

# Recognise Bangabandhu

**FROM PAGE 1**  
great opportunities for nations and people to overcome some historic wound or prejudice.

In our politics seldom leaders get a second chance. Allah has given that to you. The choice is yours - whether you will be a mediocre leader lumbering along trodden path within limited vision, hardened prejudice and vengeful sentiments or you want to be remembered by a grateful nation for having taken quantum leap forward.

It is already a sad statement on the state of our politics that this writer has to plead with you to accept what is actually a fundamental fact of our history. The reason for the pleading is that we are used to denying facts and tailoring history to suit ourselves. Please do not forget history and truth will survive and not our arrogant personal interpretation of it. Sheikh Hasina can do nothing to deprive Ziaur Rahman from getting his rightful place in history nor can you do anything to deprive Bangabandhu from getting his. We are only asking to acknowledge this fundamental truth.

We know the question will be asked, "What will the BNP get in return?" Will the Awami League give up its negative politics? Will it give Ziaur Rahman his rightful place in history? Will it accept the results of this election? Will Sheikh Hasina take back the negative remarks she made about Khaleda Zia? Will the AL come to the parliament? Frankly we don't know. If the Awami League wants to live in its own world, while everything around is changing, let it. What can we do? But we do know such a gesture as we suggest will

bring into our politics an electrifying change that will force the Awami League to rethink their politics.

Some within the BNP will say "People have not given us this huge mandate to sing Sheikh Mujib's song", "This suggestion is against the politics of the BNP", "Our vote bank is anti-Awami League, if we do as suggested we will betray our voters", "Our popularity proves that people do not respect Sheikh Mujib", etc. These are all comments of limited vision. These people are caught in the trap of their own prejudice and coterie politics. They cannot think of new directions or suggest better because of the compartmentalised world they live in. Hatred, revenge, tit-for-tat is the only thing they know and the only thing they can suggest. These are not the people who help to make history, nor are they actors in taking a nation into higher level of growth, creativity, regeneration, prosperity and dignity. For far too long we have been guided, both in the AL and the BNP, by the likes of them. It is they who have held us captives in their myopic world. How long are we to be hostage in the hands of people without vision? Can we not cast them aside this time around?

Our appeal is not predicated on any quid pro quo. It is aimed for all to acknowledge a fact of history and thereby get ourselves moving forward. It is aimed to unite the nation, end our politics of self-defeat, and enter the 21st Century whose opportunities will never come our way unless we start looking forward. Already our garments, shrimp and other exports industries are in a shambles. There

is no sign of foreign investment, not now and not in the immediate future. All in the know of things are aware that the coming government is likely to face severe economic challenges. The post Twin Tower world is seeing drastic changes in geopolitics. The impact in South Asia is already significant with new challenges and openings coming our way. As a moderate Muslim country we have a great opportunity to make our mark in these trying and changing times. In this time of trial, tribulation and uncertainty all we can see is conflict in our political horizon.

We had made many appeals to Sheikh Hasina that mostly went in vein. Where she listened, we think, she was well served. Today we appeal to our new elected leader. We appeal to Khaleda Zia to be the leader that our people have voted you to be. You have a unique moment to change our politics forever. You must act and act now. The same action taken even a little later will not have the same positive impact. If your opponent does not respond, leave her to the people and to history to judge. As a leader you must do what is right, what is good and what will give your people a chance to move forward, and not react to what your opponent does or does not do. A leader chalks out new options, opens new horizon, and teaches the people to think and see differently. A leader leads, and so you must. Your electoral victory is HISTORIC. Now make HISORY with it.

# Pakistan to deport 89 Arab aid workers

AP, Peshawar

Pakistan's military regime ordered 89 Arab and other Muslims working for Islamic relief agencies deported, government and intelligence officials said yesterday.

The order appeared aimed at severing possible links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network in nearby Afghanistan. U.S. and other Western agencies have alleged that bin Laden's network uses some Islamic charities to channel money to terrorist cells.

A letter from the federal interior ministry, shown to The Associated Press by local officials, listed the individuals to be deported by name and nationalities. Most of them were from Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Egypt and Iraq.

The others were from Jordan, Somalia, Morocco, Algeria, Syria and Indonesia. All were working in Pakistan's Northwestern Frontier province along the border with Afghanistan.

One official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the letter directed provincial administration to deport the 89 immediately.

However, provincial authorities refused to implement the order immediately and instead established a committee to investigate those on the list.

The committee was expected to complete its report in about two days, Pakistani officials said on

condition of anonymity. However, the officials said many Arabs living in area have already left.

