



Part of the crowd at the BNP victory rally at Manik Mia Avenue in the capital Wednesday.



FLOWERS MISPLACED: Jatiya partymen placing wreaths Wednesday on a barbed wire barricade outside the house Ershad is interned. —Star photo

Khaleda

From Page 1 Col 5
 throwing autocracy with a view to establishing democracy, and giving their verdict in favour of BNP, and said their continued cooperation was needed to build the country.

Bangladesh's road to progress and prosperity is not smooth, she said, certain quarters do not want Bangladesh to remain independent, and to run its institutions smoothly. She said a people who can sacrifice life to end autocracy can also work hard to develop the country.

She said that the people cooperated with BNP to establish the truth by ending injustice. BNP has kept its promise to take part only in free and fair elections under a non-partisan caretaker government. It will also keep its pledge to establish an honest government and an honest administration. BNP will not forgive those who will resort to corruption after going to power.

Begum Zia said that the economy was in a bad shape due to nine years of corruption and flight of capital. The autocratic regime has ruined all mills and factories. BNP will recommitment the closed mills and factories and encourage the private sector to set up new ones to provide employment to the people and increase production. Shaheed Zia had introduced three shifts in industries, she reminded the audience to say that increased production would help stop smuggling, and Bangladesh would no longer remain a captive market.

Pace and discipline is the prerequisite of development. Begum Zia said advising students to prepare themselves to provide leadership to the nation in future by devoting to studies now, and by keeping educational arena violence-free.

She said all possible help would be extended for development of the villages and the lot of the farmers with a view to raising food output to achieve self-sufficiency. BNP will go for reviving the canal digging programme, taking electricity to the villages to expand irrigation, encouraging the setting up of small and cottage industries under private sector, helping create income-generating activities for women, she told the meeting also attended by a good number of women.

Begum Zia said that the prime need of the hour was to get people rise up to the occasion and shoulder the responsibility of nation building. She told the crowd that the BNP was capable of doing this.

Former Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) Mirza Golam Hafiz emphasised the need for a strong opposition and a working relationship between the government and the opposition to strengthen the democratic process.

He said Parliament would be the focal point of all national activities if the opposi-

tion worked constructively to keep the train of democracy on the right track.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury said the people had removed autocracy, and ushered in the victory of BNP in the election. Their third objective is the establishment of a corruption-free and decent government, he said.

BNP Secretary General Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar sought cooperation of all both inside and outside the Parliament to strengthen the democratic process. The opposition has the same degree of responsibility like the government, he said.

He said that in the past the government of BNP was a symbol of peace and progress to the people. The new government to be formed under the leadership of Begum Khaleda Zia will uphold that image and fulfil all election pledges, he said.

He complained that opposition to the formation of a council of ministers under the caretaker government was part of a conspiracy. He said that the caretaker government had only one function -- holding of free and fair election. It's neutrality in holding the election has been acknowledged both at home and abroad, he said.

Neither the neutrality of the government nor the provisions of the Constitution will be affected if the BNP as a majority party is asked to form government. Salam Talukdar said adding people will not tolerate conspiracy to undo their verdict.

The public meeting was followed by a procession. The processionists paraded streets via Farmgate, Shahbagh, and Press Club before dispersing at Gulistan.

BNP has mandate to form govt, says Nizami
 By Staff Correspondent
 Secretary General of Jamaat—e-Islami Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami on Wednesday said the party which has bagged majority seats in the parliament elections has the mandate to form government.

Addressing a reception accorded to him at Shatia upazila of Pabna, he said Jamaat would support programmes that would benefit the nation and resist those who would try to harm the nation.

He said such a stand would help in sustaining the democratic norms in the country and his party would play the role of a watch-dog in parliament to avoid any constitutional crisis.

The reception, presided over by Maulana Mozaffar Hossain, was addressed by Maulana Abdul Malek and Professor Abdul Kader.

Consensus
 From Page 1 Col 8
 chief Sheikh Hasina.

Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, General Secretary of the party, in a statement on Wednesday demanded broadcast and telecast of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's speech on this day in 1971. She mentioned that the historic speech of Bangabandhu, in which he called upon the nation to prepare for independence movement, was broadcast and telecast several times after the liberation of the country.

