

Defeated forces still active

Says Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged all to work together being imbued with the spirit of Liberation War as the defeated forces is still conspiring against the country.

"Today, I've read in the newspapers that the country's literacy rate is below 50 percent. Why does our literacy rate remain at this negligible state even after 38 years of independence? The defeated forces in the past didn't allow Bangladesh to attain its cherished development. Their conspiracy against people is still on," she said.

Hasina, also the Awami League President, was addressing a discussion marking the historic 'Mujibnagar Day' at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the afternoon.

Describing the importance of the Mujibnagar Day, the prime minister said Bangladeshi had been successful in attaining their independent and sovereign state under the able and visionary leadership of the Mujibnagar government. "But, the dreams and expectations of the people for which they fought the war could not yet be materialised."

Hasina said the anti-liberation forces killed Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and four national leaders, and imposed military rule, disrupting the advancement of democracy. "Today, when a democratic force has come to power after a long wait, the defeated forces are not sitting idle," she said.

Hasina termed the December 29 parliamentary polls as a "revolution" and said the people with their mandate have manifested their love for democracy.

She told the party leaders and activists that the people have reposed their trust and confidence in Awami League through their mandate in the elections. "Now our duty is to work hard to uphold the trust of the people on us. We'll have to stand by the people and help them remove their various problems."

About the current electricity and water crises, the prime minister said the government is aware of the problems and crises of the people. "We must remove the problems. Our main election pledge was to reduce the prices of essentials. We've been able to bring the prices of rice and some other essentials," she said.

Party senior leaders Tofail Ahmed, Suranji Sen Gupta and Matia Chowdhury also spoke.

Sheikh Hasina said new power plants

need to be set up to remove the electricity crisis. "Some time will be needed to set up new power plants. We're working hard to solve the electricity crisis," she said.

Hasina blamed those who ruled the country for the last seven years for the present crisis of electricity and water.

She said the BNP-Jamaat alliance and the caretaker governments did not add even one MW of electricity to the national grid although it had been increased to 4300 MW from 1600 MW during the past AL government.

Hasina regretted that the four-party alliance government halted the construction work of the Syedabad and Pagla water treatment plants, pushing the city dwellers into the present water crisis.

She said Awami League has got another chance to serve the people and build Bangladesh in line with the spirit of the 1971 liberation war.

"You (party workers) should realise that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and AL's ideology is to sacrifice for people," she said.

Party senior leaders Tofail Ahmed, Suranji Sen Gupta and Matia Chowdhury also spoke.



Bangladesh Garments Sramik Trade Union organises its 4th central conference at Muktangan in the city yesterday.

MEMORIAL MEETING ON PROF HUMAYUN AZAD Call to bring attackers to justice

DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said Prof Humayun Azad in his entire life fought against fundamentalism and communalism to establish a progressive society, and he died following series of brutal attacks by fundamentalists.

They also demanded the Awami League-led grand alliance government bring the attackers to book.

The speakers also called on the government to root out fundamentalism from the country.

They said this at a meeting organised by Humayun Azad Sangsad in memory of Prof

Azad at TSC intersection on the Dhaka University campus.

Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon, MP said Prof Azad was able to disclose the worst characters of fundamentalists. So, steps will have to be taken so that nobody like him ever comes under such ghastly attacks by fundamentalists.

Prof Anwar Hossain said Prof Humayun Azad himself told that it would be found out who attacked him if Jamaat leaders Matiur Rahman Nizami and Delwar Hossain Sayeedi are interrogated. It could not be done then, but it is possible now, he added.

Prof Rafiqullah Khan said,

"The Awami League government has to take steps to free the country of fundamentalism. We expect that the country would be free of fundamentalism within next six months."

The speakers demanded the authorities declare the TSC road island as Humayun Azad Square and hang his picture at Bangla department.

Prof Azad was found dead in an apartment in Munich in Germany on August 12, 2004. Earlier on February 27, unknown assailants brutally attacked him in a bid to kill him on the campus when he was returning from the Amar Ekushey Book Fair.

Sonargaon Hotel Sramik Union executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Manzurul Haque and Abdul Mati Baksh have been elected president and general secretary of Sonargaon Hotel Sramik O Karmachari Union recently, says a press release.

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