

174 UP chairmen, members of Bogra, Comilla join AL

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the freedom fighters and pro-liberation forces to forge a rock-solid unity to forestall the defeated forces of the Liberation War from staging a come-back to power, reports BSS.

She was addressing a gathering at the International Conference Centre where 174 Union Parishad chairmen and members of Bogra Sadar Upazila and Comilla along with a large number of freedom fighters formally joined Awami League.

The UP chairmen from Bogra and 164 elected members, including women members, and a large number of veteran freedom fighters of Comilla led by former Assistant Attorney General Advocate Syed Motilul Islam Maitu joined Awami League being imbued with the ideals of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and shoving allegiance to the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The Prime Minister said the defeated forces of the Liberation War and anti-people forces have formed an unholy alliance and are conspiring to capture power. She urged the progressive forces, including freedom-loving people and valiant freedom fighters, to thwart such evil design of those vested elements.

Welcoming the newcomers to the party, the Prime Minister told the people's representatives of Bogra that her government had made all-out efforts to regain the lost glory of Bogra as an industrial township.

"We never make any discrimination among different areas of the country when development aspects are concerned," she said adding that her government wants rational uplift of all regions of the country.

"It is not at all our concern where we have received votes or which areas belong to the opposition MPs. We want welfare of the people and development of the country as our party is people's party and we do politics for the development of the country," she said.

The Prime Minister said when Awami League led the War of Liberation and achieved nation's independence, the BNP and JP had not even been born. She said the previous governments had mismanaged the affairs of the state and plundered the resources. "BNP left power keeping 40 lakh tonnes of food deficit but within four years of assuming to power, we attained self-sufficiency in food," she added.

On behalf of the freshers, Advocate Syed Motilul Islam Maitu, Ashadur Rahman Khandaker, Aminul Islam Manik, Abdul Latif Mandal, Ramjan Ali, Hafajat Ara Mira and Aminul Haq spoke on the occasion.

Awami League president member and Commerce Minister Mohammad Abdul Jalil, publicity secretary Abdul Mannan, A F M Mostafa Kamal Lotus MP, Bogra Awami League president Moutaz Uddin and general secretary Ferdous Janan Mukul were present on the occasion.



Dhaka University students held a rally in front of the National Press Club yesterday calling on all to come forward in fighting the social menace of acid attacks in the country. -- Star photo

Adaptation of HR Charter at AAPP meet in Nov likely

Dhaka to seek permanent Secretariat of AAPP here

Star Report

Parliamentarians from 54 countries are expected to adapt a Human Right Charter for Asian nations at the general assembly and conference of the Association of Asian Parliamentarians for Peace (AAPP) in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh next month.

The Cambodian King and the Queen will jointly preside over the inaugural session of the conference on November 6, sources in the AAPP Secretariat in Dhaka said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, President of AAPP, is due to move the charter titled "Millennium Declaration" in the grand assembly, calling for protection of human rights in the region.

The five-day AAPP conference, the first of its kind since the association was formed at a convention of the Asian parliamentarians in September last year, is expected to accommodate fresh members to the one-year-old organisation.

Last year's convention during September 1-4 in Dhaka

was attended by 31 countries of which 26 were registered as members. The AAPP charter provides for inclusion of new members from among the Asian countries.

The temporary Secretariat of AAPP housed at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban here in the city is now busy inviting the 26 members and the other Asian nations. "As the schedule and other details are continuously changing, we have to keep round the clock correspondence with the host and others regarding the Phnom Penh meet," a senior AAPP official told the Daily Star.

AAPP President Sheikh Hasina and Vice President, Cambodian Prince Norodom Ranariddh have signed the letters inviting all the guests in the assembly.

Bangladesh plan to seek a permanent secretariat of the AAPP in Dhaka. It will also open discussion with the member countries to raise funds for establishing peace in the continent, said the official.

So far, 15 of the member

countries have already supported Bangladesh's demand for setting up a permanent secretariat of the association in Dhaka. Sources at the AAPP secretariat said, 12 AAPP members have confirmed their participation in the conference while three others -- Egypt, Kiribati and Sri Lanka -- regretted due to their internal problems.

