

# Strengthen BNP for development: PM

PURBADHALA (Netrakona), Apr 30: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today urged the people to continue their support for her government and strengthen the BNP for the sake of democracy, national independence, development and production, reports BSS.

Addressing a mammoth public meeting at the J M Pilot High School field here, the Prime Minister said the BNP government believed in the politics of production and development and all its programmes were intended for the welfare of the people.

Begum Zia said all the welfare-oriented programmes of the government were progressing despite many obstacles and asserted "These programmes will continue."

Presided over by president of Purbadhala thana unit of the BNP Dr Mohammad Ali, the meeting was addressed by BNP secretary general and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder. Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad M A Karim, Abu Abbas MP, Lutufuzzaman Babar MP, Mrs Bani Ashraf MP, social worker Rabeya Khatun and local leaders Abu Thaur Talukder and Maksud Ali Khan.

At the meeting seven hundred leaders and workers from different political parties including the Awami League, the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and the Jamaat joined the BNP, expressing their solidarity with the ideals and principles of the party and lending their full support to the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

The Prime Minister welcomed the newly-joined leaders and workers to the BNP and said the leaders and workers of various political parties were joining her party because they favoured production and development.

Responding to local demands Begum Zia said steps would be taken to expand the rural electrification programme in the thana, metal the Shyamgonj-Birishiri road, construct the Purbadhala-Hogla-Guataala road in phases, build a barrage on the bank of the river Kangsha, and turn the 31-bed Purbadhala health complex into a 50-bed one.

The meeting over, the Prime Minister distributed poultry and cattle among the distressed men and women.



Registrars seal the ballot box by candlelight at a remote KwaZulu/Natal polling centre without electricity on the last day of voting in South Africa's first all-race elections Friday.

## BBC on FM band

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around capital city because the FM band broadcast cannot be heard from much afar.

"The FM band is not widely used in Bangladesh," he said. "But we will use the FM band since the government of Bangladesh has allowed us to use only that band. In future, we expect to use the medium-wave band."

The government has allowed the BBC to broadcast programmes for one year from May 1 from the Shahbagh transmitter of Radio Bangladesh. It will pay the government eight pounds sterling per broadcast hour plus the electricity bill.

The BBC will broadcast a wide range of programmes including world and regional news and current affairs, business news, sport, music features and magazine programmes, drama, arts, literature, science and light entertainment.

"We will extend the time of our Bengali service gradually and utilise local journalistic inputs," Crawley said.

The BBC has meanwhile opened a studio in the city to make local productions which will be better in technical quality. As the studio is technically rich, the BBC will be able to train local journalists as well, Mahmud Ali said.

The productions of this studio would be sent to London from where those will be relayed around the world, he added.

According to preliminary findings of a BBC survey conducted here late last year, the BBC roughly has some 7 million listeners in the country.

## Baton-charge

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Dhaka DC's office was organised by the liaison committee of six organisations of non-government school and college teachers as part of its nationwide programme to gherao the district administration offices. The liaison committee leaders said their gherao programmes outside Dhaka were held peacefully.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the liaison committee yesterday decided to strengthen its current agitation for realising the 15-point charter of demands, including financial benefits equivalent to those enjoyed by the teachers of nationalised educational institutions. The meeting, strongly protesting yesterday's police action, decided to bring out a torch procession from in front of the Jatiya Party Club at 6:30 pm today and wear black badges up to May 19, besides continuing the strike for an indefinite period.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Federation of Teachers Association and the Bangladesh College Teachers Association, in separate statements, condemned the police action on the striking teachers.

UNB adds: Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman strongly condemned the police baton-charge on a demonstration of striking teachers in the capital.

In a statement, Zillur asked the government to immediately accept the just demands of the striking teachers of non-government schools and colleges.

## Amnesty report

From Page 1 Col 5  
known if the investigation was completed.

Amnesty International has repeatedly urged the Bangladesh government to initiate full, independent and impartial inquiries into every reported case of possible extrajudicial execution to establish the circumstances in which the deaths took place.

It suggested that the findings of such inquiries be made public at the earliest and any members of the security forces found to have been responsible for extrajudicial killings should be promptly charged and tried.

# Counting of votes begins in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Apr 30: The African National Congress brimmed with confidence Saturday as election officials started counting millions of paper ballots. ANC Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa forecast a 60 per cent landslide and urged supporters to show self-control in their celebrating, reports AP.

First returns told a different story. The bulk of those returns were from the Western Cape region that includes Cape Town, where the National Party jumped to a lead among mixed-race voters who have embraced the candidacy of President F W de Klerk. The National Party had 14, 436 votes to 4,696 for the ANC.

However, the initial result was expected to be reversed as results from the rest of the country start to flow in. There were an estimated 22.7 million votes to be counted nationwide.

The vote is elected to sweep ANC leader Nelson Mandela in as president of a new democratic South Africa, leading a five-year coalition government that would also include de Klerk.