"Now, after the fall of autocratic regime, it is the desire of people to listen to that historic speech again over radio and television", she added.

Bangabandhu Parishad also urged the Acting President to telecast and broadcast the speech of Sheikh Mujib.

Hasina's message
 Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina has called for reaching a consensus on establishing a parliamentary system of government to ensure smooth transfer of power by the Acting President to the sovereign parliament.

"Awami League is ready for any sacrifice to fulfil this aspiration of the people", said Sheikh Hasina in a statement issued Wednesday on the occasion of historic March 7.

Sheikh Hasina said that the aspiration of the nation at this moment is to install an administrative system which will be accountable to the people. "So, the issue of the form of government should be settled first for the interest of the country and the nation," she added.

She said that the demand for transfer of power from the Acting President keeping intact the presidential form of government was unjustified.

She warned that a conspiracy was on to foil the victory of the people that was achieved through mass upsurge, by reimposing autocratic system in a subtle way.

"The move by a certain quarter to grab power will not bring good for the nation," she warned and said that the people will resist the move of that quarter to shackle democracy again.

CEC
 From Page 1 Col 4
 which was elected in a farcical poll in 1988. The Deputy Speaker is now staying in his home town Lalmonirhat. He is unlikely to return before the oath taking ceremony.

A reliable source said the outgoing Speaker may express his inability to administer the oath to avert the possible crisis.

Jatiya Party has announced that their MPs will not take oath until their ousted leader President Ershad is released. The party got 35 seats in the parliament elections, including five won by Ershad. An MP elect is not a member of parliament unless he takes oath and signs the book in the office of the parliament secretary the election of any member shall be cancelled if he does not take oath within 90 days from the date of official publication of results.

Former President Ershad shall have to vacate four seats out of five within 30 days from today. Khaleda Zia, who won five seats shall also vacate four seats, Tofael Ahmed one and Abdur Razzak one. Bye-elections will be held in these seats.

The parliament secretariat will despatch letters to all members of parliament today. Telex messages will also be sent to deputy commissioners to inform the newly elected members. The parliament secretariat source, however, said majority of the MPs-elect are now in Dhaka and were asking for accommodation at MP hostel.

The repolling in four seats on Saturday will complete the elections in 298 seats. The Acting President is likely to form the Council of Ministers with members from BNP after repolling is completed. Elections in Munshiganj-3 and Kushtia-2 will be held on March 14 and March 28 respectively. The election to 30 women seats will be held at least three days before the parliament meets on April 5 at 9 a.m.

Conspiracy
 From Page 1 Col 2
 Addressing a press conference at his city office, Straj hoped that the Acting President would end the controversy by forming a council of ministers with the MPs-elect of BNP, which has emerged as the single largest party in the polls.

He said delay in forming a Council of Ministers following a free, fair and peaceful election might lead the nation towards a deep crisis. The JSD leader congratulated BNP on its victory and said people through their verdict has given Begum Zia-led BNP the mandate to rule the country. He hoped that the party would establish rule of law, ensure basic rights of people and firmly lead the nation to overcome the prevailing political and economic crisis.

The JSD leader called upon Awami League, led by Sheikh Hasina, to play its historic role as opposition in parliament.

Straj, elected MP from Tangail-4, proposed formation of a national government based on minimum political and socio-economic programmes with representatives of all political parties in proportion to seats they have secured.

He argued that only a viable economy and political stability can solve the gigantic problems now confronting the nation. The JSD leader said his party has opted for parliamentary form of government and if necessary, it would support BNP in forming national government.

Reception
 By Staff Correspondent
 BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia today (Thursday) leaves Dhaka for Jamalpur to address a reception at Islampur to be accorded to her.

Kader Siddiky
 From Page 1 Col 3
 the Rule on January 27 challenging the detention of her husband.

Abdul Kader Siddiky was arrested on January 5 from WAPDA rest house at Jhenidah. Government filed affidavit and opposed the Rule contending that the detention order was revoked on February 9 and Kader Siddiky is now in jail custody to serve his term of seven years.

The sentence was passed by Martial Law court in Tangail P. S. case under regulation 11/9 MLR 75.

Abdul Kader Siddiky was also sentenced to pay a fine of taka three lakhs, in default, to suffer rigorous imprisonment for three years more.

