

What's on today....

Launching ceremony: The Danida WatSan Sector Programme Support will be launched by NGO forum. Venue: BETS Centre, House No 55, Road No 4/A, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 10:00 am.

Debate: The Textile Engineering College Debating Club will hold the final round of its inter-university debate competition. The Textile Engineering team meets DU team in the final round. Chief guest: Prof. Abdullah Abu Sayeed, President of Biswa Shahitya Kendra. Venue: College Auditorium, Tejgaon. Time: 11:00 am.

Exhibition: The two-week solo art exhibition by Hiranmay Chandra "Decorative Fantasy" will be inaugurated. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 5:30 pm.

Satyajit Ray Retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society presents *Sonar Kella* (The Golden Fortress). Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Rd No. 2 Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:15 pm.

Drama: Prachyanat will present its 4th production circus written and directed by Azad Akbar Kalam. Venue: Guide House auditorium, Bailey Rd. Time: 7:00 pm.

Folk theatre festival: Jhumur Tongi, a theatre group from Gazipur will present *Rahim Badshah Rupban Kanya* on the last of the week long folk theatre festival. Organiser: Bangladesh Silpakala Academy. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 7:00 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Inauguration: The National Tree Plantation Drive 2000 will be inaugurated. A rally will be held and a procession brought out to mark the occasion. Chief guest: Minister for Environment and Forest Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury. Venue: Manik Miah Avenue. Time: 8:30 am.

CDRB seminar: Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh (CDRB) will hold a seminar "Islam, State and Society in Bangladesh". Dr. Moutaz Ahmed, Professor of Hampton University (USA) and senior research fellow of the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS), which is represented by CDRB in Bangladesh. Venue: Women's Voluntary Association (WVA), House No 20, Rd No 27 (Old), 16 (New). Time: 5:00 pm.

Satyajit Ray Retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society presents *Joi Baba Felunath*. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Rd No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:15 pm.

Weather

No change in temp likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Khulna, Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at one or two places over Chittagong division till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period. Met office said.

The country's highest temperature 34.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Dinajpur and the lowest 23.7 degree Celsius at Chittagong.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:47 pm and rises on Wednesday at 5:11 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.5	25.2	77	76
Chittagong	27.2	23.7	97	95
Rajshahi	33.8	25.8	89	83
Khulna	32.5	24.6	93	84
Barisal	29.8	24.6	94	92
Sylhet	31.0	24.8	80	100
Cox's Bazar	28.8	25.2	97	98

HERE and THERE

Election Commission secretariat class III employees Assoc

The annual election of the Election Commission Secretariat Class-III Government Employees' Association was held yesterday, reports UNB.

M. Montaj Ali and Akhtar Hossain were elected president and general secretary of the association.

Other office-bearers are: M. Abul Kalam Azad, M. Abdul Hamid, Gazi Mohammad Masud, Arifa Begum, M. Mujibur Rahman, Montaj Begum and M. Saibur.

SM Asaduzzaman, APRO of the EC Secretariat conducted the polls as election commissioner. M. Mosharraf Hossain and M. Rafiqul Islam were members of the commission, said a press release.

Workshop

MR Training & Services Program (MRTSP) organised a mini-workshop at its central office in the city on Saturday to launch a programme for incorporating RTI/STD screening and Pap smear screening for cervical cancer in MCH-FP training and services, says a press release.

Prof. Dr. M. Shamsier Ali, President, MRTSP, Presided



Kazuyoshi Urabe, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh and Dr. AKM Masihur Rahman, Secretary of Economic Relations Division, signing the Exchange of Notes for 6902.188 million Yen (approximately Taka 326 crore) Japanese Debt Relief Grant Assistance to Bangladesh.



DU teacher dies

By DU Correspondent

Professor A. K. Ahmadullah of Social Welfare and Research Institute of Dhaka University died of cardiac arrest at the BIRDEM Hospital on Sunday night. He was 73.

He left behind two sons, one daughter and a host of admirers to mourn his death, said a DU press release.

