

Join anti-govt agitation

Khaleda tells newly formed business forum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday sought support from businesses for the opposition's caretaker government movement.

"If the incumbent government wants to hold a one-sided election in the country, you [businessmen] should join hands with the general people and the opposition to resist the poll," she told a views-exchange meeting with businessmen at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

She urged the business community to join the anti-government movement to restore the caretaker government system in the constitution.

The opposition leader asked the government to act responsibly and try to feel what she called the pulse of the masses.

She reiterated her call for forming Sangram Committees under every polling centre to resist any one-sided election.

Babosayee Parishad (Businessmen Council), a new platform of businessmen, organised the meeting.

Khaleda, who heads the BNP-led 18-party opposition alliance, called upon people to get united to protect their voting rights.

She said if voted to power at the next general election, her party would introduce fair politics with a "new trend in running the government".

"We'll establish national unity with opinions from all. We'll not do business; we will remove all barriers faced by businesses

and speed up the development of businesses and industries," she mentioned.

She excoriated the Awami League-led grand alliance government for its poor performance in different sectors. She accused the ruling AL men of "looting the state banks" in the name of taking loans.

Assuring businessmen of solving their problems, Khaleda said she had taken note of their problems and would try to solve them if returned to power.

Atiqul Islam, president of the BGMEA, thanked the opposition leader for her initiatives to develop the country's garments sector. He requested the BNP chief to make sure that the sector was not affected by the opposition's anti-government movement.

Former BGMEA chief Salam Murshed said the garment industry had been facing an image crisis after the Rana Plaza disaster in Savar. He urged the former premier to help the industry overcome the image crisis.

Abdul Awal Mintoo, a former president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said if any one sided-election was held in the country, the business community would not participate in that election.

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, its standing committee member Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain and central leader Amir Khosru M Chowdhury spoke at the programme, among others.



With Eid-ul-Azha a week away, sacrificial animals are being brought to the capital by trucks yesterday. The photo was taken near Daulatdia ferry terminal.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Adilur gets 6-month bail

FROM PAGE 1

His lawyer Advocate M Asaduzzaman told The Daily Star that there was no legal bar to his client's release from jail following the HC order.

Adilur is now in Gazipur's Kashimpur Jail-1, the lawyer said, adding that completing the process of his release might take two to three days.

Adilur was arrested on August 10 in connection with the case filed under Information and Communications Technology Act, 2006, for publishing the "false

report" on the crackdown on Hefajat-e Islam in the capital's Motijheel area on May 5.

The report claimed that 61 people had been killed during the crackdown.

Law enforcers flushed out several thousand Hefajat activists who had taken to the streets and resorted to violence during and after their May 5 Dhaka siege programme.

The HC bench of Justice Borhanuddin and Justice KM Kamrul Kader granted the bail to Adilur after he had filed an appeal.

Earlier on September 25, the Cyber Crimes Tribunal in Dhaka rejected his bail petition for the third time in the same case.

The Odhikar secretary challenged the tribunal's order and filed an appeal with the HC, requesting it to grant him bail.

Additional Attorney General Momtajuddin Fakir, who opposed the bail to Adilur, told The Daily Star that the government is yet to decide whether to file an appeal with the Supreme Court against the bail order.

Indira counted on his advice in '71

FROM PAGE 16

He was one of the only two who were honoured with the award in gratitude for their crucial role during the 1971 Liberation War. The other was Bharat Ratna Gulzarilal Nanda, former home minister of India and twice acting prime minister.

Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, union minister of food during that time, was an integral part of Indira Gandhi's cabinet committee dealing with the war.

His son Dr Pervez Ahmed recently visited Bangladesh for the first time to receive the award on his behalf. In a conversation with The Daily Star, he discussed the part played by his father during

the war.

"My father, along with minister of finance Yashwantrao Bulwantrao Chavan, minister of defence Jagjivan Ram and minister of external affairs Sardar Swaran Singh, formed Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's group of counsels," Pervez began. "They influenced Indira in making the decisions that she made about East Pakistan."

Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed was very close to Indira Gandhi, who valued his counsel very much, said the son.

"When the issue of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman not getting his due place as the prime minister of Pakistan cropped

up, my father took a strong stance in his favour," said Pervez, adding that his father had grown up with Bengalis in Assam.

"Assam was a place where a lot of Bengalis came and went. They were like our neighbours, and my father grew up getting to know them, getting to know about their culture. I think it was his understanding of the Bengalis which moved him to the cause."

He went on to say his father had never supported the division of greater India into India and Pakistan. The region had historically been a place where people moved about freely.

"My father was against clamping a geo-political

JU deadlock takes toll on students

FROM PAGE 16

of teachers met Education Secretary Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury at the NAEM building in response to the latter's call, said the demonstrating teachers.

Around one and a half months ago, they had confined the VC to his office for four days. He was released after Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid promised on August 24 to form a committee to probe the allegations the teachers had brought against the VC.

The committee submitted its report four days after its scheduled date on September 29.

From the next day, the registrar and the deputy registrar had been con-

finied by the teachers, who have been staging sit-ins before the VC's residence since the beginning of this month. The VC also started holding sit-ins right beside them hours later.

At a press conference yesterday, the teachers expressed dissatisfaction over the education ministry's statement on Monday, which warned that the government would take "appropriate action" to ensure an academic atmosphere.

"The only solution to the problem is the VC's resignation. We had to resume other agitation as the government did not keep its promise to break the stalemate within 15 days," said Prof Kamrul Ahsan, member secretary of

the forum.

The crisis began on July 20 last year, after the VC panel elections that were held more than a month after the VC was appointed. Most of the teachers did not accept Anwar because he was an outsider, said some teachers.

