

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.

"We do politics of peace and development... We are sure that the people will cast their votes in favour of the 4-party alliance."

Without naming AL, she said this is a 'promise-breaker' party as the party had promised not to call any hartal but now call hartal without any issue.

"It's your choice whether you like to have development or see the country as a bottomless basket," she said.

Khaleda narrated various development works of her government and said the unfinished development works would be completed if the BNP-led alliance got voted to power again.

Earlier, PM inaugurated sweet-water 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.

Hanif undergoes angioplasty in Bangkok today

Bss, Dhaka

Former mayor Mohammad Hanif, who has been suffering from acute cardiac problems, will undergo angioplasty at Bumrungrad Hospital in Bangkok today.

A medical board led by senior cardiologist Dr Aram yesterday decided to perform the operation on Hanif as his condition has relatively improved. He was in coma for 18 days.

Hanif, who is also Dhaka City Awami League president, was admitted to the hospital after he suffered a brain hemorrhage while addressing a rally of the 14-party opposition combine at Muktangan in the city on February 8.

His son Mohammad Sayeed Khokan has appealed to the countrymen to pray for his father's early recovery.

Final round of 'Sera Radhuni' tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The dazzling final round of a cooking competition styled 'Sera Radhuni 1412' will be held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city tomorrow.

Square Consumer Products launched the competition after its popular brand of spices and other food products 'Radhuni' nearly one year ago so that women from across the country can display their culinary talents. Channel i is the media partner of the event.

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 Sqaure 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.

Obituary



Prof. Bazlur Rahman Khan, an eminent historian, passed away at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU)

hospital yesterday at the age of 68, says a press release.

Prof. Khan, former teacher of Jahangirnagar University and younger brother of Shaheed Dr FR Khan, left behind his daughter, wife, a host of colleagues, admirers and thousands of students to mourn his death.

He was buried at Azimpur graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Minar Masjid at Lalmatia in the city.

His kulkhwani will be held after Asr prayers tomorrow at his residence at Subastu Kaberi apartment, House-2/1, Block-C, Lalmatia in the city.

Colleagues, relatives, and admirers have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Dr AK Bakhtiar Hossain



Dr AK Bakhtiar Hossain, former professor of Sir Salimullah Medical College, passed away at his Muhammadpur residence in the city yesterday at the age of 83, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

Dr Bakhtiar played an important role in establishing Bajitpur Medical College.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Iqbal Road Jame Mosque in Muhammadpur after Juma prayers today.

He will be buried on the Bajitpur Medical College premises.



PHOTO: STAR

GrameenPhone Head of Marketing Rubaba Dowla Matin speaks at the launching ceremony of BC Career Network at the British Council auditorium in the city yesterday.

ATTACK ON CU STUDENT Action against Shibir cadres demanded

CU CORRESPONDENT

Tension runs high at Chittagong University (CU) as the general students are waging a movement against the Islami Chhatra Shibir cadres, who assaulted a student on Monday night.

Students and teachers fear that the situation could escalate into clashes anytime.

Students under the banner of General Students' Forum submitted a memorandum to Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr M Badiul Alam yesterday demanding expulsion of those involved in Monday's attack on Shahadat Hossain, a third year student of political science.

They also demanded compensation for the injured student and steps to ensure congenial atmosphere on the campus, sources said.

Shahadat's classmates, preferring anonymity, told reporters that they would enforce an indefinite strike on the campus if the demands are not met immediately.

When contacted, Proctor Prof Dr Didarul Alam Chowdhury said security was stepped up and additional policemen were deployed on the campus to avert any incidents of violence.

A three-member committee led by Assistant Proctor Mohammed Ashiqur Rahman was also formed to probe into the attack on the student. The committee was asked to submit its report in seven days, sources said.

MOULVIBAZAR EXPLOSIONS

JMB terrorist Mufti Rouf remanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A JMB terrorist, who is the main suspect in Moulvibazar bomb explosion case, has been given a 5-day remand by the first class magistrate of Moulvibazar Cognizance Court 1.

After a year Mufti Moulana Abdur Rouf Farazi alias Abdur Rab was produced before the court with a prayer for remand and Magistrate Nirmal Kanti Chakma granted the 5-day remand.

WP demonstration week begins today

Workers Party (Abbas) will launch its countrywide demonstration week today, says a press release.

