

# Help solve problems, Khaleda tells city by-election rallies

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Monday called upon the people to extend their full cooperation to the government in solving the innumerable problems created by the past autocratic regime, reports BSS.

"BNP is a party of the people and we can solve the countless problems with your support and cooperation," Begum Zia told two different by-election rallies held at Kachukhet in Cantonment area and Maddhya Badda Bazar, presided over by Advocate Habibur Rahman and M. Tariqullah respectively.

Among others, A. Matin Chowdhury MP, Col (Retd) Akbar Hossain MP, City Corporation Mayor Mirza Abbas, Fazlur Rahman MP, Harun Mollah MP, Amanullah Aman MP and Maj. (Rtd) Kamrul Islam BNP nominee from the Gulshan-Cantonment constituency for the coming by-election, spoke on the occasion.

She said BNP did not believe in lofty and tall talks. The government would implement the 19-point programme of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman to meet the five basic need. The lot of the people would be changed then, she said.

The Prime Minister said the BNP government had inherited an economy crippled by corruptions and widespread plundering of national wealth. On top of it, the country experienced the worst cyclone of living memory only after 39 days of assumption of power but we faced the challenge with peoples' cooperation and there was no misappropriation

of relief materials as in the past, she said.

She said despite so may odds, the new government started fulfilling its election commitment one by one. She said considering the plight of the Government employees, the government announced the Pay Commission Report although there were no additional funds available.

Referring to the various demands of the local people the Prime Minister said BNP government would fulfil all its election pledges. She mentioned release of land in Badda area and said, "We have kept our words."

Begum Zia said the BNP had switched over to parliamentary form of government to respect the peoples' will and called for massive participation in the referendum so that this system was firmly rooted in the country.

She was critical of those political parties who had said that the sheaf of paddy would not grow, and said "Inshaallah the sheaf of paddy would be firmly rooted in this soil."

She said the party which gave false promises and could not protect the interest of the people would never come back to power.

The Prime Minister called upon the people to elect the BNP nominee, Major (Retd) Kamrul Islam from the Gulshan-Cantonment area and strengthen the hand of the governments.

Hundreds of people thronged the meetings defying a prolonged drizzle and chanted slogans in favour of BNP and the party nominee for the coming bye-election.

## Cabinet body to review KAFCO accord

A 4-member cabinet committee was formed Monday to review the agreement with Japan for setting up the Karnaphuli Fertilizer Factory (KAFCO) under joint venture, which officials described as "unequal and anti-national," reports UNB.

The committee formed at a cabinet meeting consists of State Minister for Energy Dr Mosharrar Hossain, State Minister for Labour and Manpower Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mian, State Minister for Food Barrister Nazmul Huda and State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan.

Meeting sources said the committee will review specially the legal aspect of the agreement, reached at the fag end of Ershad regime. The committee is expected to submit its report in a week.

The committee comes in the face of mounting pressure by the Japanese who demand of Bangladesh government to issue a Letter of Guarantee for 229-million dollar credit to the project to be given by Japanese banks.

Bangladesh is to have 30 per cent share in the 459 million dollar fertilizer factory and the rest 70 per cent by Japanese. Totally export-oriented, the factory is being set up in Chittagong.

The sources told UNB the government was no doubt serious about implementation of the project. But it wanted to renegotiate the terms of the Letter of Guarantee.

But the Japanese demand it as stipulated in the joint venture agreement, the sources said.

## Shibir calls strike in Ctg colleges

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 2: Chittagong city unit Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) on Monday called a students strike in all the colleges of the city tomorrow to press home its four-point demands.

Shibir city unit president Mostafa Kamal at a press conference at Chittagong Press Club said the authorities were delaying to fulfil their demands including arrest of armed terrorist from educational institutions, restoration of congenial academic atmosphere in Polytechnic Institute and arrest of the culprits who were involved in a clash at the Polytechnic Institute about a month ago.

He said that if their demands are not fulfilled immediately Shibir would launch an action programme.

## About 3000 tannery owners, workers join BNP

About three thousand people including owners, workers and employees of 175 tanneries of Hazaribagh area in the city Monday joined the Bangladesh Nationalist Party imbued with the ideals and spirit of Bangladesh nationalism.

