

## We are responsible for present situation: Saifur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting chairman M Saifur Rahman yesterday said there would have been no need to impose a state of emergency if his party had handed over power to a caretaker government formed through proper process.

"We ourselves are responsible for the present situation," he said this while he was addressing the JCD leaders and workers at his residence in the city.

He hoped that the government will hold elections on priority basis to meet the expectation of the people.

Acting Secretary General Maj (Retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, standing committee member Lt Gen (Retd) Mahbubur Rahman, advisers to the chairperson Maj Gen

(Retd) Z A Khan and Mufazzal Karim and vice president Shah Mohammad Abul Hossain also spoke at the function.

Meanwhile, two factions of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) observed its 29th founding anniversary by placing wreaths and offering fete at the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman yesterday.

BNP Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan, acting Office Secretary Rizvi Ahmed, former lawmaker Sohrab Uddin were present when the pro-Khaleida faction JCD leaders visited the grave of Zia.

BNP leaders urged the JCD leaders and workers to get ready for movement to free Khaleida Zia from the jail. The JCD leaders and workers of the faction also went to the sub-jail premises to greet their detained leader Khaleida.

Later the JCD faction led by its General Secretary Shafiq Bari Babu met Khandaker Delwar Hossain at his Namflat.

BNP leaders Nazrul Islam Khan and Ghoyeswar Chandra Roy were present on the occasion.

Khandaker Delwar set a cake marking the day. The faction also organised a discussion at the photojournalists' association auditorium.

On the other hand, pro-Saifur faction JCD leaders and workers led by former JCD leader Monir Hossain visited Zia's grave. Later they met BNP acting chairman Saifur Rahman at his Gulshan residence.

## Navy chief inaugurates voter listing in Barguna

Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam inaugurated 'Operation Nabojaatra', a voter list and national ID card registration project at Barguna yesterday, says an ISPR press release.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, the navy chief urged all concerned to put their best efforts and dedication to make the programme successful.

Later the navy chief visited cyclone-hit areas in Barguna and gave necessary directives to Navy Contingent deployed there for smooth running of ongoing rehabilitation works.

Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Operations) Rear Admiral Mustafizur Rahman, Commodore Commander Khulna, high civil and military officials and local elites were present on the occasion.

The project has already been started in Bhola and Mongla.

## Death of Justice Sobhan condoled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-cultural and political organisations and individuals yesterday condoled the death of Justice KM Sobhan.

Justice Sobhan, president of Bangabandhu Parishad, died of cardiac arrest at Birdem Hospital in the capital on Monday at the age of 82.

Speaker Barrister Mohammad Jamiruddin Sircar and Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui condoled the death of Justice Sobhan.

In separate condolence messages, they said Justice Sobhan was a competent and fearless justice.

They also said the nation has lost an eminent intellectual with the death of Justice Sobhan.

They prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed their deep sympathy to the bereaved family.

Law Adviser Barrister Mainul Hossain expressed profound shock at his death.

In a message, he said Justice Sobhan was an imitable personality and he played strong role in establishing democracy and rule of law.

He prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed his deep sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Acting BNP Chairperson M Saifur Rahman and Acting Secretary General Hafizuddin Ahmed expressed profound shock at the death of Justice Sobhan.

In a condolence message, they prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed their deep sympathy to the bereaved family.

Condoled the death, leaders of Bangabandhu Parishad said they have lost a guardian and the country has lost a man belonging to pro-liberation forces.

Bangladesh Muktiyodhha Sangsad expressed deep shock at the death of Justice Sobhan.

In a message, Sangsad Chairman Principal Ahad Chowdhury said the nation has incurred irreparable loss with his death.

The Sangsad also conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family.

Expressing deep shock at his death, Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Secretary General Maj (ret'd) Abdul Mannan said the nation would remember the relentless effort of Sobhan in establishing a secular and democratic country.

In a condolence message, they prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed their deep sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Sammilito Samajik Andolan President Ajoy Roy and General Secretary Advocate Tobarak Hossain said the role of Justice Sobhan in establishing a non-communal and democratic country is irreplaceable.

They also said the death of Justice Sobhan is an irreparable vacuum in the democratic movement.

Bangladesh Muktiyodhha Parishad, Amra Muktiyodhhar Santan, Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association, Ain o Salish Kendra, Transparency International Bangladesh, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association, Democratic Lawyers Association of Bangladesh, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh National Awami Party, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Bangali Sangskriti Mancha and Jatir Janak Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Trust also condoled the death of Justice Sobhan.

He apprehended that the people would die due to lack of food if the current trend of price spiral continues and urged the government to bring down the prices to ease people's sufferings.

Zillur termed the year 2007 a very frustrating and sad year, as their party president, general secretary and a number of senior leaders have been arrested "without any charges." "Our freedom of speech and other fundamental rights were snatched through proclaiming state of emergency in the country," he said.

AL leaders Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Syed Ashrafur Islam, Abdul Mannan, Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Akhtaruzzaman, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Dr Dipu Moni, Dr Hasan Mahmud, Nazma Rahman, among others were present at the briefing.

AL acting chief came down hard on the government for the continuous spiral of the prices of everyday essentials, especially rice.

AL leaders also demanded immediate release of the detained Dhaka University teachers and students.

"We hope that the teachers will be released with honour, the time is not over," the AL leader said.

The AL acting chief came down hard on the government for the continuous spiral of the prices of everyday essentials, especially rice.

AL presidium sits tomorrow to discuss among other issues Hasina's health condition, dialogue with the government and observing of Hasina's homecoming day.

Referring to government's claim that the country is moving forward and there are no problems, Zillur urged them to lift the state of emergency as early as possible for holding a free and fair poll.

The AL acting president was positive that the AL would be voted to power if a fair election is held and the people could cast their votes freely.

Zillur also demanded immediate release of the detained Dhaka University teachers and students.

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