Campaign scenes: Munshiganj

Triangular fight for 4 JS seats likely

By A K M Mohsin back from Munshiganj

the race there

In Munshiganj-2 con

former commerce and infor-

mation minister, is the BNP

nomination in Munshinganj-3

constituency where his main

challengers are AL candidate

Md Lutfar Rahman and JP

nominee Md Jamal Hussain.

There are eight other contes-

for the Munshiganj-4 seat

names of Abdul Hye (BNP)

Mohammed Mohiuddin (AL)

and Alhai Kalimullah (JP) are

During an extensive visit to

the constituencies this corre-

spondent observed that a poll-

fever has gripped the people.

Candidates and their workers

and supporters are doing tire-

less campaign to draw voters'

making door to-door cam

ands to meet voters fields.

paign, even making down crop

cold storage facilities in the

predominantly potato growing

district and protection of lands

from erosion by rivers are the

two main pledges made by the

Kamrangirchar in the city yesterday.

Hasina

From Page 1

the AL had fought a sanguinary

battle to wrest independence

from an unwilling hand. After

independence Bangabandhu's

government during its three

and a half years tenure rehabil-

itated the war-ravaged country.

train of cyclone, tidal bore,

famine, killing of peasants and

all kind of disasters, natural

and man made, she charged

Hasina said the BNP had let

loose a reign of terror in the

country by killing peasants and

workers only to perpetuate its

opment will not be possible

unless and until we can en-

sure political stability in the

country. Awami League stands

for peace and political stability

her party candidate Haji Mo-

hammad Selim for Dhaka-8 to

the vast multitudes who

thronged from far and near

with boats, banners, festoons

and placards inscribed with

welcome slogans to attend the

over by thana AL president

Abul Hasnat and was addressed

by Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin

Our Staff Correspondent

adds: Sheikh Hasina yesterday

offered fateha at the grave of

Moulana Hafejji Hujur in the

Hasina's marathon

electioneering

tour from today

Sheikh Hasina will begin a

hectic electioneering tour of

seven southeastern and five

The districts are Comilla,

Feni, Noakhali, Laxmipur, Chi-

ttagong, Bandarban, Ranga-

mati, Barisal, Jhalkati, Piroj-

pur, Madaripur and Faridpur,

said a press release yesterday.

paign for her party candidates,

Hasina will address election

projection meetings at Daud-

kandi, Chandina, Comilla Biswa

Road, Lalmai, Barura, Laksam;

Sonaimuri, Chatkhil, Ramgani,

Roypur, Laxmipur, Begumganj,

Maijdee and Feni today

The next day, the AL chief

will address rallies at Mir-

ersarai, Sitakundu, Chittagong.

Boalkhali, Anwara. Chandanish,

Bandarban, Chandraghona and

During the marathon cam-

southern districts today, re-

ports UNB.

Awami League President

The meeting was presided

meeting and listen to her.

and Reazuddin Ahmed.

Sheikh Hasina introduced

in the country.

She said economic devel-

The BNP brought in its

candidates in the campaign.

Some candidates were seen

Expansion of irrigation and

being heard frequently.

attention.

Of the nine candidates vying

All the four Jatiya Sangsad constituencies in Munshigani district are likely to witness triangular fights in the June 12 elections with some heavyweights in the race.

As many as 35 candidates of different political parties in cluding the three major parties - BNP, Awami League (AL) and Jatiya Party (JP) - are contesting for the four JS seats

Former deputy leader of the fifth parliament Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowhdury will face tough rivals like AL central leader Barrister K S Nabi and JP presidium member Shah Moazzem Hussain in the fray in Munshiganj-1. There are also six other candidates in

Shawkat blames Salman's men for Agargaon killing

BNP leader Lt Gen (Retd) Mir Shawkat Ali vesterday denied the allegation that he and his party were involved in the killing of Ward Commissioner Shahabuddin, reports UNB.

Shahabuddin, commissioner of ward number 41 and a City Awami League leader, was shot dead near his residence at West Agargaon in the city on Friday.

Shawkat, president of the City BNP and a candidate from Dhaka-9 constituency, blamed the Awami League for trying to capitalise on the killing to achieve its political ends.

Addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday evening, he said the accused in the murder case are activists of Samriddha Bangladesh Andolan of Salman F Rahman, a candidate from the same constituency.

Four armed terrorists. rounded up from a workshop behind the office of Shahabuddin on May 30, also belong to that organisation, he added.

The BNP leader alleged that a certain quarter is active to conceal the facts to save the real killers.

Mother kills

....cr son

KHAGRACHHARI, June 1: A 5-year-old boy was killed on Friday night, allegedly by her mother, at Gumti village in Matiranga thana of the district. reports UNB.

Police said Shahina Begum strangled her minor son Nurul Alam Mohsin at dead of night after her former husband Hashem Jahan Chowdhury wanted his son to be returned to him.

Shahina Begum recently got married to a co-villager Soleman, abandoning her former husband who lives in Pakistan.

Enquiry report From Page 1

vironment of a free and fair election".

They said, "we believe that the publication of the report of enquiry just seven days before the election will adversely influence it in some or other way. On the other hand if the enquiry is completed ten days later, heavens will not fall and no interest will be harmed." The signatories to the

statement are: Professor Anisuzzaman: AM Anisuzzaman, former adviser and secretary: Borhanuddin Ahmed, former secretary; Professor Muzaffar Ahmed, former adviser; Professor Salah Uddin Ahmed; Monzurul Karim, former secretary; Professor Serajul Islam Chow dhury; Professor Anisur Rahman: Kazi Fazlur Rahman. former adviser and secretary; Mujibul Haque, former cabinet secretary; Syed Nazmuddin Hashem, former minister and ambassador; Professor Mosharraf Hossain: Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui. former adviser & Vice Chancellor; M Syeduzzaman, former minister and secretary: Abul Mal Abdul Muhith, former minister and secretary.

Ctg violence

From Page

the supporters of BNP and JP that left another 10 people injured.

JP leader Shamsul Alam Master filed a case with Patiya thana accusing some BNP activists in this regard. In another incident on

Thursday at Rangunia, an election camp of the BNP candidate came under attack by the supporters of a rival party near Rangunia college, police

Local people, are apprehending further outbreak of violence in those areas if adequate security measures were not taken.

Sources said the activists of NDP in Raozan had recently split into two groups and one group joined BNP supporting Salauddin Qader Chowdhury and his younger brother Giasuddin Qader Chowdhury while another group joined Awami League supporting Fazle Karim, a former NDP leader, who is contesting from Raozan with AL ticket.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

(Sunday).

Rangunia.

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Govt seeks bids for Meghna ghat power project

Star Report

The government is seeking bids for development of the 300-450 Megawatt (MW) gasfired Meghna ghat Combined Cycle Power Project on buildown-operate-transfer (BOOT) basis, sources concerned said. A US company, K and M

Engineering and Consulting Corporation, has been appointed an adviser by the Power Development Board (PDB) to select a sponsor through international competitive bidding based on a request for Proposal (RFP) and negotiate the agreement for the Project. A UK company. Mott Ewbank Preece, has been appointed engineers, the sources added.

The Project, now being assisted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), is expected to receive 50 million US dollars in equity and long term concessional loan from the multilateral agency. Power evacuation facilities are proposed to be implemented with the ADB's financial assistance under the Bank's Ninth Power

riod is envisaged to be about 23 years, comprising a construction period of about three years and an operating period of 20 years.

To speed up implementation, a project company is being constituted by PDB, to which land and other rights for project development will be assigned.

Simple cycle cooperation of the project would commence by December 1998 while combined cycle operation would start by December 1999, the sources mentioned.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addressing an election projection meeting at

Leading economists yester-

day flayed major political par-

ties for bypassing some vital

national issues, including land

manifestos, reports UNB.

torate.

reforms, in their election

They, at a seminar, ob-

served parties having chances

to sweep appeared vague and

casual on many a crucial issues

in their deliberate attempt to

avert questions from the elec-

The Bangladesh Economic

Association (BEA) arranged the

seminar on Review of Eco-

nomic Manifesto of major po-

litical parties at the auditorium

of the Academy of Planning

and Development ahead of

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya,

Syed Ali Kabir, Dr Nasreen

Khandaker, Dr Binayak Sen

and Prof Moinul Hossain were

among those took part in dis-

cussion. Water Resources and

Flood Control Secretary Dr

Moshiur Rahman who is also

senior Vice-President of the

Professor Muzaffar Ahmed

general elections.