Ramaphosa's prediction of a 60 per cent triumph for the ANC based in part on the huge turnout among black South Africans who jubilantly voted for the first time in the elections from Tuesday to Friday. A week ago, Mandela had spoken only of winning a majority.

The key target for the ANC is 67 per cent. If they achieve that, the organization that led the anti-apartheid struggle would have the two-thirds majority in Parliament required to enact the country's future permanent constitution.

Vote counting had been scheduled to begin at 6 am Saturday, but many of the counting centers nationwide were just getting started to 6 pm.

## All set for SSC exams

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The minister said the government has already agreed to introduce time-scale and enhance medical allowance equal to those for government teachers and employees for the non-government teachers from July this year.

This will involve an additional expenditure of about Tk 125 crore for the state, he added.

As for the other demands of the non-government teachers, who run about 80 per cent of the country's secondary and higher secondary education, Jamiruddin Sircar said nationalisation and job security would be considered in phases.

"We have not stopped the nationalisation process and we shall continue it within our capacity," he said and called for resolving the problem through discussions.

"Huge sum of money will be needed to meet all the demands, including enhancement of government grant from the present 70 per cent to 100 per cent, which is not possible now," he said.

Asked about alleged police excesses on the striking teachers, the minister pleaded ignorance about any such incident.

The Central Teachers' Action Liaison Committee alleged that police had resorted to baton-charge on striking teachers who held a rally in front of the DC's office yesterday, resulting in injuries to 10 people.

State Minister for Education Principal Eunus Khan and Education Secretary Md Irshadul Haq also spoke at the press conference.

Eunus Khan said the government has given top priority to the education sector. Some 18 per cent of the budget or 3 per cent of the GNP has been earmarked for education.

## Dapunia polls

From Page 1 Col 7

and 11 am, that they were convinced of the fairness of the system.

"We won't mind if we are defeated in the elections," the sitting chairman Abu Baker Siddik, who contested the polls with the umbrella as his symbol, said.

Siddik, a local level leader of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party, also observed that the government should approve the new polling system for the whole of Bangladesh to ensure free and fair polls.

Haider Ali of the Awami League (AL), who eventually won the election, made the same observations in the morning. Ali secured 3496 votes. Nurul Huq, a Jatiya Party (JP) activist, got the second highest votes, while Mohammad Siddiqueur Rahman Azad, sympathetic to the AL, stood third. They bagged 2918 and 2256 votes respectively.

Meanwhile, the turn-out of voters increased by thirty per cent. Of the total 19,920 voters, 81.30 per cent exercised their franchise, while the percentage during the last polls, in 1988, was 50.

No member of the law enforcing agency was present in the union during the polls.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Zahurul Huq of the village called Goshtha, who had his Kamil degree from a local madrasah and discharged the responsibilities of the presiding officer at polling centre number 11, told The Daily Star that he did not face any problem in discharging his duties.

Huq received training from the Election Commission (EC) officials on the duties of a presiding officer. Huq, while talking to this correspondent in the morning, had observed that the number of voters would be higher than that of previous years because this time the polling officials were well-known to the local people.

A number of local and foreign observers, including officials of the Asia Foundation, NORAD, the USAID and the US Embassy went to Dapunia.

David M Merrill, the American ambassador to Bangladesh, while expressing his reactions on the model polling, told reporters at Dapunia that such a system would ensure free and fair elections in Bangladesh.

## Cyclone

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The maximum sustained wind within 56km of the storm centre was about 65 kmph, rising to 90 kmph in gusts or squalls.

The maritime ports of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar have been advised to lower the distant warning signal number 2 and hoist local warning signal number 4 (four).

The maritime port of Mongia has been advised to keep hoisted the distant warning signal number 2 (two).

All fishing boats and trawlers over the north Bay have been advised to take shelter immediately and remain there till further notice.

## PM appeals

From Page 1 Col 4

can be the only substitute for another democratic government," she emphasised.

The Prime Minister said the overall responsibility of conducting elections is vested with the Election Commission. The present Chief Election Commissioner was appointed at the time of forming an interim government and since then the Election Commission had been functioning independently, she said.

The government, the Prime Minister said, had never influenced the Election Commission even to the slightest extent.

She said during the last three years, free, fair and neutral elections were held in 4000 union parishads, about 100 municipalities, four city corporations and 16 by-elections in the vacant seats of the Jatiya Sangsad.

Replying to a question on how to further develop the election procedure, the Prime Minister said the government would consider any reasonable and acceptable advice for further developing the electoral process.

Replying to another question, the Prime Minister said it has been decided that identity cards (IDs) for the voters would be introduced in the coming general elections for the first time to enable each voter to cast his/her vote and thus achieve further improvement of the electoral process.

The government, she said, will extend all-out cooperation to the Election Commission in this regard.

# The Midnight File

## Serbs attack British troops

SARAJEVO, Apr 30: Serb soldiers attacked British troops twice inside a NATO-declared area around the eastern town of Gorazde that was to be clear of Serb forces. UN officials said Saturday. The British soldiers were attacked Friday southeast of the town and fired back, a British spokesman said. As many as three Serbs were reported killed. No British soldiers were reported injured, reports AP.

