

Inside Today

Article

Elections in Israel

No Dove Nor Hawk in leadership

Column: The Horizon

This Week

by Arshad-uz Zaman

Page 4

Live From the Internet

Political conversations; Reply to Daily Star reader's response; Patriotic zeal: We should be loyal to democracy and E-

Mail in Bengali

Page 7

International

NLD may face ban if it drafts alternative constitution

Netanyahu govt plans to remove most forces from Hebron

Page 5

Business

ICDDR, B plans \$10m fund by 2000

Financial institution collapses in Japan

Pages 6, 7

DSE MARKET

DSE price index 830.31 (1.07%)  
Market capital Tk 5977.30 cr  
Transactions in volume 136760  
Transactions in value Tk 3.53 cr

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Agony of Eve  
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Sechchasebok League rally

The Bangladesh Sechchasebok League will hold a rally at Marik Mia Avenue on June 9 at 3 pm, a Sechchasebok League press release said. Convener of the Sechchasebok League Alhaj Moqbul Hossain will preside over the rally which will be addressed by national leaders, reports BSS.

40000 troops to be deployed : CA

# Nothing going to jolt chances of fair polls

Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman has categorically dismissed apprehensions that troubles might affect the coming parliamentary elections, reports UNB.

The caretaker government would 'nip in the bud' any trouble threatening to erupt either before or after the elections, the Chief Adviser said.

He was talking to members of the Overseas Correspondents Association in Bangladesh (OCAB) at his office yesterday morning.

"All political parties are promise bound to cooperate with my government in holding a free and fair poll," Habib said.

About neutrality of the caretaker administration, the Chief Adviser said that neutrality of his government had been questioned by all parties. "There is legal mechanism and an aggrieved person should

follow the rules", he said. He informed that some 40,000 armed forces personnel would be deployed along with law enforcing agencies to maintain law and order during the June 12 election.

About 4,000 unauthorised arms were recovered and 40,000 illegal arms possessors and trouble makers were arrested for peaceful holding of the polls, he said.

The whole country is now set for the election, the Chief Adviser said and warned that he would 'nip in the bud' any trouble threatening to erupt either before or after the elections, he said.

All executives starting from the President down to a government functionary to the lowest level are assisting the government for conducting the polls, he said.

The Election Commission, the Chief Adviser said, is work-

ing with a group of dedicated people to hold a free, fair and neutral election.

Regarding adverse impact on the election of the report of an enquiry committee, probing into the May 20 incident in the army, which press reports indicated might be placed before the President today, Habib hoped that "nothing of that sort which would jolt chances of a fair poll would happen."

The incidents are still under enquiry and it would be a pre-committal report, he said and hoped that appeal of the former Army Chief's mother for a fair trial will be considered. "She has done what a mother is expected to do", he said.

Lt Gen (Retd) A. S. M. Nasim's mother on Monday called for a high powered judicial committee headed by a Supreme Court judge to probe

See Page 12 Col 1

# Economy will be self-reliant within 5 years: Hasina

From Our Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 4: Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina today said if voted to power, her party will make the national economy self-reliant.

Awami League had re-built the war-ravaged economy in three and a half years after independence and if we get a chance, we will make the economy self-reliant within five years," Hasina said at a huge public meeting at the Bangabandhu Uddyan in the town.

"Nothing has been done for the farmers, workers, students and the commonman in the last 21 years," she claimed. Those who were in power only made promises but in reality revised fertiliser prices, closed down mills and factories and enhanced taxes," the AL chief said.

Hasina reiterated her party's pledge to give subsidy to agriculture, make female education free up to HSC level, remove illiteracy and develop the economy by adopting appropriate investment-friendly policies. Local bodies will be strengthened and run by people's representative, she said adding this will help solve local problems.

AL to observe 'anti-terrorism day' today

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League will observe anti-terrorism day today throughout the country to protest the killing of city ward commissioner ASM Shahabuddin and to press demands for recovery of unauthorized arms and nabbing terrorists for smooth holding of the June 12 general elections.

As part of the day's programme, AL would stage a demonstration at Khetra Bagan area in the city at 10 am and later lead a procession towards

See Page 12 Col 4

the AL chief introduced the party candidates including

southern districts the Awami League chief addressed rallies and public meetings at Babuganj, Barisal, Jhalakati, Rajapur, Kathalia, Bhandaria and Pirojpur.

Heavy downpour delayed Hasina's arrival at most of her meetings. But she sought apology for her unwilling delay due to bad weather. "You have bound me by a debt of gratitude to you. I'll certainly pay back your love, if necessary I'll sacrifice my life to bring peace to you," she said.

She claimed that the percentage of people living under the poverty line rose to 86 per cent from 40 per cent after 1975. The number of unemployed people jumped to 50 per cent from 15 per cent while landless to 70 per cent from 39 per cent, she added.

The ISPR said statements by different quarters, news and write-ups are being published these days on the recent undesirable happenings in the army and the Court of Enquiry formed to probe the matter.

Many of the statements and articles on the matter might create misunderstanding in the public mind, ISPR said, adding it is not unnatural that these might also have impact on the army.

The ISPR statement said in the interest of national independence and sovereignty, all responsible citizens should refrain from making any statement or comment which might create division or disunity in the army which is the symbol of our national unity.

The ISPR said no patriotic citizens could accept any activity of any quarter against national security, sovereignty and constitutional structure.

Nobody should have any objection to legal actions against anyone violating rules and

See Page 12 Col 4

# Ban on carrying licensed arms

The government has banned carrying licensed arms by their owners for a week from June 8 as a measure to prevent violence and ensure peace during the coming general election, reports UNB.

