

## What's on today....

**Annual general meeting:** The annual general meeting (AGM) of Dhaka Journalists Cooperative Housing Society Limited will be held. Venue: Society office at Block F, Mirpur 11. Time: 10.00 am.

**Seminar:** Nutrition Forum Bangladesh (NFB) and Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Programme (BINP) of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will hold a seminar on "Malnutrition: Bangladesh Perspective." Venue: VIP lounge of National Press Club. Time: 10.30 am.

**Debate:** Dakkhin Khan Girls' School will hold a programme on "Rights of Children and Woman." The programme will include a debate on the issue and an exhibition of various materials developed by the children on the issue. Venue: School premises at Dakkhin Khan area, Uttara. Time: 11.00 am.

**Seminar:** Action Research Study on the Institutional Development of Human Rights of Bangladesh in association with Concern Bangladesh will hold a seminar on "Human Rights Situation in the Vagrant Homes." Chief guest: Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru. Venue: IDB Bhaban, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 11.00 am.

**Condolence meeting:** Dhaka Reporters' Unity will hold a condolence meeting on Nazimur Rahman Rubel. Venue: DRU office, Segunbagicha. Time: 2.30 pm.

**Seminar:** Union of Socialist Intellectuals (USI) will hold a seminar on "Globalization of Bangladesh." Venue: Institute of Modern Languages, DU. Time: 5.00 pm.

**Satyajit Ray retrospective:** Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen *Nayak* (The Hero). Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Road No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6.15 pm.

## ..... and tomorrow

**WEST workshop:** The sixth workshop of Workshop on Environment Science and Technology (WEST) will be held. Organiser: Centre for Scientific and Technological Information (CSTI) of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Environment Voluntary Association (EVA) and Toitonoor. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 9.30 am.

**Film show:** Three French movies *L'armee des ombres* (army in the shadows), *les racines* (the racine) and *La memoire* (the memory) will be screened. Venue: Auditorium of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 11.00 am, 4.00 pm and 6.00 pm.

**First writer poet conference 2000:** The first writer poet conference 2000 will be held. Venue: Kauchi Kancha auditorium, Segunbagicha. Time: 3.00 pm.

**Discussion meeting:** Bangladesh Foundation for Development Research will hold a discussion meeting on "Economic Freedom: Policy and Strategy." The meeting will be presided over by Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria. Venue: CIRDP auditorium, Chameli House, Tophkhana Road. Time: 4.00 pm.

**Printing exhibition:** A solo printing exhibition by Mohammad Ali will be inaugurated. Venue: Gallery of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road. Time: 5.00 pm.

**Polls:** The elections to office of Dhaka Journalists Cooperative Housing Society Limited will be held. Venue: Society office at journalists resident area, Block F, Mirpur 11. Time: 9.00 am-5.00 pm.

**Photography exhibition:** A photography exhibition by Shameem Hasun titled "Mardi: Dying Rituals." Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka's conference room. Time: 5.00 pm.

**Founding anniversary:** The Thirteenth BCS Forum will hold its AGM and a function to mark its 6th founding anniversary. Venue: Officers' Club. Time: 4 pm.

## Weather

### Rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Barisal and Khulna divisions during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

