

## Build up children to lead country: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday described the children as the future of the nation and underscored the need for building them up as men of honesty and integrity to lead the country, reports BSS.

"Let us love the children. Let us build them up beautifully with our all heartfelt affection, care and resources. Let us put in our collective efforts and contribution to make them the right heirs to a beautiful, happy and prosperous Bangladesh," she said.

Begum Zia was addressing as the chief guest the prize distribution ceremony of the National Shishu-Kishore Competition 1993 yesterday morning at the Osmany Auditorium in the city.

Paying tributes to the Islamic Foundation, Bangladesh for its contribution in flourishing the talents of the children throughout the country by organising various competitions from the national level down to the thana level.

Begum Zia said along with it we have to keep in mind that a vast majority of our children are out of this process.

The Prime Minister regretted and said most of the children are in search of livelihood at the very young age having no one to love them and having no permanent address. We have to think more about them, she said.

"We have to give them equal opportunities. This is more necessary for maintaining social equilibrium," she said.

Underscoring the need for organising more competitions to flourish the talents and leadership quality of the children she said such competitions would initiate a new trend of leadership-building, creation of values and inspiration to build a beautiful, happy and prosperous country.

Begum Zia said, "we have a rich heritage, nurtured in the Islamic values of thousands of years and the spirit of history and tradition will help halt the deterioration of our values."

## Prokrichi softens tone

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resume their en masse resignation in April. But when it got started through a day-long work abstention on April 5, the en masse resignation programme was allowed to go by the board.

However, Prokrichi-BCS Central Action Council Secretary General M.A. Hena, while briefing newsmen, said the resignation programme has not been called off. Rather it has been "postponed".

Talking to The Daily Star, some senior leaders revealed that their earlier programme to force the government to accept their demands by resigning en masse was "not decided at any meeting".

On condition that he would not be named, a central leader said the announcement of the en masse resignation was made at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka on October 19 last year which had taken many high-ups of the body by surprise.

"Since the announcement was made public ... we had no other option but to go ahead," he said.

The leader admitted that the en masse resignation programme was rather "extreme in nature" and such steps ought to be taken "only as a last resort".

Some of the Prokrichi leaders observed that the resignation programme had weakened their bargaining capacity with the government.

The planned whole-sale resignation by the Prokrichi members followed a 24-day agitation last year, including a three-day mass leave of absence from December 11.

The 17-point charter of demands include separation of the judiciary from the administration, removal of service anomalies created by the Matin Committee, formulation of the Rules of Business and handing over of executive powers of the ministries to the elected public representatives.

"Torn between different under-currents, the Prokrichi leaders feel that the BCS (Administration) cadre leaders have gained the upper hand and have not been coordinating with the professionals, political observers commented.

The professionals' agitation was launched with the fall of the Ershad regime and establishment of the Khaleda Zia government.

During the course of their agitation, the Prokrichi leaders held a series of talks with the

Inaugural Ceremony of International Seminar and National Exhibition of Folk Arts and Crafts

Today the 10th April at 7 p.m. at the Academy Auditorium

Invited Guests are requested to attend the Inaugural Ceremony at 7 p.m. instead of 11 a.m.

Director General Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

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Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman addressing a party meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday.

## AL hartal

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The sieges around the Secretariat and the Election Commission were planned by the AL and the JP in demand of cancellation of the results of the Magura 2 parliamentary by-election March 20 and holding of the next general elections under a caretaker government.

Both the parties have called for another hartal on April 26 on the same demand.

Today's opposition hartal programme coincides with the laying of the foundation stone of the much-talked about and long-cherished Tk 3100 crore Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge.

UNB adds: Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina has called on the people to observe nationwide dawn-to-dusk hartal today to force the BNP government to resign and pave the way for parliamentary polls under a neutral caretaker government.

In a statement last night, she said, the 'corrupt and vote-dacoit' government will have to be resisted through agitation as the people want to get rid of the misrule of the BNP.

## BCL demands PM's resignation

Leaders of the Awami League backed Chhatra League yesterday demanded resignation of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and her government for patronising politics of killings, reports UNB.

Addressing a protest rally in front of the Aparajaya Bangla, they also demanded immediate trial and exemplary punishment of the killers of Paran and Milton, who were killed by hoodlums during Awami League's siege programme Thursday.

## BNP reviews

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All the committee members who attended the meeting refused to talk about the proceedings. But a mid-ranking leader close to a senior committee member told this correspondent that some of the leaders had raised the issue of the opposition threat of not returning to Parliament during the next session. But Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia did not make any comment on the issue.

Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury, Salam Talukder, Mostafizur Rahman, Saifur Rahman, Rafiqul Islam Miah and Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain attended the meet with party Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

## Hosokawa's resignation

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a consensus over the issue who would replace Hosokawa. They were scheduled to meet several times during the week-end. Senior members of two coalition partners, Shinseito and Komeito, have indicated that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata is the natural choice. But suggestions from other party leaders indicate that the coalition may not be united in choosing Hata as the next Prime Minister.

Most of the coalition leaders stressed that the framework of the current coalition should be preserved and indicated that the resignation of the Prime Minister will not necessarily mean the fall of the coalition government. But some analysts are already expressing doubt whether the coalition government would be able to agree on a new leader or unite under the leadership of one person. The coalition is deeply divided over the issue of future political realignment.

The eight-month old Hosokawa government's two major policy accomplishments were its decision to open Japan's rice market and the successful completion of political reform. Hosokawa's personal popularity helped the government to a great extent to overcome serious policy differences within the coalition and implement the programmes promised to the

electorates. But things did not go that smoothly during the post-political reform period. He probably created his own problems by proposing economic and administrative reform as his next policy goal. Coalition partners' opinion did not coincide with those important issues and ever since the coalition government has been troubled by internal division.

In last February the Prime Minister proposed a 6 trillion yen cut in income and residential taxes and introduction of 7 per cent 'national welfare tax' in three years' time. But amid protest from some of the coalition partners, he had to shelve his tax reform proposal in favour of a plan put forward by the coalition parties. He also failed to implement a promised cabinet reshuffle, which he aimed with the intention of getting rid of the Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura.

Recent realignment within the coalition partners has created two different groupings among the ruling parties and the power struggle between these two groups is gradually taking an intense form. On one side is the Shinseito-Komeito group, whose ultimate intention is to unify the coalition members as one single party. Contrary to this opinion is the group comprising the Social Democratic Party of Japan, New Party

## BNP takes line of confrontation, says Maudud

Jatiya Party leader Maudud Ahmed yesterday warned of 'disastrous consequences' if the ruling party does not accept the Opposition demand for constitutional provision to hold elections under the caretaker government, reports UNB.

"It appears that the government has adopted the path of confrontation instead of consensus or understanding with the Opposition on this issue ... the result of such stance will be disastrous for the government," he said.

Addressing a workers' meeting at the office of Sylhet district unit of the Jatiya Party, Maudud said after the Magura by-election, the people now felt that there cannot be any fair election under the present government.

"We have seen how a mighty Election Commission becomes ineffective and helpless in the face of the influence and arrogance of the ruling party."

## Malaysia keen

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the discussion with Human Resources Ministry, Malaysian authorities assured the delegation of all out assistance to remove those problems.

Besides, the delegation held discussion with the Malaysian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MNCCI), the apex body of all chambers of commerce and industry in the country. They briefed the MNCCI about investment opportunities, available in Bangladesh.

Members of the MNCCI showed their keen interest to visit Bangladesh to see for themselves the facilities here to decide relocation of some of their industries and to go for possible joint venture projects.

Bangladeshi troops safe in Rwanda

All members of the Bangladesh Armed Forces in Rwanda are safe and sound, according to the latest reports received here yesterday, reports UNB.

## Int'l seminar on folk arts begins today

A three-day international seminar on Folk Arts and Crafts of Asia and the Pacific Region and a three-week exhibition begins at the Shilpakala Academy from today, reports UNB.

Director General of the Shilpakala Academy Mobarak Hossain Khan disclosed it yesterday at a press conference held at the academy. It was also addressed by Suhir Chowdhury and Iftekhar Hossain.

Jointly organised by the Academy and UNESCO, the seminar will be inaugurated by Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali at 7 pm today.

At least 12 reputed folk arts experts from Australia, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Iran and DPR Korea, are expected to take part at the seminar.

Meanwhile, Bijay Razari of India, Iqbal Ali Jatal of Pakistan and MS Jan Yeving and Chester Nile of Australia have arrived in the city.

## Bomb attack

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ted to the Narayanganj Hospital in serious condition.

Witnesses said, a number of miscreants hurled at least 30 to 35 cocktails at the AL activists who had gathered in front of the party office after a torch procession brought out in the town in support of the party's hartal call tomorrow.

During the 10-minute attack, the unidentified miscreants also smashed window panes of several buses and minibuses around the Deobhagh crossing. The AL called an emergency press conference in which the party identified the terrorists as "the activists of the BNP."