Led by Manzur Ahmed and Abdul Hye, President and Secretary respectively of Hazaribagh Tanners Association, they announced their decision when they called on the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her Sugandha office.

Begum Zia welcomed them in BNP and said the democratically elected BNP government would solve all outstanding problems, particularly those of the workers and employees in phases and through constitutional means.

"It is one of the main pledges of the present government", she said. She called upon them to participate in the politics of production for building up the country's ravaged economy.

State Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs Tariqul Islam, State Minister for T and M Shamsul Islam, State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan, Barkatullah Bulu MP, Salauddin Ahmed MP and Manzurul Islam Munshi MP were present on the occasion.

## 12 killed

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Sixteen injured persons have been admitted to the DMCH. They are: Naser Ali (12), Khurshid (35), Alauddin (32), Abdul (24), Matin (42), Rahmat (37), Sarwar (12), Anwar (24), Babul (25), Abdur Rashid (21), Aatur Rahman (20), Nur Mohammed (25), Alimuddin (40), Hazrat Ali (30), Hashem (28) and Jainal (28).

In the another accident, three people were killed and five others injured when a truck rammmed into roadside shop and slum in Kamalapur the same day.

A speeding truck (Khulna Metro-Ta 33), proceeding towards Saidabad, lost control near Kamalapur High School and crashed into the slum and shop on the Biswa Road.

Akhter Hussain (48) and Lipti (12) died on the spot and Masum (5) succumbed to his injuries on way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Jahangir (5), Hatem (9) and Masuda (4) were admitted to the DMCH with serious injuries while two other injured were given first aid.

The truck was seized by Sabujbagh police and the driver Mirjahan Mia was arrested.

Editor : S. M. Ali

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia delivering inaugural address at the Bangladesh-Japan Economic Forum at a city hotel Monday.



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a by-election rally at Uttar Khan on the city outskirts Monday.

## CPB sees imperialist hand in Soviet changes

By Staff Correspondent

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Monday expressed concern at the recent developments in the Soviet Union saying those were threatening the integrity to that country and the socialist system.

In a statement the party's central secretariat, however, hoped that the Soviet people would overcome the crisis as they did in the past. It also condemned as undemocratic the act of banning the Soviet Communist Party.

CPB said these development were results of conspiracy by the imperialist forces including the USA to destroy the integrity and stability of the Soviet Union and also the balance in global politics.

In another statement CPB General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik demanded release of Abdul Kader and Mohammed Ali, party members from Chaitmohor upazila. He said police arrested them on false charges of being members of Sarbahara Party.

## Hasina's allegation

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Secretary Begum Sajeda Choudhury MP, and central leaders Abdur Razzak MP, Rahmat Ali MP, KM Jahangir MP, Dr. Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin and local leaders including Alhaj Makkbul Hossain, the party candidate in the Dhaka-5 constituency (Dhanmondi-Mohammadpur).

Sheikh Hasina called upon the people to vote judiciously in the coming bye-election to institutionalise democracy.

She urged the locals to elect such a person who would stand by them in good and bad and called for rejecting the non-local candidate.

Commenting that the BNP had already lost its credibility due to its 'inefficiency' in running the state and its failure in fulfilling the pre-election pledges, Hasina said that her party, although in the Opposition, fulfilled its election commitments to the people.

Awami League had forced the ruling party to switch-over to a parliamentary form and to exempt agricultural loans, she added.

Regarding the Indemnity (repeal) Bill, Hasina alleged that the ruling party was conspiring non-passage of the bill in parliament.

## Benazir

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hatched the plot. Zardari, arrested in October after the dismissal of Bhutto's government by the President in August 1990 on charges of corruption and mismanagement, is being tried by a special anti-terrorism court in Karachi.

He has been charged with abetting the kidnapping of a businessman in 1989, a crime punishable with death.

Bhutto, who did not give the source of her information, said the plot was to assassinate her husband as police drove him to or from court.

The opposition leader said she proposed to register a complaint with the police against the President, his son-in-law and the National Assembly Speaker Gohar Ayub Khan.

## Baltic republics

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10 republics to reform the Soviet system to grant more authority to the republics and less to the Kremlin.

After his announcement, Bush was asked if he planned to recognise independence for any other republics in Moldavia and Georgia are pressing the hardest.