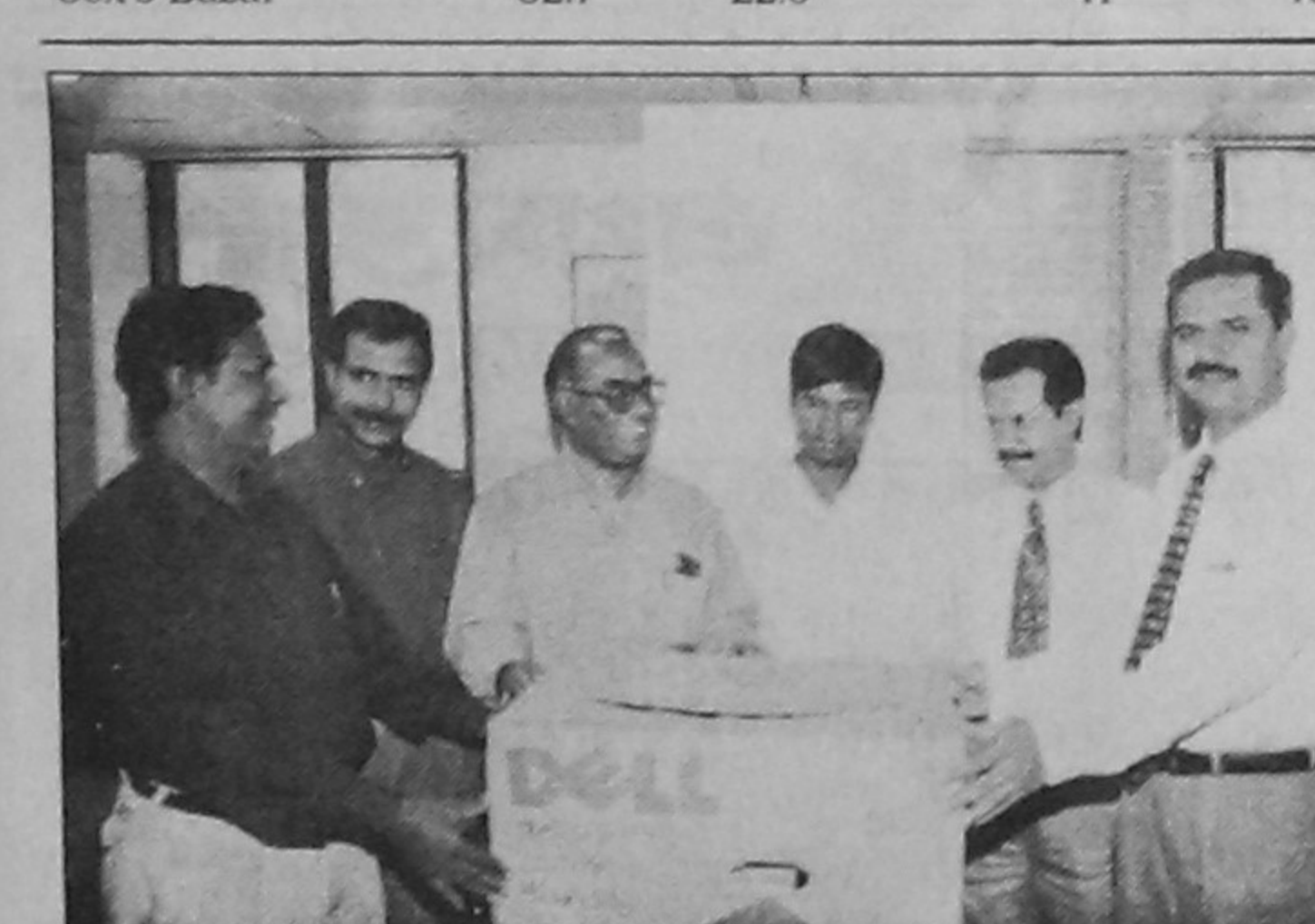
Day temperature may fall by 1 to 3 degree Celsius over the country. Met office predicted.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 32.7 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and the lowest of 17.0 degree Celsius at Sahkura.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.26 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.26 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in Percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	23.2	18.0
Chittagong	30.7	21.5
Rajshahi	26.6	19.3
Khulna	28.5	23.0
Barisal	27.5	18.5
Sylhet	25.2	19.5
Cox's Bazar	32.7	22.0



Standard Chartered Bank donated three computers to the Bangladesh Photojournalists' Association on Tuesday. Sethu Venkateswaran, Chief Executive of the bank, formally handed over the computers to A K M Mohsin, General Secretary of the Association.

### WASA installs 12 new deep tubewells

By Staff Correspondent  
Dhaka WASA has installed 12 new deep tubewells in the city with a view to augmenting the supply of water for the city dwellers during the current dry season.

A press release issued yesterday claimed that water supply situation in the capital improved substantially with the fresh installations that added 5 crore 20 lakh litres to the quantum of water supplied everyday.

The number of deep tubewells in Dhaka has been raised from 260 last year to 323 this year. As a result, Dhaka WASA's water generation capacity has been augmented to 125 crore litre.

