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The BNP brought out a procession in the city yesterday marking its founding anniversary.

—Star photo

Ruling AL resorting to terrorism ahead of by-polls: BNP

BNP Secretary General Abdur Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday warned that the ruling party would not be spared if it continued repression on the BNP leaders and workers, reports UNB.

The ruling Awami League has resorted to torture and repression on BNP men and unleashed terrorism across the country ahead of the by-elections, he told a rally in front of the BNP central office in the afternoon.

After the rally, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) brought out a procession from the party office, marking its 18th founding anniversary. The procession terminated in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

Bhuiyan said if the coming by-elections are not free and fair, the BNP will have to decide whether it will participate in any further election under the Awami League government.

With the September 5 by-elections ahead, the Awami League intensified its repre-

Ensure fair polls, BNP urges CEC

A delegation of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) recalled some untoward incidents and complaints from the constituencies and called upon the Election Commission to keep the law and order under control during the by-elections on Thursday, reports UNB.

The Awami terrorists even did not hesitate to set fire to the dais from where BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia was to address a by-election campaign meeting in Laxmipur, the BNP secretary general said.

He added that the two-month-old government has already surpassed the record of torture by the then Pakistani autocratic government.

Bhuiyan said the ruling party is not allowing the BNP to say anything in Parliament and placed distorted information in the House to undermine the Opposition.

After the BNP procession terminated in front of the Press Club, another rally was held there. It was addressed by Mirza Abbas, Sadeque Hossain Khoka MP, Rezabuddowla Chowdhury and Fazlul Haq Milon.

The CEC assured the delegation that the Election Commission was a constitutional body committed to the nation to holding elections in a free, fair and impartial manner.

He said complaints about irregularities would be investigated and instructions have been issued to the local administrations to shun undue influence and conduct elections impartially.

Instructions have also been issued to the law enforcing agencies to take all necessary steps to ensure security of the voters and maintain congenial atmosphere in the polling centres.

The CEC said legal steps would be taken against the officials for negligence and lapses in discharging their duties.

Abu Hena, however, said the elections could be held free of terrorist activities and peacefully if the political parties extended sincere cooperation.

Stabbed

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tor bikes attacked Ripon, son of one Sheikh Md Kader of Alekanda, Barisal, when he was passing the area. The reason behind the attack could not be known immediately.

Ramna police said, they did not receive any complaint in this regard last night.

In another incident, Zahedul Islam, 21, a BA student of Kavi Nazrul Islam College was stabbed allegedly by some activists of Jatiya Chhatra Samaj in the college premises yesterday afternoon.

Zahedul, the joint secretary of the college unit of pro-Awami League Chhatra League, was admitted to the DMCH with injuries in his belly, hospital sources said.

She said special steps are being taken to build up necessary infrastructures, including power generation and communication, to support the investment.

She said the government has already approved 54 development projects with involvement of Tk 4,808 crore in past 10 weeks.

The government has also doubled the rationing quota to 40 per cent and casualty allowance to one lakh taka for the members of police.

Reiterating her government's promise for decentralisation of the administration, Hasina said union parishad, upazilla and zilla parishad will be run by elected representatives to ensure people's participation in the government and the development process.

She said a committee was formed to recommend measures for decentralisation of the administration. A Bill on this will be moved in the next session.

The prime minister made it clear that the administration, which was heavily politicised by the BNP government in last five years, will be allowed to work independently.

About promotion of the civil and military officials. The Prime Minister assured that the elevation will be made on the basis of efficiency and eligibility.

For the Bogra-6 seat, vacated by BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia, four candidates will be participating in the by-election. The constituency covers Bogra Sadar thana excluding three unions. There are 2,97,059 voters in the constituency where polling will be held in 111 centres. The contestants are

Sangsad prorogued

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MPs obstructed him to speak by shouting at the top of their voice.

The Treasury bench members refused to hear him on the ground that he had reportedly used abusive words against the Chair a few days back while protesting against alleged partisan attitude of Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury. The Speaker is scheduled to pass a ruling on the incident in the next session.

Akhtaruzzaman continued for a minute, but his voice drowned in the shoutings by AL members. At this stage, the Deputy Speaker asked him to stop saying, "Please sit down, the House does not want to hear you." He then gave floor to another opposition MP who was scheduled to speak next.

But Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury took the floor to seek "protection of the Chair" for his party MP so that he could exercise his right to speak in the House.

The MP (Akhtaruzzaman), like other members, has the right to speak as the Speaker yet to give his verdict on the issue," Prof Chowdhury said.

Netanyahu-Arafat summit today

JERUSALEM, Sept 2: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will hold his first summit meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat late tomorrow, state television said, quoting senior Israeli officials. It said intensive talks between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators had managed to overcome some of the differences between the two sides to make such a summit possible, reports AFP.

Rights denied

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democracy

Prof Badruddoza blamed the government for acts of violence and killings in different places including Bogra, Mirsara and Laxmipur. He also held the government responsible for acts of terrorism in educational institutions in Dhaka University, Eden Girls University College and arrest of large number of Chhatra Dal leaders and BNP workers including JCD chief Shahiduddin Chowdhury and Nasiruddin Pintu.