The June 8-14 restriction was imposed under Section 17 (Ka) of the Arms Act 1878, said an official announcement yesterday.

It said arms of the violators of the prohibition would be seized and stern action be taken against them as per

See Page 12 Col 4

PPRC opinion poll

# 68pc confident that polls will be fair

By Staff Correspondent

Sixty-eight per cent of respondents in a countrywide opinion poll have expressed their overwhelming confidence that the June 12 parliamentary election would be fair and neutral.

Only six per cent of them feared that the polls would not be fair and neutral while 26 per cent saw a 50 per cent possibility of fair and neutral election.

The survey released yesterday was conducted by the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC). It covered a sample size of 6,607 persons selected at random from 64 constituencies of rural, urban and metropolitan areas, spreading across 20 greater districts.

Compared to the 1991 election, the BNP would lose 5.4 per cent while the Awami

See Page 12 Col 3

আপনার পরিবারের যাঁরা ভোট সকলকে ভোট দিতে উৎসাহিত করুন।

বাংলাদেশ নির্বাচন কমিশন



ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN A DIFFERENT FORM: Abdur Rahman Bayati singing campaign songs for a candidate in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

# People want to see the BNP back in power: Khaleda

COMILLA, June 4: Former

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is hopeful about her party's return to power in a resounding victory in June 12 election as people like the BNP for its commitment to democracy and development, reports BSS.

The ISPR said statements by different quarters, news and write-ups are being published these days on the recent undesirable happenings in the army and the Court of Enquiry formed to probe the matter.

Many of the statements and articles on the matter might create misunderstanding in the public mind, ISPR said, adding it is not unnatural that these might also have impact on the army.

"Inshallah, BNP will again go to power in the June 12 parliamentary polls. There is now an unprecedented wave in favour of Sheaf of Paddy throughout the country," Begum Zia said.

During her day-night electioneering in Comilla and Chandpur districts, the BNP chairperson told the people that only her party was committed to protecting the country's independence and sovereignty and called upon them to help the BNP perform that task by giving mandate in the coming election.

Begum Zia said vested quarters had attempted to

jeopardise democracy in the country, but her party with the help of people foiled the bid.

"We have not given in to any conspiracy, we are going ahead upholding the banner of democracy by smashing all machinations," she said.

The former Prime Minister said many people were now moving door to door with money to buy votes. But money will not work at all because the

EC starts sending ballot papers to districts today

During her day-night electioneering in Comilla and Chandpur districts, the BNP chairperson told the people that only her party was committed to protecting the country's independence and sovereignty and called upon them to help the BNP perform that task by giving mandate in the coming election.

According to EC officials, the ballot papers will be sent to 29 districts today, 26 districts tomorrow and nine others, including Dhaka, on Friday.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission warned 84 candidates for violating the election code of conduct following recommendations from the district electoral enquiry committee.

See Page 12 Col 5

moneyed men only come to common men only when there is election. "The people are now very much conscious. None can be elected by spending huge money."

The former Prime Minister said the BNP, and only the BNP could bring a radical change in the lot of commoners, including farmers, workers, government employees, elders, youths, unemployed, women and students, as her party had already initiated a massive pro-people development programmes in the past five years delivering goods to all strata of people.

Begum Zia yesterday addressed meetings at Buri-Chang, Devidar, Companiganj, Bagmara, Foyez Ganj, Laksham, Payalgacha, Kachua, and Shahastri in Comilla district and Matlab, Faridganj and Chandpur Sadar in Chandpur district.

Earlier, on Monday night and early Tuesday, Begum Zia addressed meetings at Doy-Murir Bazar, Balaganj, Bishwanath, Haripur, Jaintia, Jajpur Bazar, Goal Bazar, Shershupur in Sylhet district and Natun Bazar in Habiganj district.

# JP's notice demanding justice served

The Jatiya Party has served a notice demanding justice on the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and secretaries of home and information ministries to temporarily release its jailed party chief HM Ershad and allow him to address through television for election purposes, reports BSS.

We served the notice Monday citing legal provisions

See Page 12 Col 7

# Shahabuddin murder Sallu Remanded again

By Staff Correspondent

Salimuddin alias Sallu, one of the 10 accused named in the FIR of Shahabuddin killing, was produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday and was placed on police remand for another two days.

See Page 12 Col 5

# A day-long visit to Dhaka-8 All seek vote with 'sweet words'

By Reaz Ahmad

With only one week left for the parliamentary polls, electioneering in Dhaka-8 constituency of the city, Lalbagh thana area has reached a new height.

Candidates from different political parties were seen doing hectic campaigns to win the hearts of voters.

Nine candidates are vying from the constituency. Awami League nominee Haji Md Selim and BNP nominee Selimur Abul Hasnat are likely to have a tough fight here.

Two other powerful candidates from the Dhaka-8 seat are Saifuddin Ahmed Milon of Jatiya Party and Sabir Ahmed of Jamaat-e-Islami. The others in the race are AH Shahabuddin of NAP, Zakir Hussain Khan of Zaker Party, Kamal Naser Chowdhury of Islami

correspondent during talks with many educated voters in the locality yesterday. They said all candidates were speaking 'sweet words' to them but some of the candidates were not even committed to their respective party ideologies.

In this regard, they referred to the change of party affiliations by the candidates of two major parties and said this was not good for the growth of healthy democracy.

Voters in the area are giving second thoughts before deciding whom to vote for as none of the two candidates from the two major parties contested from this constituency in the past. In the 1991 elections, BNP nominee Lt Gen (rtd) Mir Shakir Ali had defeated AL

Meanwhile, feelings of frustration were noticed by this

See Page 12 Col 4