

AL to ensure political stability: PM

MAGURA, Dec 5: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said her government would ensure democracy, political stability and prosperity of the country to honour the love, confidence and expectation of the people on her party which they demonstrated through June 12 national polls, reports BSS.

Through establishing the voting rights of the people and subsequent incorporation of the provision of holding national polls under neutral caretaker government in the Constitution "we had buried the notion of capturing powers by coup, killing and conspiracy," she said.

Addressing a workers' rally of Magura district Awami League here, the Prime Minister said the name of Magura would remain ever notable in country's political history as she took a vow to establish people's right to vote at any cost from Magura following the massive vote rigging and a reign of terror let loose by BNP centering a by-election here in 1994.

Paying tributes to the leaders and workers of Awami League for achieving independence as well as for re-establishing democracy in the country, the Prime Minister said that the cardinal principles and ideology of Awami League were to

bring welfare of the down-trodden people of the country. She called upon the party workers to be ready to make more sacrifices for the people as they did in the past.

As it was her first meeting in Magura since formation of the government, the Prime Minister emotionally recalled the atrocities of BNP in the name of election and said that from this soil she took the decision not to take part in any election under BNP. She also took the decision to resign from the parliament to expose the misdeeds of BNP in Magura by-polls, she added.

The Prime Minister said that her government is running the country with the objectives to build the country attuned to the ideals and spirit of the War of Liberation. She also referred to a number of steps taken by her government for the well-being of the people and development of the country including Magura.

The Prime Minister called upon the people to sink their narrow differences, if any, and devote whole heartedly to translate into reality the dream of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to establish a poverty and hunger-free prosperous country.



BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia with other leaders and workers of the party offering *munajat* at the *mazar* of Ziaur Rahman on Friday night on the occasion of the Holy Shab-e-Barat.

— Star photo

Suhrawardy's mural at indoor stadium unveiled

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader yesterday formally unveiled a mural of Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy at Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium marking the 35th death anniversary of the late leader, reports BSS.

The mural, eight feet in length and 6 feet in width, was made at a cost of Taka one lakh.

The National Indoor Stadium was renamed after Shaheed Suhrawardy some time before in recognition of his contribution to the establishment of democracy and people's rights.

Senior executives of National Sports Council were present on the occasion.

Berger Young Painters' exhibition opens today

The third Berger Young Painters' Award Giving Ceremony and Exhibition will be inaugurated today at the Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University at 4:00 pm, says a press release.

Exhibition of the selected paintings will be open to all on December 7 & 8 from 10:30 am to 7:00 pm.

Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited has been organising the Art Competition for the young painters since 1996 and like past years the top six selected paintings will be incorporated in the Annual Corporate Calendar for 1999 of Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd.

Solo sculpture exhibition begins

By Staff Correspondent
"Rhythm of Life," a solo exhibition of sculpture by Farzana Islam Milky, began at the Alliance Francaise on Friday.

On display are 60 pieces of work in iron, aluminum and brass. The exhibition will continue till December 18.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the chief guest, Prof Abdur Razzak, said that sculpture had begun at the Fine Arts Institute "out of nothing." Our paintings were on an international level, while sculpture had lagged behind because it had received little encouragement from relevant authorities, he said.

On Milky's work, Prof Razzak said her work combines both craft and art and that the sculptor had dealt with different aspects of every day life in her work.

Asst Prof Hamiduzzaman Khan drew attention to the fact that it was a pity that the National Exhibition of '98 at the Shilpakala Academy offered no prizes for sculpture, although there were numerous sculpture exhibits of high quality. He added that since Dhaka society does not as yet recognise sculpture, it is a difficult profession indeed as compared to that of other artists.

Milky has had 12 group exhibitions apart from this solo exhibition, and has won two awards, at the Gallery Tone, at the 1st Tone International Miniature Art Exhibition and at the 3rd Shilpangan Young Artists' Exhibition.

Christoph Steyer, the Deputy Director of Alliance Francaise, said that the exhibit was a bridge to further possible achievements for the artist.

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Workshop on 'millennium bug' tomorrow

A workshop on "Impact of the Millennium Bug on International Business and Commerce" will be held in the city on Monday, reports BSS.

According to a Railway press release today, Mohanagar Prokhati, Mohanagar Godhuli, and Turna Nishita will have "Shobhan chair car" instead of "Shobhan coach."

The newly installed "Shobhan chair cars" were imported from Iran.

Film show cancelled

Zahir Raihan Film Society has cancelled its on-going retrospective on French Cinema in the Nineties, says a press release.

The retrospective began at the Alliance Francaise on December 3 and was scheduled to continue till Dec 10.