He further said that BNP members were not getting neutral behaviour from the Speaker.

Badruddoza Chowdhury said, "We believe that the Speaker will understand the importance of the Opposition in the House to make parliamentarian democracy meaningful."

He, however, thanked the Awami League activists who were staying at the bazar at that time and wounded several AL activists there.

AL-JP clash in Pirojpur: 20 hurt

PIROJPUR, Sept 2: At least 20 people were injured, ten of them seriously, in a clash between supporters of the Awami League and Jatiya Party at Hogladeka bazar in Kawthali thana on Sunday night, reports UNB.

The clash erupted when a JP procession, after attending a public meeting of JP candidate Fazlul Haq, reached Hogladeka bazar Sunday night.

JP supporters, equipped with sharp weapons, attacked the Awami League activists who were staying at the bazar at that time and wounded several AL activists there.

Flood situation

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gan today.

According to our correspondent in Pabna, the flood situation has taken a serious turn in the district inundating vast areas of 15 unions under four thanas.

The affected thanas are Pabna Sadar, Ishurdi, Sujanagar and Bera where 10,000 men, women and children are marooned with no arrangements so far to move them to any safe place. Rescue operations should be started immediately, the chairman of Hemayetpur union, one of the affected unions under Pabna Sadar thana, told The Daily Star.

According to an official source, the marooned people have all lost their homes and taken shelter on the Flood Control Embankment.

Standing crops in over 10,000 acres of land have been damaged.

Our correspondent in Krishnaganj adds: The flood situation in Krishnaganj has worsened following further rises in the water levels of the Ganges and Gorai rivers.

The Ganges was flowing 12 centimetre above the danger

mark at the Hardinge Bridge point. The Gorai was, however, flowing 21 centimetre below the danger mark at the Gorai Railway Bridge point but its strong current is threatening the rail line on the western side of the Gorai Railway Bridge. Some 2500 houses and standing aman crops in 5 unions of Daulatpur thana are affected. About 10 thousand people have been marooned. Three primary schools, 3 mosques and 2 madrasahs have gone under water while 5 primary schools have been devoured by erosion, according to Kudrat-e-Khoda, chairman, Ramkrishnaganj Union Parishad.

He said that during the last few days six persons died due to a landslide and a boat capsized.

Anawali Yousof, a local Awami League leader told this correspondent that he was taking steps to mitigate the sufferings of the flood affected people.

UNB adds: The Flood Information Centre in Dhaka yesterday said that the flood situation in several parts of Natore, Manikganj, Munshiganj and Dhaka districts may also deteriorate.

Police arrested five persons on charges of damaging vehicles. The arrested young men were identified as Towhid Ahmed, Zulfiqar Ahmed, Ershad alias Jonny, Sayedur Rahman and Asaduzzaman, police said.

Activists and supporters of JCD went on rampage and damaged vehicles in different areas of the city particularly in the old part yesterday afternoon protesting Pintu's arrest.

The agitated youths damaged at least thirty vehicles on Jhonsun Road near the Dhaka Metropolitan Magistracy under Kotwali thana and in Dholakhal area under Supratap thana, Motijheel thana, police and witnesses said.

Expressing her party position on the issue, she said BNP had never compromised with India to sign any accord at the cost of the country's interest.

Administrating a note of warning to the government against using transit facilities to India in exchange of the Ganges water, the BNP chairperson said the BNP would resist any such nefarious design of the government.

The election meeting was addressed, by KM Obaidur Rahman and BNP candidate for Shariatpur-1 constituency Sardar AKM Nasiruddin. BNP leader Yakub Ali Sardar presided over the rally.

Party leaders Farida Hasan, Ehsanul Kabir, Moshaddiq Ali, and Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan accompanied the BNP chairperson.

The ADB is also pressing for abolition of the BPDB which is currently sustaining an annual loss of Tk 400 crore due to the combined (PDB, DESA and Rural Electrification Board) system loss.

However this loss is mostly incurred by 37 per cent system loss of Tk 400 crore due to the combined (PDB, DESA and Rural Electrification Board) system loss.

The commission will identify the causes of delay in disposal of civil and criminal cases and recommend reforms or new legislations to expedite the process of trial.

Also, it will make recommendations to modernise the judiciary and stop abuse of laws.

The commission will make recommendations for constituting an independent enquiry agency to investigate criminal cases.

The proposed commission will also recommend amendment of laws or formulation of new ones to create a competitive condition to expand trade and commerce.

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73 candidates to fight for 15 seats

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Four candidates will contest for the Bogra-7 seat vacated by Begum Khaleda Zia. They are Md Walilul Huq of AL, Md Akhteruzzaman Talukdar of BNP, Aminul Islam Sarkar (Pintu) of JP, and Md Shafiqul Hasan, an independent candidate.

There are 1,87,929 voters in the constituency covering the sadar thana and Gabtoli thana where polling will be held in 79 centres.

In Sirajganj-1 constituency, the seat was vacated by Ershad. The constituency covers Ulupur thana of the district. There are 1,80,766 voters and polling will be held in 99 centres.

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About promotion of the civil and military officials. The Prime Minister assured that the elevation will be made on the basis of efficiency and eligibility.

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