### Qulkhwani of Akramuzzaman today

The qulkhwani of G Z M Akramuzzaman, the newly-appointed Divisional Commissioner of Sylhet will be held today (Thursday) after Maghrib prayers at his father's residence at 168, Uttar Bashabo (North Bashabo) in the city, says a press release.

A valiant freedom fighter, Akramuzzaman was the secretary general of Bangladesh Administrative Service Association.

He died of cardiac arrest on Saturday in Sylhet Circuit House.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offering munajat after inaugurating the first community clinic at Gemadanga village in Tungipara yesterday. — PID photo

### Triple murder: One of the accused remanded again

By Court Correspondent

One of the accused in the triple murder case of Rasulbagh was freshly remanded for two days yesterday.

The Detective Branch, which is investigating the case, arrested four people — Manik, Monir, Torikul and Osman. Among them, Manik was taken on a two-day fresh remand. He was earlier taken on a three-day remand after his arrest on April 23.

The three others were remanded for different periods, police said.

Unidentified gunmen shot dead three young men in Rasulbagh in the city's Gulshan area on April 5.

The dead were identified as Chowdhury Zahir Uddin Babar, Selim of Khilgaon and Russel of Rampura.

### Hosiery Samity elections today

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Apr 26: The election of 'Bangladesh Hosiery Samity', the only national organisation of the hosiery traders, will be held tomorrow.

Thirty-one candidates are contesting for 16 posts of the executive committee. Alhaj Rashed Sarwar and Md Hossain Mithu has already been elected president and vice-president (general) respectively as they were the only candidates for these posts.

The polling will continue from 9 am to 5 pm in the office of the association.

### BAT factory resumes operations

Manufacturing operations at the Dhaka factory of British American Tobacco (BAT) Bangladesh resumed last night, says a press release.

The operations began after a peaceful and amicable settlement of the issues following discussions between the management and the union.

### 132 examinees

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Chowdhury and Justice Mohammad Mozammel Hossain heard the writ petition and gave the order at around 3-15 pm.

Senior Advocate Khondakar Mahbubuddin Ahmed and Advocate Ruhul Qudus Kazi appeared for the students while Attorney General Mahmudul Islam and Additional Attorney General Mahbubey Alam appeared for the Board.

A large number of guardians and students were present at the court during the hearing. Many students were seen going through books and notes on the doorway of the High Court building.

The anxious students burst into joy after hearing the court order. Some of them embraced their lawyer Nahida Anjum Kona.

Later, the jubilant students moved towards the Motijheel Model High School and College showing victory sign.

Meanwhile, the college authorities, in a press release last night, asked the 111 students of the Humanities Group to collect their admit cards from the college campus by 8 am today. The press release signed by the principal of the college asked the students to bring two copies of passport size photos with them.

UNB adds: Some 111 HSC candidates, out of 132 of Motijheel Model School and College will sit for the examination beginning today at the Badrinas Government College centre in the city.

Prof A T M Sharif Ullah, Chairman of the Dhaka Education Board told the news agency over telephone that the authorities allowed 111 candidates from the Humanities Group of the college.

## Hasina opens first community clinic

TUNGIPARA (Gopalganj), Apr 26: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina opened the first community clinics today, reports UNB.

From this one-stop health centre, patients will be provided with essential service packages, including healthcare and family planning. The government has planned to establish 6,000 such clinics by June this year.

Inaugurating the clinic, the Prime Minister said the mortality rate of expecting mothers and children would reduce greatly with the package healthcare services.

Hasina said the government had undertaken this project to reach the healthcare services to the rural people and remove malnutrition and ensure preventive measures against diseases.

These centres will provide essential service packages, including preventive vaccine for the children, pneumonia and diarrhoea management, reproductive healthcare, child healthcare, communicable disease control, limited curative and behavior change communications.

The community health clinics will be set up on five decimals of land with a three-room building and at least one clinic for every 6000 people.

The government has taken up the project under the Health and Population Sector programme at a cost of Tk 15,500 crore.

The Prime Minister said the target of the government is to ensure basic healthcare facilities for the people through these community clinics.

## JU MSc exams postponed

By JU Correspondent

MSc final examinations of 23rd batch of Geography and Environment department of Jahangirnagar University (JU) have been postponed for an indefinite period following Gono-tantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO)'s protests against allowing an accused in 'Ananda' murder case to sit for the examination.

