

Use science, technology for dev: PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday called for the proper use of science and technology for development.

In a message ahead of the observance of the 25th National Science and Information and Communication Technology Week, she said the geographical boundaries were gradually melting away due to technological revolution.

The new generation should be made science- and technology-minded to face the twin challenges of information technology revolution and globalisation and to cope with other countries in the world, she said.

The observance of the week is aimed at creating consciousness about science among people from all walks of life, especially among adolescents and youths, she said.

Khaleda said the nation that made greater dedication to the study of science gave more pace to development.

Realising this truth of history, ex-president Ziaur Rahman initiated the observance of Science and Technology Week in 1978, she said.

In continuation of the week, the country is going to observe the Silver Jubilee of Science and Technology Week as Science and Information Technology Week, she said pointing to the trend of science and technology changing with the passage of time.

She expressed happiness over inviting more than 200 science teachers of higher secondary schools in the far-flung areas of the country to observe the week.

Khaleda hopes that with the observance of the week some brilliant youths could be found, whose innovative activities would contribute to the socio-economic development of the country.

'B Chy's ditching unconstitutional'

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tion was passed by a parliamentary party, the president can not step down," he said.

An architect of the country's Constitution and eminent lawyer, Dr Kamal Hossain said, "In a parliamentary system of democracy, the president would have no relation with the party".

In this form of government the party can not take decision through its parliamentary party to ask the president to resign.

"They can bring no confidence motion against the party leader, not the president", Dr Kamal told Ekushey Television. "The president is not (a man) of the party", he said.

There was no such practice and precedence in the history of Bangladesh, he added.

Renowned lawyer Barrister Rokon Uddin Mahmud said the ruling BNP's resolution asking for resignation of President Chowdhury does not come under constitutional process.

It is an internal matter of a political party and the question of constitutional approval will only arise if the president declines to step down, he said.

Then the party or group which wants the president's resignation will have to find out constitutional provision under which they can proceed, Mahmud explained.

Otherwise, if the president desires to resign responding to anybody's call, none has anything to say, he said.

He however said if the president declined to resign then the ruling BNP would have faced difficulties to impeach him because "there is hardly any valid ground on which they could proceed".

According to him Badruddoza did not violate any constitutional provision for which he could be impeached. Other constitutional causes to remove him, such as physical disability, also did not exist,

Rokon Uddin said.

Constitution expert Dr M Jahir said BNP's request to the president to step down was "followed by an impeachment threat that surprised the whole nation".

"In parliamentary democracy, none should even think of such a move regarding the highest office in the republic," said Dr Jahir.

The president has no record of 'grave misconduct' or has not done anything contrary to the Constitution that he can be removed, he said.

Asked about the consequence of the precedence set by BNP, he said any one who holds a constitutional post can now face such consequence.

Asked whether Badruddoza has once again shown loyalty to the party by accepting the BNPPP resolution, Dr Jahir said, "This proves he (Badruddoza) is still a BNP man".

Former attorney general Barrister Rafiqul Haque also said the ruling BNP's move is extra-constitutional. Such 'unfortunate incidents' will only shatter the growth of democratic culture in the country.

"It is very unfortunate that such a gentleman had to resign due to pressure from his own party men. BNP would have faced difficulty had he declined to resign and wanted to play nasty game", he said.

Articles 48 to 54 of the Constitution deals with the President of the Republic. These are as follows:

The President
48. (1) There shall be a President of Bangladesh who shall be elected by members of Parliament in accordance with law.

(2) The President shall as Head of State, take precedence over all other persons in the State, and shall exercise the powers and perform the duties conferred and imposed on him by this Constitution and by

any other law.

(3) In the exercise of all his functions, save only that of appointing the Prime Minister pursuant to Clause (3) of Article 56 and the Chief Justice pursuant to Clause (1) of Article 95, the President shall act in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister;

Provided that the question whether any, and if so what, advice has been tendered by the Prime Minister to the President shall not be enquired into in any court.

(4) A person shall not be qualified for election as President if he—
is less than thirty-five years of age; or

is not qualified for election a member of Parliament; or
has been removed from the office of President by impeachment under this Constitution.

