

BNP firm to revamp economy: Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia urged the voters to elect BNP nominees to keep the flag of democracy aloft and ensure welfare of the people, reports UNB.

Addressing two election rallies at Green Road and Mohammadpur in the city Tuesday afternoon, she reiterated her government's resolve to establish an honest and responsible administration and revitalise the country's ravaged economy.

Begum Zia, in an oblique reference to Awami League, said that party which does not believe in democracy and people's fundamental rights cannot bring welfare to the people.

Those who talk big of democracy had buried democracy by introducing one-party rule, curbing press freedom, people's rights and jeopardising rule of law.

Begum Zia lauded people's contribution during the last anti-autocracy movement which removed a corrupt and autocratic regime and said her party would always remain beside the people.

About the local problems, she said all the problems would be solved one by one and urged them to vote for BNP nominees for development of the areas.

The Prime Minister listed successes of her new government, saying despite all odds, it had been making all-out efforts to fulfil the pledges.

In this regard, she mentioned the successful tackling of the April 29 cyclone, passage of the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill and fulfillment of other electoral commitments.

The government is now carrying out rehabilitation programme in the cyclone-hit ar-

ea and building cyclone shelters, the Prime Minister said. Begum Zia said the BNP government had its start with a crippled economy, closed mills and factories, large-scale smuggling and violence in educational institutions patronised by the fallen autocratic regime.

Begum Zia hit at fallen dictator Ershad and his associates accusing them of plundering huge foreign aid and funneling abroad public wealth.

Ershad and his cronies must face trial as per laws for their corruption and misdeeds, she told her audience.

Referring to the government's industrial policy, the Prime Minister said it had encouraged foreign investment, which would speed up industrialisation and create new jobs.

Begum Zia said small-scale industries would be set up in the far-flung areas to alleviate the unemployment problem.

She said her government would continue its efforts to boost production, improve communication system and implement 19-point programme of Shaheed Zia to change the lot of the people.

About the current wave of hooliganism in different areas, including Mohammadpur, she said the terrorists would be dealt with severely. She urged the people not to give them any refuge or shelter.

The rallies were addressed by State Minister for Textiles Major (Retd) M A Mannan, State Minister for Labour and Manpower Rafiqul Islam Miah, Jamiruddin Sircar, the BNP nominee for Dhaka-Mohammadpur constituency, Mir Showkat Ali, MP, Barkatullah Bulu, MP, Ehsanul Huq Setu and Alamgir Hossain Patwari.



Leaders of left political parties brought out a procession in city on Tuesday protesting changes in USSR. —Star photo

JCD demands Agri Varsity VC's removal

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU) unit of Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Tuesday demanded removal of Vice Chancellor Asadur Rahman accusing him of "patronising a terrorist group" and "deliberately" closing the university on the plea of violence.

The August 29-30 incidents did not warrant closure of the university, Mirza Mustafizur Rahman Parvez claimed at a press conference at the National Press Club. He blamed the incidents on Awami League backed Chhatra League activists.

The general students who were opposed to the "terrorist group" had brought out processions on the campus to protest the closure but they were forced to leave their halls by calling in BDR, he alleged. DUCSU General Secretary Khairul Kabir Khokon and other JCD leaders of BAU were present at the press conference.

Mizan

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia while referring to corruption by Ershad and his government at a recent public meeting had said that he would have to spend rest of his life in jail for these.

The Jatiya Party Acting Chairman said healthy democratic atmosphere could not be ensured keeping violence alive in the educational institutions.

Chowdhury said so many educational institutions were never closed before due to violence. He said it was shame for the nation and more so, because it happened under a government which claimed itself to be democratic, he opined.

Campus violence could be removed if political parties having student outfits decided to do it, he said.

Case against Dainik Shakti: 3 arrested

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Chairman of the Editorial Board of the Dainik Shakti Rashiduzzaman, Chief Editor Habibuzzaman and Chief Reporter A.F.M. Fojjullah were arrested by police on Monday night and sent to Dhaka Central Jail on Tuesday according to a press release of the daily, report BSS.

