



The Ramna thana Awami League brought out an election procession in the Dhaka-10 constituency of the city yesterday.

— Star photo

### Biswas tells foreign observers

## Election will be more transparent than before

The caretaker government and the Election Commission have taken all possible measures for holding the forthcoming election in an impartial and credible manner to make it a model, reports UNB.

This was stated yesterday by President Abdur Rahman Biswas while talking to Commonwealth and SAARC observer groups who are here to oversee the June 12 general election of Bangladesh.

President Biswas hoped that the election this year would be more transparent than before. "It can act as a model for other countries if the efforts are successful," he told the poll observers.

Officials said a 4-member Commonwealth election observer group led by Tan Sri Dr Mohammad Ghazali Shafie called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban.

Welcoming them, President Biswas observed that there was great enthusiasm among the people for the forthcoming elections, which he said, would be held in a free, fair and impartial manner.

President Biswas said the caretaker government having constitutional strength and footings had taken great care to ensure congenial atmosphere.

### Ershad

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concerned within 15 days of the announcement of the election schedule, the sources said.

Ershad was registered as a voter in Rangpur, according to JP sources. When contacted the Deputy Commissioner of Rangpur, who is also the RO of the area where Ershad was registered as voter, said he did not receive any request for Ershad's postal ballot.

## CEC: Any irregularity

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tion between the field level, officials, the district control room and the EC, wireless sets of the law-enforcing authorities would be used.

Abu Hena said that the EC was now fully prepared and poised for holding a free, fair and impartial election. "Time has really come when I can say, with confidence, we will be able to present the nation with a free, impartial and transparent election," Abu Hena said.

The reason I am saying this is, we have been able to create a congenial climate which is essential for holding a free and fair election. It is very heartening that by and large, the political parties have been behaving fairly responsibly. Abu Hena said. "They are abiding by the election code of conduct."

The CEC detailed the measures taken to ensure fairness in the June 12 elections and expressed his satisfaction at the "visible significant improvement" of law and order in the country over the last two months.

Although the situation appears quite encouraging for the polling, the EC would be fully prepared for the "worst scenario," he said adding that police and Ansars would be deployed in each of the 25,957 polling centres.

"We have categorised about 9,000 polling centres as most vulnerable, 8,000 as vulnerable and the rest 10,957 centres as normal," the CEC said. In each centre of the first two categories there would be two armed policemen, an armed Ansar and ten Ansars with lathis. In a "normal" polling centre, one armed policeman, one armed Ansar and ten Ansars with lathis will be deployed. The "vulnerable" centres would also be covered by mobile teams of police and BDR.

Moreover, police, BDR and the army would be deployed at strategic points in the vicinity of the polling centres. Every unit of the army would be accompanied by a magistrate.

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### Khaleda goes to Ctg today

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 8: BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda is scheduled to visit different constituencies of the district for the third time tomorrow.

She will arrive here in the morning and address public meetings at Katgarh Bazar in Doublemooring thana and New Market crossing in Kotwali thana in the port city.

### JP to file writ today seeking Ershad's release

The Jatiya Party yesterday alleged that a deep-rooted conspiracy is being hatched to prevent the party from getting majority in the Wednesday's parliamentary elections, reports UNB.

Briefing newsmen, JP Election Conducting Committee chairman Saeed Tarek said the caretaker government was blocking the way of free and fair election by not releasing Ershad on parole to record his television speech.

He told the press that a writ petition will be filed today in the High Court, seeking Ershad's release before the polls.

### 1500 'chocolate' bombs recovered

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, June 8: Kotwali thana police recovered 1,500 "chocolate" bombs from two young men at the Rupsha ferry ghari here today.

The police said, the two men — Rezaul Karim and Saiduzzaman — were going to Gopalganj after buying the bombs from Khulna Bazar.

A case has been filed with Kotwali thana.

### JCD worker

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Police lobbed 5 rounds of tear gas shells to bring the situation under control. Later police also fired 4 rounds of bullets. The protesters then dispersed but JCD worker Anwar Hossain was seen lying on the road. He was taken to hospital with bullet injuries in his head. He died shortly afterwards.

The body was sent to the Bholi Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

The BNP held a meeting in front of the Town Hall this afternoon to protest the killing.

Meanwhile, the BNP activists detained a prison van tonight. The prison van was released after the release of the two arrested BNP leaders on bail.

Former BNP MP Mossaraf Hossain Sahajahan has condemned the killing and said AL is responsible for this. Former AL MP Tofael Ahmed has denied the allegation.

The Police Super said, the death of the JCD activist was mysterious.

### 'Fake' cassette seized

JHALAKATHI, June 8: An audio cassette with the recorded voice of an unknown woman imitating Awami League president Sheikh Hasina was seized by police in the town on Friday night, reports UNB.

The cassette reportedly contains remarks like "Rakkhi Bahini will be re-established if Awami League goes to power" and "the friendship treaty with India will be renewed."

