

'Unite to materialise martyrs dreams'

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Sunday called upon all irrespective of party, religion, caste, creed and opinion to forge a greater national unity to participate in the nation building activities to materialise the dreams of the martyrs of the Liberation War, reports BSS.

In a message on the eve of "Victory Day" the President paying homage to those who had laid down their lives during the War of Independence, said their unparalleled sacrifices, valor and bravery would always shine in history.

President Biswas said the main objective of the Liberation War was to establish an exploitation-free society based on democratic values and the nation could show respect to the martyrs through implementation of those ideals.

He said celebration of the Victory Day in an autocratic, free, democratic atmosphere had a special significance to our national history. Democ-

racys has been restored through the united efforts of all, he added.

President Biswas said nation was now committed to make democracy meaningful.

He said the victory could be glorified further with a renewed zeal by bringing about economic emancipation of the masses as well as consolidating national independence and sovereignty.

With this end in view, the president said, the present government was moving forward with planned programmes.

Moudud granted bail

A High Court division bench of the Supreme Court granted ad-interim bail to Moudud Ahmed, leader of Jatiya Party parliamentary group in the Jatiya Sangsad, for two months on humanitarian ground due to his mother's illness, reports BSS.

Democratic culture

From Page 1 Col. 7

She said the country's economy almost crumbled down as a result of years of autocratic rule which patronised corruption, broke the norms of economic management and made the state enterprises bankrupt.

Begum Zia said besides efforts for building democracy and democratic institutions, her new government will continue to strive for ensuring proper economic management, poverty alleviation, curbing corruption and wastage, working for the people's economic well being and establishing social justice and rule of law.

"We have been making sincere efforts towards this end," the Prime Minister reiterated.

Dwelling at length on the economic plan, she said the government has taken emergency measures including reduction of bank interest rates and increasing of production in all sectors.

Begum Zia sought cooperation of all to give the ruined economy a new life and pace. The Prime Minister said the government already took emergency measures to increase investment into the economy.

Steps have been taken to expand imports through abolishing the system of least margin for imports, she said.

Besides, emphasis has been given on increasing exports to build up a self-reliant economy. Towards that end, export target for 1991-92 fiscal has been fixed at Taka 7,744 crore and for the 1992-93 the target has been fixed at Taka 8,000 crore, she pointed out.

Considering the importance of roads and highways infrastructure, the government has allocated Taka 423 crore for the sector, Begum Zia said.

Steps have been taken to build up infrastructure of power generation and supply. The government is going to take up programmes to strengthen rural electrification, she said.

Different projects are also been taken up for developing country's gas resources, as well as for exploitation of mineral resources, she said.

The Prime Minister said a new industrial policy has been formulated keeping in view the objective of creating a structure for market economy.

"From now on the government's role will be mere stipulative, not a controlling one," she said adding that the procedure for industrial sanctions has been simplified and steps have been taken to attract foreign investment.

The Prime Minister said a high-powered committee has been set up to ensure successful implementation of the industrial policy through inter-ministerial coordination and cooperation.

Begum Zia said her government is always sympathetic towards the justifiable demands of the workers and a decision has been taken to re-cast the labour policy and laws. A wage commission is going to be formed very soon with representatives of the workers, she said.

She said the nation today expects from the workers that they maintain peace and discipline to increase production in the mills and factories.

Turning to the agricultural sector, the Prime Minister said initiatives are being taken to extend irrigation facilities to increase farm output. In this context, she referred to late President Zia's canal digging programme which has been reintroduced.

She said necessary steps have been taken to strengthen the local government institu-

tions. The government is also going to further activate the Union Parishads to make those the nucleus of rural development activities.

In keeping within this objective, she said, the Union Parishad elections will be held next month. She urged the people to make the polls a success.

Referring to the education sector, the Prime Minister said the government gave priority on education where substantial allocation has been made.

"Terrorism in the educational campuses has become a matter of concern and worry," the Prime Minister said referring to the resultant session-jam.