US Congressman arrives today

described as a part of a preelection tour by a team of the Washington-based NDI, political circles here are attaching much significance to his visit. He also came to Bangladesh in March this year to negotiate a settlement of the political stalemate in the country at that time.

Bill Richardson, a Republican who is also in the US House Committee on Intelligence and is known to be a close friend of President Bill

A news release of the NDI said vesterday that Richardson will be in Bangladesh as member of a small delegation organised by the National Democratic Institute of International Affairs (NDI) to assess the electoral environment.

Campaign may extend to the skies!

By Staff Correspondent Election campaign may now extend to the skies as an independent candidate is likely be allowed by the Election Commission (ÉC's) to drop leaflets from an aircraft, EC sources

from the Dhaka-6 constituen cy, has sought EC's permission to drop leaflets from the sky. If the candidate satisfied the EC as regards expenses, he would be given permission, the sources said.

The candidate, in his appli cation to the EC, said that the cost of dropping the leaflets would be Tk 10,000 and a light aircraft of the flying Club would be used for this, one

Terrorism threat to polls: AL

The Awami League yester day said acts of terrorism were posing a threat to the smooth holding of the next general

election, reports UNB. "If illegal arms are not recovered, the coming polls will be jeopardised," said SAMS Kibria, the chairman of Awami League's Election Steering

Briefing newsmen in the afternoon, Kibria charged a political party with conspiring to sabotage the June 12 election.

drive was continuing to recover illegal arms before the poils, the BNP was putting pressure on the caretaker government. This proves that the BNP is patronising the armed terrorists and trying to save them from the iron fist of law.

Election would not be fair it illegal arms were not recovered, the Awami League leader said and called upon the people to build up united resistance against the "conspiracy to tool the election."

EC requests CA to settle dispute

The Election Commission yesterday requested Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman to settle the dispute over public meetings convened by the Awami League and the BNP on the same day at Manik Mia Avenue in the city, reports

The Commission sent a let ter to this end to the Chief Adviser along with a report of Dhaka District Electoral Enquiry Committee on the matter, official sources said.

The two major parties had convened their meetings on June 10, the last day of electioneering for the June 12

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PHILIPS

Hearing on Salman's petition for stay of HC verdict today

By SC Correspondent

The hearing on Salman F Rahman's application for stay of the High Court Division's verdict setting aside the order of the Returning Officer ac cepting Salman's nomination paper will be held by the Appellate Division today.

Justice Latifur Rahman of the Appellate Division on May 30. upon an application. passed a provisional order staying the HC verdict till today and also fixed today for hearing the application in the full bench of the Appellate Division.

The division bench of the HC comprising Justice Qazi Shafiuddin and Justice Syed J R Modasser Hossain gave the verdict on Dr Kamal Hossain's writ petition setting aside the order of the Returning Officer accepting the nomination paper of Salman F Rahman and the order of the Election Commission expressing its inability to review the said order of acceptance in the plea of having no jurisdiction.

The HC also ordered the matter to be sent back to the EC on remand for its disposal in accordance with law.

The Midnight File

Chechen rebels capture 26 Russian troops

MOSCOW, June 1: Chechen rebels captured 26 Russian troops when they attacked federal units in the Nozhai Yurt district of southeastern Chechnya today in breach of a ceasefire. Russian official said. reports AFP.

Operation at DMCH

From Page

eration, the official added Meanwhile, the authorities have decided not to accept any more patient for operation at the GOTs. The operation of the patients now under treatment of the hospital will, however, be completed at the only GOT still in good condition.

DMCH officials also said they had a meeting yesterday with the officials responsible for renovation of the hospital According to them, the DMCH authorities have been given the assurance that necessary steps would be taken to solve the problems of the hospital. Sources said the renovation

work of the DMCH was started with a budget of Tk 55 crore of which Tk 7 crore was sanctioned for its maintenance. Funds allocated for the maintenance are now being stuck due to bureaucratic bottlenecks, observed the DMCH of-

Surgeons at the DMCH at a meeting last Thursday had decided not to conduct scheduled operations excepting the emergency cases, said some doctors. The Director of the hospital, attended the meet-

The OTs at the DMCH are in a deplorable condition for the last couple of months due to irregular supply of water and electricity.

