

BNP fighting to realise dreams of martyrs

By Staff Correspondent
BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has called upon people to renew the pledge to resist any conspiracy.

In a statement on the occasion of 'Amar Ekushey' on Wednesday Begum Zia paid glowing tributes to the Language Movement martyrs and said patriotism was the guiding spirit behind their supreme sacrifices.

Their dream was to establish an exploitation-free sovereign Bangladesh, she said.

She said her party had been struggling for the last nine years to realise the dreams of the Language Movement martyrs.

She said the upcoming parliamentary polls are crucial for establishing democratic system and urged people to strengthen democracy by voting for the nationalist forces.

Begum Zia said the ensuing election has immense significance as the six crore voters have to decide whether they will safeguard independence and democracy from conspiracy and betrayal or will step into the quicksand of one-party dictatorship.

Hasina urges people to remain cautious

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina called upon the people to materialise the ideal for which the martyrs laid down their lives on the immortal Ekushey.

In a statement on the eve of the Ekushey she said martyrs of the language movement made supreme sacrifices to build an exploitation-free Bangladesh. Their struggle was against autocracy, communism, alien culture and reactionary forces, the Awami League Chief said.

Sheikh Hasina said the Ekushey taught the nation to achieve victory against the autocracy through continuous struggle. The nation achieved independence through the War of Liberation in 1971 under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman, after waging movement in 1954, 1958, 1962 and 1969 taking lessons from the Language Movement.

Certain quarters were active to subvert victory achieved through bloodshed in the streets, she said.

Sheikh Hasina said the people remember how they were subjected to autocratic rule after the killing of Sheikh Mujib Rahman and how the fruits of independence including 'Joy Bangla' slogan and the four state principles were destroyed.

The Awami League leader paid tributes to the martyrs of the recent democratic movement that brought down the government of Ershad.

Sheikh Hasina urged the people to remain cautious so that none can snatch the victory of the movement by fanning communalism.

Newspapers carrying Sikhs' statements to be seized

CHANDIGARH (India), Feb 20: India's Punjab state government told district officials today to seize all newspapers carrying statements from Sikh militants fighting for an independent homeland, reports Reuter.

State Home Secretary A. S. Chadha told reporters district magistrates had been ordered to seize publications carrying statements from militants or advertisements announcing the funerals of militants killed by police.

He said newspapers were also ordered not to print the statements. Many newspapers have disregarded such advice in the past because of threats to staff. They have often published statements in full and carried advertisements announcing funerals where militants surface to make anti-government speeches.

In Chandigarh, the Punjab state capital, nearly all newspapers and several journalists have been given protection by the government.

At least a half-dozen journalists have been killed by Sikh rebels in as many years.

83 foreign journalists to cover election

By Special Correspondent

A total of 83 foreign journalists are expected to cover the parliamentary elections. The journalists include representatives from leading newspapers, radio and televisions of the world.

Indian journalists topped the list with 27 expected to cover the elections. Some of them have already arrived in the city.

Leading Indian newspapers like The Hindustan Times, Financial Express, Ananda Bazar Patrika, The Statesman, The Hindu, The Telegraph and The Sunday will send their

Amar Ekushey today

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Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University and the Dhaka University Teachers Association placed wreaths. They were followed by leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, Dhaka Union of Journalists and National Press Club.

The processionists were carrying banners. Volunteers of the Dhaka University Central Students Union virtually failed to discipline the overenthusiastic barefoot processionists. They could not announce the names of the organisations which were among the first to place wreaths.

However, discipline was restored 15 minutes after the Acting President left the minar premise.

The observance of the Shaheed Day is of special significance this year as the nation is marching ahead for the restoration of democracy through the February 27 elections after ousting a nine-year autocratic rule. In a message to the nation on the eve of the day Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed paid homage to the language martyrs.

Bangladesh Awami League will hoist black flag at its central office, bring out mourning procession at 6.30 am and place wreath at Shaheed Minar.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will hoist black flag at its central office. The national and party flags will also be flown at half mast. It will hold a rally at Mirpur Road near Balaka Hall at seven in the morning. From there mourning procession will proceed towards Azimpur Graveyard to pay homage to the martyrs. And then lay wreaths at Shaheed Minar.

Five-party Alliance will

bring out mourning procession at 6 am and lay wreath at Shaheed Minar.

BKSAL will hoist black flag at its party office at 6 am and will bring out a mourning procession at seven in the morning to lay wreaths at the Shaheed Minar.

Sammilita Sanskrity Jote will bring out a mourning procession at seven in the morning and lay wreaths at Shaheed Minar.

National Awami Party (NAP Bhasani) will arrange a rickshaw-pullers rally at Shahbagh in protest of the VIP regulations.

Bangladesh Krishak Shramik Mukti Andolan will hold a mourning procession. In the afternoon it will hold a discussion meeting at party office followed by a cultural function.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will bring out mourning procession from Curzon Hall area at seven in the morning and lay wreath at the Shaheed Minar.

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Programmes taken up by the government include special prayers for the shaheeds, Quran Khani and milad. Islamic foundation will hold a ten-day long programme including a fair of Islamic books.

Ekushey February is a public holiday. Newspapers have brought out special supplements and issues.

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