Namaj-e-janaza of the former director of the Institute was held in front of university central mosque after Zohr prayers. Later, he was buried at the Mirpur Intellectual Graveyard.

The deceased joined the Dhaka University as teacher in 1957 and served the university for as many as 43 years. He wrote a number of articles which were published in various national and international journals.

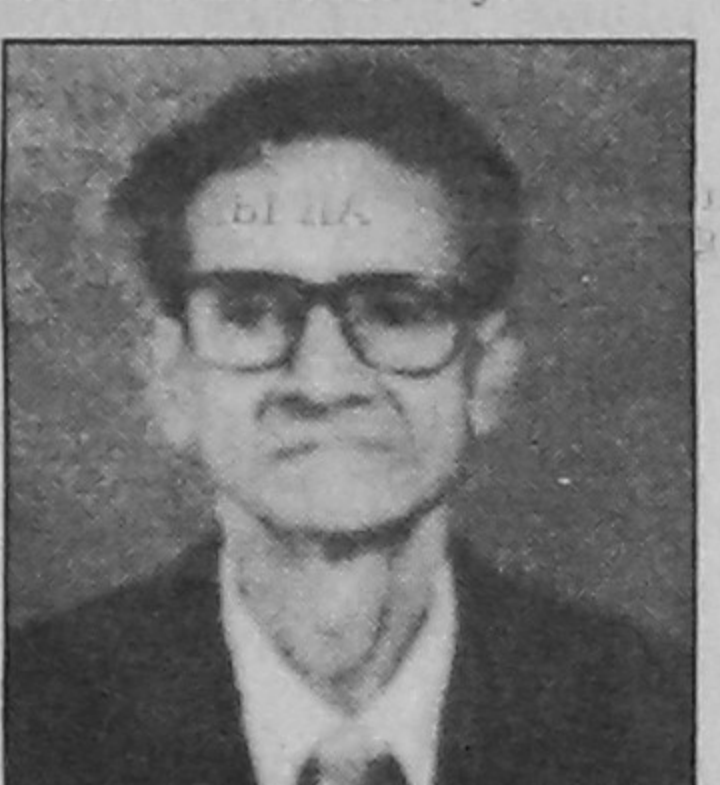


Former Biman official dead

Nuruddin Chowdhury, a retired senior navigation officer of Bangladesh Biman died on Sunday at 2:30 pm at Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital. He was 70, says a press release.

The deceased left behind his wife, two sons, a daughter and a large number of relations, friends and admirers to mourn his death.

The qulshwani of Chowdhury will be held on Wednesday after Asr prayers at the residence of the deceased at 47/5 Indira Road in the city.



Barrister Abdul Hamid dead

A noted lawyer of the Bangladesh Supreme Court Barrister Abdul Hamid died of old-age complications at his Tophkhana residence in the city yesterday, a press release said. He was 80, reports BSS.

He is survived by his wife, one son, three daughters and a host of friends and relatives to mourn his death.

Advocate Hamid joined the Dhaka High Court Bar in 1960. Later, he founded the Dhaka Law College. In a message, Vice Chairman of the Bangladesh Bar Council Barrister Amirul Islam expressed deep shock at the death of Hamid.

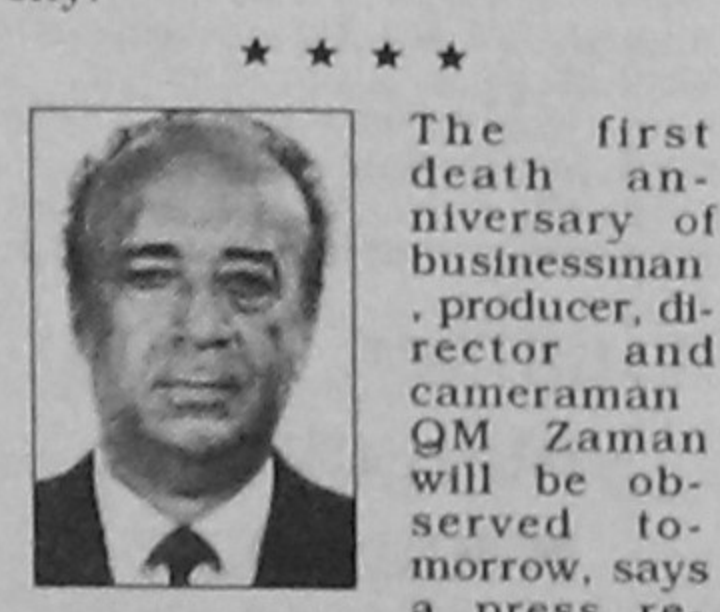
He prayed for the peace of the departed soul and offered sympathy to the members of the bereaved family of Hamid.