Earlier, the district and town AL, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Jubo League and Sramik League held separate rallies in the town urging people to make tomorrow's hartal a success.

## The Midnight File

### France grants visa to Zhirinovsky

PARIS, Apr 9: France said Saturday it has granted Russian ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky a visa to attend the Council of Europe's parliament in Strasbourg. The visa was granted "for the city of Strasbourg only and for the duration of the parliament's session," said Catherine Colonna, a spokeswoman for the foreign ministry, reports AP.

### Rwandan rebels advance on capital

NAIROBI, Apr 9: Opposition rebels advanced on the Rwandan capital Kigali today, warning western troops not to stand in their way, after rejecting an interim government to staunch the country's latest bloodbath. Rebel and government forces clashed north of Kigali during the day, as the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) rebels left their bases in the north, pushing the east African country even closer to the brink of civil war, reports AFP.

## Foundation of JMB

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there.

At today's ground breaking and foundation-laying ceremony at Syedpur in Sirajganj district, and at Bhuapur in Tangail district, a number of Cabinet ministers, the Vice President of the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank Resrep, the Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh and a host of high civil and military officials and diplomats will be present.

On the Sirajganj side, speeches are expected from the Prime Minister, the Vice Chairman of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority Muhammad Ali, the Japanese Ambassador Shiego Tanaka, the World Bank's Christopher Willoughby and the Vice President of the ADB, who arrived from Manila Saturday. It will also be addressed by the local MP Muraduzzaman of the BNP, Communications Minister Oli Ahmed and Finance Minister Saifur Rahman are the other scheduled speakers.

Later the Prime Minister will lay the foundation at 12 noon at Bhuapur in Tangail.

BSRS bonds

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cent of its loan as long-term credit for the industrial sector.

The process, however, came to a halt just before the handing over of the shares and undertakings of the BSRS to the DBL in April last year, when the owners of the BSRS-financed projects appealed to the Parliamentary Petition Committee to re-examine the necessity of the Development Financing Institution (DFI).

The BSRS was being handed over in return for Tk 83 crore, but the entrepreneurs claimed the actual value would be much more.

However, considering the urgency of ending the deadlock and improving the situation in the private banks, the government has apparently dropped the idea of privatising the BSRS and decided to resume its operation as a commercial bank, besides allowing it to function as a DFI.

At present, the liability of the Sangthata to the government is about Tk 340 crore and the amount of outstanding debts owed by the entrepreneurs to the BSRS is about Tk 900 crore. The amount of overdue loan is, however, Tk 605 crore.

where, besides others, Members of Parliament Shahjahan Siraj of the Gano Forum and A Salam Pintu of the BNP will be present.

The bridge project includes a 15.3 kilometre approach way on the Tangail-Madhapur Road and a 14.4 kilometre approach road on the Sirajganj-Hatikamrul Highway.

The main bridge will have the provision for extension of a 128-metre road viaduct at each end. The bridge will have 47 spans, each 99.375 metres long.

MPs call

Ziaul Haq Zia, Mass Education Secretary of BNP and ATM Alamgir, Chairman of the BSB, said the conscious people will now realise that the opposition's all programmes are designed to create obstruction to even developmental works under the BNP government.

### Peter Fowler in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 9: British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Peter James Fowler arrived at Rangamati today on a two-day visit to the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

### Mining Rules

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lease may also be refixed. Provisions to ensure the welfare and security of the mine workers will be incorporated in the amended rules. Specific clauses will be added to the rules to ensure the protection of forests and environment during mining activities.

The existing rules were formulated under an ordinance promulgated in 1967 which was replaced by The Mines and Mineral Resources (Control and Development) Act in 1992. The rules are now being amended under this new Act, while a committee for the purpose was formed last year. The committee includes representatives from the ministries of energy and mineral resources, finance, law, environment and forests and some government agencies including the Geological Survey of Bangladesh and the Petrobangla.

The Bureau of Mineral Development (BMD), a department under the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, is authorised to monitor the implementation of the Mining Rules.

BSC GIRDLES THE GLOBE

On this great occasion of the foundation ceremony of Jamuna Bridge, Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, the only National Shipping Line of the country is proud to associate itself with this great nation building task by offering its services for carriage of equipments and machinery from any global destination through its Break Bulk and Feeder Services.

বাংলাদেশ জিমিং কর্পোরেশন  
Bangladesh Shipping Corporation  
NATIONAL FLAG CARRIER & THE NATIONAL LINES OF BANGLADESH