

PACKAGES, DOCUMENTS & FREIGHT WORLDWIDE

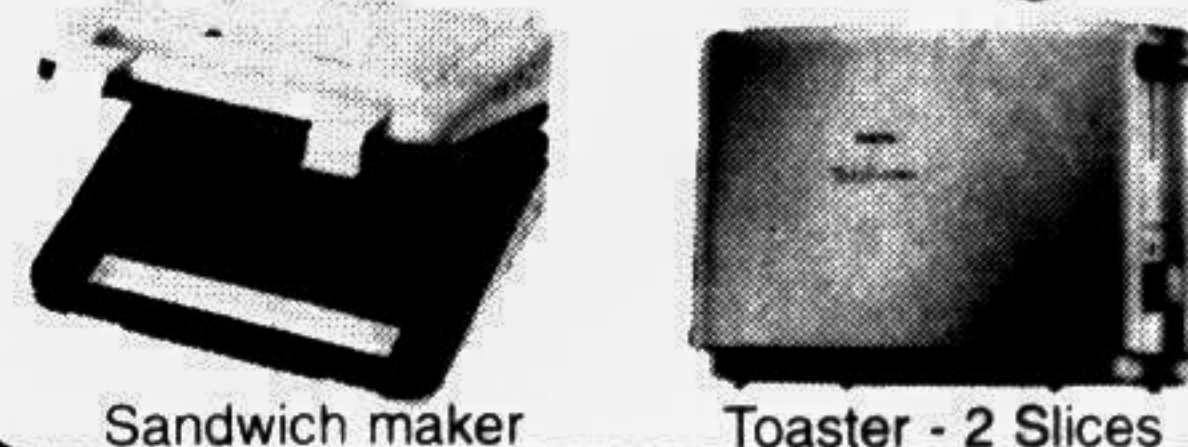


For more information call-Dhaka, Tel: 955114, 988392, 9130647, 894213, CEPZ 933831 Chittagong, Tel: (031) 712127, CEPZ (031) 740108 Khulna, Tel: (041) 725008, N'Ganj, Tel: 9714336

FedEx Federal Express

The World on Time

Ideal gift for any occasion.



Instalment facility available only for purchases above Tk. 5,000

Transcom Electronics Limited

Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets Dhaka: 815307-10, 819625-9 Ctg: 716353, 723578 Khulna: 720304, Bogra: 6215



Indigenous people demand constitutional recognition

By Staff Correspondent

Indigenous people living in the country's northern and southern regions yesterday put forward a 9-point charter of demand including constitutional recognition for them to protect the entity of some 18 tribes.

The demands were made at a rally of indigenous people organised by the Jatya Adibashi Parishad (National Council of Indigenous People) at the Diploma Engineers' Institute in the city yesterday. Some 5,000 indigenous people of different tribes from Naogaon, Chapainawabganj, Natore, Pabna, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Bogra, Sirajganj and Faridpur attended the rally.

Their other demands include permanent settlement of lands, formation of a ministry and a commission for the indigenous people, legal aid for those whose lands were illegally occupied by vested quarters, special facility in all educational institutions and quota in government services, rehabilitation of the rootless indigenous people, repeal of the vested properties law and setting up of a cultural academy for them.

Presided over by the Parishad president Anil Marant, the rally was addressed by, among others, Barrister Amirul Islam, Fazle Hossain Badsha, PCSJ leader Mongal Kumar Chakma, Pahari Gano Parishad leader Shaktipad Tripathy, leaders of the indigenous people Rabinranath Saren, Ganes Saren, Nabin Chandra Sarda, Madan Kumar Baroar, Durbin Kishuk and Naresh Chandra Orao.

Left political leaders Rashed Khan Menon, Nirmol Sen, AFM Mahabubul Haq, Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan, Mujahidul Islam Selim, Binol Biswas, journalists Foyez Ahmed and Ataus Samad and educationist Shawkat Ali attended the rally. Barrister Amirul Islam said though there is no mention of minority community in the Constitution, it guarantees equal rights to all citizens irrespective of cast and religion. So, the indigenous people have equal rights and the question of curbing those does not arise at all, he added.