The order comes amid increasing speculation of an imminent attack on Afghanistan by the United States and its allies to try to flush out Osama bin Laden, the key suspect in the Sept. 11 airborne assaults on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon.

Pakistan became a front-line state in Washington's war on terrorism when the military regime here promised its "unflinching" cooperation.

Pakistan is the only country that still recognises Afghanistan's Taliban government and most importantly one of the few countries with strong intelligence information on the whereabouts of bin Laden's al-Qaida training camps.

An emergency meeting of Islamic charities, headquartered in Peshawar and operating in Afghanistan, was held behind closed doors in Peshawar earlier Saturday. The meeting held behind closed doors.

At the Sudan-based Islamic Relief Agency (ISRA) several, Bashir Ahmed, administrator, said four of the five Sudanese working for the organisation have already returned to Sudan with their families.

"Everybody was being harassed," he said, without specifying by whom. "Some had been here

for two years, others for one year."

The letter sent from the federal government identified the following organisations: the Saudi Red Crescent, the Kuwait based Lajnat al-D'awa Al-Islamiyah, International Islamic Relief Organization, Islamic Relief Agency (ISRA), Kuwait Red Crescent, Islamic coordination Council and Kuwait Red Crescent.

There was no indication of any wrongdoing by any of these organisations.

Last week President Bush froze the assets of a number of organisations and individuals believed to be financing bin Laden's global terrorist network.

On that list were two Pakistani-based organisations, Harakat-ul-Mujahdeen, a Kashmiri militant group and Al Rashid Trust, an Islamic charity that heavily backs the Taliban regime.

So far no reason for the order has been given and the Arab employees of the charities refused to comment when contacted.

An interior ministry spokesman said an investigation is being conducted into the credentials of all international aid workers operating in Pakistan.

"We are not discriminating against Arabs and non-Arabs," said Abdul Rashid, a spokesman for the interior ministry. "All foreigners present in Pakistan are having their documents verified."

# Situation tense in Tetulia border areas

UNB, Panchagarh

Tensions mounted in Majhipara border areas of Tetulia upazila over planting tea saplings through zero-line areas by the Indians with the backing of BSF guards yesterday.

According to sources, BDR personnel prevented the Indian tea labourers yesterday when they tried to plant saplings. They left the place immediately stopping their work.

On information, Indian Boarder Security Force (BSF) reinforced with heavy arms, heightening tensions.

BDR sources said local people informed them on Friday when a large number of labourers gathered with tea plants.

"Situation may deteriorate any-

time as BDR and BSF men stood face to face," local people said.

The Indians, with the help of BSF, have been trying to set up a tea garden at the boarder for last two years.

It is alleged that the BSF, on several occasions, took provocative steps, including blasting firebombs and planting anti-personal mine along the border, violating international border laws.

At least seven Bangladeshis were killed and two injured by the BSF guards in Panchagarh and Thakurgaon districts during the last two and a half months.

BSF also kidnapped eight Bangladeshis and looted cattle from Bangladesh territories during the period.

# 3 killed, 200 injured as storm lashes 3 unions in Rangpur

UNB, Rangpur

A violent storm swept four unions in Gangachhara upazila of Rangpur on Friday night, leaving three people killed and 200 others injured.

Some 600 thatched and semi-pucca houses were razed to the ground while a huge number of trees uprooted during its five-minute fury.

One of the dead was identified as Mahera Khatun, 45, of Adarsha village. She was killed in a house collapse.

Twenty of the injured were rushed to the Rangpur Medical College Hospital while 30 to Gangachhara Upazila Health Complex.

The death toll from Friday's storm that lashed two upazilas of Lalmonirhat district rose to seven as two more deaths were reported yesterday.

They were identified as Kandu Sheikh, 65, and Mariam Begum, 3, of Batrigachha enclave in Aditmari upazila.

The most affected areas included Baniagar, Amingarj, Kakina, Kanchanashwar,

Bandarkura, Shiyalkhawa, Nithak, Madanpur of Kaliganj and Kamalbari, Durgapur, Kalichhawa and Moynarchara of Aditmari upazila.

Over 7,000 homeless people, who were rendered homeless by the storm, are now living under the open sky.

Meanwhile, local administration sanctioned over five tons of rice and Tk 1.5 lakh for the affected people of the two upazilas.

# Naziur

FROM PAGE 12

into the next cabinet. UNB adds: In a reply to the question about razakars, who had opposed the war of independence, Naziur said: Those voted by the people will sit in parliament.

BJP Presidium Member and Chief Advisor Dr. MA Matin, ABM Golam Mostafa, Advocate Khondoker Mahub Hossain, Secretary General Kazi Firoze Rashid, Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar, Mostafa Jamal Haider and Saifur Rahman were also present at the conference.

