



Whirlpool
HOME APPLIANCES
Refrigerator
Transcom Electronics Limited
Authorized distributor in Bangladesh for
Whirlpool Appliances, USA
Dhaka : 015307-10, 019625-9 Ctg. : 716353, 723578
Khulna : 720304, Bogra : 6215
ART290 - 265 Litres

VOL. VIII NO. 108 REGD. NO. DA 781

INTERNET: <http://www.dailystarnews.com>

BAISHAKH 30, 1405 BS

DHAKA WEDNESDAY MAY 13, 1998

MUHARRAM 16, 1419 HIJRI

12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 0.00

Polls in 138
poureasas
in Sept

Chief Election Commissioner Abu Hena yesterday said barring a few untoward incidents, the last Union Parishad elections were held in a free, fair and peaceful atmosphere, reports BSS.

Addressing a day-long workshop on 'Evaluation of post-Union Parishad elections', Abu Hena said the main feature of that elections was the participation of nearly 84 per cent voters including a large number of women voters.

The CEC said that measures were being taken to hold elections in 138 poureasas, including 55 new ones, in the first week of September as per the clause of the recently amended Poureasas Ordinance.

Besides, he said, the terms of the country's four city corporations will end by the end of next year and elections in the four cities will have to be completed within the stipulated time.

The workshop was held in the auditorium of Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management in the city.

Abu Hena said all political parties, including the ruling and the opposition, had rendered all-out cooperation to the Election Commission to make the Union Parishad elections a success.

Abu Hena also said that measures have also been taken to hand over identity cards to voters by May next year and added that 33 per cent of such cards had already been prepared.

He asked the officials concerned to ensure the distribution of all cards timely.

**Thanks-giving
motion on
President's
speech adopted**

Parliament yesterday adopted a motion giving thanks to President Shahabuddin Ahmed for his speech in the House on January 14, reports UNB.

The thanks-giving motion on the President's speech, moved by Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah, was adopted by the House last night through voice vote.

Some 1635 amendments proposals of seven lawmakers, six from BNP and one from Jatiya Party, were placed on the President's address, but those were not placed in parliament as none of them were present.

The MPs were Md Mashru Rahman, Jafrul Islam Chowdhury, Sarwar Jamal Mizan, Gazi Mohammad Shahjahan, Ziaul Huq Zia and Goutam Chakravarty of BNP and Kazi Shah Mofazzal Hossain (Kaikobad) of Jatiya Party.

Jafrul Islam Chowdhury placed the highest 362 amendments.

**Rowdyism in JS
Speaker warns
MPs, takes
no action**

By Staff Correspondent

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury yesterday gave a warning to the members of parliament who were involved in rowdyism in the Jatiya Sangsad on April 15 to 'refrain from unparliamentary activities that dishonour the House in future.'

In his ruling in the House, the Speaker said no punitive action was taken against the MPs concerned as 'parliamentary culture has not flourished in the country. The decision in this regard was taken at a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee on May 10, he said.'

On April 15, some BNP lawmakers hurled paper missiles and abuses at the Speaker and damaged television cameras while protesting denial of the

See Page 12 Col 8

Inside Today

Article

**About a Letter, a
Statement and a
Commitment**
Column: Crosscurrents
by CAF Dowlah

Page 4

Focus

Fundamental rights of
defence personnel
Page 5

Business

Exports grow but barely
touch targets
DSE price index falls by 4
points
Pages 6 & 7

The Daily Star

MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE
WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF
ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLA TO SICILIA,
BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESSWARI GREEN,
MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE
OF DIFFERENT TYPES.
NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.
199, TEJGAON 1/A, DHAKA.
TEL : 805957, 807363 SHOW ROOM : 861985

AL MPs head 34, JP one, BNP none 21 JS standing bodies formed, 14 recast

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday formed 21 parliamentary standing committees and reconstituted 14 others with the main opposition party, BNP, remaining absent from the proceedings of the House.

The committees were proposed by Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah as the session resumed yesterday morning after a five-day recess.

All these 35 parliamentary bodies are to deal with various ministries of the government.

Of these, 14 committees were formed earlier on November 16, 1997 keeping position vacant to accommodate BNP lawmakers. The committees were reconstituted as BNP did not give names of its lawmakers.