The government contended that the legality of the conviction of Abdul Kader Siddiky cannot be a subject for discussion as per constitutional provision.

VP Singh
 It was as expected former Prime Minister, VP Singh said on the resignation of Chandra Shekhar today, observing "Rajiv was like a doctor administering oxygen to the patient, while the patient, who was no fool, had his hand in the doctor's pocket."

Gulf

From Page 1 Col 5
 gassed in an incident that caused an international outcry and ended decades of Kurdish insurrection.

The exiles said the sacked Sameer Abdul-Wahab was himself considered close to Saddam and was among the Sunni Muslim ruling clique.

"If he can no longer trust Sameer, who can he trust," one said.

Also Wednesday, Iraq's government-controlled Al-Baath newspaper carried a signed article by Saddam's son Uday, in which he denied reports that he had been killed during the Basra rebellion.

Uday Hussein attacked Western news media for published reports that he had been killed in Basra. Uday called them "nothing but stray dogs barking".

Until recently, Uday, and aide to his father and editor of Al-Baath, was apparently being groomed by his father as his successor to power. But his role diminished after he bludgeoned to death one of Saddam's favorite attendants, a bodyguard, in October.

Meanwhile an AP report says: Saddam Hussein's security forces struggled Wednesday to put down rebellions flaring in northern and southern Iraq.

Census

From Page 1 Col 5
 enumerators will undertake the house to house census of the population and collect statistics relating other fields. Besides that 54,000 supervisors, 2200 zonal officers of the Bureau of Statistics, 94 district, 29 regional and one national coordinators will remain in charge of the entire census operation.

The first population census was held in 1974 followed by the second one in 1981.

Situation grim

From Page 1 Col 8
 brands into the country has also become a major problem for the industry.

Sales of electronic items of major manufacturers declined by twenty to thirty per cent.

In pharmaceuticals, sales of leading units has decreased by 20 per cent to 30 per cent in recent months.

Export of leather dropped by 24.5 per cent in terms of quantity in the first half of 1990-91.

The MCCI stated in its review that consumer spending slowed down in July-December because of the decline in development expenditures and disbursements in agricultural credit.

JP reception

From Page 1 Col 5
 home district Rangpur.

Securitymen, however, allowed a small JP team to place a few wreaths and a poem on the barricade outside the villa turned sub-jail in Gulshan where processions, meetings and demonstrations have been banned since January 19.

Securitymen first blocked several hundred people when they tried to march from JP Acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury's residence nearly 300 yards away from where Ershad is interned. But after a brief discussion with Mizan Chowdhury they allowed the small team comprising ABM Shahjahan, JP General Secretary, Sayed Tarek, JP political secretary and Ehsanul Kabir, an 8-year-old grandson of Mizan Chowdhury to go upto the barricade. They were taken there is a police jeep.

Dhananjay Shankar, commanding officer of 8th battalion of Armed Police, who is in the charge of the security of the villa said "We have no order to bring these flowers and letters inside the house".

"If we get any permission from higher authority then we will give it to him (Ershad)," he added.

Earlier addressing the sup-

Chandra Shekhar

From Page 1 Col 6
 stead of patching up another minority government.

He said he will continue in office until "new arrangements are made. I have said that you (Venkataraman) should make arrangements to get a fresh mandate."

"The President has assured me he will take a decision within 24 hours," he said.

The presidency is a largely ceremonial post, with most real power vested in prime minister. But during government crises, the president can determine who becomes prime minister or whether new elections should be conducted.

"Politics is a reality in India and parliamentary politics is arithmetic. I cannot run the government if the Congress is not present in the house," Chandra Shekhar said.

"The government is resigning," he said as his party members and the opposition thumped desks. Some Congress Party members were seen peeping from curtained doors of the chamber.

Chandra Shekhar said he could understand when his actions were criticised by opposition parties, but the

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The Midnight File

Wijetunge takes Wijerante's post
 COLOMBO, Mar 6: Prime Minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunge was given the additional post of Deputy Defence Minister Wednesday, succeeding Ranjan Wijerante who was killed by a car bomb last week. President Ranasinghe Premadasa administered the oath of office to Wijetunge, who is also the Finance Minister, reports AP.