# AL programme

FROM PAGE 1

ment of the country. The joint statement came after a nearly two-hour meeting of the leaders of business community at the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) office in the city. The meeting was attended by all the major business chambers and trade associations with the BGMEA President Kutubuddin Ahmed in the chair.

Referring to AL's "Dhaka blockade" programme on October 10, they said the agitation programme would severely affect the export-import business. "Our economy is already in a fragile state due to slump in the global economy. The recent terrorist attack in the USA made the situation worse. In this context, any sort of agitation programme will create immense trouble for the economy and will lead to a stagnation," the statement said.

It was also a major concern for the businesses that the agitation programme would "severely deteriorate law and order". "We hope that the political parties will make the parliament the focal point of political activities and solve all sorts of problem there," the

statement said. In future, no-one will go for any political programmes that will have an adverse impact on the economy, the business leaders hoped.

They also congratulated BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on the overwhelming majority her party and the partners won in the election. They urged the future government to introduce a one-day weekly holiday on Sunday.

As regards reports of "political intolerance" across the country in the aftermath of the election, the business leaders urged the government to take necessary steps. The leaders of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry, BGMEA, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bangladesh Textile Mills Association, Bangladesh Shippers' Council, Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry and textile association, jute manufacturers' and real estate and housing associations, among others, signed the statement.

# Kidnapped BCL leader rescued in Satkhira

UNB, Satkhira

A BCL leader of Satkhira Govt College abducted by JCD cadres was rescued by police yesterday from a mess in the town.

Police said Mohsin Kabir Suman was asleep in the college hostel when JCD activists led by Milon and Miron abducted him at gunpoint early hours of yesterday.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the police to rescue Suman immediately. Police in a prompt raid rescued him from Karim Students Mess.

District BNP general secretary Advocate Syed Itekar Ali condemned the abduction but did not deny involvement of JCD cadres. He assured that culprits would be traced out and punished.

# AL sticks

FROM PAGE 1

9, 10 and 11 for oath of the members elected to the eighth parliament.

Suranjit Sengupta said they in no way were going to interfere in Speaker's matter.

When pointed out that Speaker Abdul Hamid, who also won the election on AL ticket, would have to take oath first, Suranjit said, "Besides being member of the 8th parliament, Hamid is the Speaker and he as Speaker is acting under the compulsion of the Constitution."

The Speaker will carry out his responsibility as per the Constitution as the office of Speaker is an institution under the Constitution, he added.

He said Awami League rejected the election as it was not free and fair, but it has got nothing to do with the Speaker.

# Clinton's life to be subject of research

AP, Little Rock, Arkansas

Bill Clinton will be the focus of a joint university research project highlighting the 42nd president's life with hundreds of behind-the-scenes interviews.

The Clinton History Project, announced Friday by the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and the University of Virginia, will be conducted by scholars and recorded on audio and videotape for use at the universities, on the Internet and at the William J Clinton Presidential Library, scheduled to open in 2004.

Jeanne Wayne, director of the Arkansas Center, said she envisions a collection of accounts from people discussing Clinton's childhood, family life, his years in college, his tenure from 1973-76 as a law professor and his political life.

Scholars did not expect interviews to discuss Monica Lewinsky, Kenneth Starr or others who figured into the criticism of Clinton's personal life.

Clinton, in town Friday for a fundraiser, said he was grateful to the universities for their joint efforts.

# Advani warns states to prepare against massive terror strikes

AFP, New Delhi

Indian Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani on Friday warned state administrations to shield themselves against terror strikes including possible use of "weapons of mass destruction" by insurgent groups.

Addressing administrative chiefs of Indian state governments, the home minister said it was time to prepare for such contingencies.

"There are lessons for India to learn from the terrorist strikes in the United States," Advani said of the September 11 attacks in New York and Washington which left around 5,700 people dead or missing.

"Threats of similar terrorist attacks, including the use of weapons of mass destruction, can no longer be taken lightly," he told the day-long meeting, which was also

attended by all provincial security chiefs.

Advani said state administrations must draw up special security blueprints since terror groups hoped to "lay their hands on nuclear, biological and chemical weapons."

The warning came after Monday's devastating suicide bombing of Kashmir's state legislature in Srinagar -- the region's deadliest terror attack in more than a decade -- which killed nearly 40 people and injured around 60 others.

India has offered its wholehearted support to the US in its war on terrorism and has urged Washington not to ignore Islamic insurgency in Kashmir, which has left more than 35,000 people dead since 1989 in the Himalayan region.