Each committee comprised 10 members including one chairman. This is for the first

time in the parliamentary history of Bangladesh that the chairman of parliamentary committees were chosen from non-minister MPs to ensure transparency and accountability in the functioning of the committees. Article 247 of the JS Rules of Procedure was

See lists on page 5

amended earlier to pave the way of making non-minister MPs chairman of the committees. Earlier, ministers used to be ex-officio chairman of the JS committees.

Chairman of 34 committees were made from Awami League, one from Jatiya Party and none from BNP.

Earlier on May 3, the day BNP walked out of the Jatiya Sangsad, a list of 113 names

was forwarded by Opposition Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain to Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah. Of those, 110 were accommodated in the 35 committees. Mentionably, of 113 lawmakers belonging to BNP, one — Dr Ehteshamul Haq Nasim Biswas — died recently and two others — Dr Alauddin and Hasibur Rahman Swapan — joined the 'government of consensus'.

All the 33 JP legislators except one — Shahadat Hossain — were accommodated in these parliamentary standing committees. Besides, the lone MP from Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ), Golam Sarwar Hiru, was also made member of one committee. The rest of the members of the 35 committees were from Awami League.

See Page 12 Col 7



Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia and her party MPs observed a day-long hunger strike at Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Long march towards CHT on June 10: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Begum Khaleda Zia along with 93 party MPs and some central leaders yesterday observed a day-long hunger strike at the city's Paltan Maidan demanding scrapping of the CHT accord and the bills passed for its implementation.

At the end of the hunger strike, lasting for more than ten hours from 8:05 am, Begum Zia announced that her party would start a long-march from the capital towards the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) on June 9 and organise token hunger strike at all the districts on May 20 to press their demands.

In the afternoon, the gathering at the venue turned into a

**2 more trains
derail**

LAJMONRAT, May 12: Two more train accidents occurred in the country's western zone this morning, reports UNB.

A Dinajpur-bound passenger train (432 down) coming from a large stage under it were erected at the south end of the Paltan Maidan. The BNP MPs remained sitting on chairs on the stage with a long banner and portraits of late President Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia hung behind them. At both sides of the stage, several hundred chairs were kept for the party men to sit on. Banners and festoons inscribed with various demands including repeal of the CHT accord and the bills were hung in the pandal in front of the stage, a National Flag and several BNP flags were kept hoisted.

Three wagons of the train were severely damaged in the mishap.

Three hours before the accident, a goods train derailed near Parbatipur Rail Station while shunting on the line.

Soon after Khaleda Zia concluded her speech, Mother of Joynal, a BNP activist killed in

See Page 12 Col 1

the mishap.

During the hunger strike BNP lawmaker Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar Dulu tore and burnt a copy of the CHT agreement amid slogans by party workers

See Page 12 Col 1

large public rally as BNP workers and supporters from different parts of the city thronged there.

Besides Khaleda Zia, 53 of the hunger striking lawmakers addressed the rally. As many as 50 others including leaders of BNP and its front organisations also spoke on the occasion.

In the middle of the marathon speeches, parody songs criticising the CHT accord and the government of Sheikh Hasina, patriotic songs and poems were also rendered to cheer up the crowd.

A U-shape huge pandal and a large stage under it were erected at the south end of the Paltan Maidan. The BNP MPs remained sitting on chairs on the stage with a long banner and portraits of late President Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia hung behind them. At both sides of the stage, several hundred chairs were kept for the party men to sit on. Banners and festoons inscribed with various demands including repeal of the CHT accord and the bills were hung in the pandal in front of the stage, a National Flag and several BNP flags were kept hoisted.

Three wagons of the train were severely damaged in the mishap.

Three hours before the accident, a goods train derailed near Parbatipur Rail Station while shunting on the line.

Soon after Khaleda Zia concluded her speech, Mother of Joynal, a BNP activist killed in

See Page 12 Col 1

the mishap.

During the hunger strike BNP lawmaker Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar Dulu tore and burnt a copy of the CHT agreement amid slogans by party workers

See Page 12 Col 1

large public rally as BNP workers and supporters from different parts of the city thronged there.

Besides Khaleda Zia, 53 of the hunger striking lawmakers addressed the rally. As many as 50 others including leaders of BNP and its front organisations also spoke on the occasion.

