

## 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.

## 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 of the Prokrichi members 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 Shilpkala Academy

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

— Star photo

### 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.

Organised as part of the AL's three-day demonstration against Thursday's 'police excesses and terrorism by pro-government activists', the meeting was also addressed by the party's central leaders including Zohra Tajuddin, Abdul Mannan, Tofael Ahmed, MP, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdul Jalil, presidium members, Mohammad Nasim, MP, Organising Secretary and Mozafar Hossain Paltu, Publicity Secretary. The Mayor of Dhaka and AL's city unit chief Mohammad Hanif was in the chair.

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Regarding foreign investment in the country, Nasim remarked, "No investor will come here so long the corrupt and inefficient BNP government remains in power".

Mayor Mohammad Hanif admitted that programmes like hartals harmed the people and the country. "But the government has been compelling us to take such programme by curbing our fundamental and constitutional rights," he added.

Abdul Mannan called on the party workers to sincerely work for success of the AL's programmes, including today's nationwide hartal, and thus intensify the agitation for removing the BNP government. He blamed the BNP leaders for "trying to befool the people" by arranging a meeting of the Prime Minister and the father of Habibur Rahman Milon, who

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Police blame the Tamil Tigers for the blasts. If true, it would be their first major operation in the capital since a suicide bomber assassinated President Ranasinghe Premadasa in May.

**Kuwaiti govt resigns**

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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.

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**BNP reviews**

From Page 1 Col 2

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**Addressing a protest rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club, leaders of the JCD accused the Awami League and its student front — the Chhatra League — of killing the two students.**

## 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 weekend. 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

## AL rally in city

From Page 1 Col 5

next general elections under a caretaker administration are now the most popular demands of the people."

The AL general secretary blamed the ruling party for what he said, "corporate dacoity". Elaborating, he said, the BNP men had "snatched" the bodies of two pro-AL activists, shot dead Thursday, and claimed them to be their workers.

Zillur urged the people to observe today's dawn-to-dusk hartal and the other programmes announced by his party.

About their demand for resignation of the BNP government, Tofael said they fought against the Ershad regime for its corruption and election rigging. "We'll also oust the Khaleda government in the same way," he remarked.

Mohammad Nasim, in his speech, strongly condemned the police beatings causing injuries to Abdus Samad Azad and other leaders of the party. "No government in the past could stay in power by repressing the people and the present government will also have to go for denying the constitutional rights to the people," he warned.

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**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 Syhet district unit of the Jatiya Party, Maudud said after the Magura-2 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.

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## BSC GIRDLES THE GLOBE

## 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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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 road on the Tangail-Madhipur Road and a 14.4 kilometre approach road on the Sirajganj-Hatikamru 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.

### 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.