# US envoy calls on President

UNB, Dhaka

US Ambassador in Dhaka Mary Ann Peters made a courtesy call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at the Bangabhaban yesterday evening and discussed election and post-election situations.

She noted with satisfaction that "democratic process in Bangladesh is going ahead and that democratic spirit is gaining ground in the country."

An official release from the Bangabhaban said Peters appreciated the holding of the general election freely and fairly and said, "The future of democracy in Bangladesh is bright."

President Shahabuddin appreciated US interest in the development of democratic process in Bangladesh.

He hoped that Bangladesh-US friendly and bilateral relations would be "deepened and diversified in future."

# Hasina

FROM PAGE 1

as there was an uncertainty on the part of the Speaker to administer oath to MPs-elect because AL had earlier threatened that its MPs would not take oath.

However, the Speaker announced yesterday that he would administer oath on October 9, 10 and 11.

Emerging from the meeting, Samad Azad told waiting newsmen that the Speaker is an institution and it is up to him whom he will administer oath.

Meanwhile, an AL polling agent from the city's North Badda area later complained to Hasina that he was assaulted by his BNP rivals.

Condemning the incident, Hasina said the caretaker government and the Election Commission had failed to protect the people's constitutional rights.

She also referred to the role of the President and said he could have played a better role.

# Attack on principal Bogra Polytech closed

UNB, Bogra

Authorities have suspended academic activities in Bogra Polytechnic Institute following an attack on its principal.

The decision was taken in a joint meeting of teachers and employees of the institute yesterday as its principal A K M Rafiqur Rahman was injured in an attack by miscreants Friday.

The teachers and employees also brought out a silent procession on the campus demanding punishment to the attackers.

# 4 beaten to death

FROM PAGE 1

When contacted, Tongi thana said they would file separate cases in this regard. None was, however, arrested.

In another incident, a mad man beat to death two persons at Tongi railway station in the early hours of yesterday.

Sources said Mosharrif Hossain, 45, became mentally disordered when he had been working as a security guard at WAPDA central store a few years ago. As his condition deteriorated further, his family confined him in a house.

At about 2 am, he came out of the house breaking the grill of the window and went to the railway station. He started beating sleeping people there with an iron rod, leaving seven people injured, two of them critically.

Later, two persons succumbed to their injuries, one at DMCH and the

other at Tongi General Hospital. Identity of the dead could not be known.

The injured, including the mad man, were admitted to DMCH.

In the city, three alleged muggers were injured in a mob beating at Kaptan Bazar yesterday.

They were identified as Halim, Jewel and Mizan.

Sources said businessmen and local people caught the three and beat them mercilessly while they were trying to mug a businessman, exploding crackers.

Police rescued the muggers and sent them to the DMCH. Later, they were sent to Sutrapur thana jail.

At Khilgaon, Selim, an activist of BCL, was beaten up by Jatiya Party worker Jamal and BNP activist Jahir near Ansar quarter at about 7.30 pm. He was admitted to DMCH.

# Over 30 prominent businessmen

FROM PAGE 12

Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA) Noor Ali from Dhaka-2, Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu from Chittagong-12, Chairman of United Commercial Bank Ltd (UCBL) Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury from Chittagong-14, former BGMEA director Tipu Munshi from Rangpur-4, Mustafizur Rahman from Chittagong-3 and Fakhru Islam Munshi from Comilla-4.

There are also a number of businessmen who lost the election as AL nominees from the city constituencies. They are Saber Hossain Chowdhury from Dhaka-6, Dr H B Iqbal from Dhaka-10, A K M Rahmatullah from Dhaka-5 and Kamal Ahmed Majumder from Dhaka-11.

President of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) Khandker Mosharrif Hossain, who is father-in-law of immediate past prime minister Sheikh Hasina's daughter, lost the polls in Faridpur-3, former director of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) Sajjatu Juma lost in Jhenidah-3, Noor-e-Alam Siddiqui lost in Jhenidah-2 and Salahuddin Ahmed lost in Cox Bazar-1. All of them were AL candidates.

Prominent businessmen who won on four-party alliance ticket are M Morshed Khan in Chittagong-10 constituency, Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury in Chittagong-8, M A Hashem in Noakhali-2, Redwan Ahmed from Comilla-6, garments manufacturer and exporter Col (Rtd) Anwarul Azim from Comilla-

10, Md Mosharrif Hossain in Feni-3, Salimul Huq Kamal from Magura-2, Maj (Rtd) Monjur Kader in Sirajganj-6, Sarwar Jamal Nizam from Chittagong-12, Zafur Islam Chowdhury in Chittagong-15 and M Akbar Ali from Sirajganj-4.