The arrested persons were produced before the court on Tuesday. The Metropolitan Magistrate refused prayer for their bail, the press release added.

Inspector General of Police Tayebuddin Ahmed filed a case against the Editor of Daily Sakti and Secretary General of Bangladesh Editors Council A.Q.M. Joinal Abedin, and the three arrested persons under penal code Sections 500, 501, 505 and 505 (Ka) with reference to news items and editorial published in the daily on July 13 and 21 and August 28 on the basis of which warrants of arrests were issued.

Police searched the residence of the Editor of the Dainik Shakti, the press release said.

When contacted over telephone Motijheel police station confirmed the arrest.

Shantibahini

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The date and venue of talks will be fixed after the reply of the letter from the Shantibahini, the source said.

Left political parties vow to struggle for socialism

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders and workers of six left political parties on Tuesday vowed to continue their struggle for socialism in Bangladesh.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), United Communist League, Workers Party, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (Mahhub), Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Inu) and Samyabadi Dal jointly organised a rally in front of the National Press Club to express their determination.

CPB leaders Manzur Ahsan Khan, Mujahidul Islam Selim, and Morshed Ali, UCL leaders Bimal Biswas and Tipu Biswas, Workers Party leaders Rashed Khan Menon and Haider Akbar Khan Rono, BSD leaders A F M Mahbulul Huq, Abdullah Sarker, JSD leaders Mustaq Ahmed and Shirin Akter and

Samyabadi Dal leaders Dilip Barua and Khondaker Ali Abbas were present at the rally.

They said that the struggle for socialism in Bangladesh would continue whatever happened in the Soviet Union.

They termed the current Soviet situation as an upshot of imperialist conspiracy to destroy socialism.

The people of Bangladesh want Soviet Union as a powerful socialist state to counter American imperialism and for freedom and democracy of the Third World, they added.

They expressed hope that the movement of socialism, democracy and humanism would overcome all conspiracies of the imperialists.

Later they brought out a procession amid rains.

35 injured in bus plunge in Rugganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 3: At least 35 persons were injured, three of them seriously, when a passenger minibus fell into a ditch along the Dhaka-Narayanganj road near Korgogop of Rugganj upazila Tuesday.

The driver of the Dhaka-bound minibus apparently lost control causing it to plunge.

Three of the seriously injured passengers were admitted at the Rugganj Upazila Health complex while the rest were released after first-aid.

A case was registered with the Rugganj thana. However, the driver of the minibus managed to flee. The minibus (Dhaka-cha-1959) could not be salvaged till filing of this report.

Hasina

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ernment to switch over to parliamentary democracy and exempt land tax up to 25 bighas. She demanded agricultural loan waiver up to Taka 10,000, supply of agricultural input at low cost to farmers and fair price of their products, including jute.

She also urged the people to elect her party nominee and strengthen Awami League's position in parliament to realise their demands.

The meeting presided over by Bashir Ahmed was also addressed by Tofael Ahmed, MP, KM Jahangir, MP, Kader Siddiqi and Awami League nominee Anwar Hossain Bhuiyan.

Tofael Ahmed alleged ministers were trying to allure the voters with lofty commitments. They were also using local administration to influence the voters.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina today demanded resignation of Education Minister Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury for disorder in educational arena and unabated campus violence.

It's for the first time that the Awami League President raised the demand for resignation of any minister after Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia formed cabinet on March 19.

Hasina also chided the Prime Minister, who is at the helm of the Ministry of Home Affairs, for what she called unprecedented deterioration in law and order.

Addressing her student supporters at the Circuit House premises this afternoon, Hasina alleged the government had failed to improve law and order situation.

Hijack, killing and looting have become the order of the day and continuing armed clashes led to the closure of more than 100 colleges and universities, she added.

She held the Home Minister and the Education Minister responsible for breakdown of law and order and campus closures and asked the latter to step down.