'Suhrawardy upheld non-communal democratic ideals'

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad has said no evil power can trample for long the democratic rights of a conscious people, reports BSS.

He said the great leader, Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, always upheld non-communal democratic ideals throughout his chequered political career.

The Foreign Minister was speaking at a discussion on the late leader organised at the mazar premises in the city marking his 35th anniversary of death.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak and State Minister for Textiles AKM Jahangir Hossain also spoke on the occasion.

Samad Azad highlighted various aspects of the life and ideals of the charismatic leader and urged all to emulate his examples.

Chehulm

Chehulm of Noor Jahan Begum, mother of M Tajul Islam, Director, Public Affairs of BRAC, will be held today after Magreb prayers at the Banani residence of the deceased, says a press release.

AL leaders Sudhangsu

Sheikh Haldar, Mozaffar Hosain Paltu, Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan, Nurul Fazal Bulbul and BCL general secretary Ajoy Kar also took part in the discussion which was presided over by Poet Abdul Khaleque.

As it was her first meeting in Magura since formation of the government, the Prime Minister emotionally recalled the atrocities of BNP in the name of election and said that from this soil she took the decision not to take part in any election under BNP. She also took the decision to resign from the parliament to expose the misdeeds of BNP in Magura by-polls, she added.

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BNP wants to create anarchy over Pabna by-polls: Zillur

RANGPUR, Dec 5: Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman today said BNP would not be allowed to make an issue out of the Pabna-2 by-election scheduled for December 10, reports UNB.

Like all the by-elections to parliament and the union parishads held under the Awami League government, this by-poll will be free, fair and impartial, he said.

The impartiality of the government was highly praised at home and abroad, added Zillur Rahman who is also the Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives.

He was addressing a public meeting organised by the district Awami League at Rangpur Public Library ground.

Zillur Rahman said it has become clear to the people that BNP wants to create anarchy to manipulate the by-election results. Engaged in a conspiracy, the opposition has been trying to create ground for calling a 48-hour hartal, he added.

But with people's cooperation, the government and the Election Commission are determined to hold the polls in a free and fair manner, he said.

The Awami League leader

said the government's success in constructing the Bangabandhu Bridge over the Jamuna, the CHT peace agreement, the Ganges water treaty and successful management of the worst-ever flood made the BNP unnerved and jealous.

Zillur said the corruption, politicisation, repression and oppression, vote dacoity, killing of farmers and above all misrule during BNP regime are still fresh in the minds of the people.

Referring to the welfare measures taken up by the government, Dr Sheikh Hasina, the LGRD Minister said the main target of the BNP is to grab power illegally by destroying the democracy.

He said Leader of the Opposition should not do politics sitting inside the cantonment. If she wants to do politics, she should come out of the cantonment and face the people.

The meeting was presided over by president of Rangpur district unit of Awami League and addressed by Md Ahsanul Huq Chowdhury MP, H N Ashiqur Rahman MP and party central leaders Fulu Sarkar and ly Rahman.

Wizard at repairing cameras

By Staff Correspondent



Thirty-year-old M A Bashir has repaired 40,000 cameras in his life time, along with other related equipment.

In his tiny 5-foot by 5-foot shop at the Stadium, he specialises in repairing mechanical and electronic goods. When he began work at the age of 12, cameras were only manual and had transistor circuits. Today he deals with microchips and specialises in the electronic digital types.

Bashar has learnt the skills from his grandfather and uncle and also taken lessons from late S M Siddique, the first camera mechanical expert in Bangladesh.

Old cameras are the sources of spare parts he uses so that there is recycling of goods and

saying of thousands of taka. He also makes some of his own instruments like forceps, compasses and fibre hammers himself.

He repairs not only cameras, but also mechanical and electronic goods such as two-inches, camera projects, radios and TVs, on request. What he specialises in is instantaneous repairing of cameras that give problem to photojournalists when they are on duty specially during cricket and football matches.

Bashar has worked for the Mirpur Staff College, ISPR, British Council, Shilpa Bank, Drik Picture Gallery, and works regularly for several well-known photojournalists of national dailies and BTV.

The paintings will be on display for three months in London, Manchester and Edinburgh.

Three more artists from Bangladesh -- Mohammad Iqbal, Mahbubur Rahman and Kazi Ahmed -- also participated in the exhibition.

Int'l seminar on ecosystem begins tomorrow

The 7th regional seminar on "Earth observation for tropical ecosystem management" jointly organised by National Space Development Agency (NASDA) of Japan, UN-ESCAP and Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organisation (SPRSO) will be held in the city from December 7 to 11, reports BSS.