Besides host Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka from South Asia, and Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam from South-East Asia also registered as members of the AAPP during last year's launching of the forum.

The Russian Federation is the lone member from the Central Asia.

Other founding members of AAPP are: Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Syria and Yemen from West Asia, China, Republic of Korea and Mongolia from the North East-Asia while Kiribati and Tonga from the Pacific group.

Puja with a difference Devotees form human chains demanding repeal of an act

Joys and jubilation continued yesterday across the country in celebration of the Durga Puja but members of the Hindu community observed half an hour silence and formed human chains in all the puja mandaps demanding immediate repeal of the Vested (Enemy) Property act, reports BSS.

No sound of drum or that of any other musical instrument was heard in any mandap of the city as the devotees observed silence as a mark of protest against the law formulated by the erstwhile Pakistan government that confiscated the property of the absentee Hindu owners during the Pakistan-India war in 1965.

Bangladesh Puja Uddhapan Parishad announced the programme on the fifth day (Shabadi) of the six-day long Sharadiya Durgotsab.

The old and young people present in the Mandap premises from 10:30 am to 11 am stood in silence carrying a black flag in front of the images of the goddess Durga, erected to celebrate the puja.

A large number of devotees along with their spouses attended the "protest programme" and joined hand in hands to form the human

chains. The programme was observed in all the major puja mandaps of the city including the Dhakeshwari temple, Ramkrishna Mission Puja Mandap, Jagannath Hall Puja Mandap of Dhaka University, Barodeshwari Kali Mandir and Siddheshwari Puja Mandap.

Besides the Hindu community, a large number of leaders of the civil society including politicians expressed their solidarity with the programme at the Dhakeshwari Puja Mandap. Among others, Justice K M Sobhan, Syed Hasan Imam, Ajoy Roy, Pankaj Bhattacharya, Mujahidul Islam Selim, Dilip Barua, Morshed Ali, Azizul Islam Khan, Hayat Mamud, Professor Abul Barakat and Aronna Datta joined the programme.

Identical programme was also observed at the Ramna Kali Mandir and Ma Anandamoyee Ashram at Suhrawardy Udayan where the Durga Puja is being celebrated for the first time since the independence of Bangladesh.

The 500-year-old Ramna Kali Mandir was demolished by the Pakistani occupation forces during the War of Liberation on March 27 in 1971. It was a long-cherished demand of the

Hindu community to celebrate Durga Puja at the site.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said that the Vested Property Act would be annulled after proper scrutiny and called upon all to remain alert so that the vested quarters could not create confusion by spreading falsehood.

Addressing a big congregation of the members of the Hindu community on the occasion of Durga Puja at Dhakeshwari temple premises, she said the cabinet on August 3 decided in principle "on the return" of the vested property to the owners and formed a committee of ministers to draft a law in that line.

"Now we have to go through various processes including obtaining vetting of the law ministry, further approval by the cabinet for placing it to the parliament, sending to the parliamentary standing committee for approval and again placing to the Jatiya Sangsad for acceptance," she said.

It involves a lot of process, she told the members of the Hindu community and urged them not to be misled by propaganda of any vested quarter.



Bangladesh Puja Uddhapan Committee organised the formation of human chains and observance of silence at all Puja Mandaps in the country yesterday demanding repeal of the Vested Property Act. Picture shows a human chain at the Dhakeshwari Mandir in the city. --Star photo

Prof Sayeed tells newsmen Betar, TV to get autonomy after achieving self-reliance

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed has said that Bangladesh Television (BTV) would get autonomy soon after achieving self-reliance, reports BSS.

"The government is pledged-bound to fulfil its commitments to the people," Prof Sayeed said while exchanging views with the newsmen at consulate office in New York on Friday. State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader and Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury were present on the occasion.

The state minister said in recognition of image of the country, American TV network

CNN (Cable News Network) is interested in broadcasting three minutes uncensored Bangladeshi news in its weekly world report programme.