The Midnight File

Latvia won't join future Soviet economic union

VIENNA, Sept 3: Latvian Foreign Minister Janis Jurkans said here today that his country "will never join" a future Soviet political or economic union. "I think the Soviet Union will change into a confederation of democratic and independent states," Jurkans said in an interview with Austrian radio. He said the Baltic states did not want to be part of a Soviet Economic Union, but wanted to introduce a market economy and join the European Community, reports AFP.

NAM FMs' meet begins today

ACCRA, Sept 3: Foreign Ministers of the Non-aligned Movement will begin here from tomorrow three day discussions in an attempt to keep the flag of the movement flying amidst doubts about the relevance of this essentially Third World grouping in the aftermath of the Cold War era while Germany and the Netherlands have been admitted as guests, reports PTI.

Enver Hoxha's statue removed

VIENNA, Sept 3: The last major statue of former Albanian Communist dictator Enver Hoxha in the capital of Tirana was quietly removed from the museum dedicated to him, a journalist said Tuesday. The 40-ton statue of Greek marble was to be removed intact, but the head was accidentally knocked off when the statue was removed Monday evening, reports AP.

Ershad's trial

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jected the bail petition saying that the objective of this petition was to see his ailing mother, so the accused could seek parole to see his mother.

Just after that Advocate Mozammel Haque Bhuiyan appearing in the court on behalf of A H M Gaffar, granted bail from the High Court, prayed for extending the bail for the period of the case.

The Attorney General did not oppose the move. The learned Judge after scrutinising the documents accepted the prayer.

The court set September 28 for the formal accusation in the case.

The prosecution has so far named 24 persons as its witnesses. After setting the date Judge Mohammad Habibullah left the podium saying, "Now I am abdicating the chair for my junior colleague Mohammad Ali Khan."

After a few minutes Judge Mohammad Ali Khan of the Special Judge Court resumed the prosecution in the second case against Ershad.

The prosecution produced the witness No 46, Magistrate A T A M Ismail, a member of the Inventory Committee.

Corroborating the prosecution Ismail deposed that Taka 1,90,81,565 was found in trunks, mostly in the folds of clothes, in the Sena Bhaban.

Deposing in the Court A T A M Ismail said that Ershad's representative used to take time to consult Ershad during the preparation of Inventory List to know about some items and whether they belonged to Ershad or not.

Defence Counsel Strajul Haque cross-examined him for a brief period.

Sirajul Haque (DL): You gave witness also in arms case? At that time you said about eight arms. Now you have come to give witness on a total 16 arms.

PW: At that time I gave witness about eight arms found without any valid licence.

DL: Have you identified the items in Bangabahan? PW: No, I did not.

DL: Were the items identified first or did you first prepare the Inventory List? PW: The Inventory List was prepared first.

DL: Were you present during the preparation of list? PW: I prepared the Inventory List.

The court was then adjourned till 10 am today. During the hearing Ershad in the dock was once heard telling his lawyer Strajul Haque, "I have already been sentenced to 25 years in jail, what's the use in fighting the case?"

He was obviously referring to a recent statement of the Prime Minister at a public meeting at Manik Miah Avenue, where she said that Ershad might have to live in jail for the rest of his life.

Strajul Haque replying to Ershad said: "None will be benefited except me. I will get fees if the case continues," he added sarcastically.

During the deposition of PW 46, the former Attorney General Barrister Rafiqul Haque met Ershad in the dock for about 22 minutes. He came to the Court at 10 minutes past one o'clock in the afternoon and sought permission of the Attorney General to allow him to talk to Ershad.

The Attorney General did not hesitate in allowing him to do so. But the subject of their discussion was not known. When he came out of the courtroom he told a Reporter that he had come to discuss about another case.

Barrister Rafiqul Haque's talking to Ershad standing near the dock was overlooked by the Court.

By-election

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The ruling party ministers will stop campaigning for by-elections from September 7 and the initiative may begin after that. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will go for a whirlwind tour from September 8. Sheikh Hasina may do the same. The opposition leaders may accompany the Prime Minister in some of the meetings, said an opposition source.