37 killed in Georgian clashes
 MOSCOW, Mar 6: Armed clashes between Georgians and Ossetians have killed at least 37 people and injured 150 in the Transcaucasian region of south Ossetia, Soviet Vice-President Gennady Yanayev said today. He said reports had still not come in from remote villages and casualty figures were expected to rise, reports Reuters.

5 killed in Calcutta firing
 NEW DELHI, Mar 6: At least five people were killed and 11 more were seriously wounded when thousands of people clashed with Calcutta police in a bid to prevent the demolition of a building, news agencies said Wednesday. A mob of about 3000 people attacked the contingent of policemen with bombs, bricks and bottles, reports AP.

Teacher shot by pupil in UK
 BRISTOL(England), Mar 6: A history teacher at a British private school was shot and seriously wounded by a 15-years old pupil wielding two shotguns as he was taking a class Tuesday, local police said.

Police questioned the boy, accompanied by his father, but the motive was not immediately known, reports AFP.

Pak Army chief in Thailand
 BANGKOK, Mar 6: Pakistan's Army Commander-in-Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg, who is paying a five-day visit to Thailand, today inspected a Thai Army special warfare demonstration, army officials here said. He leaves for Malaysia on Sunday, reports AFP.

New Thai cabinet formed
 BANGKOK, Mar 6: Thailand's caretaker Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun today named a new cabinet dominated by civilians, but he retained military stalwarts in key ministries, state radio said. The Armed Forces, which took power in a coup on February 23, will control the Interior and Defence portfolios, reports Reuters.

Earthquake in Indonesia
 JAKARTA, Mar 6: An Earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter Scale shook the southern Sumatra city of Bengkulu early today sending people out of their homes and offices in panic, Indonesia's official Antara news agency reported. There were no immediate reports of casualties but several buildings suffered structural damage, reports AFP.

Presidential form

From Page 1 Col 7
 addressed by Rashed Mosharrar.

Sheikh Hasina urged the government to ensure law and order and alleged that BNP supporters created a reign of terror in many areas after the February 27 polls. She called upon the people to vote for the AL candidate on March 9.

UNB says: Sheikh Hasina said her party will continue movement in and outside parliament for realisation of people's democratic rights and ensuring economic emancipation.

Referring to February 27 elections, Hasina said people had time and again given their mandate in favour of democracy but they were deprived of their rights through conspiracy.

The Awami League President alleged that Zia-Ershad military rule stripped people of their democratic and fundamental rights.

A handful of people piled up huge black money through corruption during the past regimes, she said, accusing both the BNP and the Jatiya Party governments of crippling national economy.

Responding to criticism against her party, Hasina said independence of the country was achieved under the Awami League's leadership. "Many Majors have become Major Generals because of the country's independence.... Major Zia became a Major General during the Awami League regime."

Referring to the repolling in eight centres of Jamalpur-2

Constituency, Hasina blamed BNP for resorting to terrorism to foil the verdict of the people.

The meeting was also addressed by Awami League leaders Tofael Ahmed, Matia Chowdhury and Rahmat Ali.

Tofael Ahmed in his address said no party would be able to form the government without help from Awami League.

He requested the interim government to maintain its neutrality and said the Acting President would lose neutrality if he appoints a BNP government.

Earlier, on her way from Dhaka to Jamalpur, Hasina addressed wayside gatherings at Nandir Bazar, Boitharchar, Kamarer Char and Benuar Char.

She also visited Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where an Awami League worker Tofazzal Hossain was undergoing treatment.

Tofazzal was allegedly stabbed by BNP activists at Nakla on February 28.

Ershad
 From Page 1 Col 4
 former Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzem Hossain till March 11.

These three detention matters are consecutively being heard by the same bench of the High Court Division on request from the lawyers of the detenus.

The adjournment motion was moved by the Additional Attorney General.

ANNOUNCEMENT
 To improve distribution of our newspaper further we are re-arranging our Beats within the next 3 days. During this period there may be some dislocation which, we hope, our Readers, Patrons and Wellwishers will be kind enough to overlook.

If there is any complaint beyond this period, please call our Circulation Manager immediately on Tel : 246023-4(PABX), 863035, 863036

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