(5) The Prime Minister shall keep the President informed on matters of domestic and foreign policy, and submit for the consideration of the Cabinet any matter which the President may request him to refer to it.

49. Prerogative of mercy
The President shall have power to grant pardons, reprieves and respites and to remit, suspend or commute any sentence passed by any court, tribunal or other authority.

50. Term of office of President.
(1) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the President shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office;

Provided that notwithstanding the expiration of his term the President shall continue to hold office until his successor enters upon office.

(2) No person shall hold office as President for more than two terms, whether or not the terms are consecutive.

(3) The President may resign his office by writing under his hand addressed to the Speaker.

(4) The President during his term of office shall not be qualified for election as a member of Parliament, and if a member of Parliament is elected as President, he shall vacate his seat in Parliament on the day on which he enters upon his office as President.

51. President's immunity
(1) Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 52, the President shall not be answerable in any court for anything done or omitted by him in the exercise or purported exercise of the functions of this office, but this clause shall not prejudice the right of any person to take proceedings against the Government.

(2) During his term of office no criminal proceedings whatsoever shall be instituted or continued against the President in, and no process for his arrest or imprisonment shall issue from, any court.

52. Impeachment of the President
(1) The President may be impeached on a charge of violating this Constitution or of grave misconduct, preferred by a notice of motion signed by a majority of the total number of members of the Parliament and delivered to the Speaker, setting out the particulars of the charges, and the motion shall not be debated earlier than fourteen nor later than thirty days after the notice is so delivered; and the Speaker shall forthwith summon Parliament if it is not in session.

(2) The Conduct of the President may be referred by Parliament to any court, tribunal or body appointed or designated by Parliament for the investigation of a charge under this Article.

(3) The President shall have the right to appear and to be represented during the consideration of the charge.

(4) If after the consideration of the charge a resolution is passed by Parliament by votes of not less than

two-thirds of the total number of members declaring that the charge has been substantiated, the President shall vacate his office on the date on which the resolution is passed.

(5) Where the Speaker is exercising the functions of the President under article 54 the provisions of this article shall apply subject to the modifications that the reference to the Speaker in clause (1) shall be construed as a reference to the Deputy Speaker, and that the reference in clause (4) to the vacation by the President of his office shall be construed as a reference to the vacation by the Speaker of his office as Speaker; and on the passing of a resolution such as is referred to in clause (4) the Speaker shall cease to exercise the functions of President.

53. Removal of President on ground of incapacity

(1) The President may be removed from office on the ground of physical or mental incapacity on a motion of which notice, signed by a majority of the total number of members of Parliament, is delivered to the Speaker, setting out particulars of the alleged incapacity.

(2) On receipt of the notice the Speaker shall forthwith summon Parliament if it is not in session and shall call for a resolution constituting a medical board (hereinafter in this article called "the Board") and upon the necessary motion being made and carried shall forthwith cause a copy of the notice to be transmitted to the President together with a request signed by the Speaker that the President submit himself within a period of ten days from the date of the request to an examination by the Board.

(3) The motion for removal shall not be put to the vote earlier than fourteen nor later than thirty days after notice of the motion is delivered to the Speaker, and if it is again necessary to summon Parliament in

order to enable the motion to be made within that period, the Speaker shall summon Parliament.

(4) The President shall have the right to appear and to be represented during the consideration of the motion.

(5) If the President has not submitted himself to an examination in Parliament, the motion may be put to the vote, and if it is passed by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the total number of members of Parliament, the President shall vacate his office on the date on which the motion is passed.

(6) If before the motion for removal is made is Parliament, the President has submitted himself to an examination by the Board, the motion shall not be put to vote until the Board has been given an opportunity of reporting its opinion to Parliament.

(7) If after consideration by Parliament of the motion and of the report of the Board (which shall be submitted within seven days of the examination held pursuant to clause (2) and if not so submitted shall be dispensed with) the motion is passed by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the total number of members of Parliament, the President shall vacate his office on the date on which the resolution is passed.

54. Speaker to act as President during absence, etc.

If a vacancy occurs in the office of President or if the President is unable to discharge the functions of his office on account of absence, illness or any other cause the Speaker shall discharge those functions until a President is elected or until the President resumes the functions of his office, as the case may be.