Acting on a tip, Sadar thana police recovered the cassette from a mike shop in Bhabatani area of the town, allegedly owned by a BNP supporter, Abdul Barek, who was absconding.

Police made a GD entry in this connection.

### People crossing

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under the normal rules. Bangladesh Rifles has been discharging its security duty along the border constantly so that none can enter Bangladesh illegally. Besides, directive have been issued to Bangladesh rifles to strengthen vigil on the border to stop illegal entry into Bangladesh on the eve of the election, it added.

The government called upon the people to report to the concerned district or thana officials about any definite information on the illegal entry of fake voters.

### Japanese

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During their stay, the team members will observe polling and vote counting, and pay a courtesy call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas. They will also meet Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman and other prominent political leaders.

About the Taka three lakh ceiling set for a candidate's election expenses and its alleged widespread violation, the CEC said that he would have sought amendment to the law if he had time in his hand.

But as per law every candidate is required to send his source of election expenses within seven days after the date of withdrawal, he said adding that the candidate is also required, by law, to submit a statement on his expenses within fifteen days after the polls.

### 69-hour

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Election Commission. Its commercial service will be transmitted through the channel 'Ga' instead of channel 'Kha' on 10 kw microwave. No commercial service will be transmitted from any other regional station.

Besides, different kinds of reports on election-related affairs will be broadcast in between the election bulletins.

Attractive songs and plays will be presented during the nonstop radio broadcasting.



The Jatiyatabdhi Sramik Dal brought out a procession in the city yesterday to drum up support for BNP candidates.

— Star photo

### Hasina's polls campaign tour

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina will address public meetings at different places of Natore, Naogaon and Rajshahi districts today, reports UNB.

The AL chief will fly to Ishurdi and then address election rallies at Lalpur, Natore, Singra, Naogaon and Rajshahi.

She will return to the capital this afternoon, said a party press release.

### Hasina

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money and resources through corruption. She urged the people to give reply to this through ballots.

Explaining her party programmes for Sylhet division, she said that if voted to power, her party would try to improve the lot of the labourers of the tea gardens and fix wages for them in keeping with the prices of essentials. Flood problems in Sylhet region would be solved through proper planning, she said.

The AL chief claimed that local AL MPs in the 5th parliament had submitted flood control plans to the Parliamentary Committee on Water Resource and Flood Control. But the then Finance Minister Md Saifur Rahman, who is also the local nominee of BNP refused to allocate funds to implement the flood control plans in Sylhet region.

She also introduced her party nominees Md Shahab Uddin (M'bzar-1), Sultan Md Monsur Ahmed (M'bzar-2) and Azizur Rahman (M'bzar-3).

### Violation of code of conduct

## AL complains to EC against Biswas

The Awami League yesterday urged the Election Commission not to give election duty to those teachers who had met with the President recently, reports UNB.

"We have conveyed to the EC our apprehension that the President may influence them ... they should be relieved of their election duty for the sake of free and fair election," AL leader S A M S Kibria told newsmen in the city yesterday afternoon.

A 3-member AL delegation met Election Commissioner Abdur Rahman earlier in the day and lodged a written complaint accusing President Abdur Rahman Biswas of violating election code of conduct by pledging to upgrade Barisal BM University College to a fully-fledged university.

Referring to much talked

### Feroze Rashid won't contest elections

By Staff Correspondent

Kazi Feroze Rashid, a Jatiya Party (JP) candidate for Dhaka-9 and Gopalganj-3, announced the withdrawal of his candidature from both seats yesterday his spokesman said.

Earlier Kazi had announced the withdrawal of his candidature from Dhaka-9 constituency on Friday night.

about cassettes regarding recent incident in the army, he alleged that those 'secret' audio cassettes were being played in election camps of BNP. Playing of such cassettes are also contrary to the election code of conduct.

The Awami League leader alleged that BNP activists had attacked the house of Tofael Ahmed in Bhalia yesterday, leaving some seven BCL members injured.

Replies to a question, Kibria said reported influx of people from India was a pre-planned propaganda against Awami League. He said BDR are in the border to stop illegal intruders.