"We've got to know first what kind of relationships these republics want to have with the centre," he said, adding that it has always been clear that the Baltic states were different.

## Hasina concerned over Kotalipara incident

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina Monday expressed her grave concern over the attack launched by armed miscreants in three villages under Kotalipara upazila of Gopalganj district on August 23, reports BSS.

In a press statement the Awami League chief said about 200 armed miscreants raided three villages namely Pirerbar, Mushuria and Niabari centering the death of person.

During the raid the miscreants looted ten thousand maunds of paddy, gold, cash and other valuable articles and snatched away 250 heads of cattle, and 200 countryboats belonging to 200 families, she said.

Sheikh Hasina called upon the authorities to supply relief materials and restore peace and confidence of the people in the affected areas. She also demanded judicial probe.

## Plan to stop Soviet disintegration

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with 20 from each one, making a total 300 deputies if all joined in.

It urges all 15 republics to join an economic pact aimed at maintaining economic links in the new union. And it provides for all the republics to have individual membership in the United Nations.

Leningrad Mayor Anatoly Sobchak, speaking at a news conference on Monday, grumbled that such a move "costs money."

Latvian Deputy Yuris Boyars told reporters that its decision decided to act fast "because he suspected there would be a kind of constitutional coup" against him at the Congress, which has the right to fire the President.

Sobchak said "an uncontrolled collapse of federal

structures must be prevented, or else we shall all die under the rubble of this empire."

Speakers representing the republican delegations at the Congress took to the podium one by one to express support for the seven-point proposal.

The republics in favour were Russia, Ukraine, Byelorussia, Kazakhstan, Kirghizstan, Uzbekistan, Tadzhikistan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenia and Armenia.

But the Armenian spokesman said that its decision must be confirmed by a referendum on independence scheduled late this month.

Georgia, which had participated at Sunday's meeting among the republics, and Moldavia expressed conditional support calling for the

recognition of their independence by the Congress.

The remaining republics, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, have declared independence which has been recognised by more than 30 countries.

Gorbachev obtained approval from the Congress, without a vote, for postponing discussion on whether to recognise Baltic independence later in the day or on Tuesday.

Gorbachev noted that last week's session of the Supreme Soviet had put the issue on the Congress agenda, but that some Soviet republics had already voted to recognise Baltic independence while others had not yet taken a decision.

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Russia has notably led the way in recognising their independence.

# The Midnight File

## Troops open fire on Tbilisi protesters

MOSCOW, Sept 2: Georgian Interior Ministry troops opened fire today during a demonstration in Tbilisi and beat many of the protesters with truncheons, sources in the Georgian capital reported. A journalist there was unable to say whether the troops fired into the air or at the crowd, which was demonstrating against Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, reports AFP.

## Uzbek exiles burn Soviet flag

KARACHI, Sept 2: Muslim exiles from the Soviet Union burned the Soviet flag in Karachi today and called for the creation of an independent Islamic state in the central Asian republic of Uzbekistan. Some of the exiles said they had fled to Afghanistan during a Soviet crackdown on Uzbek Muslims in the 1970s and later migrated to Pakistan after the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan in 1979, reports Reuter.

## Burma's opposition MP resigns

BANGKOK, Sept 2: Another member of Burma's main opposition party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), has relinquished his elected seat in parliament, the official radio Rangoon said today. Chit Khine, whose resignation was approved Sunday by the military-appointed multi-party Democratic General Elections Commission, was elected from Burma's central Mandalay division during the general elections held on May 27 last year, reports AFP.

## IMF team

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credit. PFP, framed in May last jointly by the government, IMF and World Bank, was due to be endorsed by the Fund Board on August 30.

A senior official at the Finance Ministry expressed hope that the government is able to persuade the IMF that the pay rises would not adversely affect country's macro-economy.

But, according to insiders, convincing the IMF in favour of the pay-hike action would not be easy as its impact is likely to be destabilising on the private sector, which the donors oppose.

## Indian press

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bigger neighbour, India should reciprocate by "going out of its way" to create a congenial climate needed to solve water sharing, Talpatti, and Chakra refugee issues. The two newspapers also said that the Tin Bigha corridor should be handed over to Bangladesh forthwith to "live up to our promises".