Govt-worker talks

From Page 1 Col. 4

A meeting was that the fixing up of the amount of wages was the jurisdiction of the wage commission to be formed soon. The government, however, was ready to include the representatives of the workers in the commission.

The government and the SKOP also failed to reach consensus on the repeal of the 'black clause' of the labour law. The SKOP leaders wanted to identify the clauses in the bilateral meeting and sign an agreement on the issue with the Labour Ministry. But the government refused to accept the proposal saying what it could do regarding it was to form a committee comprising the equal representatives from the private owners, workers and the government to formulate proposals for amendments of the labour laws, the sources said. The amendments would be sent for forming new labour policies to be adopted soon by the government, the sources added.

Yesterday's meeting ended with such difference of opinions between the labour leaders and the government. They will, however, meet again on December 17.

The SKOP was represented among others by Nazrul Islam Khan, Nurul Anwar, Pratap Uddin, Abdus Salam Khan and Shirin Akhter while Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan represented the government although social welfare Minister Tariqul Islam sat in the meeting for a while.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col. 8

Mujib who asked the people to get prepared for the war and fight the enemy.

The country became independent of Pakistan on December 16 after nine months of armed struggle through surrender of the Pakistani occupation forces at the Race Course Maidan.

The Awami League leader blamed the post-1975 regimes for banishing the values of independence and rehabilitating the anti-liberation forces. The collaborators of the Pakistani army are still making audacious statement about the country's Liberation war, she said.

Hasina attributed the prevailing unrest in the socio-political and economic fronts to what she called the wrong policy pursued by the BNP government.

The BNP is ruling the country like an autocratic regime by trampling last year's November 19 joint declaration of the three alliances, she alleged.

The Awami League leader demanded immediate scrapping of the indemnity law to put an end to the politics of coup and killing and restore rule of law for giving democracy an institutional shape.

Editor : S. M. Ali

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial offices: 28/1, Toynebee Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: Editorial & News: 863036. Commercial: 863035. PABX-246023-4. Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257 GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA.

Myth, memory and meaning

By Rahat Fahmida

"Going round the long, difficult paths of our history, we would notice that many relevant, significant facts are fading away. This country was liberated by mass endeavour. Today it is indeed a task to present the true history of liberation to our children. We want them to know the facts," said Saeeda Kamal, an active worker during the liberation war.

She said that the memory of 1971 and that of the freedom fighters is not one that mingles with other thoughts, worries and anxieties and later would drown in the ocean of time. Saeeda briefly stated her involvement along with that of her friends. At that time, they knew of a group of freedom fighters who were working in the border area and hence decided to do the same. Comilla was the nearest border area. "We started in a car at around 6:30 in the morning of the 15th of June 1971.

Flight Lieutenant Hamidullah's wife and three children. Shahadat Chowdhury

Bulu, Milla Gani, Zafar Bahi's son Shomu, Shireen, Benu Bhai and a few other freedom fighters accompanied us.

After reaching Kabila we crossed the border to Tripura in rickshaws. This particular area was Sonamura — about 35 miles away from Agartala. We stepped into an uncertain future! We were waiting at the bus stop, still undecided about our next direction and quite vague about our work. Suddenly Captain Akhter landed up — who was our close friend. He was a physician, serving the freedom fighters in a small hospital in Sonamura. He welcomed us to work with him. With no experience of nursing, my sister Lulu and I agreed to work immediately.

This hospital started off with only eight beds. It continually nursed and served wounded villages as well as the freedom fighters. It was also open to those patients with viruses or malaria. Though the hospital was poorly equipped, Dr Akhter treated with urgency and efficiency.

In July 1971, they had to suddenly shift to Melaghar, which was about a mile and a half from Sonamura. Ten tents were set-up on a hillock. Of this, four tents were for the patients, two for reception and emergency and the other for their accommodation.

Saeeda continued — "We worked in two shifts — one was from 7 a.m. till 12 a.m. and the other started from noon and went on till 7 p.m. Investigation and prescribing the patients was dealt with by Dr Shamsuddin. Dr Nazimuddin, Dr Akhter and Dr Mabin. We were responsible for the other work, including nursing. But circumstances were at times really difficult. We served with urgency in order to dress the wounds and even assist in the operation theatre.

