

**'Referendum to give democracy an institutional shape'**

State Minister for Education Principal Mohammad Yunus Khan Friday said the coming referendum would play a vital role in giving democracy an institutional shape on the basis of people's verdict, reports BSS.

He was addressing district and upazila level officials and upazila chairmen at the local Pourashava auditorium in Barisal. Khan said the present

democratic government rates the people's verdict very high. That is why, the minister said, government was going for referendum to establish Parliamentary system of government on a solid foundation.

Principal Khan called upon the electorates to make the referendum a success with whole-hearted participation.

The State Minister said government was determined to keep the law and order situation firm and tidy. He stressed concerted efforts to put an end to the acts of terrorism in educational institutions once-for all. He called upon all to work hard for production - boost in agricultural and industrial sectors to help establish a self-reliant Bangladesh.

**'PM keen to create jobs for youths'**

Sadek Hussain, State Minister for Youth and Sports Friday said Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was very keen about the creation of job opportunities for the youth, reports BSS.

He was addressing the conference of the 'Greater Dhaka Youth Forum' (Brihatar Dhaka Jubo Forum), held at the Bakhshi Bazar Community Centre here in the afternoon.

Presided over by Alhaj Alauddin Malik, the conference was addressed, among others, by Moin Khan, MP, Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Khairul Kabir Khokon, General Secretary, DUCSU, Fazlul Karim, Ashrafuddin, Faruk Bhuiyan, Ismail Hussain Tara, Reza Sultan Bulbul and Tuhin Malik, Convener of the forum.

The Youth and Sports Minister for State lauded the organisers of the forum and described it as a unique organisation.

In this regard, the Youth Minister recalled that President Ziaur Rahman had laid maximum stress on allocation in the youth sector. Whereas, he said, ousted President Ershad had minimised allocation in this sector for which many of the youth-oriented projects fell off.

**Mannan visits acid victim Salma at DMCH**

State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof M A Mannan Thursday visited Dhaka Medical College Hospital to see an under-treatment patient Miss Salma Akhter hailing from village Vittpara under Sreepur upazila of Gazipur, an official source said, reports BSS.

Salma Akhter was seriously injured when a miscreant of her locality threw acid on her. The minister advised the Director of Dhaka Medical College Hospital to ensure proper treatment for her quick recovery.

**Govt employees urged to work with sincerity**

State Minister for Food and Agriculture Nazmul Huda Friday said the government employees would have to work hard with sincerity and dedication in bringing economic prosperity of the country by making the country self-reliant, reports BSS.

He said the country could achieve the desired economic development through concerted efforts of all and every citizen on the country including the government employees could get benefit out of it.

The State Minister said the while he was addressing as the chief guest a grand conference of the 4th class Government Employees Association of the Food Department held at the 'Khadaya Bhaban' premises here.

Huda said the past autocratic regime during its nine years of misrule plundered and damaged the national economy.

He said the present democratic government have to run the country with the inherited crippled economy and for this it is the duty of every conscientious citizen at the society to build up the economy by boosting production in mills and fields and reducing nations dependence on foreign aid.

Huda said the BNP government is accountable to the people and is promised bound to root out all types of corruption from administration to ensure the welfare of the people. He said the people have expectations from the democratic government and the government employees would have to work accordingly to fulfill this.

Food Secretary Ataul Huq, Director General of Food, Mahe Alam and the leader of the samity addressed the conference.

Later, Barrister Nazmul Huda addressed at a workers rally of BNP Dohar Unit at Dohar upazila.

The reception arranged by



Chhayana artistes rendering songs at a cultural function organised in celebration of Sarodutshab (Autumn festival) at the premises of the Institute of Fine Arts Friday. — Star photo

**Bangladesh theatre in retrospect**

By Special Correspondent

Theatre in its modern, western sense did not appear in Bangladesh till the forties of the present century. There were, of course, pantomimes, verbal duels of poets and songstrewn jattras, that is folk plays of the operetta kind. But they were different.