He assured the indigenous people of providing legal aid to protect their rights and said there are public funds in all districts and monitoring cells in



Indigenous people at a rally at the Diploma Engineers Institute in the city yesterday. —Star photo

Road accident kills 3 garments factory workers

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Dec 8: Three garment factory employees were killed and three others seriously injured when a Dhaka-bound bus hit from behind a babytaxi in the Karnagop area under Rupganj thana on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway at around 7:30 am today.

Hundreds of agitated garment employees laid a five-hour siege to the highway as the news of the killing spread in the area where a number of garment factories are situated.

The dead are Nazmul Hossain 32, Halima, 17, and Shabana, 22.

The injured, Kulsum, 30, Saiful, 25, and Al Amin, 18, were rushed to a city hospital, police said.

The bodies were sent to Narayanganj General Hospital for autopsy. A case has been lodged with the Rupganj thana.

Bail petitions

From Page 1

Hossain Azadi, A M Aminuddin, Obaidul Hasan Shaheen and Md Abdur Rouf, yesterday opposed the bail petitions.

Khandker Mahabuddin Ahmed with Barrister Maudud Ahmed, Habibul Islam Bhuiyan, president of Supreme Court Bar Association moved for K M Obaidur Rahman and Nurul Islam Marant.

Khandker Mahabub Hossain assisted by Advocate Md Zafar Imam appeared for Shah Moazzem Hossain.

The Attorney General opposing the bail submitted that the three accused were not arrested immediately after initiation of the case in 1996, but they were arrested only when sufficient evidences of their involvement in the conspiracy of the jail killing were found.

Mahabuddin Islam said of genuine apprehension of the government that the accused persons being influential leaders might go for tampering the evidence against them if enlarged on bail.

The counsel for the petitioners said all the three accused persons had resigned from cabinet immediately after the jail killing. Their resignations indicate that they had no connivance with the jail killing.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11, Road No. 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 866772-4, Commercial: 866771, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net

'Implement verdicts of People's Court'

By Staff Correspondent

Sammilita Nari Samaj (SNS) has reiterated demands for implementing the verdict of the People's Court convened by Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam, banning communal politics and trial of the war criminals immediately.

Hailing the prime minister's decision to posthumously confer the Rokeya Padak on Jahanara Imam it said the best way to show respect to Jahanara Imam is to implement the demands she set forth, said a press release issued yesterday.

SNS in a statement hailed the decision to award Jahanara Imam saying she should have been given the award earlier as an acknowledgment to the great movement she waged against the anti-liberation and communal forces.

Alleging that the government distanced itself from the demands Jahanara Imam set forth, SNS expressed sorrow that no government seriously considered the verdict of the People's Court; even Awami League which was a partner of the movement did not take any action against the killers and collaborators of 1971 after coming to power.

"Since the government agrees to Jahanara Imam's movement, she can be shown full respect if her demands are met," it said.

Meanwhile, Narigantha Probaratna hailed the decision to award Jahanara Imam with the Rokeya Padak. Urging the government to name the Old Elephant Road from Bata Crossing to Gauchhia Crossing after Jahanara Imam by December 16, Probaratna regretted that the road was yet to be named after Jahanara Imam though the authorities concerned agreed on the issue much earlier.

Hasina

From Page 1

giving by staging a "mock" parliamentary election on February 15, 1996.

Those who are clamouring about rigging were pulled down from power through movement on charge of vote fraud," she told the meeting amidst cheers from her audience.

Hasina said her party, which fought for democracy and franchise, was never ousted through mass movement, nor was it removed from power by ballot. Rather it is bloody coup and killing through which Awami League was ousted.

In a flashback on the launch of BNP by Ziaur Rahman while in power, Hasina said this party hatched out of conspiracy to stage rigging for consolidating their ill-gotten rule.