Businessmen who won the election on four-party ticket from the city are S A Khaled from Dhaka-11, Maj (Rtd) A Mannan from Dhaka-10 and Maj (Rtd) Qumrul Islam from Dhaka-5.

There are also some businessmen who won the election on four-party ticket defeating influential former ministers and party stalwarts.

Four-party nominees Zahed Ali Chowdhury defeated former minister Motia Chowdhury in Sherpur-2 and Mosharrif Hossain Shahjahan defeated former minister and AL stalwart Tofail Ahmed in a Bhola constituency. However, Tofail lost the polls race in all the three constituencies he contested from.

Besides, four-party candidates manpower exporter M A H Selim won from Bagerhat-2 defeating Sheikh Helal of AL and Shahidul Huq Jamal defeated former minister AK Fajezul Huq in a Barisal constituency.

However, four-party nominees businessman Md Fazulul Azim lost in Noakhali-6 and Rahimuddin Bharrasa in Rangpur-4. BGMEA director Shahidul Huq Shikder lost the polls as an independent candidate.

Only one businessman, Karimuddin Bharrasa, won as nominee of Jatiya Party (Ershad) in Rangpur-4.

The other businessmen who won on four-party ticket are Mizanur Rahman Sinha from Munshiganj-2, Lutfuzzaman Babar from Netrokona-4 and Nurul Islam Moni in Barguna-2.

Businessman Mujibur Rahman lost in Moulvibazar-4 as an independent candidate.

A H M Mostafa Kamal, a well-known businessman and a lawmaker in the last parliament, contested from Comilla-9 on AL ticket. But his fate will be known after tomorrow's repolling in four centres. His four-party rival was ahead of him with a margin of 6491 votes.

# Musharraf

FROM PAGE 12

pendence from British rule in 1947, has been ruled by the military for more than half the time it has been a sovereign nation. "Successive elected governments were thrown out of power on charges of corruption and misrule.

The 1999 military coup was triggered when Sharif tried to sack Musharraf as the general flew back to Pakistan from Sri Lanka. The army refused Sharif's orders and overthrew his government.

Musharraf accused Sharif of destroying institutions, undermining the constitution and graft.

Sharif was convicted of hijacking, terrorism and corruption. He was freed from prison late last year and sent to exile in Saudi Arabia.

Musharraf has vowed to revive the country's ailing economy and return this poor South Asian nation of 140 million people to democracy by October 2002.

# Terrorist agenda

FROM PAGE 12

acts like the October 1 bomb blast outside the Jammu and Kashmir state assembly in Srinagar, which left 38 people dead, should be brought to justice.

The British prime minister, who arrived in New Delhi late Friday night after a "in-and-out trip to Pakistan", commended India's "strong stand" after the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States. The international community must "strengthen coalition against terrorism in all its forms", Blair told reporters after the meeting.

He was asked about the inherent contradiction of the global community in seeking Pakistan's role in the battle against terrorism when Islamabad was itself aiding and abetting cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Britain, of late, has been more appreciative of India's concerns of cross-border terrorism. It is noteworthy that Blair, in his address to Parliament a few days ago, said that the war against terrorism would be fought at all fronts and in all territories.

During the parley, External Affairs and Defence Minister Jaswant Singh, National Security Advisor Brajesh Mishra and Foreign Secretary Chokila Iyer assisted Vajpayee.

The delegation-level talks were followed by a breakfast meeting between the two leaders in which Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission K C Pant were present besides Singh,

Mishra, Iyer and some senior officials.

Blair and Vajpayee agreed that what Afghanistan required was a broad-based government, representing all ethnic groups in the country and a dispensation that did not export terrorism.

Blair said the action to isolate the Taliban regime would continue until "we are successful" in bringing to justice the perpetrators of the September 11 terrorist strikes in New York and Washington.

"I assure you of a complete determination to be successful in this action against the terrorists and the Taliban regime, which we will continue until we are successful," Blair said. "It is important to realise that the focus is on dealing with Afghanistan and closing down Osama bin Laden's camps. I hope very much to ensure there is stability in the region, but it must be based on the rule of law."

BSS adds: Vajpayee linked the hijacking of an Indian airliner in 1999 with the terrorist attacks on the United States and said "condoning a terrorist act in one place may lay the foundation for far more virulent acts elsewhere."

"The hijacking of an aircraft from Kathmandu to Kandahar may have linkage with four other aircraft creating havoc in the US nearly two years later. This is precisely why terrorism has to be dealt with globally," Vajpayee told newsmen after the meeting.

He reiterated his country's determination to foil what he said "Pakistan-based terrorist designs in Jammu and Kashmir."

# Taliban fire missiles