

Metropolitan

Mudslinging by AL, BNP deplored

GAZIPUR, Feb 15 : Five-Party Alliance Convener and Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) leader Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan said here today that there was no real democracy in the country before or after 1975, reports UNB.

He also lashed at vituperative contention of two major parties-Awami League and BNP-saying the hopes of three alliances combinedly running in coming parliament election was shattered for their mud-slinging.

Addressing an election rally as chief guest at Tongi Millgate Muktiyoddha ground this afternoon, Bhuiyan said the ensuing election was neither a power capturing nor power sharing election, but an elec-

tion for democratic transition of the country.

He asked the countrymen not to be misguided by those parties which betrayed the people in the past.

He urged the people to vote for his party and alliance candidates for establishing true democracy in the country.

He said no government had taken up welfare-oriented programmes for the working people in last 19 years.

Presided over by Sramik Front leader Abdul Qayum, the rally was also addressed by BSD candidate from Gazipur-2 labour leader Osman Ali, Chitra Front leader Miazanur Rahman Mizan and district BSD leader AKM Zahidul Islam.



Islami Chhatra Andolan offering munajat in the city on Friday for the salvation of the souls of Iraqis killed in Allied bombing of civilian shelter in Baghdad. —Star photo

AL for accountable govt: Dr Kamal

Awami League leader Dr. Kamal Hossain on Friday called upon the people to exercise their franchise in the coming parliamentary election to help form an accountable government to steer the nation towards democracy and progress, reports UNB.

"Awami League wants your support to fulfil its commitment for establishing a government accountable to you", Dr. Kamal told his electorate in Mirpur during a hectic day-long election campaign.

"We have wasted many a valuable time during the last 15 years... a rare opportunity is now knocking at our doors exploit it by giving a judicious decision in the coming polls," he said while addressing at least 15 election rallies in different sections of Mirpur.

The days main rally was held at Nurani Jame masjid

premises in Mirpur section No. 2 in the evening, which was presided over by local Awami League leader Yakub Ali.

Addressing the rally, Dr. Kamal Hossain said even 20 years after independence, the inhabitants of Mirpur were still denied many civic amenities.

Many places of the locality are yet to have water supply and sanitation facilities, he added.

Many of the present ills of the locality were the legacies of the past government which did not have any accountability to the people, Dr. Kamal said. "Vote for boat so that a government accountable to you can be formed to solve your problems."

Party leaders, including Siddique Hossain, Ataur Rahman, Mattur Rahman and S.M. Jamal Taher, also spoke at the rally.

Adviser's plea to resist autocratic collaborators

By Staff Correspondent

Presidential Adviser for Culture Prof Iajuddin Ahmed Friday said the intellectuals should resist those who were the collaborators of the autocratic regime.

He said that the democratic aspirations had been shattered in the past by the conspiratory activities of the autocratic regime.

He was addressing as chief guest at the inaugural function of main Ekushey programmes organised by Bangla Academy at the Academy premises.

One mile-long poll campaign procession

KHULNA, Feb 15 : A huge colourful procession, was brought out today in the city under the auspices of Bangladesh Nationalist Party in support of Advocate Al-Haj Sheikh Razzaq Ali, who is a candidate from the Khulna-2 constituency comprising Khulna city, reports BSS.

The mile-long colourful procession paraded the main city streets in the afternoon.

The processionists carried multi-coloured festoons, placards, posters and big-size photographs of party chief Begum Khaleda Zia and BNP candidate Sheikh Razzaq Ali who is also the Senior Vice-President of Party Central Committee.

The dancing processionists shouted slogans in favour of the party and the candidate.

Meanwhile, different contesting political parties and their candidates are holding rallies and processions in the city in support of their candidates for the February 27 polls.

Besides putting posters and arches at different vantage points, candidates have also started personal contact with the voters visiting their residence to woo their votes.

Urs at Kalihati February 17

The Ursekul Majlis (Urs) of Shah Sufi Hazrat Moulana Azangachhi RA, a renowned Muslim saint of the Sub-continent, will be held on February 17 at Agcharan, Kalihati in Tangail district, reports BSS.