After the partition of the subcontinent in 1947 we notice the beginnings of theatre in Bangladesh with a certain measure of continuity. Among the playwrights of the forties and the fifties Nurul Momen, Showkat Osman, Munir Chowdhury and Asker ibne Shaikh made a definite impact on our dramatic scene. Especially Munir Chowdhury, whose glorious life was tragically cut short during the Liberation War of 1971. His one-act play Kabar (The Grave) written in a prison cell in expressive technique with the 1952 Bengali language movement as its background has become a classic.

During the 50s and the 60s a group called the Drama Circle played an important role in the development of the theatre in Bangladesh, which underwent a remarkable change as a result of the independence movement and the Bangladesh Liberation War. A number of dynamic theatre groups and at least four or five powerful new playwrights emerged after 1971. Syed Shamsul Haq, Abdullah Al Mamun, Selim Al Deen, Mamunur Rashid and Montazuddin Ahmed are now well-known names in the Bangladesh theatre world for their successful plays full of intense drama, rich evocative poetry, pungent satire, symbolism, epic dimension and other qualities. Syed Haq's pacyer Awg Pawa Jai (You can hear their foot steps) is generally considered our finest play written in the background of our Liberation War. It is a verse-play enriched by evocative echoes from folk literature, religious lore, myth and legend.

Abdullah Al Mamun's plays which include Subochon Nirbashane (Good Sayings in exile), Akhono Kritadasha (A Slave Still) and Kokilara (The Three Women) are characterised by keen social awareness, racy dialogue laced with biting satire, wit and humour, hard-hitting realism and effective dramatic turns.

In Selim Al Deen's plays one notices the oblique impact of the Liberation War which gave a new force and stimulus to the spirit of Bengali Nationalism. His Klonkhola, Keramat Mongol and Hat Hadat are loosely structured experimental plays with epic dimensions that incorporate various elements of folk drama and modern symbolism.

Mamunur Rashid's plays like, Ora Kadam Ali, Iblis and

Quincapig generally reflect the anger and frustration resulting from the nonfulfillment of the hopes generated by our Liberation War, and its successful outcome. His plays seem to suggest that another war of a different kind is called for.

Montazuddin Ahmed's plays, too, make use of the motif of the Liberation War. Some of his plays are quite effective in their satiric thrusts and use of symbols.

In the metropolitan city of Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, plays are now regularly produced in at least two halls throughout the year. On any given evening a theatre enthusiast has the option of buying a ticket and seeing a play in one of these two halls, which one could not do in the pre-independence days. Also many different kinds of plays are produced now: realistic, symbolic, verse drama, docu-drama, epic plays, absurd drama, plays laced heavily with socio-political content, competent adaptations of famous foreign plays and plays based on historical incidents as well as on traditional folk tales and legends.

Among the foreign playwrights the impact of Moliere, Brecht and Shakespeare has been greater than others Moliere's Tartuffe, The Intellectual Women, The Bourgeois Gentlemen, The

Miser, and Scapin have been translated and or adapted successfully in Bangladesh. Some of these plays have been successfully staged, too. The impact of Bertolt Brecht on Bangladesh theatre is clearly perceptible.

The interaction of our playwrights and drama activities with the plays and the theatre world of the west has helped expand our theatre horizon. The realistic, the symbolic, the expressionistic and the absurd-all have attracted our writers and producers and inspired them to experiment with those forms through sensitive assimilation.

Bangladesh theatre has travelled quite far from the historical romance, unrealistic melodrama and crude social plays of the early days of Bengali drama. Drawing its nourishment and inspiration from native as well as international sources it has left behind its adolescence and is now poised to attain a sturdy manhood. Now our playwrights and theatre workers at various levels are neither hostile to nor mistrustful of tradition. They freely help themselves to whatever it can give. At the same time they show no inhibition to wards innovation and experimentation in the fields of both technique and content, for they know that it is the only way to avoid stagnation, remain vigorous and achieve progress.

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**Stay order of judgement on BDRCS writ extended**

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court Thursday had extended the stay order of the judgement of the High Court on the writ petition challenging the supersession of the Managing Board and the Managing Committee of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), reports BSS.

Zakir Ahmed, the counsel of the petitioner, Thursday prayed for extension of the stay order. M Nurullah, the counsel of the BDRCS opposed the prayer and upon hearing the learned counsel, the court was pleased to extend the stay order till October 22.