The number of wounded fighters increased from July onwards and so did our pressure of work. About seven patients arrived everyday — most of whom were wounded by bullets, shell splinters. The pa-

tients included the villagers.

"As the war started in Nayanpur station of Comilla, the number of patients increased further. And later as a result we had to set up another tent. We often brought in blood and at times medicines, from Gouranga Ballav Hospital in Agartala.

"We faced a rather difficult time during the rainy days. Most things got wet, but our work continued without any interruption — even if it meant being drenched while on the job.

"We then shifted to our newly built hospital in Baramganj, on the 24th of August 1971. We five 'nurses' assisted 4 doctors, a few pathologists, in this hospital, which had 40 beds. But later on, number of workers increased. Our hospital was visited by General Osmani on the 28th of August. We working in this hospital till the war ended.

There was a willingness to risk or to accept war as a solution to a whole range of problems — political, social and cultural, stated Saeeda.

War sheds light not only on political preoccupations but also on the changing of human nature and the springs of human action.

For all the misgivings and anxiety which this country must have felt, there was enough widespread enthusiasm, especially among the more articulate members of society. This was inevitable from Ms Kamal's conversation, who is the second daughter of poet Begum Sufia Kamal.

This mood of simple patriotism and emotional solidarity showed how far the opponents of war had overestimated the strength of feeling and underestimated the institutional emotions of nationalism to which the Bengalis were able to appeal.

Now an artist and also a teacher, Saeeda Kamal concluded by saying —

"To understand the men of 1971, we have to understand the values of that time; and it is by these values that their actions must be measured — and not forgotten or misinterpreted."



Saeeda Kamal teaching art at her school.

— Star photo

Freedom-Fighters' Trust limping

From Page 1 Col. 4

losing companies were divested and another one was merged with other factories.

The Kalyan Trust now has 22 enterprises. These are Tabani Beverage Co Ltd, Mimi Chocolate Ltd, United Tobacco Company Ltd, Metal Packages Ltd, Sirco Soap and Chemical Industries Ltd, Bangladesh Glass Industries (Ilysons), Hardev Glass, Aluminium, Anamel and Silicate Works, Paruma (Eastern) Ltd, Model Engineering Works, Gulistan Cinema Co, Naz Cinema Co, Moon Cinema Co, Gulistan Film Corporation, Durbar Advertising and Publication, Anis Film Corporation, Purnima Filling and Servicing Station and Trust Adhunik Hospital all of which are located in Dhaka and its adjoining areas.

Its enterprises in Chittagong are Eastern Chemical Industries, Bakshi Paints Ltd, Multiple Juice Concentrate Plant, Almas Cinema and Dinar Cinema.

About 2,500 people, a large number of whom are freedom fighters were employed in these mills and factories.

Out of the total enterprises, Hardev Glass, Sirco Soap, Metal Packages Ltd, United Tobacco and Model Engineering are still losing concern and many of them are just operationally profitable. Its present profitable organisations started earning profit since 1988.

Its total budget for the year 1991-92 is Taka 12 crore and 26 lakh in which Taka five crore is grant by the government. The expenditure for the year amounted to Taka 7.60 crore.

Of the total budget only Taka five crore has been sanctioned for Freedom Fighters' Welfare Fund.

The Trust helps 3,072 martyr families and crippled freedom-fighters in four categories.

The totally crippled are given Taka 3,260 per month, the partially crippled Taka 1,440, partially crippled but

rehabilitated Freedom Fighters are given an allowance of Taka 975 monthly and every enlisted shaheed family is given Taka 1,500 a month.

Moreover, Eid allowance of Taka 200, marriage allowance Taka 12,000, education allowance Taka 2,000 and festival allowance of Taka 300 are being given to the martyr families and crippled freedom fighters.

The Trust has a project to rehabilitate the unemployed freedom fighters by providing small industries and baby-taxes, but the projects are not progressing because of fund constraints.

