

Hasina steps up polls campaign

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought "bumper vote" for Awami League in the next election in proportion to the "bumper harvest" in the country.

"Vote for the boat ... Boat will carry the bumper crops from the field to the barns of the people," she said at a public meeting at Basabo Shaheed Alauddin Park last afternoon stepping up election campaign for her party.

Referring to BNP chief Khaleda Zia's remarks, Hasina said people would cast "deficit vote" for BNP as the past BNP government left the country with a food deficit of 40 lakh metric tons.

"How she (Khaleda) could seek 'bumper vote' after leaving a food deficit of 40 lakh metric tons ... It's Awami League that deserves 'bumper vote' for consecutive five seasons bumper crops," she told her cheering workers and supporters.

The Prime Minister said at the moment the country has a reserve of more than 10 lakh metric tons and it would go up to 20 lakh metric tons with the harvest of Boro paddy.

"We've not only surplus food, we also built a food safety net ... We won't need to seek alms from external sources to combat natural calamity. We will be able to face any future calamity from our own reserves."

'Pro-liberation forces must be united to resist Razakars'

BSS, Dhaka

Local Government Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday urged the people to demonstrate their greater unity through the next general elections for strengthening the process of democracy and also upholding the trend of country's continued development.

"This unity of the people is a must to help the pro-liberation forces win the next elections to build a Rajakar-free country," he said while addressing a large number of leaders and workers of different political parties including BNP and Jatiya Party in the

premises of his official residence in the city yesterday.

Over 200 leaders and workers of these political parties of Madan upazila led by valiant freedom fighter Lt. Col. (retd) Shahjahan Uddin Bhuiyan joined Bangladesh Awami League, an official handout said.

Zillur Rahman welcomed their joining to Awami League and called upon all to uphold the main spirit of the War of Liberation by electing the pro-liberation forces to power in the coming general elections in the greater interest of the national development as well as democracy.



A 12-day calligraphy exhibition began at the National Museum in the city yesterday. Dhaka Shikhi Sanskrit Kendra organised the show.



Samajtantrik Chhatra Front staged a demonstration in the city yesterday to press their different demands.



Maple Leaf International School organised a cultural show at the Shishu Academy yesterday to mark the birth anniversaries of poet Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam.

President hails opening of phone exchange at Jatrabari

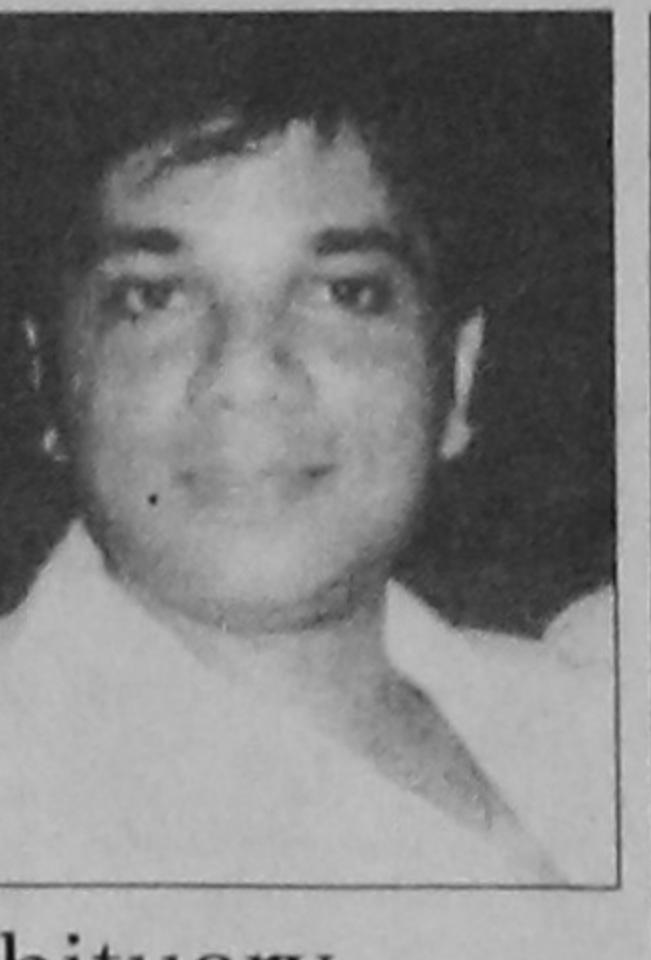
BSS, Dhaka

President Shahabuddin Ahmed appreciated the inauguration of a 12-thousand line digital telephone exchange at Jatrabari and said that the people will be benefited with the opening of the new exchange.

A Bangabhaban press release said the President said this while talking to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who inaugurated the Jatrabari digital exchange by making the first call to the President at Bangabhaban.

President Shahabuddin thanked the Prime Minister for inaugurating the exchange which was a long time demand of the people. He also thanked the Telegraph and Telephone Board officials and engineers for completing the work successfully.

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