J U Teachers' Association (Juta) came up with the demand of the VC's removal on February 13 this year, after the death of a student the day before, arguing that the VC had failed to provide security to the students and teachers.

The crisis deepened on April 6, when the VC backtracked from taking steps against a Chhatra League leader who had physically assaulted a

teacher.

On April 27, the association went out on strike to press for the demand. The teachers also observed strikes at different times and staged sit-ins before the administrative building. Administrative activities also remained suspended for 43 days.

Because of the protests, the university could not hold its annual senate meeting, where the yearly budget is approved, as well as four syndicate meetings and two academic council meetings.

Juta stopped its agitation following a High Court order on July 24 this year, when the teachers formed the Sadharan Shikkhak Forum and resumed their agitation.



Services at Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College and Hospital in Dhaka were disrupted yesterday as a section of nurses and employees went on strike to press for job benefits including provident fund and gratuity. Inset, the staff hold a meeting with the management around 1:00pm.

PHOTO: STAR

Yusuf asked his men to kill 3 Hindus

FROM PAGE 16

and a physician at Morelganj during the Liberation War.

At the last part of his testimony, Nasir identified the 87-year-old Jamaat leader in the dock saying, "He [Yusuf] looks like me."

Jamaat-e-Islami Nayebe-Ameer Yusuf is facing 13 charges for his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity and genocide committed in greater Khulna district during the war.

On September 5, freedom fighter Liaquat Ali Khan, also the first prosecution witness in the case, testified about the killing of these people against Yusuf, historically known as the founder of the infamous Razakar force.

Following the order of Yusuf, his associates killed at least five people in three incidents in Morelganj, Liaquat said.

During his hour-long testimony yesterday, Nasir said Yusuf had formed Peace Committee in

Khulna and became its chairman.

He used to provide training to many people of Morelganj and include them in Razakar force, and later send them to Morelganj, Sharonkhola and many other places.

On the morning of May 13, 1971, Nasir said, he and his co-fighters attacked Baraikhali Razakar camp in Morelganj.

At one stage, Yusuf along with the Pakistani army and Razakars arrived there on a gunboat and started firing, which forced them to retreat.

One of their co-fighters, Abu Bakar, took shelter in the home of Ramjan Kazi after getting injured.

But Razakars took Bakar to their camp and tortured him with bayonet, Nasir said, adding that Abu Bakar was killed in front of the camp following the order of Yusuf.

Nasir, who also worked as a source for other freedom fighters, said Yusuf came to Morelganj Bazaar

on May 17, 1971 and ordered the local Razakars to loot and torch houses there.

Following his order, around 400/500 houses were burnt down, he added.

Around 9:00pm on May 19, Yusuf came once again to the bazaar and asked his associates to annihilate Hindus and pro-liberation people.

Following his order, Razakars attacked the houses of the Hindus and captured Santi Ranjan Das, Satya Ranjan Das and Keshab Chandra Das, who were brothers, and Amar Das Sankar Das and Pijus Kanti Garai.

Later, Razakars had took them to Morelganj launch terminal, he said.

However, Liaquat, the first prosecution witness, in his testimony mentioned that Santi Ranjan Das, Satya Ranjan Das and Shankar Ranjan Das were brothers.

"Around 12:00 midnight, I took position near

Bendy phone screen, finally

FROM PAGE 16

LG Chem, the South Korean firm's research arm, has additionally said it is ready to unveil its curved battery prototype ahead of the rumoured launch of the company's G Flex handset in November.

"LG Display is launching a new era of flexible displays for smartphones with its industry-leading technology," said Dr Sang Deog Yeo, chief technology officer of LG

Display.

"The flexible display market is expected to grow quickly as this technology is expected to expand further into diverse applications including automotive displays, tablets and wearable devices."

The design is made of 0.44mm-thin plastic and has a protective film attached to the back, making it 'bendable and unbreakable'.

It is vertically concave from

top to bottom, has a radius of 7cm and weighs 7.2g.

LG Display claims the flexible OLED panel is the 'world's' slimmest among existing mobile device panels.

The company's new battery technology could also revolutionise smartphones because it is so bendy it can be tied in knots.

This means it can be shaped around other compo-

nents.

It could even improve the battery life of phones because manufacturers could add more power into the batteries, if they're not restricted by size or shape.

LG Chem's cable-type lithium-ion battery can even be woven into textiles.

This means the technology could also be fitted to clothes, and users could end up 'wearing' phone chargers.

Education altered, for the better

FROM PAGE 16

the country successfully -- and I believe we are not far from our goal."

BSS's primary goal is to blend major components of the general primary education curriculum along with practical learning. Thus, the system of education here is altered and delivered in a student centred and life oriented manner. Here, a student is an active agent in learning and applying competencies in immediate livelihood practice. For example, they receive training in

carpentry, farming techniques, how to run a small business, electrical engineering and computerscience.

"The complete training provided by BSS actually changed my life, for the better," exclaims 30-year-old Rafat Khan. Rafat's father and his uncles are all farmers, and initially, he too was expected to be one. However, the dynamic curriculum at BSS encouraged Rafat to take a step forward and use his skills in the market. A former student of

the Basic School System in Tangail, today he is the branch manager at one of the local Walton showrooms. "It is because of the proper training and education that I received at BSS that I can now work independently and earn enough to feed my family."

Today, the Basic School System has evolved into a vibrant opportunity for education in 23 rural units with 20,000 or more students at a time, in different parts of the country.

According to a 2011 study by the US Agency for International Development, the number of children dropping out of school at an early age in Bangladesh has increased by an alarming 47 percent. However, with schools like the Basic School System, where the curriculum is specialised and created to suit a large section of underprivileged children in the country, it will not be long till we can increase the rate of literacy in the country.