Death anniversary

The 24th death anniversary of L. A. Chowdhury, a renowned social worker and politician will be observed today, says press release.

L. A. Chowdhury was a close associate of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Haq. He was general secretary of Jukto Front in 1954 and president of Krishak Sramik Party, Chittagong branch.

A *milad mahfil* and *Qurankhuan* will be held today after *Esha* prayers at grave of Chowdhury of Kadam Mobarak Chittagong and Naya Pallan Jame Mosque, VIP Road, in the city.



The first death anniversary of businessman, producer, director and cameraman QM Zaman will be observed tomorrow, says a press release.

To mark the day cooked food will be distributed among the destitute from 6:00 am till noon, and a *milad mahfil* will be held at his ancestral home Shaheb Bari, Hazigonj after Zohr prayers.



Fiza Huq, a student of Aptech Computer Education, Dhanmondi Centre receiving the outstanding performance award from Shaheen Anam, chairperson of Axiom Technologies Ltd, on "IT Ambassador Programme" conference. Fiza scored 92.4 per cent marks in the 1st year examination, and Fiza also scored the highest marks in the merit scholarship examinations.

Aptech awards scholarships

Axiom Technologies Ltd, master business partner of Aptech Computer Education (ACE) and Asset International jointly organised a conference on "IT Ambassador Program". The conference was held at the Russian Cultural Centre auditorium on Sunday and students of the centre attended it, says a press release.

Shaheen Anam, Chairperson of Axiom Technologies Ltd, distributed the merit scholarship awards among the students namely Fiza Huq, Gerald Stanley Gomes, Chazal Abdul Quayum, Mostafa Iqbal, Mahmud Ali Alamgir and Samiul Abedin. The Chairperson said Aptech Dhanmondi Centre will keep on rewarding the meritorious students with scholarships. She also called upon the students to take full advantage of the facilities available at the centre like free web browsing, e-mail facilities and extensive library resources.

Rizwan Bin Farouq, Executive Director of Axiom Technologies Ltd, in his presentation highlighted the objectives of the IT Ambassador Program (IAP). He stated that the aim of this programme is to involve the students of APTECH and ASSET in a series of individual

and group activities for spreading IT awareness in their locality and eventually establishing themselves as IT Gurus of their respective areas.

Mahmud Khan, a US-based non-resident Bangladeshi software project engineer working at Hanewell Corp also addressed the budding IT professionals at ACE's conference. Khan lauded the role of Aptech Computer Education which is providing leading-edge IT education in Bangladesh. He said that there remains a tremendous opportunity in both domestic and international IT job market for ACE diploma holders. He advised them to choose a speciality within IT and work hard to enhance their skill in that particular area.

While receiving the award for outstanding achievement Fiza Huq said, "My last degree was a Masters in Physics. After a study gap of more than six years, I joined Aptech Computer Education, Dhanmondi in order to build a career in the IT industry. Extraordinary cooperation and care provided to me by the faculties at Aptech helped me secure 92.4% marks. The excellent academic standards and facilities at Aptech certainly has changed my life!"

Barisal Cadet College secures 18 positions

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 12: Barisal Cadet College students secured highest number of positions in the combined merit list of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations under Jessore Education Board this year.

Examinees of this college secured 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 9th (2), 10th, 15th, 16th, and 18th positions in science group while 3rd, 5th, 7th, 13th, 15th, 16th, 17th and 19th positions in humanities group totalling 18 positions in the combined merit list.