CPI (M) celebrates 25-year in power in West Bengal

AFP, Kolkata

Indian Marxists yesterday celebrated 25 years in power in the eastern state of West Bengal with a rally and by brightening up their party headquarters with colourful lights.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) swept to power in West Bengal in 1977 when it defeated the then-ruling Congress party.

Last letter

FROM PAGE 1

Ziaur Rahman. He thanked Khaleda for her co-operation and the BNP leaders and workers.

Prof. Chowdhury said he came to know about the decision of the BNP Parliamentary Party on the night of June 20. Being the founding secretary general of BNP and a signatory to the party licence "I was fortunate to become the closest associate of late President Ziaur Rahman", he said.

"As a strong believer in democracy and a conscious citizen I've sent my resignation letter to the Speaker under article 50(3) of the Constitution by showing respect to the decision of the BNP Parliamentary Party of June 20," he said in his last letter as President.

Continued Chowdhury: "I express my sincere thanks and gratitude and wish blessings of Almighty Allah for the sincere cooperation personally you and our political workers and leaders as well as countrymen extended during good and bad days of politics."

He also wished the prime minister good health and progress of Bangladesh, at large.

The letter was carried by the Private Secretary of the President to the PM office before Chowdhury's unceremonious exit from the presidency in the evening.

Meanwhile Badruddoza postponed his scheduled trip to Chalkhill in Noakhali by helicopter yesterday morning to attend the circumcison of his grandchild, sources said. The sources said the trip was cancelled after the authorities refused to let him use the helicopter.

Placing wreath

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the press at around 7.00pm yesterday at his Baridhara residence after departing from the Bangabhaban.

Despite enormous political pressure for the last two days, the former president appeared at ease, smiling and making jokes. His son, Mahi B Chowdhury MP, and his granddaughter accompanied him.

Asked about the BNP Parliamentary Party's decision on his immediate resignation, Chowdhury said that when the majority – in democracy – built an opinion and reached a decision, it should be honoured if it is right or wrong.

He, however, said the issue could have been dealt differently. "I could have been informed earlier about the party's dissatisfaction (at his neutrality)."

Chowdhury noted that he was not exactly conveyed why he should resign. He had read the party resolution and resigned. "I came to know about the grievances against me from newspapers," he said.

The former president added that his position as president did not allow him to visit Ziaur Rahman's grave on every occasion. "If it had been the National Revolution and Solidarity Day on November 7, I would have surely visited his grave," he said.

Chowdhury said that there was nothing to be surprised about his dramatic exit. "Democracy will

Enters Sircar

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Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui was also present at the time.

Special Security Force (SSF) took over security arrangements at the Speaker's office 15 minutes before Badruddoza's resignation letter reached there.

Speaker Sircar reached his office about half-an-hour before the resignation letter was given to him.

Later, he left for his Bailey Road residence in the city in the official car and security force for the president.

prevail and good people will come to rule the country."

Chowdhury said he was one of the closest associates of Ziaur Rahman.

"I always pray for him (Zia) next to my parents in every prayer time," the first secretary general of the BNP said. "I love and honour president Zia most."

Asked if he has a plan to return to politics, he said, "I'm 70 years old now and don't have any intention to return to politics."

Chowdhury expressed his desire to return to his profession as physician. "I am open to all... anyone may seek my advice. I want to involve myself in social activities."

Media men

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them with rifle butts.

At one stage, Badruddoza Chowdhury stopped the car to talk to journalists. But police and SSF men pulled many of them by the neck and literally threw them away.

One of those injured was Amran Hossain, staff photojournalist of The Daily Star. He was injured in the right leg, hands and forehead. His camera was also damaged.

At the Speaker's chamber, Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar was talking to newsmen after taking over as acting president of the country. Hardly a new minutes had passed when his personal secretary Nasimul Gani asked the newsmen to leave the room.

Gani then shouted at the newsmen and started pushing them before the acting president could finish replying to journalists questions.

Sircar was apparently stunned and stared at the official as he could not complete his statement.

Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui, the secretary and the military secretary to the president, the parliament secretary and SSF officials present there however did not intervene.

Pollution

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The next move to free roads from rickshaws would start on the Mirpur Road between Gabtali and Azimpur. The task would be tough, as the Traffic Department needs to man various lanes and by-lanes along the road to prevent rickshaws from sneaking in.

A traffic sergeant said that to keep Panthapath free from rickshaws they had to deploy dozens of ansars and policemen at different points.

But rickshaw users living in congested areas said that rickshaws have not been given alternative routes to ply.

Lanes and by-lanes rickshaws are expected to ply are run-down. The rides on the streets with big potholes are bumpy for travellers and painstaking for pullers.

Rickshaws also need frequent repairs due to the bad condition of the roads, drivers complain.

10 deaths

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Mirpur area on June 2. His family members said a group of 'known criminals' of the area killed him due to previous enmity.

Anwar Hossain Shahin, organising secretary of Jubo Dal Ward- 24 unit, was shot dead by his rivals in the organisation at Khilgaon on June 4.

A JCD of Ward-83 unit, Arif Hossain, was beaten to death and another person was injured in the attack in Postagola area on June 14. The incident was a sequel to a feud between two rival groups in the organisation.

In the latest incident, Jubo Dal leader Moshed Alam Kaikobad who contested the last general election as an independent candidate from Bholo-2 constituency, was shot in the head at Motijheel in the city on Tuesday (June 18). He is now fighting for his life at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

Germany prevail

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Berhalter shot.

Reyna then saw an audacious 45-metre lob drop inches over the bar after Kahn had been caught out of his area making a clearance.

However, the U.S. lost their momentum in a scrappy spell that saw a series of yellow cards and the Germans, who had gone out in the quarter-finals in the last two tournaments, held out without too many major scares apart from Tony Sanneh's late header into the side netting.

TEAMS

Germany: Kahn, Linke, Kehl, Metzelder, Frings, Hamann, Ballack, Schneider (Jeremies 60), Ziege, Neuville (Bode 79), Klose (Bierhoff 87).

Goal: Michael Ballack (39th minute)
Booked: Kehl.

USA: Friedel, Sanneh, Mastroeni (Stewart 80), Pope, Berhalter, Hejduk (Jones 65), O'Brien, Reyna, Lewis, Donovan, McBride (Mathis 58)

Booked: Lewis, Pope, Reyna, Mastroeni, Berhalter.

Referee: Hugh Dallas (Scotland)

How he irked BNP

FROM PAGE 1

Minister Khaleda Zia's month-long stay in the USA for medical purposes, he did not call her or inquire about her health.

Finally on May 30 – the day of the 21st death anniversary of BNP founder and ex-president Ziaur Rahman, Badruddoza whipped up a wave of criticism in the BNP when he did not visit the grave of Zia.

With all the issues combined, the disgruntled BNP leaders at a meeting of the BNP Parliamentary Party (BNPPP) Wednesday and Thursday wanted his resignation for trying to be a 'neutral' person.

BNP leaders

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Wednesday.

Throughout yesterday party activists were seen visiting residences of ministers and senior party leaders to know under what circumstances Badruddoza had to quit within such a short time. Activists suspect that there might be something quite serious behind the removal of the president.

Many activists and junior leaders told senior leaders that the latest development had created a mixed reaction among the people and majority of the commoners has been shocked by such an extreme action against Badruddoza.

The BNP activists felt that it was totally unwise to force the president to quit in such a harsh way and that his removal could have been delayed for an honourable exit.

Hundreds of BNP leaders and activists, who attended a protest rally at the Paltan Maidan yesterday, were seen talking to each other about the removal of the former president.

Many BNP leaders were also speculating about who would become the next president. Some say the prime minister might make Acting President Jamiruddin Sircar the next president as she did in 1991.

They said the prime minister might now nominate a person who would remain very loyal to the government and the party.

Many argued that it would be better to nominate Sircar for the presidency since he was not performing well as Speaker in the Jatiya Sangsad. They said it would be very difficult for Sircar to tackle the House once the AL joins the House and so, it would be better to look for a competent person for the post of the Speaker.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia had a lengthy meeting with senior party leaders at her office yesterday to discuss about the next course of action following the forced resignation of Badruddoza.