Sources at the DMCH complained that the issue was extensively reported in the newspapers and the Director of the hospital also took up the matter with the government. But no positive steps were taken so far to resolve the crisis in the largest hospital of the country

The Daily Star had, earlier, reported in its issue on April 2 that the doctors were facing acute problems to conduct ma-

jor operations at the hospital as the supply of electricity was disrupted very frequently and the conditions of some OTs were not suitable for major operations.

AL, BNP clash

Abdul Alim Swapon and Jahangir Alim were admitted into the Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Alim was later shifted to a private clinic. Other injured were also admitted into private clinics. Alim was identified as an

activist of BNP.

During the clash the residence of Lalkhanbazar ward commissioner Badiul Alam, was ransacked by a group of unruly mob, police said. Commissioner Badiul Alam is the co-chairman of election conducting committee of AL candidate in Doublemooring constituency Dr Afsarul Amin and Chittagong city AL's education and cultural secretary.

Police said the trouble had begun at Lalkhanbazar area from 12 noon after the arrest of a BCL activist Abul Kalam Azad in connection with some specific cases filed with Doublemooring thana.

Witnesses said BNP supporters cooperated with police in arresting Azad, which angered the supporters of Awami

According to party sources League. As a result, immediately after the arrest a gunfight between the supporters of Awami League and BNP started. Some shops and the local BNP office

From Page 1

45, Rahim. 15, Dukhu Mia, 25 Golam Mostafa, 16, Mokbul Hossain, 16, Hazrat Ali, 20, Aurad Khan, 15, Obaidur Rahman, 20, Holud, 24, Upen, 40. Abu Bakkar Siddiqui, 30, Idris, 19, Gias, 18, Mokbul, 25 and Bopon, 16.

Of the injured, 31 in serious condition were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

The two buses were carrying the workers and supporters of Khurram Khan Chowdhury, the BNP candidate Mymensingh-9 constituency. They were to attend a workers' rally at Chowdhury's village home at Moazzempur in Nandail. On hearing the tragic news

Khurram Khan Chowdhury got fainted. He was sent to Dhaka for treatment.

Khaleda's polls campaign tour BNP Chairperson Begum

Star photo

Khaleda Zia will leave Dhaka today for the north-eastern parts of the country on a 3-day electioneering for the June 12 parliamentary polls, reports

Begum Zia will address a series of public meetings in the districts of Netrakona, Brahmanbaria, Habigani, Moulvibaza and Sylhet.

15 electrocuted

At one stage, an unruly mob attacked the residence of ward commissioner Badiul Alam who was not inside the house at that time, police and witnesses

were ransacked, police and

blasted during the clash.

residents, witnesses said.

spreading panic among the

A series of cocktails were

witnesses said.

Over one hundred police rushed to the spot and chased the clashing groups.

Both BNP and Awami League blamed each other for

President shocked

instigating the clash.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday condoled the death of 26 passengers in a tragic road accident that occurred on Dhaka-Aricha highway yesterday under Ghior thana of Manikganj district. reports BSS.

30 killed, 60 hurt

Das (45) of village Baratia under Ghior thana. Proshenjit (8 months) of village Dighi under Manikgani thana and Siddique of Gaibandha district. Other 14 victims could not be

Hearing the hue and cry.

Firebrigade personnel and police, with the help of the local people took out the injured passengers from the damaged

and Police Superintendent S M Khorshed Alam visited the spot of the accident and the injured persons at Manikgani and Uthuli hospitals. Thousands of people gath-

ered at the hospitals in the evening after the news of the disaster spread

Bodies of 25 victims were lying at the Manikgani Hospital morgue in the evening. Only 3 bodies were handed over to

Those under treatment at Manikgani hospital now are Asgar (45), village Tetulia, dis-