A total of 40 examinees appeared in the SSC examinations from the college this year.

In his instant reaction Prof. Syed Abdul Khaleque, Principal of Barisal Cadet College said, "I'm proud of my students and satisfied with the results as my students secured highest number of places in the combined merit list of the SSC examinations under Jessore Education Board this year."

Major Maqsoodur Rahman, Adjutant of the college also expressed his satisfaction about the results.

More spent on urban health units

Union centres get Tk 75,000 a year while per bed budget in city Tk 25,000

By Staff Correspondent

Government's yearly expenditure for each bed at the public hospitals is Tk 25,000 while its total spending for a grass roots level urban health centre is only Tk 75,000.

Funding for each bed at the district hospitals is Tk 22,000 and that of a thana hospital is Tk 15,000.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim disclosed the government expenses for the public hospitals and health centres in response to a question in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

The Lions share of the government budget for public hos-

pitals is spent for medicine -- 60 per cent for the medical college hospitals, 70 per cent for the district hospitals and 75 per cent for thana hospitals, according to a chart the minister placed in parliament.

While its expenses for medicine is higher at the lower level hospitals, the government spends less for instruments for those hospitals, the chart shows.

Replying to another question, the health minister told the house that 333 posts of gynaecologists are now lying vacant at government institutions due to scarcity of such specialised doctors.

At present, only 240 gynaecologists are working against 573 posts for them at the government hospitals and other organisations, he said, adding the total number of such doctors is nearly 435.

The minister told another questioner that the government has set up 3915 clinics at 1399 unions of 311 thanas under 42 districts in the outgoing fiscal year.

The minister informed that the total budgetary allocation for treatment and surgical equipment was Taka 115.65,50,000 in the 1999-2000 fiscal.

Govt Coronation Girls' School performs excellent

From Quazi Amanullah

KHULNA, June 12: Govt Coronation Girls' High School has performed excellent in the SSC examination this year. It secured six positions in the combined merit list under Jessore Education Board, the commerce group, in particular, stolen the show among other groups in the combined merit list in Khulna.

18 examinees from commerce group have occupied different positions in the combined merit list in Khulna. Of them, Shailla Swat Siddiqui of Coronation Girls' School has stood first obtaining 926 marks in total with letter of distinction in nine subjects.

The second position goes to Nandita Majumdar of Mannu-gan Govt Girls School who has got 900 marks in total with letters of distinction in eight subjects. Besides, 4th, 7th, 9th, 11th, 14th, 16th, 17th and 18th positions were occupied by Khulna examinees from commerce group in the combined merit list.

Apart from commerce group Susmita Saha of Govt Coronation Girls' School has stood second from science group in the combined merit list getting 942 marks in total with letter marks in nine subjects. 13th and 19th positions from the same group have also been occupied by Farhana Shabnam and Zubaida Gulshan Ara respectively of Govt Coronation Girls' School. Mohammad Rafiq of Khulna Public College has also secured 19th position from science group. He has got 913 marks in total with letter of distinctions in eight subjects.

In humanities group Farzana Hossain of Govt Coronation Girls' School has stood first in the combined merit list securing 876 marks in total. The 16th position from the same group has been occupied

by Maffara Tajnin of Govt Coronation Girls' School. She has got 837 marks in total with letter marks in 6 subjects. It may be mentioned here that a total of 25 examinees from science, commerce and humanities groups have occupied different positions in the combined merit list from Khulna of which seven are from Govt Coronation Girls' School.

None has secured any position from any of the groups in the combined merit list from Khulna Zilla School this year. Mannu-gan Govt Girls' School of Boyra in Khulna city has occupied positions, while Shuili Hari Shatya is the lone examinee of Paikgacha Govt Girls School to occupy 16th position in humanities group with 837 marks in total.

Tahmina stands 9th among girls in DB Science Group

Tahmina Tahsin (R-102538) of Motilheel Ideal School and College secured the 13th position in the combined merit list of the SSC examinations under Dhaka Board this year, reports UNB.