It is gathered that during the visit the openness with which Mustafizur Rahman sought to have mutual understanding to resolve outstanding bilateral issues could not be overlooked by his Indian counterpart Madhabasingh Solanki who accepted an invitation to pay a return visit.

During Solanki's visit to Bangladesh, a meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission will be held. Foreign Ministers of the two countries are the Co-Chairmen of the Commission.

Transfer of the Tin-Bigha corridor is expected to be formalised during the visit which is likely to take place some time in October or December.

## Nasim wants parliament session

Publicity Secretary of the Awami League and Chief Whip of the Opposition in Parliament Mohammad Nasim Monday urged the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed to summon the parliament by this month immediately after the referendum, reports BSS.

In a statement, Nasim said it was indispensable to summon the parliament for taking decisions on the important national issues like deterioration of law and order, recurring violence in the educational arena, increasing economic crisis and repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance.

The Awami League leader said a healthy and cordial atmosphere had been ushered in the national politics by passing the Constitution 11th and 12th Amendment Bills amidst unprecedented consensus.

"Undesirably, the political tension and clashes are mounting subsequently," he said.

Nasim also called upon the Acting President for taking over the charge of the Ministry of Home temporarily to ensure impartiality in the coming by-elections.

## Police firing

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noon. Meanwhile, police arrested eight people in connection with the fighting. Five of them were named Abul Kalam (21), Delwar (28), Abdur Rashid (25), Abu Sayeed (30) and Majid (19).

Police also field a case against 25 people, including former Chairman Altaf Hossain. Sources said all the people of the Kumrul area had deserted their residences for fear of police raid.

## Bangladesh-Japan Forum

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during its hour of need, Begum Zia said that the Japanese people had always stood beside Bangladesh during our War of Independence in 1971. The Japanese people also extended generous assistance in time of our need.

She said that Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaku had rendered his valuable assistance to mitigate the sufferings of the victims of the worst cyclone of the century. She said the visit of the four Japanese parliamentary delegations in the last four months suggested that Japan was deeply interested in our development efforts.

She mentioned Japan's valuable contribution to the development of the telecommunication system, industrialisation, health and road communication of Bangladesh.

The inaugural function was addressed by the President of the Bangladesh-Japan Society Morshed Khan, the Japanese economic mission leader Kikuo Ikeda and the Charge d'Affaires of the Japanese Embassy Tetsuo Ito.

Begum Zia said that Bangladesh was striving for development with its awareness of the reality of poverty and economic backwardness because of its fast growing population. The country was facing challenges, she said and added, "We will not only face these challenges but also solve them successfully."

She said that Japan was one of the closest friends of Bangladesh. The existing ties between the two countries were getting stronger with the victory of democracy and establishment of an elected government in Bangladesh, she pointed out.

Leader of the Japanese economic delegation Kikuo Ikeda, addressing the meeting said that the trade turnover between Bangladesh and Japan has been at the level of US dollars 400 million over the past several years. He said that Japanese investments in the

country have been growing since 1989.

"We are optimistic that there is ample scope for an increase in the number of Japanese investments", Ikeda said and added that Japan's investments in the ASEAN have expanded considerably in recent years due largely to the fact that the governments of ASEAN have taken positive steps to create necessary infrastructures, expand incentives, relax various regulations and simplify the procedures of foreign investments.

He expressed the hope that Bangladesh would also attach due importance to building necessary infrastructures, promote liberalisation measures, follow a policy of preferential treatment for investments and simplify the procedures of foreign investments.

Bangladesh-Japan Society President Morshed Khan said that Japan was the single largest donor to Bangladesh today and became an important trading partner. The trade between Bangladesh and Japan during the last five years has increased by 50 per cent, he said.

Morshed Khan said a treaty for avoidance of double taxation between Bangladesh and Japan has been signed.

Referring to various measures taken by the government for rapid industrialisation, Morshed Khan said nationalised commercial banks and Development Financing Institutions (DFIs) can now approve projects up to Taka 300 million without reference to the Board of Investment. All fiscal and financial measures have been re-modelled to facilitate the process of rapid industrialisation in Bangladesh, he said.

In recent years, Morshed said, Bangladesh has developed the non-traditional sectors such as readymade garments, frozen fish, leather, electronics etc which help the country's economic growth.

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