Earlier, Munir Lablu, Secretary, Gopalganj Unit Committee, Md Yunus Ali, Secretary, Mymensingh Unit Committee and Md Fazlul Huq, Secretary, Gazipur Unit Committee of the BDRCS, on July 25 filed provisional petitions for leave to appeal before the Appellate Division against the verdict of the High Court Division and the Appellate Division stayed the judgement of the High Court Division till August 29.

A two-judge Division Bench of the High Court Division comprising Justice M Abdul Jalil and Justice M Badruzzaman on July 22 rejected the writ petitions and discharged the rule on the ground that the BDRCS is neither an office of profit nor it is right to office of property. Although an elective office, it is a humanitarian voluntary organisation. The President and the Chairman as the case may be has got power under 9C(1) of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Order 1973 (P O No 26 of 1973) to supersession, the Managing Board or the Managing Committee.

Zakir Ahmed, Moazzem Hossain, Idrisur Rahman and Nazrul Islam Chowdhury appeared for the petitioner while M Nurullah and A Q M Shafulah appeared for the BDRCS.

**Plea to make referendum a success**

Commerce Minister MK Anwar Friday expressed the hope that the people would make the coming referendum successful by participating voluntarily in determining the form of government, reports BSS.

Addressing a public meeting at Mathabanga High School ground in Comilla the Minister emphasised the need for participating in the referendum as the nature of development activities of the country depended on the form of government. Judicious verdict of the people was therefore significant in this regard, he said.

Anwar said BNP government was determined to work for the welfare of the people by resisting any conspiracy with the support of the people.

Referring to terrorism, the Commerce Minister said the present government would not hesitate to take legal action against the terrorists irrespective of their political identification.

The Commerce Minister said corruption and development could not go side by side. He said BNP would not give shelter to corruption in the interest of the people.

Anwar called upon the party leaders and workers to widen and deepen the base of BNP in urban and rural areas for strengthening the hand of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for implementing the co-ordinated development activities in the country. Local BNP leaders also addressed the meeting.

**'Presidential form didn't suit genius of nation'**

LORD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder has called upon the people to make concerted efforts for augmenting production in farms and factories to expedite the process of overall national development, reports BSS.

The Minister was speaking at a workers rally of Bangladesh Jatyatabadi Dal in Lalmonirhat Thursday. BNP leaders Anwarul Huq Sarkar and Rezaul Huq Rana also spoke on the occasion.

Salam Talukder said, the present government was striving to uphold the democratic rights of the people and carry out the 10-point programme initiated by shaheed president Ziaur Rahman for improving the lot of the commonman.

In this connection, he pointed out that our experience over the past 16 years it has made it clear that the Presidential form to government did not suit the genius of the nation.

**Industrial workers to get dividend**

State Minister for Labour and Manpower Rafiqul Islam Mia Friday said the present government was pledge-bound to protect the interests of workers as per the existing Labour Laws of the country, reports BSS.

"Workers will certainly get the dividend of profit of the whole industries," he told a big workers' rally at Hazaribag in Dhaka organised by the Hazaribag unit of Bangladesh Jatyatabadi Samik Dal.

Presided over by the President of the Hazaribag unit of Samik Dal, Rehan Ali, the rally was also addressed, among others, by former State Minister for Land Jamruddin Sircar, who is now contesting the 'bye-election' from Dhanmondi-Mohammadpur constituency. President of Dhaka City Unit of BNP Mir Sawkat Ali MP, Fazlul Rahman Patil MP, President of Dhaka City Unit of Samik Dal A. K. M. Nazrul Islam and Organising

Secretary of Dhaka City Unit of BNP Ehsanul Haq Setu.

Speaking about the ban imposed on export of wet-blue leather by the past government from July 1, 1990, the State Minister said the autocratic government had destabilised this rich sector by such an anti-people step but the present democratic government had constituted a committee to resume its export.

He said the present government, which took over the ruined economy and shattered political institutions as legacies of the autocratic government, had already fulfilled many pre-election pledges as token of its sincerity to the people.