Nahid Hasan, former general secretary of JU Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), one of the 13 accused of killing another BCL activist Ananda in 1997, was likely to appear at the MSc examination in 1997. But, he and the other accused were ousted from the campus in November last year.

Recently, when the construction works of Arts Faculty Building began in March this year, all the members of 'killer group' started returning to the campus. Nahid also came back to the campus.

Meanwhile, the university Syndicate on recommendation of the Academic Council decided in August last year to allow Nahid to sit for the MSc examination with 23rd batch.

GCO held protest programmes including procession, rallies against the move.

The MSc examination was scheduled to begin from April 23 but the first examination could not be held following GCO protest. The GCO demanded of the authorities not to allow Nahid into the examination hall.

GCO brought out a procession on the campus yesterday to press for their demand as another examination was scheduled to begin at 12:30 pm yesterday. GCO also held a rally at the Social Science Faculty.

The chairman of the MSc examination committee issued a notice at about 12:30 pm that all the examinations had been postponed for an indefinite period due to 'unavoidable causes'.

Chief Whip's son

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But the OC of Dhanmondi thana said last night that they were arrested from Kalabagan area in a different case.

In reply to a question, OC Hanif said the GD was filed following a misunderstanding between the landlord and tenant Sadik. Actually Sadik shifted to the sixth floor flat when it fell vacant without informing the landlord, he said.

Later, when two shops on the ground floor fell vacant, Sadik proposed to rent those for some business. But the landlord did not agree and a misunderstanding between the two followed, he added.

Relatives of the landlord alleged that Sadik and his men forced the tenants of the two rooms to leave and then forcibly occupied those.

Obituary

Osman Ghani Khan, a former member of parliament and ex-minister, died in Singapore yesterday. He was 77, says a press release.

Khan was also an ex-controller and auditor general, finance secretary, defence secretary and chairman of board of editors of the United Nations.

He is survived by his wife, one son, one daughter, two grandchildren and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He will be buried tomorrow after his body arrives in the city, the release added.

Ayesha Akhter, mother of Science and Technology Minister Mohammad Noor Uddin Khan, died of old-age complications early yesterday morning at her son's official residence in the city. She was 90, reports BSS.

She is survived by her son and a daughter.

She will be buried at the family graveyard at Katabari, Monohardi under Narsingdi district.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed condolence at her death.

## Infighting over strategy

From Page 1

While launching an untimely and unplanned movement, the hardliners took up a number of short- and long-term plans, and in some cases, they succeeded in influencing the party leadership.

The short-term plans were: (1) formation of a right wing alliance and creating distance between BNP and other progressive and centrist parties, (2) boycott of all local body polls under the present government, (3) boycott of sessions since the beginning of the 7th parliament and en masse resignation from Jatiya Sangsad, (4) replacement of the secretary general, (5) influencing the party Chairperson so that she acts on their prescription, (6) creation of an ideological conflict within the party, (7) taking up imprudent activities in the name of movement, (8) creating distance between the party chief and the liberals, (9) inclusion of more hardliners in the party's Standing Committee and other important bodies, and (10) spreading an idea among the party men that BNP could not win future polls without the help of its alliance partners.

The long-term plans were: (1) formation an electoral alliance and sharing seats on a fifty-fifty formula (150 seats for BNP and rest 150 for other alliance partners) to contest the next general election, (2) making BNP permanently dependent on ultra-right wing parties and (3) bringing about some major changes like replacing Bangladesh Nationalism with Islamic Nationalism in the party constitution.

The hardliners succeeded in implementing some of their plans including formation of an ultra-right wing alliance, boycotting local body polls and launching an untimely and unplanned movement. They also partially succeeded in spreading an idea among the party men that BNP would not be able to return to power without an election alliance.

But the hardliners' move to turn the party into an ultra-rightist force and continue movement in an unplanned way failed as the party leadership, under the influence of the liberals, recently changed its strategy and decided to prepare for the next general polls by strengthening the party and continue the current movement.