About Khaleda's warnings of forcing Awami League to bow out, Hasina retorted: Awami League won't have to do that. It is BNP that had to stand down from power in the face of mass movement by giving undertaking.

The prime minister warned that conspiracy was being hatched to trigger unrest and disrupt development and people's welfare. She said Awami League is pledge-bound to steer the country with the support of the people.

Hasina said BNP leadership had been issuing warnings of overthrowing the government since the trial of the killers of Bangabandhu started. Those threats were spearheaded to protect the self-confessed killers.

"We don't understand why Begum Zia has got such hobnobbing with the killers," she said. The Prime Minister said BNP is now possibly repenting for failing to make any issue or steal any relief goods after such a devastating flood.

Little Abdi

From Page 1

About her eyesight, doctors said they will observe till Thursday. If they find any improvement, they will go for the next step.

A groaning Abdi said that at dawn every day, her mistress used to kick her to awaken her. "That's not the end. She also beat me regularly on the plea that tea was not made properly."

The victim's mother Juthi Begum said in agony, "I do not know whether my daughter will be able to see again. They could send my daughter back to me if she could not work well. But why did they torture my daughter?"

2 envoys

From Page 1

ices, if extended, could be better utilised as an ambassador. He is due to go on LPR on January 8.

Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Shafi Sami and Ambassador to Belgium and the European Union Khairul Anam received extension of service on contract for one year recently. Anam is due to retire today while Sami on January 27.

Tariq Karim, High Commissioner to South Africa, has asked for voluntary retirement on personal grounds. Foreign Ministry sources said yesterday that Karim will proceed on voluntary retirement on January 1.



Begum Khaleda Zia addressing an election projection rally at Dulari High School ground in Pabna-2 Constituency yesterday. —Star photo

Ctg JP splits ahead of today's public meeting

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Dec 8: Chittagong unit of Jatya Parishad has split ahead of its tomorrow's scheduled public meeting at Lalidighi Maidan, sources said.

JP Chairman HM Ershad will address the meeting, the first in the port city since his release from jail.

Harunur Rashid Khan, former JP MP and vice-president of the party's city committee, who leads a faction today threatened to boycott tomorrow's public meeting and blamed its president Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury for the split.

Talking with a group of newsmen Khan alleged that tomorrow's meeting has been organised through a conspiratorial move, avoiding the tested leaders of the party. When contacted, Mahmudul Islam said, "Harun Khan is a sick man and is not involved in any party activities here. Most of the party men are with me. A few have indulged in rivalry."

Meanwhile, sources informed that Zeenat Hossain, the only JP MP from Chittagong, has also not been invited to attend the meeting. This reportedly angered Harun Khan, a cousin of Zeenat. Zeenat, however, could not be contacted for comments. Some other local leaders are reportedly staying aloof, not to attend tomorrow's meeting, the sources said.

When asked, Mahmudul Islam said, "Zeenat Hossain will attend the meeting on her own. We don't need to invite her as only the central leaders are expected to sit on the dais."

ADAB chief demands legal action against B'baria DC

Kazi Faruque Ahmed, Chairman of the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) has demanded punishment to those responsible for the attack on a procession in Brahmanbaria on Monday, reports APB.

Addressing a press conference at the Jatya Press Club yesterday afternoon, he held the teachers and students of a local madrasah for the incident.

He said some 100 people were injured when the attackers equipped with sharp weapons swooped on the procession on Monday. Local Trinomul Janasangathan organised the rally to celebrate the Victory Day.

Faruque alleged that local administration failed to maintain the law and order and the Deputy Commissioner of the district indirectly helped the 'anti-liberation' forces who unleashed the attack.

He demanded immediate withdrawal of the Deputy Commissioner and legal action against him.

Brahmanbaria

From Page 1

Rashid. They put forward a five-point demand which included removal of ADAB president Kazi Faruque, president of Trinomul and Kazi Rakib.

The demands also include punishment of armed terrorists, ban on meetings and 'anti-social' activities of NGOs and medicare for those injured in Monday's clash.