Khaleda

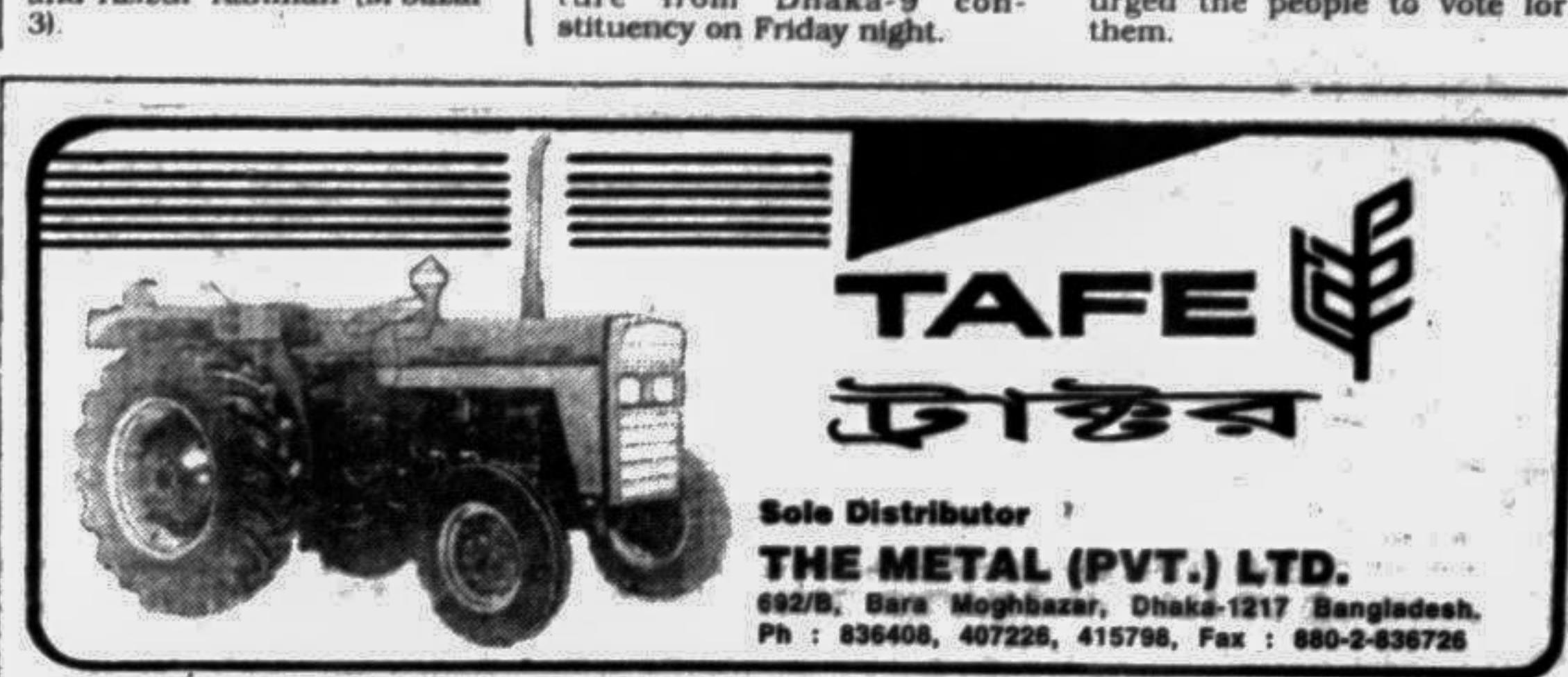
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The BNP chief addressed nine public meetings from 9 pm to 4 am on Friday at different places in Dinajpur, Naogaon and Jaipurhat districts.

Her meetings at night at Biror, Parbatipur, Birampur, Hilli, Panchbibi, Jaipurhat, Akkelpur, Bhabanipur were largely attended.

Begum Zia today (Saturday) addressed rallies at Naogaon, Atria, Patnitola, Manda, Mohanpur, Naohata and Rajshahi during her day-long hectic electioneering.

She introduced her party candidates at the meetings and urged the people to vote for them.



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### Equipment

From Page 1

be embarrassing for both our governments were to become widely known that British taxpayers had funded an important piece of equipment which, through neglect, had fallen into disuse. We would hope the CAA places priority on the proper use of this equipment ... we shall be ready to consider a request for assistance from technical assistance funds."

But the CAA started dilly-dallying over the question of paying Customs Duty (CD)/VAT for the spare parts to be imported for the repair work.

According to rules, the beneficiary of the fund is supposed to bear the cost of CD and VAT for the spare parts that will be required for refurbishing the rotten timber decking on the hover platform of the DARS.

Although this was explicitly mentioned in the GOB rules, the CAA, after more than two years, had sent a letter to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism in November, 1995, asking for clearance for CD/VAT.

The Ministry made further dilly-dally on the issue and finally, on May 25, 1996, gave its clearance about payment of CD/VAT which was viewed as a "redundant exercise" by some officials in the CAA, the sources said.

Officials of the CAA told this correspondent that if the authority did not take immediate steps to avail this fund for repair of the DARS the fund might be withdrawn.

The agent who acts on behalf of the British government in handling all aid programmes wrote to the Chairman of the CAA in November, 1995. "Failure to take speedy steps for repair of the DARS may result in the British Government's withdrawal of the offer to fund the refurbishing." "The costs would then fall on the CAA," it had said.

The Daily Star contacted the public relations department of the CAA to know the official position on the cause of delay of the repair work. But it did not make any comment.

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