

# Force opposition to shun politics of conspiracy

## PM urges people

UNB, Syedpur

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday accused the opposition of conspiring to capture power and urged her opponents to shun the politics of conspiracy.

"They want to come to power sidetracking the path of democracy as they know people will not vote for them, because the BNP-led alliance government has done a lot for development in the last five years," she told a huge public meeting at Syedpur Stadium.

Khaleda urged the people to compel the opposition to come back to the path of democracy shunning the path of conspiracy.

Making a pledge to protect democracy at any cost, she said the people would not tolerate any conspiracy as "we have earned democracy in exchange for our own blood".

She said her government will hand over power to caretaker government in due time to make way for holding the next elections.

Emphasising that a flawless voter list is a prerequisite for holding free, fair and neutral elections, Khaleda, also the BNP chairperson, urged the Election Commission to prepare an accurate voter list for the upcoming polls.

"We want free, fair and neutral elections... This is our expectation

as we won the previous elections held in a free and fair manner," she said.

Referring to the opposition's demand for reforms, PM noted that while in power, Awami League did not do any reform of the caretaker system as they didn't feel the necessity.

Now, she said, the AL-led opposition is demanding reforms to make it an issue and create anarchy and agitation for destroying public property.

"They know it (reform) is not necessary... so they did not do anything when they were in power. Now they want to create anarchy by making it an issue," she told the rally.

Khaleda said opposition parties have no confidence in the people. "That's why they want to boycott the election and create anarchy," she said.

She urged the people to take the right decision, as this is the right time for that: "It's your turn to decide whether you will choose the path of development or the path of destruction and regime of godfathers," she said, adding that the next election is very much important.

During the AL regime, she alleged, they destroyed the economy and education while corruption and terrorism gripped the country—the whole country came under the regime of godfathers.

Earlier, PM inaugurated sweetwater sub-centre of Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute and 4000-line Syedpur digital telephone exchange and laid the foundation stone of a new building of Kamarpukur Degree College. The project involves around Tk 14 crore.

Local BNP President Abdul Gafur Sarker presided over the meeting.

Telecommunications Minister Barrister Aminul Huq, Prime Minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury, State Minister for Education Ehsanul Huq Milon, and Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu also spoke at the meeting.

The competition was aimed at promoting traditional delicious cuisine of the country, said Faridur Reza Sagar, managing director of Channel i, at a press conference yesterday.

Anjan Chowdhury, managing director of Square Consumer Products, also spoke.

Out of 20,000 contenders, 1200 qualified for the second round. And five of them were selected for the final round.

The winner of the competition will be awarded 20 tolas of gold and the two runners-up will be given Tk 50,000 each while the remaining two will receive Tk 25,000 each.

Apart from the award giving ceremony, a daylong fair will be held at the Public Plaza of the conference hall to showcase all the cooking ingredients and utensils. The programme is open to all.

Experts from the institutions concerned and culinary training schools will take part at a discussion and present traditional recipes.

About 100 eminent personalities, including culinary experts, media personalities, women entrepreneurs and artists, will try the delicious foods prepared by the best five and contribute to the judgement.

Channel i will broadcast the prize giving ceremony and the special events of the day.

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The police identified the dead as van passengers Morina, 35, and Ayesha Begum, 50. They died on the spot.

After the accident, a mob damaged a private car and a microbus, and barricade the road for two hours.

The accident occurred when a Jessor-bound passenger bus hit a rickshaw van near the brickfield leaving the two women dead and injuring six others, police said.

The injured were admitted to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital.

Police and witnesses said the accident took place at about 1:00pm when a Brahmanbaria-bound bus from Dhaka skidded off the highway and fell into a roadside ditch, leaving two unidentified people dead on the spot and injuring 25 others.

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