The sources said the change in strategy was made mainly

because of the party's failure in building a militant movement to dislodge the government from power. The leadership is now convinced that BNP was misguided due to the imprudent, ambitious and unrealistic' advises of the hardliners.

Party men at all levels who were frustrated at how it dealt with major issues including boycotting the local body elections now see the latest developments as heartening.

Party sources said field level leaders and workers are now convinced that the party sustained a serious damage in the last four years due to imprudent decisions and launching of an untimely oust-government movement in an unplanned way.

They said more than 300 BNP activists were killed, over 10,000 arrested, about 70,000 charged with false cases and a large number suffered severe financial and physical hardship as the party launched a 'militant' movement under the influence of the hardliners to topple the government.

As a result, most of the field level activists became demoralised as the untimely movement failed to get public support, they felt.

'Now what we need is to launch a vigorous movement. But we are not getting the expected number of activists on streets because majority of party leaders and activists are either in jail or wounded or accused in various false cases,' said a BNP MP, who usually spends most of his time in his constituency.

The MP, who was elected for four times, said all the hardliners within the party were 'seriously associated with other parties, who came to BNP to ruin and weaken it from within'.

Party sources said the hardliners became desperate after the party leadership, especially the Chairperson, became convinced that it was misguided by them.

The party chief recently accepted suggestions of liberals leaders and decided to continue the movement and take preparation for the next general elections. She has started a massive mass contact across the country.

Her latest strategy to hold public meetings in different parts of the country and meetings with the field level activists has created a positive

impact as the frustrated leaders and workers. Her mammoth public meetings at Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Khulna, Satkhira, Magura and Jessore greatly inspired them, the sources said.

To foil this, hardliners have started openly attacking the liberals, especially Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, through publishing various misleading and motivated reports in a Bangla daily.

The hardliners are sources of all the reports published in the daily, the sources said.

They said the hardliners reacted sharply after the party's National Executive Committee at a recent meeting adopted a resolution and condemned the newspaper for interfering in BNP's politics. This led to issuance of a statement by eight BNP MPs and a few leaders against the party resolution.

Over 70 BNP MPs prepared a statement against the role of the daily, but it was held back at Khaleda Zia's request. She assured them of disciplinary measures against those who gave the statement violating party discipline.

A close aide of the BNP Chairperson said Khaleda Zia strongly reprimanded those who issued statements and warned of punitive measure if anyone violates party discipline in future.

The aide said that she is also annoyed with the 'motivated' reports in the daily because those 'cast aspersions not only on party leaders and activists but also on her and her family members'.

Several top party leaders told this correspondent that BNP was on the verge of resigning from the parliament under the influence of the hardliner group. Such a move would be a severe blow to the party's electoral chances in future, they observed.

The liberals succeeded in preventing the resignation. Awami League would have gone for by-polls if the BNP resigned from Jatiya Sangsad. 'It was certainly a government design,' said an influential party MP.

He said the hardliners' moves within the party seems to be 'pre-planned and guided by anti-BNP quarters'. It has been repeatedly proved that the hardliners caused serious damage to the party over the past years. The decision to hold unilateral parliamentary polls on February 15, 1996 was taken by the hardliners, he said.

## Second BIMSTEC meet begins in Delhi today

NEW DELHI, Apr 26: The second ministerial meeting of the Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) begins here tomorrow to discuss measures to accelerate pace of economic cooperation among the member countries, reports BSS.

A two-member Bangladesh delegation to the conference is being led by Commerce Minister M A Jaiil.

Meanwhile, senior trade officials of the BIMSTEC held a meeting here today to finalise recommendations to be submitted for the consideration of trade ministers tomorrow, meeting sources said.

Indian Commerce Secretary P P Prabhu presided over the meeting which focused on trade facilitation issues including movement of businessmen from BIMSTEC countries, harmonisation of customs procedures, facilitation of transportation and banking arrangements.

## Embarrassed

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case', he said.

Gulam Kibria in his complaint termed the stick procession a 'terrorist' act and filed the complaint against Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Home Minister Mohammad Nasim, State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and Awami League leader Mukul Bose.

Advocate Kibria lodged the complaint under Clause 10 and 12 of the newly enacted PSA, accusing the government leaders of 'terrorising judges, lawyers and the people at large'.