Refuting an allegation that the opposition is not getting coverage, the state minister said cameras of Bangladesh television was sent to cover opposition programmes for 33 times. But the Leader of the Opposition never allowed BTV coverage rather her partymen have broken official camera, he accused.

Prof Sayeed discarded all confusions relating to the neutrality of the next general election while answering some questions on polls.

Trial of atrocities in Liberation War

Pak press, HR groups lauded for voicing Bangladesh's demand

The Dhaka-based War Crimes Facts Finding Committee yesterday praised the Pakistani press, politicians, civil society and human rights groups for voicing the Bangladesh's demand for trial of those responsible for atrocities here during the 1971 Liberation War, reports BSS.

"With reference to our people's as well as our PMS demand for public apology of Pakistan Govt. and also for trial of Pakistani war criminals, we thank them... who have raised their voice for the Pak war criminals," a statement of

the committee said.

The statement signed by the WCFFC convenor Dr MA Hasun also urged the civil society and the common Pakistanis to isolate and identify the war criminals as military ruler general Pervez Musharraf decided to publish the much talked about Hamdard Rahman Commission Report following pressures from home and abroad.

The statement commented that the war criminals were hiding in Pakistan under shelter of tyrants, mafias and evil

forces of that country following their defeat in 1971.

"We feel that all political parties including MQM can play a glorious role in identifying war criminals and their collaborators from their society specially those collaborators who took shelter in Karachi and in other crowded place," it said.

"It is Pak people's ideological stand for justice, peace and perfection, which can save their honour and their country," the statement added.

Companies lack logistics support EC says about organisations bidding for compilation of voters' database

Star Report

The Election Commission is finding it difficult to implement the voters database project due to lack of experience of the companies bidding for the task.

"We need to consider a lot of things before deciding on the complicated d-base for 7.47 crore voters. We are still looking for other options to deal with the matter," an EC official said.

Representatives of the computer firms at a meeting with the EC Tender Committee yesterday insisted that they be given the tasks of preparing the voters database and publication of the voters' list as well.

"We need more time than the EC has set for to complete the huge task," a businessman was quoted to have told the meeting. The EC has only 45 days for completion of preparing the d-base and publishing the list.

Sources said that nearly 600 bidders attended the two-and-a-half hours meeting. Hardly 50 among the bidding companies have computerised logistic supports. "The participants are only equipped with offset printing presses. How can they prepare the d-base?" an EC official who attended the meeting said.

Specialised expertise is needed for the technical task," he added. A total of 1008 business firms are participating in the bidding.

The bidders have also placed some demands before the tender committee, which includes sanctioning of running capital. On the other hand, the tender committee briefed the bidders what the commission wants them to do during the stipulated 45 days.

The tender boxes will be opened on October 11 at the EC Secretariat.

After the meeting, the tender committee members met for

Phensidyl, arms recovered, 3 arrested

Police yesterday arrested three persons from Ramna, Badda and Demra areas and recovered phensidyl syrup and arms from their possession, reports BSS.

A team of Ramna police arrested one Zakir Hossain from Tongi Diversion road area and seized 56 bottles of phensidyl syrup from his possession.

Police said the arrested person wore a jacket which a large number of pockets and was carrying the phensidyl in his pockets.

A team of Demra police, acting on a tip off, arrested one Murad Hossain and Abdul Ali from a slum at Kazla Nayanagar and recovered a pipe gun with three bullets from their possession this morning.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police led by Inspector Mizanur Rahman seized 170 bottles of phensidyl syrup from Madhya Badda area here this noon. But none was arrested in connection with the recovery.

Lawful measures were taken in connection with the recoveries.

Govt urged to implement child rights

By Staff Correspondent

Rupali Tarar Mela (RTM), a child, juvenile organisation, urged the government to implement the child rights and placed its 13-point demand in this regard.