The meeting started at about 4:00pm and continuing till filing of this report at 8:00pm.

Brazil

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whose curled shot into the bottom left-hand corner gave Seaman no chance.

The strike maintained his record of scoring once in all five of games so far – but it paled in comparison with Ronaldinho's stunning free-kick five minutes after the break.

Ronaldinho caught Seaman off his line and the backtracking England keeper could do nothing to prevent the ball sailing into the top left hand corner.

Seven minutes later, he was carded for the lunge on Mills, the high tackle leaving the England defender writhing on the ground.

TEAMS

England: David Seaman, Danny Mills, Sol Campbell, Rio Ferdinand, Ashley Cole (Teddy Sheringham 79), David Beckham, Paul Scholes, Nicky Butt, Trevor Sinclair (Kieron Dyer 56), Michael Owen (Darius Vassell 79), Emile Heskey.

Goal: Owen (23rd minute)
Booked: Scholes, Ferdinand.

Brazil: Marcos, Roque Junior, Lucio, Edmilson, Cafu, Gilberto, Ronaldinho, Kleberson, Roberto Carlos, Ronaldo (Edilson 70), Rivaldo, Goals: Rivaldo (45th minute), Ronaldinho (50th minute)

Set off: Ronaldinho (58th minute)
Referee: Felipe Ramos Rizo (Mexico)

AL terms it a national crisis

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democracy in the country, she added.

"They (BNP) always (when in opposition) asked for neutrality from the then president Shahabuddin Ahmed and used to meet him for this on various occasions. But now they threatened to impeach the president they elected just because he showed neutrality," she noted. This is manifestation of BNP's 'double standard'.

The former prime minister recalled that many of the deliberations of Shahabuddin "embarrassed us at different times, but that never prompted us even to think of his resignation from the office of president. The gentleman (Shahabuddin) would have resigned had we behaved like this (like BNP)."

In a lighter vein she said, "I think we have to learn many lessons from BNP".

Hasina went on, "President (Badruddoza Chowdhury) discharged his constitutional responsibilities. But his performance was not in line with their (BNP) expectation that he would act like a partisan

man.

This government has exposed its attitude of politicisation by forcing him to quit."

She noted with dismay that when they (AL) decided to join parliament session, they (BNP) censured the opposition leader (Hasina) in the House. "This shows they do not want democracy to be practised in the country."

The AL chief alleged that BNP does not even follow parliamentary norms. In this connection, she referred to a recent ruling by the Speaker that quorum was not necessary for starting a sitting of the House.

"If the party (BNP) believes in democracy, how can a minister threaten to ban AL that secured 41 per cent votes in the last general elections," Hasina said, referring to recent remarks by Communications Minister Nazmul Huda.

She also blasted the government for a 'law and order situation' in the country and for levying heavy tax on the poor.

After the hour-long meeting of the AL presidium, its senior member

Abdus Samad Azad told newsmen, "We" are closely watching the situation. We are deeply concerned at where this government is leading us to. It is not a party crisis for them (BNP), rather, it is a national crisis."

Referring to the BNP legislators' resolution asking the president to quit, AL presidium member Abdul Jalil said, "There is no scope for any parliamentary party to take such a resolution at its meeting."

Another presidium member, Suranjit Sengupta said, "It is a fraud practised with the president."

The AL presidium also decide to stage demonstrations in the city today and across the country on June 24 to protest the censure motion against Sheikh Hasina adopted by the parliament on Tuesday.

Presidium members Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed and Sajeda Chowdhury also attended the meeting. Besides, party leader AKM Jahangir Hossain and the party chief's Political Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury attended it on special invitation.

Profile of Sircar

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to the United Nations General Assembly from 1977 to 1981 to represent the country in the legal committee. He attended a seminar on the Presidency of the UN Security Council in 1977 and also attended the parliament members' conferences at the UN during 1977-1981.

He was the leader of the Bangladesh delegation to HABITAT Conference in Manila in 1981, leader of the Bangladesh delegation to the Non-