The Managing Director of the Trust Lt Col (retd) Jaynul Abedin, told the Daily Star that the most urgent things to be done by the Trust was to modernise the enterprises.

Most of the mills and factories under the Trust are running with almost obsolete machinery

Festival bonus for freedom fighters

The government has decided to give two festival bonuses for the families of the martyred freedom fighters and to crippled freedom fighters. This benefit will reach 3,578 families and three will be an additional expenses of Taka 60 lakh a year, reports BSS.

Burnt alive

From Page 4 Col. 8

Alam residing at 10, Folder Street. The other victim, Mukhter Hossain (20), was an employee at the shop.

Fire service officials are suspecting that the fire originated from an electric short-circuit.

The Midnight File

400 feared drowned as Egyptian ship sinks

CAIRO, Dec 15 : More than 400 people were feared drowned today after an Egyptian passenger ship hit coral reefs and sank in the Red Sea, a senior official said.

Hassan al-Aghouri, director of harbour security at the interior ministry, told reporters bad weather was hampering rescue operations reports Reuter.

UN move on Yugoslavia

NEW YORK, (United Nations) Dec 15 : The United Nations unanimously adopted today a resolution that calls for sending UN observers to Yugoslavia to lay the groundwork for deploying a peacekeeping operation there. The resolution, adopted by the 15-member Security Council, also called on member states to refrain from any action that might heighten tensions for delay a peaceful negotiated solution to the conflict in Yugoslavia, reports AFP.

Baker arrives in Moscow

MOSCOW, Dec 15 : US Secretary of State James A Baker arrived in Moscow Sunday for talks with Soviet officials and the leaders of five of the Soviet republics that have agreed to join a new Commonwealth. Before his departure from Washington, Baker said his top priority was to secure and eliminate nuclear weapons in four republics, but that humanitarian assistance to the Soviet people was a close second purpose, reports AP.

Consensus seen a must for curbing campus terrorism

By DU Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar on violence and terrorism called for national consensus to eliminate terrorism from the national life. Terrorism is foreign to a democratic order, they said.

They also urged all concerned to work for rooting out terrorism from the campus which is affecting the fabric of the society.

The seminar "Terrorism — an impediment to democracy" was held at the TSC road on Sunday under the auspices of Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU).

Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah, Worker's Party General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon, MP, CPB President Saifuddin Ahmed Manik and JSD (Inu) leader Hasanul Huq Inu spoke at the seminar.

Vice Chancellor Prof Maniruzzaman Miah presided over the function, organised to mark the 20th Victory Day.

The Works Minister sought cooperation from political parties, students and all concerned to uproot terrorism

and corruption from our national life.

The Minister said failure to fulfill the basic rights of our citizens might be one of the fundamental causes of terrorism.

Vice Chancellor Prof Maniruzzaman Miah said that we would fail to hold the new democracy if the government did not play a pioneering role in containing terrorist acts.

It was impossible to save academic life and educational institutions without curbing terrorism, the Vice-Chancellor said.

"It is unfortunate for us to be engaged in discussing terrorism at such a time when we are all busy-celebrating the Victory Day", the Vice Chancellor said.

"The Awami League regime will not remain in power if the BNP fails and autocracy will come again", Hasanul Haque Inu, General Secretary of JSD (Inu) said.

Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, President of the Communist Party of Bangladesh said that the government should remain neutral

Fabric House

Dhaka New Market

A Fixed Price Shop deals in only Bangladeshi Sarees

Please step in the air-conditioned shop and buy the best choice of all varieties of "Only Bangladeshi Sarees" at most reasonable "Fixed Price" without wasting your time in bargaining & higgling.

At Reliance Your Interest Comes First



With its strong back-up of human resources, in-depth know-how and wealth of experience, Reliance is fully geared to meet all your general insurance requirements in a fast changing world

EXPERIENCE 'STRENGTH' SECURITY

RELIANCE INSURANCE LIMITED

BSB BUILDING, 8 RAJUK AVENUE DHAKA-1000, BANGLADESH
Phone : PABX-240105-6, 235080
Telex : 671186 RIL BJ