A candidate from science group, Tahmina stood 9th among girls securing 931 marks with letters in seven subjects. She wants to be a computer engineer.

Daughter of A. K. M. Abdul Hye of DMP Ration Store and Anisul Haya Nahida Khanam, Tahmina gives all credits of her result to her parents and teachers.

'Extend voter registration period'

By Staff Correspondent

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a statement yesterday demanded extension of a one month period for preparing the voter list and to deliver adequate voter registration forms across the country.

He expressed his concern over incidents of scarcity of voter registration forms throughout the country, said a press release last night.

In his statement Mannan Bhuiyan alleged that in some places voter registration forms have not been delivered deliberately. The ruling party has been conspiring to deprive BNP leaders, activists and supporters from their voting right, he alleged.

11-party

Eleven-party, a platform of left-leaning party in a meeting yesterday demanded the extension of time limit for 15 days more from June 14 to enable all eligible voters to be enrolled in the new voters' list, reports BSS.

According to a press release of the parties, the extension was sought due to inadequate supply and non-availability of voters' data forms in different parts of the country.

The meeting presided over by Gono Forum General Secretary Salfuddin Ahmed Manik expressed concern over reported irregularities in voters' enlistment and inadequate supply of voter information forms.

Central leaders of the parties Rashed Khan Menon, Khalequzzaman, Nirmal Sen, Binol Biswa, Haji Abdus Samad, Iqbal Majumdar, Advocate Abdus Salam, Ashraf Hossain Ashu and Sharafat Hossain Hira were, among others, present in the meeting, the press release said.

Bashar faces challenge

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to take over from Hafez after the latter suffered a heart attack in 1983, would be arrested if he returned to Damascus.

The office of Syria's caretaker head of state, Vice President Abdel Halim Khaddam, refused to comment.

Bashar, a 34-year-old ophthalmologist who had been groomed as his father's successor for six years, has been proposed as presidential candidate by the leadership of the ruling Baath party and appointed head of the armed forces.

His candidacy is expected to be rubber-stamped by parliament on June 25 before being put to a national plebiscite.

Funeral today

Tuesday will see a formal funeral attended by foreign dignitaries, followed by burial in Assad's hometown of Qardaha, 300 km north of Damascus.

Ten heads of state have announced their intention of attending the funeral, but only one — French President Jacques Chirac — is from a western nation.

The rest include Turkish President Ahmet Necdet Sezer, making his first foreign trip amid improving ties just two years after Turkey came to the brink of war with Syria, which was sheltering Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan, and a clutch of Arab leaders.

Western leaders have hesitated between the chance of sipping up Bashar, and being seen to pay respects at too high level to a man they criticised for his alleged support of

terrorism and human rights abuses during his 30 year rule.

Assad's coffin, draped with the red, white and black Syrian flag with green stars, will be carried on the shoulders of pallbearers from his home in the Rawda residential neighbourhood of Damascus to the main Ummayyad Square, which has been filled with mourners since Saturday.

The body will be taken on a gun carriage to the white-marbled fortress-like People's Palace, known in Arabic as Qasr al-Shaab, that sits atop the Gaswan hill which commands Damascus, the official SANA news agency said.

The casket will be displayed for five hours in Qasr al-Shaab, where Assad used to receive his foreign guests, to allow the visiting dignitaries to pay their last respects and their condolences to Bashar.

Assad's body will then be flown to the northern coastal city of Lattaqieh on its way to its final resting place in the family plot at Qardaha for burial after *Maghrib* prayers.

Hundreds of thousands of mourners are expected to line the 30-kilometer highway between Lattaqieh and Qardaha, where Assad will be buried most probably beside his eldest son Basil, who died in a car crash in 1994 and has a mausoleum in the village.

Other foreign dignitaries attending the funeral include US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook and foreign ministers from Belgium, Japan, Switzerland and Spain.

Two WC ties fixed

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Pakistan lost both matches but went on to reach the final in which they were beaten by Australia.