Delegates from 15 member countries of ESCAP, France and representatives of various international organisations will participate in the seminar.

Smuggled goods worth Tk 65 lakh seized

CHITTAGONG, Dec 5: Bangladesh Navy in separate operations on Friday night seized huge smuggled goods worth about Tk 65 lakh from the coastal areas here and arrested 55 pirates in this connection, reports BSS.

Official sources said the Navy patrol ship recovered 700 tons of salt worth about Tk 45.5 lakh and arrested 55 Bangladesh smugglers while they were patrolling in the Bay of Bengal on Friday night.

They also seized seven trawlers used for carrying the salt from Myanmar as the smugglers failed to produce valid papers for the goods they were carrying.

In another drive at the confluence of the river Karnaphuli on the same night, Navy recovered 96 master cartons of Myanmar cigarette worth about Tk 19.35 lakh from engine-driven boat.

Noted film director Mrinal Sen said the facility will help bring back robbed childhoods of any sick child.

Gupta said as childhood cancer, comprising about five per cent of the total cancer afflicted, was increasing in number, the whole of India and neighbouring countries would be largely benefited by the liability.

We had a special children's ward in our centre with 16 beds but an increasing number of children with cancer are now turning up from the whole of eastern India and this prompted us to open a specialised centre for them, he said.

The centre has been built amidst picturesque environments with an amusement park, a lake, an open air theatre and a toy train for entertainment of the paediatric patients.

Inaugurating the complex, noted cricket star of yester years Sunil Gavaskar said, the country, which has plenty of suffering and plenty of spirit too, can prevent at least a third of child cancer cases and arrest a similar number with the opening of the centre.

Noted film director Mrinal Sen said the facility will help bring back robbed childhoods of any sick child.

He died in 1992 after prolonged illness.

The 6th death anniversary of Ali Amjad Khan was observed yesterday, says a press release.

An ex-member of Pakistan National Assembly (1962-64), Khan was born in Brahmanbaria in a respectable family in 1908. He was also a reputed lawyer after obtaining MA, LLB degree, he practised law in Calcutta Alipore Court, Dhaka Supreme Court and High Court.

He was involved in politics and a close associate of Husain Shahid Suhrawardy, Maulana Bhasani and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

One of the founder vice-presidents of Awami Muslim League, Khan represented Pakistan in the United Nations General Assembly (1963-64) and East Pakistan Lawyers Association in Oslo in 1955. He headed many social welfare and political organisations. Amiable in nature, Khan was very popular for his witty.

He died in 1992 after prolonged illness.

Need for compilation of women's experience in Liberation War stressed

By staff correspondent

Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) held the seminar on Friday to present some of their findings from a research conducted to gather information about women's role and contribution in the liberation war.

The day-long seminar "The History of women's experience in the Liberation War of Bangladesh" held at the WVA auditorium was open to all participants for discussion on the topic.

ASK has been working on this project to gather information to start a compilation of women's role in the war in his-

tor. Other speakers voiced their support and included requests to ASK not to stop at the 20 or so cases that they had compiled so far but to include more.

The 19 women who conducted the research for ASK include Meghna Guhathakurta, Hamida Hossain, Sultana Kamal, Hasina Ahmed, Dr Amina Mohsin and Linda Islam among others.

Participants in the seminar included Sonia Amin, Advocate Shahida Begum, Z I Khan, Sadeka Halim, Shaheen Akther, and Mesbah Kamal.

Seven arrested in city

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested seven persons for their alleged involvement in different crimes in the city on Friday and Saturday.

The arrested were identified as Aminul Islam alias Amu, Siraj Uddin, 45, Rafiqul Islam, 27, Sumon, 22, Ali, 25, Delaware Hossain alias Jahangir, 28, and Giasuddin.

Detective Branch (BD) police, acting on a tip-off, arrested one Aminul Islam from Agrani Bank road of Baddi area under Gulshan thana in the early hours of Friday.

Police said the arrested is a chargesheeted criminal in three murder cases. He was also engaged in pheasantry business at Malibagh area.

Sensing the presence of the police, the gang opened fire. Police also returned fire and at one stage they arrested two of them. The rest fled the scene.

Cantonment police arrested Jahangir and Giasuddin after they robbed the passengers of an autorickshaw near the Joar Sahara police camp early yesterday.

Uttara police arrested Siraj Uddin for his alleged involvement in land document forgery

A painting competition for children on 'Save the Royal Bengal Tiger' was held at the Sonargaon Hotel on Friday. US Ambassador David C Holzman distributed trophies among the winners of the competition jointly organised by the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel and Coastal Area Research Development and Management Association (CARDMAN).