## Pak tribal leader shot dead

QUETTA (Pakistan), Apr 30: A Pakistani tribal leader and his brother were shot dead today in a hail of bullets by tribal enemies as they entered a court to appeal against bail for their rivals, police said. Mohammad Afzal Kakar and his brother Shadi Khan were shot dead and two people injured when a band of heavily armed men opened fire on them as they entered the district and sessions court in Quetta, capital of the remote Southwestern province of Baluchistan, police said, reports Reuter.

## Opposition's return to JS

From Page 1 Col 5  
discuss the issue of returning to the House at their respective forthcoming parliamentary party meetings and report back to an all-Party meeting scheduled for 8 pm on May 3.

The latest political situation was discussed in detail at yesterday's meeting. The question of joining the next Parliament session — beginning May 4 — the Prime Minister's rejection of the Opposition demand for a caretaker government; the BNP Secretary General's comments about informal contacts with the Opposition, the possible modalities of a caretaker government and the coming Bogra by-election featured prominently in the discussions.

According to a meeting source, the parties were unanimous about continuing their agitation in support of the demand for holding the next general elections under an interim government. However, the leaders maintained that the final decision regarding a return to the JS should be taken at the meetings of their respective parliamentary parties.

Meeting over, Abdus Samad Azad told newsmen that the government was responsible for making Parliament ineffective.

"The government failed to create conditions for bringing back the Opposition to the House," he said.

Samad Azad also refuted BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder's recent claim that he had contacted the Opposition for a possible dialogue and termed his comments appearing in different newspapers as 'confusing'.

Azad mentioned that the meeting had rejected Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's arguments against the Opposition demand for a caretaker government. The Prime Minister reportedly ruled out any possibility of election under a caretaker government while addressing a public meeting in Noakhali last week.

## Crowded country

From Page 1 Col 5

relatively small land areas," the report said.

In contrast, other populous countries have low average densities because they have large areas that may include deserts, steppes, grasslands, jungles, or other features that are sparsely inhabited.

"Nevertheless, these countries may also have regions, provinces, states, or urban zones that are densely populated," the report said.

Following are the ten most populous countries in number of persons per square kilometre of land area in 1994.

Country	Persons per sq km
Bangladesh	939
Japan	317
India	309
Pakistan	165
China	128
Indonesia	110
Nigeria	108
United States	28
Brazil	19
Russia	9

**বাংলা একাডেমী**  
ঢাকা

**হালীমা-শরফুদ্দীন বিজ্ঞান-লেখক পুরস্কার**

বাংলা একাডেমী ১৩৯৯ সাল থেকে হালীমা-শরফুদ্দীন বিজ্ঞান-লেখক পুরস্কার নামে একটি দ্বি-বার্ষিক পুরস্কার পরিচালনা করে আসছে। এ-পুরস্কারে উদ্দেশ্য বাংলা ভাষায় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি চর্চায় তরুণ বিজ্ঞানকর্মীদের উৎসাহিত করা এবং বাংলা ভাষায় জনপ্রিয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিষয়ক গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বইয়ের বিস্তৃত অবদান ও তাদের সৃষ্টিশীল প্রতিভার স্বীকৃতি। বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি ক্ষেত্রে বাংলা ভাষায় রচিত শ্রেষ্ঠ একটি জনপ্রিয় গ্রন্থের জন্য এই দ্বি-বার্ষিক পুরস্কার দেওয়া হবে। পুরস্কারপত্র লেখক কুড়ি হাজার টাকা এবং একটি সনদ পাবেন।

বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি ক্ষেত্রে যার অত্যন্ত মাত্র মানের শিক্ষা রয়েছে এবং যিনি বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি সংক্রান্ত কোনো পেশায় রত, যেমন - শিক্ষা, গবেষণা, সংগঠন ও সেবা এবং বিজ্ঞান-সাংবাদিকতা, তেমন বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক লেখকদের বই এই পুরস্কারের জন্য বিবেচনা করা হবে। ১৩৯৯-১৪০০ সালে প্রকাশিত তাদের বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিষয়ক জনপ্রিয় বইয়ের তিনটি করে কপি 'সচিব, বাংলা একাডেমী, ঢাকা-১০০০' এই ঠিকানায় ১৪০১ সালের জ্যৈষ্ঠ মাসের মধ্যে একটি নির্ধারিত ফরম পূরণ করে জমা দেওয়ার জন্য আহ্বান জানানো হচ্ছে। প্রতিযোগী লেখকের বয়স ৩০ টের ১৪০০ তারিখে ৫০ বছরের বেশী হবে না। তবে মহিলা বা অন্য কোনো বিশেষ ক্ষেত্রে এই বয়সসীমা শিথিলযোগ্য। ১৪০১ সালের শ্রাবণের শেষ সপ্তাহে ১৩৯৯-১৪০০ সালের পুরস্কার-প্রাপকের নাম ঘোষণা করা হবে।

এ-বিষয়ে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করা যাবে।

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