Volanath (35), village Dighi Manikgani; Proshanto Kumar (30), Kaliganj, Jhenidah; Chand Mia (26), Daulatpur, Manikganj; Mia Chand (60). Monohardi; Kubbat (25). Manikpur, Pabna; Rico (18) Tepra, Shibalaya; Arfan Khan (45), Vadra, Nagarpur, Tangail, Rabiul (18), Madhabpur, Gaibandha, Makbul (24) Gourigram, Shathia, Pabna; Ruhul Amin (18), Mohadebpur, Shibalaya: Mannan (20), Shampur, Daulatpur; Shihab (20), Saidabad, Shibalaya, Abul Kalam (20) Malanci, Pangsha, Rajbari, Janab Ali (25), Barangail, Shibalaya, A Rashid (22). Beotha, Manikganj, She-

A case has been registered in this connection. The where-Police suspected both of them people said they saw some persons leaving the spot with minor injuries soon after the

Association presided over the Speakers pointed out vari-Deve Gowda

From Page 1 former prime minister refused

to take up the mantle. Twelve cabinet ministers and eight ministers of state were sworn in along with Deve Gowda, an unassuming politician who has vowed to provide a stable administration after the April-May elections produced a fractured parliament.

The new two-tier cabinet is a mixture of veterans and firsttimers, and draws its members mainly from the populous north and the sprawling south from where the United Front draws its strength.

The 12 cabinet ministers sworn in today were Balwant Singh Ramoowalia, CM Ibrahim, Devendra Prassad Yadav, IK Gujral, M Arunachalem, Mulayam Singh Yadav, Murasoil Maran, Palanippan Chidambaram, Ram Vilas Paswan, SR Bommai, TG Venkataraman and Yaaram Naidu.

The ministers of state were Beni Prasad Verma, Chandradev Prassad Verma, Jainarain Nishad Kanti Singh, Mohammed Taslimuddin, S Venugoppalachari, Saleem Sherwani and V Venkateswaralu.

Their portfolios were not disclosed and officials said the announcement was expected later today or on Sunday. The swearing in ceremony was televised live from the downtown presidential palace

and attended by four former

prime ministers.

Prof Moinul Hossain of Chittagong University said although all parties pledged to develop the agriculture sector, they (political parties) were noncommittal about necessary policy supports, including subsidies and land reforms, to achieve that goal

Major parties avoid vital issues

in polls manifestos: economists

ous paradoxes, inconsistencies

and lack of commitment in

election pledges of the major

political parties.

Star photo

Parties appear not a at all serious about agriculture. BNP did not speak a word on land reforms. Awami League is also noncommittal. But land reform is the basic to salvage agriculture from stagnation," he said.

Prof Muzaffar Ahmed said political parties set aim to establish 'self-reliant' economy but lacked clear-cut strategy of attaining their objectives.

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya was critical of the political parties for totally ignoring the vital issue of resource availability when making ambitious pledges. "The issue of taxation is totally left out when taxation policy determines poll results in many countries."

Dr Bhattacharya also criticised parties for avoiding 'time dimension' in election manifestos which, he said, could have otherwise established better accountability. "Their priorities are not clear. They have not spelt out what they are going to do in the short term and in the medium or long term.

Some speakers expressed concern at the overwhelming presence of elite and businessman candidates in the electoral race which, they cautioned, might further lessen the voice of general mass and the farmers in the parliament.

"The next parliament seems to be a businessmen's parliament. About 80 per cent candidates are businessmen ... Representation of farmers is waning," said Prof Muzaffar

Ahmed Added Dr Binayak Sen: "Elite control of political process is clearly rising, many are suspicious whether the next parliament will be an elite club like Dhaka Club.

Speakers also vented concern at the dominance of loan defaulters in the electoral race.

Al mourning procession

From Page 1 some unidentified youths at West Agargaon in the city Friday afternoon.

Addressing the mourning rally at the Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday AL central leader and Dhaka City Mayor BUP opinion poll

43 pc against president's unilateral action

By Staff Correspondent An opinion poll conducted by Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) found that 43 per cent of the respondents felt that the President should have consulted the caretaker government before taking any action against the Chief of Staff of the army and other senior officers.