By-election

Human rights

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are on hunger strikes. International human rights groups have criticised Major's trip, saying it bolsters the image of China's authoritarian government. But Major has defended it, saying contacts with China rather than isolation is needed.

But since arriving Monday from Moscow, Major also has stressed to China's hard-line communist leadership that the rest of the world is moving away from communism, leaving China behind. Li has replied that China's situation is not comparable to that in the Soviet Union, where the once all-powerful Communist Party has been suspended.

"Li Peng pointed out with emphasis that... it's very natural for China and Britain to have differences due to their different social systems," Wu said. "However, the two sides can exchange opinions on this, so as to enhance mutual understanding."

He reiterated China's insistence that leading dissidents Chen Ziming and Wang Jintao, who began hunger strikes last month to protest poor conditions in prison, have received humanitarian treatment.

The two men are serving 13-year terms for taking part in the 1989 democracy movement, which was crushed by the Chinese army. The government has said they are now eating some food, but has not allowed relatives to see them.

China has resisted Western pressure to relax its tight political controls and release jailed democracy activists. After their 2 1/2-hour talk, Major and Li signed the memorandum of understanding on Hong Kong airport. They toasted each other with champagne after signing the document in the Great Hall of the People.

"We have every reason to be fully confident of the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong," the state-run Xinhua News Agency quoted Li as saying.

Xinhua said he also told Major, "So long as we respect each other and seek common grounds while setting aside differences, Sino-British relations will have a broad prospect for development."

The airport agreement gives China the right to be consulted extensively on each stage of construction of the US 16.2 billion dollars airport and port project, and on any other major undertaking by the British colonial government.

When the colonial government announced plans two years ago to build a much needed new airport, China said the project would deplete the colony's treasury, leaving it with an impoverished Hong Kong in 1997.

Its protests caused private investors to back away from the project, forcing Britain to invite China to join in the planning.

Critics have said the agreement gives China too much say in Hong Kong affairs before 1997 and throws doubt on whether China will keep its pledge to give the enclave substantial autonomy after the turnover.

The signing of the airport agreement, concluded two months ago, was the main purpose of Major's three-day visit.

Premadasa offers referendum Impeachment move rejected by MPs

COLOMBO, Sept 3: A group of 116 Sri Lankan politicians have signed a resolution urging the parliamentary speaker to reject an impeachment motion against President Ranasinghe Premadasa, reports Reuters.

Industries Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe, the cabinet spokesman, told reporters that the group had submitted the resolution to Speaker Haniffa Mohamed.

In a letter to Mohamed they said their signatures on the impeachment motion had been obtained under "false pretences," Wickremasinghe said. He said the speaker would "go into the matter."

"I think the impeachment motion is not valid any more because we have the majority now," Wickremasinghe said.

AD adds: President Ranasinghe Premadasa, is offering to hold a referendum on trimming presidential power and giving more authority to Parliament.

JCD

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beaten up by some Chhatra League activists in the town Monday.

A procession was brought out by the JCD with the body of Meraj at 1.30 pm today and paraded the main thoroughfares of the town. After the procession over, they staged a sit-in in front of the Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office and held a protest meeting there.

A case has been filed with Sadar police against seven Chhatra League leaders including the Sadar upazila Chairman Sheikh Shahidullah Bachchu.

Young man held

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the city. The young man was positioned about 25 yards from the dais at the time of the arrest. More than 20,000 people were attending the public meeting in the Town Hall, according to police estimates.

Police identified the arrested person as Muhammad Mustafa (20), son of Muhammad Cherag Sheikh of the Geneva Refugee Camp in Mohammadpur. Police are yet to unveil the motive. However, police are continuing interrogation. A case has been registered with Mohammadpur Thana in this connection.

The public meeting was part of the BNP's campaign in favour of its candidate in the September 11 bye-election in the Dhanmondi-Mohammadpur constituency.

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A pickpocket escapes mob justice by the timely appearance of a cop. It happened in the city Tuesday. —Star photo