

AL has returned to JS to bluff people

Bhuiyan tells Shaheed Day discussion

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said main opposition Awami League has returned to parliament after a long boycott to bluff the people, not to make it functional.

"Their attitude seems to suggest that they did not come to parliament to make it effective...they came to parliament to bluff the people," he told a discussion at Ramna Batamul organised by BNP in observance of the Shaheed Day and International Mother Language Day.

Bhuiyan, also the LGRD minister, said the main opposition avoids parliament when they lose elections. He said everybody described the last elections free and fair, but the opposition brought the allegation of rigging.

"Citing different excuses they have not attended the parliament for four years," he said, adding "Set aside the question of cooperation, they tried to impede country's development and create anarchy by their rash activities and hartals. They also tried to make the parliament dysfunctional."

The BNP leader said the opposition finally returned to parliament after four years' campaign to oust the government. "Even after returning to parliament they are demanding the resignation of the government and calling hartal. Still they are trying to create anarchy."

Urging the opposition to be

Death threat to Olama League president

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Awami Olama League (BAOL) President Md Ismail Hossain was threatened with death over cellular phone on Saturday evening.

The caller identified himself as Habibullah Kanchpuri who hurled abusive words at Ismail and threatened him to introduce as JMB activist or bomb him to death if he does not quit the BAOL soon.

Following the threat Ismail held an emergency meeting that strongly protested and condemned the threat. They also demanded of the government to arrest Habibullah Kanchpuri.

BAOL president also filed a general diary with the Demra Police Station on February 21.

patient for another few months till the next elections, Bhuiyan said the government would hand over power to caretaker government under which the elections would be held and whoever wins would form the government.

Bhuiyan said, "Having got the opportunity, they spoke for hours ignoring all rules and regulations."

About the elections, he said, "As they (opposition) do know that they have little chance to win, they are trying to impede the election process citing many lame excuses." "Elections will be held in due time," he vowed adding, "We will resist all the conspiracies against it."

He said that there had been free and fair elections in Bangladesh three times that were praised both at home and abroad.

Bhuiyan stressed that the political stability would depend on the successful holding of next general elections. "If the alliance government returned to power, the development activities would continue, as development always takes place while BNP is in power."

On the militancy, he said a few people in the name of Islam are carrying out the bombings. "We have to be vigilant against these militants." Bhuiyan said barring the opposition, the government received cooperation from all quarters to address the issue. Instead of helping the government to fight the militancy the opposition tried to push the government to further trouble, he alleged.

"BNP is a party of people...it can not be removed by pushing," he said. "Despite non-cooperation of the opposition, people have been united while the opposition became isolated."

Termining the spirit of Ekushey as non-communal, Bhuiyan said a few people are trying to tarnish the country's image abroad by campaigning that communalism exists in Bangladesh.

He said the democracy and development of the country would have to continue by nurturing the spirit of Ekushey.

The discussion was addressed, among others, by Health Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharaf Hossain, Law Minister Barrister Maudud Ahmed, Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain and BNP Chairperson's Advisor Major Gen (retd) ZAKhan.



Children perform a dance number at a cultural function at Siddiui's International School in the city on Monday to mark the Amar Ekushey.

20,000 children die of measles a yr

Largest vaccination campaign starts Feb 25

BDNEWS, Dhaka

A three-week massive campaign against measles, the fifth leading cause of death among under-five children in the country, begins on February 25.

Supported by its international partners, the government will launch the world's largest-ever vaccination campaign for around 34 million children, said the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef). The programme will conclude on March 16.

Unicef said an estimated 20,000 children die from measles in Bangladesh every year and although almost 70 percent of under-one children are reached through routine vaccination, the government-organised campaign will provide an opportunity to reach the most susceptible children.

"Few things yield greater benefits for the health, well-being and survival of children than immunisation. If ever Bangladesh needed a truly all-out effort to fight measles -- which is a leading cause of death and disability among children -- it is now," said Unicef Representative Louis-Georges Arsenault.

The children's agency said this would be the biggest measles

vaccination campaign in the world, involving approximately 50,000 skilled vaccinators and 750,000 volunteers covering 62 districts and five city corporations.

In fact, the Unicef said, the campaign would be the largest public health mobilisation effort ever mounted in Bangladesh.

"To cover all the 33.5 million children, 40 million doses of measles vaccines, 40 million auto-disabled syringes, 4 million reconstitution syringes and 200,000 safety boxes have been procured and distributed," Unicef said.

"The campaign also involves a

huge communication and social mobilisation drive, including mass media, distribution of communication materials and door-to-door interpersonal communication initiatives targeting parents and caretakers," the agency added.

Meanwhile, field workers have started door-to-door campaign urging the guardians to bring their children to the nearest vaccination centre.

Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka has urged the city-dwellers to bring their children to the centres for vaccination.

Criminal held in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna DB police arrested a listed criminal from Nirala residential area in the city on Monday night.

The arrestee, Moniruzzaman Elu, 38, has been shown arrested in outlaw Sagar murder case, said AC Zahur Chowdhury of DB.

Elu was also involved in extorting money from owners of shrimp farms, contractors, trans-

port owners and wholesalers of Nirala kitchen market, DB police said.

He is the younger brother of notorious criminal Asaduzzaman Litu, the prime accused in journalist Shamsur Rahman murder case. Litu was killed in crossfire between the DB police and his accomplices in December 2004.