According to a Press release of Haqqani Anjuman in Dhaka a large number of Haqqani Ulema, disciples and followers of the holy saint from different parts of the country will participate in the Ursekul Majlis where after Fateha special prayers for peace.

Dashpara

The 29th holy Isale Sawab mahfil of Pir Kebla Hazrat Moulana Khondakar Kabrud-din Ahmad (RA) will be held on February 20 at Dashpara, Daudkandi, a Mazar Sharif Press release said in Dhaka on Friday, reports BSS.

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THE DAILY STAR

Bangla handwriting contest held

Fair Bangla handwriting competition 91 was held at the National Museum premises on the occasion of the observance of "Amar Ekushey", reports BSS.

Adviser for Cultural Affairs Prof. Iajuddin Ahmed inaugurated the competition.

Addressing the gathering Prof Iajuddin urged all to be imbued with the spirit of "Amar Ekushey" to implement Bangla in all spheres of life.

In total 2300 students in three groups took part in the competition from different city schools.

Beer, liquor recovered

A Squad of the Department of Narcotics Control in a drive on Thursday recovered 37 cans of illegal beer and seven gallons liquor (chholal) from two houses of Zurain area under Demra thana, says a press release.

Dateline Chittagong

Terror-free polls assured

CHITTAGONG, Feb 15: Candidates of different political parties and alliances Thursday assured the local administration of their full cooperation for a fair and terror-free election on February 27, reports BSS.

They demanded a mopping up operation to recover arms and rounding up known terrorists and mastans before the election.

Speaking at a meeting held under the auspices of the district administration, at Muslim Institute Hall here, they thought that unless illegal arms were recovered election may not be terror-free.

Deputy Commissioner and Returning Officer of Chittagong presided over the meeting and Police Super of Chittagong was present. Candidates from different Chittagong constituencies present at the meeting were Messrs L.K.Siddique (BNP), Akhtar-uzzaman Chowdhury (AL), Abdullah Al-Noman (BNP), A.B.M.Mohiuddin Chowdhury (AL) and Jamaat-e-Islami leader Badul Alam.

The candidates called upon the police administration to intensify their drive for recovery of arms saying they would extend all cooperation in this respect.

Returning Officer Mr.A. R.Khan said the whole administration had been geared up to ensure a fair election and that cooperation of political parties and alliances was indispensable in this connection. He also explained various measures taken by the government for a fair election.

Votes for 'boat' sought

Awami League and Awami Jubo League leaders Thursday appealed to the voters to cast their votes in favour of their party symbol-boat, a party press release said.

They said Awami League, if voted to power, would introduce parliamentary form of government ensuring its responsibility to the people.

Addressing projection meetings at Nanupur, Kalu Munsherhat, Durangkul, Shierhat, Nazirhat and Subhan Mollarbari of Fatickchari

constituency, they said Awami League would keep its promise to the people and continue to uphold their causes.

AL candidate for the constituency Alhaj Najibul Bashar Maizbhandari, Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, S.M. Habib and others addressed the meetings.

Arms recovered

District police recovered four fire arms including three sten guns with ammunition from two different spots during 24 hours, police sources said.

The sten guns were recovered from Btekepara Bangopur under Paltia police station in the early hours of Wednesday. The automatic weapons along with 35 rounds of ammunition were abandoned by a group of miscreants who fled at the arrival of police patrol.

A country-made gun with three cartridges was recovered from roadside bush at Bilpur of Anwara upazila last night, police said.

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Dateline Khulna

Essentials' price up

KHULNA, Feb 15 : Prices of essentials showed an upward trend in Khulna which started with the outbreak of the Gulf war causing great inconveniences to the public.

Prices of rice, flour, edible oil of all varieties and sugar were higher than the last week. Prices of vegetables, fish, mutton, salt and powder milk also registered higher price index in the local market.

Some of the consumers alleged that a section of unscrupulous traders were behind the price hike following a lax on the part of the local administration. Business community was taking full advantage of the Gulf war and electioneering, they said.