The demands include formation of separate ministry for children, ban on smoking in front of children, giving children opportunity to participate in radio and television programmes, law to prevent child repression and trafficking, child education's free access to Ministers and Members of Parliament, free treatment facilities for school children, deployment of police in educational institutes for security of children, providing government subsidy for adolescent organisations and development of Bangladesh Shishu Academy.

While addressing a press conference, held in the city on Friday, speakers said that the demands were placed earlier in a children's congress in 1996. "But the government is yet to fulfil the demands despite its commitment to the United Nations."

The speakers, on behalf all adolescent organisations in the country, also thanked Nelson Mandela for launching a global movement for children.

Salahuddin Yusuf's qulhwani tomorrow

The qulhwani of minister Salahuddin Yusuf will be held at his official residence at 24, Baily Road after Magrib prayers on Monday, reports BSS.

All concerned including political colleagues, friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the qul.

40 lakh people suffer from blindness

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Oct 7: Lions Clubs International, District 314-B4 today revealed that over 40 lakh people in Bangladesh were suffering from blindness with an increase of 10 per cent annually.

Addressing a press conference here today at a local club Nader Khan, district governor of Lions Club said that about 26 lakh people so far received eye

treatment from the Lions eye camps at various places across the country while 10 lakh of them had undergone eye operation.

Khan informed that Lions Clubs had undertaken here a 5-year long programme for holding orientation course for English teachers in order to improve the skill of students in English language.

Different private schools and

colleges will be involved to ensure a coordination among English teachers for implementation of English teaching programmes, Khan said.

"English teaching should be treated as a thrust sector," Khan added.

He, however, announced that the members of Lions Club will do their best for the less privileged people of the society.

MASTERMIND SCHOOL VACANCY 2001

Because of continued expansion of our academic activities, following highly paid positions are likely to be available from 1st January 2001. Interested candidates are to see the chairperson with their C.V. by 20th October, 2000. Time : between 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. except Friday.

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Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited (Wes Gas)
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Gas Supply to Western Zone Project
Nalka, Sirajganj

গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ
এর অশ্রব্য রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন

Invitation for Bids

Ref. No. 77.05.99 Dated: 18-09-2000

1. Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited (Wes Gas), (A Company of Petrobangla) intended to construct 8" dia 85-km gas pipeline from Baghabari to Ishwardi via Bera, Sathia and Pabna mainly parallel to the existing roads of Roads & Highways/LGED/other agencies within the acquired land. 50-km gas distribution lines (3/4"-6") in Pabna & Ishwardi town are also including in the above work. Consultancy services are required for undertaking Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) for this pipeline as per requirement of Department of Environment (DOE), GOB.
2. Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited (Wes Gas), (A Company of Petrobangla) now invites sealed bids from the consulting firms having experience in similar services.

Name of the Assignment: Initial Environmental Examination (IEE).
Objectives: The overall objectives of the above assignment are to prepare Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) for the aforesaid project.

Cost of bidding document: Tk 500.00 (five hundred) only.

Place of bid submission & opening:
Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited (Wes Gas)
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Nalka, Sirajganj.

Bid closing & opening date and time:
Date: 22-10-2000
Closing Time: 11-45 hrs.
Opening Time: 12-00 Hrs.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information regarding the bidding document from the office of following address.

Project In-charge
Gas Supply to Western Zone Project
Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited (Wes Gas)
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Nalka, Sirajganj.
Phone: 880-2-8915374, 880-751-72971, 72963.
Fax: 880-751-72962.

A complete set of tender document may be purchased from the Accounts Department of the above office during the office days and hours with effect from 08-10-2000. No tender document will be sold on the date of opening tender.

Bids will be opened in presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 12.00 hrs. (BST) in the office room of Project In-charge (DGM Engg.) at the above address on 22-10-2000.

The bidder shall bear the all costs associated with the preparation and submission of his bid and PGCL (Wes Gas) will in no case be responsible or liable for these costs regardless of the conduct or outcome of the bidding process.

The company reserves the right to accept any bid or reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Wes Gas/PR/02
DFP-23830-2/10

G-1746