Elu was sent to Khulna district jail yesterday noon.

HEALTH SECTOR

European MPs to help enhance aid

UNB, Dhaka

The visiting European parliamentary delegation yesterday assured that they would persuade their respective government to enhance assistance for developing the health sector in Bangladesh.

The delegation made the commitment in an exchange of views meeting with young people at Sheraton Hotel in the city.

United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA) organised the get-together titled "Beyond the Borders" with its country representative Suneeta Mukherjee in the chair.

British lawmaker Lyn Brown told the meeting that the members of the delegation are impressed with the development of healthcare sector in Bangladesh.

She also appreciated the project 'Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in Asia' (RHIA) jointly funded by UNFPA and EU in seven countries, including Bangladesh, focusing sexual and reproductive health for adolescents and youths.

"I will tell my government to continue to fund the project," Brown said.

A total of 23 youths under the banner of National Youth Forum (NYF) participated in the meeting and shared views and experiences on adolescent sexual and reproduc-

tive health.

They shared their knowledge that they have gathered from the RHIA project on the deadly scourge of HIV/AIDS, reproductive healthcare, sexual diseases, abuse of drugs, physical change of girls, early pregnancy and child marriage.

The youths belonging to the age group of 12-23 also informed the delegation that any communication on the diseases and physical changes remains taboo in society here, which should not be at all.

Thereafter, the delegation met with the officials of UNFPA.

Concerned officials of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Concerned Women for Family Development (CWFD), Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB), Marie Stopes Clinic Society and Save the Children UK took part in the meeting.

The four-member delegation of parliamentarians from EU countries arrived in Dhaka on a six-day visit on Monday.

The delegation includes lawmaker Lyn Brown of the UK, Magda De Meyer and Roel Deseyn of Belgium and Ana Manso of Portugal.

Another parliamentarian of Germany, Alexander Lambsdorff, will reach Dhaka tomorrow 23 to join the delegation.

Save country from grips of evil forces: AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) leaders yesterday said it is a great pity for the nation that the defeated forces of the liberation war have seized power and are destroying the spirit of the war of independence.

Speaking at a discussion, they said being imbued with the spirit of the historic language movement of 1952, Bangali nation earned its freedom after defeating Pakistani forces in 1971.

The discussion on 'International Mother Language Day' was organised by Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, cultural wing of the AL, at the party central office in the city.

The speakers urged all patriotic people to unite and make a strong movement to oust the Khaleda-Nizami government in order to save the country

from the clutches of the evil forces.

AL central leader and former law minister Abdul Motin Khosru alleged that Khaleda-led vested quarter was the mastermind of August 21 grenade attack on AL grand rally at Bangabandhu Avenue.

They wanted to kill AL President and Bangabandhu's daughter Sheikh Hasina so that the BNP-Jamaat alliance could stay in power for another 25 years, he added.

AL central leaders Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Haji Mohammad Selim, City AL President Fayzuddin Miah, Rokon Uddin Panna, and Krishak League General Secretary MA Karim also spoke at the discussion presided over by BSJ President Alamgir Kumkum.

SUSTTA polls on Feb 27

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Twenty-nine candidates in two panels have filed nomination papers for 11 posts of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology Teachers' Association (SUSTTA).

Of them, 17 belong to pro-Awami League-left-leaning panel while 12 are pro-BNP-Jamaat group.

The annual election will be held on February 27.

Tomorrow is the last date for withdrawal of nomination papers.

Of the AL-backed candidates, Prof Akhtarul Islam and Sushanta Kumar Das have filed nomination papers for the post of President, Dr Anwarul Islam and Md Ashrafur Islam Minto for Vice-president, Dr Maksudur Rahman Khan and Jahir Uddin Ahmed for Treasurer, Niaz Ahmed and AHM Belayet Hossain for General Secretary and Rezaul Kabir Chowdhury and SM Sayeed Shams for Joint Secretary.

Those who have filed nomination papers for the post of members are Dr Akhtarul Islam, Dr Md Yunus, Dr Sushanta Kumar Das, Dr Rashed Talukder, Farzana Siddiqua, Zahid Ibne Halim and Chandan Kumar Das.

Among the pro-BNP candidates, Dr Mostafa Hassan has filed nomination paper for the post of President, Dr Muhammad Iqbal for Vice-president, Dr Abu Kamal Md Mahbubuzzaman for Treasurer, Md Rafiqul Islam for General Secretary and Md Tajuddin for Joint Secretary.

The member candidates are Dr Ahmed Kabir, Md Khairul Islam, Ashrafur Karim, Saiful Islam, AFM Zakaria, Hossain Al-Mamun and Md Jashim Uddin.

As many as 108 voters out of the total 368 are now staying abroad on study leave.

BOMB ATTACK ON COP Charge sheet Submitted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Daulatpur police have submitted a charge sheet against four outlaws under Explosives Substances Act in connection with the bomb attack on Traffic Sergeant Faisal Ahmed.

Founder of PBPC Janajuddho faction Abdur Rashid Malitha alias Dada Tapan, Abir Hasan, Chanchal Kumar Shil and Abu Saleh alias Swapan were named as accused in the charge sheet submitted to the CMM's court on Monday evening.

Chanchal and Abu Saleh have confessed to their involvement in bomb attack on Sergeant Faisal on the night of November 19 last year near Daulatpur bus stand of Khulna city. Sergeant Faisal, however, survived the bomb attack.