Foodgrain carrying resumes

Foodgrain carrying from Khulna C. S. D. godown to northern regions of the country by train was resumed after three days' closure since last weekend. Earlier, the workers refrained from loading foodgrains.

It was learnt that carrying of foodgrains by train was initiated following huge shortfall by road transport carrying and

the new system was proved to be a successful one. But the interested quarters including the workers and a section of the staff of the C. S. D. got annoyed with the system and refrained from loading foodgrains into the railway carriages.

It was alleged that a large section of the workers and certain officials were in the habit of misappropriating government foodgrains since long. The new system introduced by the government in carrying foodgrains was not appreciated by them.

Ekushey programme

Sammilito Sangskritik Jote of Khulna has drawn up a week-long programme to mark the 'martyrs day' of February 21 with due respect.

The programmes include seminar, discussion, painting exhibition, self-composed poetry reading sessions, rendering of national songs, staging of dramas and dance.

It will be held everyday at 5pm at the local Shahid Hadis Park.

An emergency meeting of the Executive Committee of NANDIK, a socio-cultural organisation of the city was held on Monday with the President

of Nandik in the chair.

Elaborate programmes were undertaken in the meeting to observe the day.

Truck workers join Sramik League

The Ad-hoc Committee of Khulna Divisional Truck Workers Union recently decided in a meeting to join Sramik League, the labour front of Bangladesh Awami League.

The meeting presided by its President, M.A.Gaffar Mia, was addressed by Mohon Ali Shamsu, Ershad Mollah, A. Rashid, A. Sattar, Nurul Haq Mollah and S. M. Salahuddin.

KUJ supports BFUJ programme

Abu Sadek, the President of Khulna Union of Journalists (KUJ) expressed grave concern over the amendment of Newspaper Employees (Service Condition) Act '74 by the government recently.

In a statement issued to the press on Monday, Sadek demanded immediate announcement of Wage Board Award and expressed total solidarity with BFUJ programme.

Osmany's role in '71 war acclaimed

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on Friday paid tributes to the memory of General M. A. G. Osmany, the Supreme Commander of the Liberation War, reports UNB.

In a message on the occasion of Osmany's 7th death anniversary, Justice Shahabuddin recalled with gratitude his uncompromising and struggling role for the liberation of the country and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Late General Osmany an undying symbol of national courage and grit, a respected commander of the armed struggle for independence, he said.

"The war strategy conducted under his successful, competent and selfless leadership had brought about the cherished freedom in an unexpectedly short period of time... wrote an indelible history of the victory of struggle for independence."

"The Acting President said not only during Liberation War,

Osmany also played a courageous and far-sighted role in post-liberation period for establishing a happy, prosperous and democratic society based on justice.

The nation is at the threshold of a prospective future on the eve of a free and fair parliamentary polls, he said adding "let the life and ideals of Bangabir Osmany be our guiding light at this juncture."

Vocational training for women needed

The certificate awarding ceremony to the participants of a training course conducted by the Jatiya Mahila Sangstha was held at the sangstha's office in Dhaka on Thursday, reports BSS.

Additional Secretary in-charge of the Women Affairs Ministry K.M. Hossain attended the function as the chief guest and distributed the certificates among the participants, presided over by sangstha's Chairman Begum Sultana Islam it was addressed, among others, by Joint Secretary of the Ministry Abdus Samad Bhuiyan and sangstha's General Secretary Begum Zeenat Ara Bhuiyan. Mr. K.M. Hossain lauded the role of the Jatiya Mahila Sangstha for providing training to the women.

Mr. Abdus Samad Bhuiyan stressed the need for vocational training for women so that they could become self-reliant by engaging themselves in production programmes.

Osmany's death anniversary today

The Jatiya Janata Party will observe the seventh death anniversary of Bangabir MAG Osmany today (Saturday), reports BSS.

The Party has chalked out a day-long programme which includes Quran Khwani, feeding of the destitutes, milad mahfil and discussion on the life and work of Bangabir at Janata Square at 5 pm.

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