The poll was conducted among 1,449 respondents in 13 Jatiya Sangsad constituencies in Dhaka. Of the respondents, 16 per cent felt that the President should not have acted at all on

the issue while 23 per cent

supported the President's ac-

tion and 18 per cent offered

no comment.

free and fair election could not be held without trial of the killers of Shahabuddin and Haji Alim Haji Abdul Alim, another city AL leader and Ward

Commissioner of the DCC, was

Mohammad Hanif said that a

killed by some armed youths in February this year in the city's Lalbagh area. "Don't go for revenge. People will definitely reply to these acts of terrorism through ballots in the June 12 polls," Hanif told the rally.

Hanif demanded of the

caretaker government to arrest and try the killers. AL presidium members Abdur Razzak, Dr Mohammad Selim, city AL general secretary Mofazzal Hussain Chowdhury Maya, two AL nominees in the city Saber Hussain Chowdhury and Mokbul Hussain also addressed the rally. After the rally, the body of

big procession to the Mirpur Freedom Fighters' Graveyard in the evening for burial. Led by the AL leaders, the procession paraded some thoroughfares of the city. Earlier, namaj-e-janaza of Shahabuddin was held twice -

Shahabuddin was carried in a

at Agargaon at 2 pm and Pantha Path at 4 pm. Meanwhile, Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday visited the Agargaon residence of ASM Shahabuddin.

who are unable to earn a living and channel credit to the educated jobless and women for generating self-employment

She pledged that the farm ers would be provided with adequate assistance, including agricultural credit and agri-inputs at cheaper rates, so that they could produce more to make the country self-reliant in food.

These are a few pro grammes of the BNP which during its five-year rule. brought about a radical change in the lifestyle of commonman. If any other party is voted to power, they won't implement these programmes, she said calling upon the people to vote

During her day-long tour of the surrounding thanas of the capital, Begum Zia addressed a number of projection meetings at Savar, Kaliakoir, Konapara bus-stand in Gazipur, Pubail and Tongi.

CEC unhappy From Page 1

groups in the meeting at the auditorium of Mongla port at Khalishpur, the CEC said there remained question-marks in public mind about all the elections held in the country excepting the one held in 1991.

"That is why," he told the

meeting, "to make this year's

election a free and fair one is

the responsibility of all of us.' There is no alternative to fair election for giving the democracy an institutional shape. Khulna divisional administration organised the meeting with Divisional Commissioner

K M Nazmul Alam Siddiqui in

the chair. Five arrested

for each. The motive behind the

prayed for seven days remand

official said, adding that there might be political motives. Detective police yesterday took over the investigation of the case, police sources said. Shahabuddin, Information Secretary of the city AL, was

shot dead by a group of young

men at Agargaon Friday after-

Mohammadpur police recovered a foreign made revolver with five bullets from the possession of arrested Salimuddin, police said. A police official said last night they were trying to recover the firearms used in the killing. Meanwhile, Shahabuddin's

noon.

wife Rokeya filed a case with Mohammadpur thana in this connection, police said.

From Page 1

killing could not be ascertained as yet, a senior police

trict Rangpur; Chunnumia, Raibari; Milton (25), Abdul Hye (28). Mohammadpur, Rajbari;

unidentified.

the villagers rushed to the spot and began rescue operation.

bus and rushed them to hospi-Deputy Commissioner of Manikgani Md Abdur Razzaque,

their relatives.

fali (35), Butuni, Shibalaya; Premananda (40), Pabna, Sufia (50). Rajbari.

with the Ghior police station abouts of the bus driver and helper could not be known. were killed while some local accident.

stituency, six candidates are contesting. Of them, Nazrul Islam Khan Badal of AL, Mizanur Rahman Sinha of BNP and Alhaj Abul Bashar of JP are prominent. Sinha, an industrialist, got BNP ticket for the first time. Wing Commander (retd) Hamiddullah Khan, who was aspirant for the BNP tieket for this seat, left BNP and joined Awami League recently. Shamsul Islam Khan, a

The total cooperation pe-

By Staff Correspondent Influential US Congressman Bill Richardson is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka today on a two-

day visit. Although his trip is being

Tanvir Haidar, a candidate

Committee.

He said at a time when the

he added.

over June 10 meet



BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia addressing an election meeting at Savar yesterday.

Khaleda From Page 1

for 'sheaf of paddy, the election symbol of the BNP.