharraf Hossain said, "No election in the country will be free and fair under the present government and 14-party activists would resist the upcoming election if the government tries to hold it without reforms in caretaker government system and bringing order in the Election Commission."

City unit AL President MA Mannan, Bir Bahadur MP and Workers' Party leader Bimal Biswas also addressed the meeting.



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**New office Address of IDE-Bangladesh**

International Development Enterprises (IDE), Bangladesh head office has recently shifted from Dhanmondi R/A to Old DOHS, Banani, Dhaka. All concerned are requested to use this new address. We request that we do not yet have our new land line and fax number.

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| <p><b>Old Address:-</b><br/>IDE-Bangladesh<br/>House#15, Road # 7<br/>Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205</p> | <p><b>New Address:-</b><br/>IDE-Bangladesh<br/>92/A, Masjid Road, Old DOHS, Banani<br/>Dhaka-1213, Phone : 0171-541956</p> |
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