## Bangladeshi held

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27 hostages were released, along with the body of a passenger killed by the hijackers — the plane landed in the Afghan city of Kandahar.

The hostages were finally freed after India released three jailed Kashmiri militants.

Intelligence sources said Mian, whose family lives in Bangladesh, confessed that he had brought the hijackers into India from Bangladesh and then taken them to Kathmandu.

Police said Mian had also smuggled a huge quantity of powerful plastic explosives into India. The explosives were recovered from the home of Mian's neighbour, who has been arrested.

They said Mian also had links with the Kashmiri separatist group Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, an outfit close to jailed Pakistani cleric Maulana Masood Azhar, whose release was secured through the hijack.

India was described the five hijackers as Pakistani nationals and claimed that the abductees fled to Pakistan from Kandahar. Islamabad rejects both the charges.

## PM: Mig purchase

From Page 1

mission in the purchase of the Mig fighter planes as she is out of power now. She asked the Leader of the Opposition not to make tall talks about purchases as the 'present' government maintains transparency in all its activities.

The meeting was also addressed by Communication Minister Anwar Hossain Manu, Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, Health and Family Welfare Minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim and Farooq Khan MP. Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, general secretary of the Gopalganj District Awami League, chaired the meeting.

Any intimidation or hartal would not be able to remove the elected government, she said.

'Since coming to power, we've heard a lot of ultimatum and threats, but we have been in power for three years and ten months as people stand behind us and we are working for their welfare,' she told the rally after inaugurating the Haridaspur Bridge here in the morning.

Hasina's remarks came a day after her political opponents at a public meeting in Rajshahi warned that the government would be pulled down through unending hartal to be announced on April 30.

The Prime Minister said the trio of autocrat, vote thief and *rajakar* thrown out by the people through mass upsurge have banded together to snatch people's vote and plunder public money.

About the opposition's anti-government agitation, Hasina said Khaleda and her allies are trying to launch movement against the people, but they

## Sher-e-Bangla

From Page 1

death anniversary, the President said, Sher-e-Bangla's deep love and feelings for the people and his sincere efforts to resolve their problems have become proverb with the people.

Justice Shahabuddin said the formation of 'Rin Shalishi Board' by the efforts of Sher-e-Bangla had freed the oppressed class and farmers from the clutches of the traditional money-lenders.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the ideology of courageous and pro-people political leader would encourage the people of the country to establish a society free from exploitation.

'The main philosophy of his politics was to do welfare of the common people,' she said in her message.

The prime minister said Sher-e-Bangla established the tenancy rights and renewed lending (Mahajani) system, which ultimately paved the way for ending the age of feudalism. He was a friend of the farmers and the poor who were exploited and repressed by the lenders and the landlords, she added.

Bangladesh Awami League will place wreaths at the mazar of the late leader at 8 am in observance of his death.

failed to get their response as people do not want useless hartal and agitation.

Responding to Khaleda's prediction of winning 269 seats in next general elections, the Prime Minister questioned how she could know it before the election is held.

Hasina said those who have developed the habit of rigging could say so, but people would never choose the vote thieves in future.

Criticising the rule of Ershad and Khaleda as 'dark era of corruption,' the Prime Minister said people have got bitter experience about their rule in the past.

Rebuking the BNP Chairperson as audacity for her advice remarks against the trial of Bangabandhu's killers, Hasina said Khaleda who did not try the killers of her husband is now trying to protect the self-confessed killers of Bangabandhu through launching movement.

'Khaleda has joined hands with the killers of her husband and is trying to protect the killers of the father of nation,' the Prime Minister told the meeting.

She said the court has given the verdict against the killers of Bangabandhu and they must be punished as per law.

Earlier, the Prime Minister inaugurated the 173-meter long Haridaspur Bridge on Gopalganj-Kashiani-Baolmari road. The bridge was constructed at a cost of nearly Tk 12 crore.

## 6 cops suspended

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Deputy Commissioner and an Assistant Commissioner of DMP have been transferred for their alleged negligence of duty. They are

ADC Z A Morshed and AC Bellal Hossain, police sources said.

Meanwhile, a Naik of the Army was caught by Tejgaon police from a hotel at Kauran Bazar and one kg of