Majid Khan meanwhile confirmed Monday he told Bacher that two World Cup matches were fixed.

"Whatever Bacher has stated about me is correct and I stand by his statement that those matches were fixed," Khan told AFP in Karachi.

"I do not want to add anything except that I did speak to him about these matches having been fixed," he said. "Whatever Bacher has stated is true."

Bacher also read out a letter from Jacques Selischop, an executive of mobile telephone company MTN that sponsors South African cricket.

Selischop wrote in a letter to Bacher that he had sat next to "an attractive young man of dark complexion, with a slightly foreign accent," on a flight from Johannesburg to Durban on April 18, 2000.

Later, after seeing pictures of Shoaib Akhtar, he said he believed it was the Pakistan fast bowler, unless the player had a double.

The young man had told him he was in South Africa receiving treatment for an injury and

was about to rejoin his team in the West Indies.

He had provided "minute details" of how matches were fixed, Shoaib said. Hansie Cronje, the sacked South African captain, was "stupid" to deal directly with bookmakers.

"Anyone with experience would know to work through a third party and never on the phone. In Pakistan's case, the captain did the negotiation and the fee was generally one million US dollars."

The "Akhtar double" had told him "the Australians are very active in the business of generating income from engineering the outcome of matches." Their officials were aware of it.

There was laughter in the packed commission hearing room when Bacher read a sentence from the letter in which the young man had reportedly said: "The enjoyment of the spectators is not compromised because they don't know what outcome has been arranged".

Selischop said investigations with South African Airways had established that the seat occupied by the young man was in the name of AR Mayet. Immigration records could not trace any arrival in South Africa of either Shoaib Akhtar or Mayet.

Hartal passes off

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main procession of the party was brought out from its central office at Naya Pallan at 11.15 am. BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan led the procession that marched up to Purana Pallan.

Police chased the procession while it was returning to the party office as some activists pelted stones at an auto-rickshaw and damaged it at Bijoy-nagar. But police refrained from any action as BNP MPs intervened. Pickets partially burnt two rickshaws at Bijoy-nagar at around 11 am.

Two big processions, one led by Abdul Mannan Chowdhury and Mirza Abbas and another by Khondaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed and Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, also paraded different city streets during the hartal.

Anti-hartal processions were brought out in the city by the ruling Awami League and its front organisations in some areas of the city including Bangabandhu Avenue and Press Club areas.

Police said an auto-rickshaw passenger was injured when pickets threw bomb at the three-wheeler in Dholaikhal area at about 9 am. A boy was injured in a bomb explosion at Gandaria at about noon. Rickshawer Raishuddin (40) received bomb injury at Arambagh shortly after noon. Police also said that opposition activists damaged vehicles and exploded bombs in Badda, New Market, Jail Gate and Dhanmondi areas.

BNP and its allies organised a joint public rally at Purana Pallan before the hartal ended. Sadek Hossain Khoka presided.

Addressing the rally, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan alleged that the Speaker's recent ruling for keeping the attendance register for lawmakers inside the House is illegal. It would only help implement conspiracies of the ruling Awami League which has already turned the House into a party forum and using it for character assassination of opposition leaders and activists.

Bhuiyan said the proposed budget is a document of AL's "incompetence and failures."

Samad acting AL president

Awami League presidium member and Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad will act as president of the party during the party president and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's tour of Syria, reports UNB.

Bihar

From page 1

5,000 reported homicides, 12,000 incidents of rioting and hundreds of abductions. Bihar has earned the dubious distinction of being India's most lawless state.

Bihar chief minister Rabri Devi, an illiterate mother of nine, belongs to the Yadav community and is currently facing criminal charges of corruption.

Devi in a statement said she strongly condemned the killings.

India's ruling Hindu nationalist BJP party, which is the opposition in Bihar, said the massacre highlighted the deteriorating situation in India's second most populous state.

"Criminals are ruling the roost in Bihar and the administration remains a mute spectator," state BJP leader Sushil Modi said, adding the attack proved that Devi's "administration had totally collapsed."