Rafiqul Islam Mia called upon the people to cast their votes in favour of Jamruddin Sircar for overall development of the area and strengthening the hands of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Addressing the rally, Jamruddin Sircar said that he had resigned from the State

Ministry with a view to serving the people of the area directly after being elected in the coming bye-election. "I again pledge to you that I will resign as MP if I fail to serve you as elected member of Parliament," he said.

Mir Sawkat Ali called upon the electorates to think ahead of their going to the polling centres as to whom they should cast their votes for "I don't say that you won't vote for Awami League, but it is you who should decide as to who is a competent candidate to serve your causes," he said.

The General Secretary of Hazaribag Unit of Samik Dal, Awrangajeb Chowdhury Saju read out their 10-point demand in the rally which includes, operation of the closed tanning units, fixation of minimum wages of the permanent workers in comparison with the existing market prices, construction of a 50-bed hospital for the tannery workers

**Dateline Chittagong**

**Public hall to be established at Hathazari soon**

CHITTAGONG, Aug 30: Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor Mir M Nasruddin Friday said that a public hall would be established at Hathazari soon, reports BSS.

Speaking at a reception held in his honour at Hathazari Parboti High School Maidan, 13 km off here, he said that the BNP government would fulfill its pledges to the people and that the people would have to extend whole-hearted cooperation to the government in this respect. Mir M. Nasruddin said that a government grant of Taka ten crore would be made available for reconstruction of road and development of sanitation in the corporation area in due times.

He said that preference would be given to less developed areas of the corporation while implementing uplift projects.

The reception arranged by

the people of Hathazari was presided over by eminent neurologist, Dr. I A Quaderi, President of the Reception Committee. It was also addressed by Committee Secretary Syed Abdul Quayyum, BNP leader-Dr A F M Yusuf, Principal ANM Obaidullah, Union Parishad Chairman, Azam, journalist Moniuddin Kaderi Shawkat and local leader Uday Kushum Barua. City BNP President Advocate Badrul Anwar and North District BNP Secretary Gulam Akbar Khondakar, were present at the reception.

Mayor Nasruddin said that the government alone would not be able to give democracy an institutional shape and root out corruption from the society. The people, he said, would have to extend whole-hearted cooperation to government efforts in this direction.

Buddhist Assoc

Leaders of Bangladesh

Buddhist Students Association here today hailed the government move to round up terrorists, criminals and other anti-social elements by launching Operation-Doorbar-91

In a statement here they said, the combing operation and the special squads engaged against terrorists and criminals are pragmatic steps to restore law and order in the country.

They called upon the members of Operation Doorbar and the special squads to go to the remote areas to nab the criminals. They also urged the peace-loving citizens to cooperate with the members of the law enforcing agencies while rounding up known criminals and terrorists.

General Secretary Riton Kumar Barua, Joint General Secretary Gautom Barua, Cultural Secretary, Pankaj Kushum Barua were among others, the signatories to the statement.

**BNP candidate accused of using govt wealth in polls**

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League candidate in Dhanmondi-Mohammadpur (Dhaka-9) Constituency for coming bye-elections Alhaj Md. Mokbul Hossain on Friday alleged that government wealth and administration were being used in favour of the ruling party candidate.

In a press release he called upon the Acting President to intervene to stop the members of the cabinet from campaigning for any candidate.

Alhaj Mokbul Hossain said though a candidate of the ruling BNP resigned from the cabinet his colleagues were campaigning for him using government wealth and administration.

**Attack on auto-tempo drivers condemned**

The leaders of Dhaka District Auto-tempo Owners Association have condemned the heinous act of a group of hoodlums who had allegedly compelled the drivers of auto-tempo to join a press conference and protest march of Bangladesh Road Transport Owners Association, reports BSS.

In a press release on Thursday the leaders said 15 to 20 hoodlums including notorious mastans Shamsu Bepari, Bhutto, A Khaleque Kawa, Khokan and Shaif with sticks and hockeysticks led the auto-tempo drivers of Fulbaria-Kaptan Bazar and TNT crossing to join the press conference and protest march on August 27.

The auto-tempo drivers were beaten and their cash was snatched by the mastans, the leaders said adding that these elements were moving at large despite specific cases filed against them earlier.

They urged the concerned administration to take proper action against the mastans, the press release said.