

No majority or minority community

Prime minister tells Hindu, Bouddha, Christian Front leaders

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has said Bangladesh is a country of communal harmony where there is no majority or minority.

"We had all fought together in the War of Liberation and made Bangladesh independent. We all are Bangladeshis and here there is no room for communalism,"

Khaleda told a delegation of an organisation of the Hindu, Bouddha and Christian when its members met her at her Hare Road office here on Saturday night.

The prime minister called for working together for the development and progress of the country, saying if the country is developed, everyone will enjoy its fruit.

Welcoming the leaders and members of the newly formed Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Welfare Front (BHBCWF), the Khaleda hoped that the organisation would not be used by any quarter to serve their narrow political interest. Rather it should be careful for its own interest and development, she said.

The BHBCWF was formed last year with State Minister for Water Resources Goutam Chakravarty as convenor with a 101-member convening committee.

Convenor Goutam Chakravarty led the delegation of 75 members of the central convening committee.

She hoped that the organisation would be stronger, and would not work as a platform for communal divide rather than for unity and peace among various religious communities and faiths.

She said BNP never used any

religious community for their political interest, rather the people of all faiths live peacefully during the BNP regimes.

Referring to campaign against Bangladesh both at home and abroad by a vested quarter, she urged the members of Welfare Front to be alert against such a propaganda and give befitting reply to it.

She said the people of all religious faiths in the country have been living here peacefully for thousands of years. This tradition of communal harmony will have to be maintained by all, she added.

Responding to their various demands, the prime minister said some of their demands have already been met and assured them of considering other demands.

Goutam Chakravarty, Deputy Minister for CHT Affairs Moni Swapan Dewan, Dharendra Nath Shaha MP, Nitai Roy Chowdhury, Mama Ching and Chitya Francis also spoke on the occasion.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan also present.



PHOTO: STAR

General students of the Dhaka University took out a procession yesterday on the campus demanding withdrawal of strike.