During the demonstration week, leaders and workers of the party will bring out processions and stage demonstrations in all districts and upazilas demanding an end to the misrule of BNP-Jamaat ruling alliance, reform in caretaker system of government and electoral system and price control of essentials.

Workers Party President Khondkar Ali Abbas and General Secretary Saiful Islam in a statement urged the party leaders and activists to make the programme a success.

He was allegedly involved in six bomb explosions in different parts of the district town on August 17, 2005.

Mymensingh police arrested Rouf from Bhaluka last month and later handed him over to Moulvibazar police.

Earlier, four people were arrested in connection with the bomb explosions.

Of the arrested Kamal Uddin and Manjurul Murad had confessed their involvement in the incident.

They also disclosed the name of Rouf as their leader who had been absconding since the explosions.

Kamal and Murad told the police that Rouf, an expert in bomb manufacturing and explosion, gave them training before the operation.

Rouf was the principal of Horhorbari Jibantaia Madrasa under Rajpur upazila in Madaripur district.

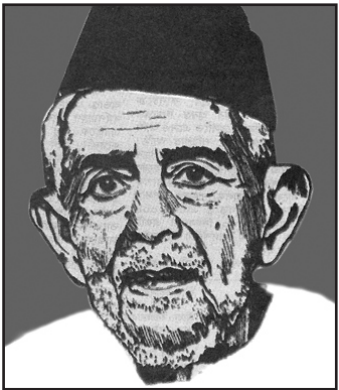
Mukles-Ur-Rahman, police super of Moulvibazar, said the investigation of the case is nearing completion.

After the interrogation of Rouf in police remand, the final charge sheet will be framed, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Police intercept the procession of community primary teachers at Doel Chatar in the city yesterday when they tried to proceed towards the Prime Minister's Office to press their demand for nationalisation of jobs.



Maulana Akram Khan's death anniversary today

Today is the 38th death anniversary of Maulana Muhammad Akram Khan, says a press release.

On the occasion, Jatiya Sangbadik Sangstha has taking elaborate programmes to observe the day. The unit committees of the Sangstha will arrange memorial meetings and seminars throughout the country.

A discussion will be held at the VIP Lounge of Jatiya Press Club at 5.00pm today.

Jatiya Press Club President Reazuddin Ahmad, BFUJ Secretary General Ruhul Amin Gazi, DUJ President Elahi Newaz Khan, Naya Diganta Editor Alamgir Mohiuddin, and Amaradesh Editor Amanullah Kabir will speak at the seminar as the guests.

Chehlum

Bss, Dhaka



Keraniganj in Dhaka today.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani, milad mahfil and feeding to the destitute have been arranged at Zinzira Community Centre.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the functions.

5 die in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed and 31 others injured in separate road accidents in Jessore, Narsingdi and Sirajganj yesterday.

BSS from Jessore adds: Two people were killed and six others injured in a road accident near the Malancha brickfield on the Jessore-Benapole road in the district yesterday.

The police identified the dead as van passengers Morjina 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 Jessore-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 Jessore General Hospital.

UNB from Narsingdi adds: Two people were killed and 25 others injured in a road accident at Nilkuli on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Raypura upazila yesterday.

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.

Twenty of the injured were taken to Bhairab Upazila Health Complex for treatment.

Our Correspondent from Sirajganj reports: A rice trader was killed and six others were injured in a road accident on the Bogra-Nagorbari highway at Bhuiyanti area in Raiganj upazila of Sirajganj yesterday.

The injured were admitted to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital.

Police and witnesses said the accident took place at around 7.30am when a Dhaka-bound rice-laden truck from Hilli skidded off the road and hit a tree on the roadside as the driver lost control over the steering, leaving rice trader Kabir Hossain, 40, of Hotatpara village in Shibganj of Chapainawabganj dead on the spot and six others injured.

Police sent the body to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

WEATHER TODAY

Fall in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Sylhet, Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions, Met Office said in a forecast.

It said that day temperature may fall slightly over the country.

Country's highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.0 degree Celsius at Teknaf.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:29pm today and rises at 5:35am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage		
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.4	27.5	72	76
Chittagong	33.8	26.0	76	80
Rajshahi	33.6	26.2	77	92
Khulna	30.6	26.4	83	92
Barisal	31.6	25.5	96	90
Sylhet	34.5	26.7	65	74
Cox's Bazar	31.6	25.0	92	83