After the meeting, the mob attacked the office and residence of the DC, and the TV relay station.

BAPEX is hardly encouraged to develop and expand although it has prospect. Although Petrobangla has verbally promised to make BAPEX a full exploration and production company so that it can arrange its own finance, the decisions are just the opposite, the official pointed out.

Besides the fund crisis, BAPEX's experts got demoralised over the years. Experts are leaving the organisation to work in foreign companies in Bangladesh and abroad. Its growth has been retarded by its organogram and trade union activities.

Report on child education

Good progress but still a long way to go: Unicef

By Staff Correspondent

It said without education children are virtually condemned to a life of poverty, ill health and general lack of material and intellectual well-being.

"Too many children are still being denied this fundamental right to education. Too many children in the primary school group are staying out of school. Too many children are growing up in streets, working in hazardous and unhealthy conditions, and are denied the right to education," it said.

About 250 million children below the age of 14 work rather than going to school in the world. Around 153 million of the child labour force are in Asia. Bangladesh's current literacy rate is about 40 percent.

Khaleda

From Page 1

party, alleged the opposition leader.

The dog squad will cost Tk 5 to 6 crore every year. Such a venture for a poor country like Bangladesh was nothing but an offence. The money could be used or creating job opportunities or reducing the miseries of the poor," added Begum Zia.

She told the audience that the police force is not allowed to carry out their responsibility independently. That is why law and order is deteriorating. The ruling party raised its own force from within the police to serve its purpose.

The opposition leader said prices of essentials including rice soared sky high. Millions of people have no source of earning bread. Mills and factories reduced operation as products from across the border flooded the local market.

"Awami League by its misdeeds has brought you to such a grim situation. Can you vote for them to ruin your future and the nation," Begum Zia asked the audience.

Electioneering in Pabna-2 banned

The Election Commission imposed a ban on electioneering in Pabna-2 constituency from midnight last night to ensure law and order during the byelection tomorrow, reports UNB.

The restriction will remain in force till Thursday midnight, according to an EC press release.

The government has declared December 10 as general holiday for Pabna-2 Constituency.

Both candidates

From Page 1

cision to replace the DC with the ADM as Returning Officer in the polls.

BNP candidate Selim Reza Habib said, "I would definitely win the polls, if the voters are allowed to exercise their right of franchise freely."

Selim, speaking a few minutes before a projection meeting at Sujannagar, expressed that a congenial atmosphere for a free and fair election is yet to be created, 'as the ruling party activists are still sponsoring terrorist activities in the constituency.' The local administration is providing shelter to the Awami League hoodlums," he said. "Police are my biggest rivals in the polls. They have arrested more than 70 of my supporters over the last week."

Reminded that the Election Commission has already replaced the DC with the ADM of Pabna as returning officer, the BNP candidate said: "Well, the ADM has taken over this morning, but we are yet to witness any changes in the situation. I am really afraid, they would not allow our supporters to enter the polling stations."

In the last general election, Selim lost to ruling party candidate late Tazuddin Ahmed by some 1500 votes in the same constituency.

BNP conspiring

From Page 1

ishahi Mizanur Rahman Minu alleged the election code of conduct by campaigning in the election using their official protocol, he alleged.

Zillur also the LGRD Minister further alleged that BNP MPs Fazlur Rahman Patal and Amanullah Aman and Mayor Minu mobilised identified terrorists at Pabna from Dhaka and other parts of the country.

Besides, he said, Patal and two other BNP lawmakers Aminul Haq and Rafiqul Islam Sakul — had the need to kill the Officers-in-Charge of Bera and Sujannagar thanas which comprise the Pabna-2 Constituency.

Another BNP MP Harunur Rashid Khan Monno distributed sarees and lungis worth Tk five lakh among the voters in Dhalarchar under Bera thana, he added.

The AL leader claimed 30 of his party workers were injured in attacks by the BNP-backed terrorists at Sujannagar, Rani-nagar, Satabaria and some other places in the past few days.