In the middle of the marathon speeches, parody songs criticising the CHT accord and the government of Sheikh Hasina, patriotic songs and poems were also rendered to cheer up the crowd.

A U-shape huge pandal and a large stage under it were erected at the south end of the Paltan Maidan. The BNP MPs remained sitting on chairs on the stage with a long banner and portraits of late President Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia hung behind them. At both sides of the stage, several hundred chairs were kept for the party men to sit on. Banners and festoons inscribed with various demands including repeal of the CHT accord and the bills were hung in the pandal in front of the stage, a National Flag and several BNP flags were kept hoisted.

Three wagons of the train were severely damaged in the mishap.

Three hours before the accident, a goods train derailed near Parbatipur Rail Station while shunting on the line.

Soon after Khaleda Zia concluded her speech, Mother of Joynal, a BNP activist killed in

See Page 12 Col 1

the mishap.

During the hunger strike BNP lawmaker Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar Dulu tore and burnt a copy of the CHT agreement amid slogans by party workers

See Page 12 Col 1

large public rally as BNP workers and supporters from different parts of the city thronged there.

Besides Khaleda Zia, 53 of the hunger striking lawmakers addressed the rally. As many as 50 others including leaders of BNP and its front organisations also spoke on the occasion.

In the middle of the marathon speeches, parody songs criticising the CHT accord and the government of Sheikh Hasina, patriotic songs and poems were also rendered to cheer up the crowd.

A U-shape huge pandal and a large stage under it were erected at the south end of the Paltan Maidan. The BNP MPs remained sitting on chairs on the stage with a long banner and portraits of late President Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia hung behind them. At both sides of the stage, several hundred chairs were kept for the party men to sit on. Banners and festoons inscribed with various demands including repeal of the CHT accord and the bills were hung in the pandal in front of the stage, a National Flag and several BNP flags were kept hoisted.

Three wagons of the train were severely damaged in the mishap.

Three hours before the accident, a goods train derailed near Parbatipur Rail Station while shunting on the line.

Soon after Khaleda Zia concluded her speech, Mother of Joynal, a BNP activist killed in

See Page 12 Col 1

the mishap.

During the hunger strike BNP lawmaker Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar Dulu tore and burnt a copy of the CHT agreement amid slogans by party workers

See Page 12 Col 1

large public rally as BNP workers and supporters from different parts of the city thronged there.

Besides Khaleda Zia, 53 of the hunger striking lawmakers addressed the rally. As many as 50 others including leaders of BNP and its front organisations also spoke on the occasion.

In the middle of the marathon speeches, parody songs criticising the CHT accord and the government of Sheikh Hasina, patriotic songs and poems were also rendered to cheer up the crowd.

A U-shape huge pandal and a large stage under it were erected at the south end of the Paltan Maidan. The BNP MPs remained sitting on chairs on the stage with a long banner and portraits of late President Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia hung behind them. At both sides of the stage, several hundred chairs were kept for the party men to sit on. Banners and festoons inscribed with various demands including repeal of the CHT accord and the bills were hung in the pandal in front of the stage, a National Flag and several BNP flags were kept hoisted.

Three wagons of the train were severely damaged in the mishap.

Three hours before the accident, a goods train derailed near Parbatipur Rail Station while shunting on the line.

Soon after Khaleda Zia concluded her speech, Mother of Joynal, a BNP activist killed in

See Page 12 Col 1

the mishap.

During the hunger strike BNP lawmaker Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar Dulu tore and burnt a copy of the CHT agreement amid slogans by party workers

See Page 12 Col 1

large public rally as BNP workers and supporters from different parts of the city thronged there.

Besides Khaleda Zia, 53 of the hunger striking lawmakers addressed the rally. As many as 50 others including leaders of BNP and its front organisations also spoke on the occasion.

In the middle of the marathon speeches, parody songs criticising the CHT accord and the government of Sheikh Hasina, patriotic songs and poems were also rendered to cheer up the crowd.

A U-shape huge pandal and a large stage under it were erected at the south end of the Paltan Maidan. The BNP MPs remained sitting on chairs on the stage with a long banner and portraits of late President Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia hung behind them. At both sides of the stage, several hundred chairs were kept for the party men to sit on. Banners and festoons inscribed with various demands including repeal of the CHT accord and the bills were hung in the pandal in front of the stage, a National Flag and several BNP flags were kept hoisted.