"We've lodged written complaints with the Election Commission and urged it to take legal action," he said. Forest and Environment Minister Sajeda Chowdhury and two other AL leaders, Amir Hossain Anu and Abdul Mannan Khan, were also present at the press conference.

Begum Rokeya Day today

By Staff Correspondent

Begum Rokeya Day will be observed in the city as elsewhere across the country today.

Different organisations in the city have drawn up programmes, including colourful processions to mark the day.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have issued separate messages on the occasion hoping that the life and works of Begum Rokeya would continue to inspire the women of the country in their march toward women's development.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will distribute Begum Rokeya Award '98 at a function at Osmani auditorium in the city at 11 in the morning.

Bangla Academy has arranged a discussion on Begum Rokeya at 4 pm today.

Begum Rokeya Shakawat Hossain, the pioneer of women movement in Bangladesh was born in 1880 at village Paila-bandi of Rangpur. She fought for the rights of women defying social barriers throughout her life.

The enlightened lady who had significant contribution towards renaissance of Muslim women got moral support from her husband Syed Shakawat Hossain.

Nasim

From Page 1

pressing 'unhappiness' over minister's involvement in the campaign, and his advice to the PM is totally uncalled for."

Mohammad Nasim made the observations a few minutes before he, along with three other ministers, addressed an election projection meeting at Sujannagar Bazar this afternoon.

Defending his active involvement in the polls campaign, the minister who is also the organising secretary of the ruling party said that it was the right of a political party to decide who would campaign for a party candidate. "A politician, be he a minister or not, has certain responsibilities for the party he belongs to," the minister said. "I am the organising secretary of Awami League. Don't you think that I have certain responsibilities to see that my party candidate does well in the by-election especially when it is being held in my district?"

Explaining a particular electoral rule and the code of conduct Nasim said, the Election Commission's jurisdiction is to see whether the ministers are "unduly influencing" the polls by their involvement. He believes that no electoral rule has been violated by the ministers' involvement in the campaigning.

Asked to comment on the frequent promises of development work made by the ministers during campaign, Nasim said: "It is only natural that the ruling party leaders, as well as the candidate would talk about their possible development projects in the public meetings."

Later addressing the public rally Nasim clearly hinted that the government would implement a lot of development programmes in the constituency only if the ruling party candidate won the polls. "The government would spend a lot of money on different development projects in the constituency through Mr Khandaker, not through any one else."

However, asked to comment on the Election Commission's decision to replace the Deputy Commissioner with the Additional Deputy Magistrate as Returning Officer for the polls, the minister said that he had "no reaction." "We strongly believe in the independence of the Election Commission."

Nasim denied opposition allegation that the ruling party had resorted to terrorist activities in the areas. "It is rather the BNP that has been making concerted efforts to frighten our supporters."

BNP conspiring

From Page 1

ishahi Mizanur Rahman Minu alleged the election code of conduct by campaigning in the election using their official protocol, he alleged.

Zillur also the LGRD Minister further alleged that BNP MPs Fazlur Rahman Patal and Amanullah Aman and Mayor Minu mobilised identified terrorists at Pabna from Dhaka and other parts of the country.

Besides, he said, Patal and two other BNP lawmakers Aminul Haq and Rafiqul Islam Sakul — had the need to kill the Officers-in-Charge of Bera and Sujannagar thanas which comprise the Pabna-2 Constituency.

Another BNP MP Harunur Rashid Khan Monno distributed sarees and lungis worth Tk five lakh among the voters in Dhalarchar under Bera thana, he added.

The AL leader claimed 30 of his party workers were injured in attacks by the BNP-backed terrorists at Sujannagar, Rani-nagar, Satabaria and some other places in the past few days.

"We've lodged written complaints with the Election Commission and urged it to take legal action," he said. Forest and Environment Minister Sajeda Chowdhury and two other AL leaders, Amir Hossain Anu and Abdul Mannan Khan, were also present at the press conference.