

43 hurt in AL, BNP clashes

STAR REPORT
Forty-three activists of Awami League (AL) and BNP were injured in clashes at Ghagra Bazar in Purbadhala upazila under Netrakona district and in Matiranga upazila under Khagrachhari district yesterday.
At least 40 people were injured as AL and BNP men got locked into a clash at Ghagra Bazar in Purbadhala upazila yesterday evening, reports our Netrakona correspondent.
BNP brought out a procession protesting the 'terrorist' activities of AL at Ghagra Bazar. AL men attacked the procession with sharp weapons, police and witnesses said.
During the hour-long clash that

Pre-poll C'wealth team due today

UNB, Dhaka
A two-member team of the Commonwealth Secretariat arrives in Dhaka today on a nine-day visit to conduct a pre-election mission in Bangladesh.
The team comprising Syed Sharfuddin, special adviser and head of the Asia-Europe Section, and Julie Broadbent, political affairs officer, Democracy Section, will meet government and opposition officials, civil society, media and other parties concerned to assess whether the presence of a Commonwealth observer group during the elections is broadly supported.
The team will also seek to obtain

Ex-IGP opts for retirement after made OSD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Former inspector general of police (IGP) Anwarul Iqbal on Thursday night went into voluntary retirement after he had been made officer on special duty (OSD).
Iqbal submitted a letter expressing his intent of voluntary retirement to the secretary of home ministry. He then vacated his Minto Road residence and moved to his Uttara house.
The interim government on Thursday night placed the IGP on OSD, made a few transfers and reshuffled a number of higher posts in the police administration.

11-POINT DEMAND 14-party extends deadline by a week

Wants non-partisan person as caretaker govt chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
November 11, "Hasina warned. They gave Iajuddin the November 3 ultimatum to carry out their demands, but the interim administration could not show much success by then, she told the rally held amid unprecedented security.
"The chief adviser sent representatives to me seeking more time for reconstituting the Election Commission. We have agreed to extend the time. But the chief adviser will have to show that they are taking measures to reconstitute the Election Commission," Hasina said.
In her 35-minute speech, the AL president also emphasised distribution of election related ministries to other advisers, making Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) strong and independent, and investigation into corruption, politicisations, militancy, looting,



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina waving to the crowd gathered at the 14-party combine's rally at Paltan Maidan in the capital yesterday.

Jail killing day observed

UNB, Dhaka
The Jail Killing Day, commemorating the assassination of four national leaders inside the Dhaka Central Jail, was observed yesterday.
On this day in 1975, four national leaders and Liberation War heroes—Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, Captain M Mansur Ali and AHM Kamruzzaman—were gunned down inside the central jail.
To mark the day, Awami League (AL) and its front organisations, including Juba League, Swechhasebak League, Awami Mohila League, Krishak League and Chhatra League, held various programmes.
National and party flags were hoisted at half-mast while black flags atop all party offices across the country.
Awami League leaders and activists wore black badges and placed wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at 6:30am.
At 7:00am, the AL leaders and activists placed wreaths on the graves of the national leaders at Banani Graveyard and offered special prayer, seeking eternal peace of the departed souls.

Moudud's sudden move stays graft body work

ACC cannot take any action against corrupts throughout caretaker govt tenure

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK
Former law minister Moudud Ahmed Wednesday moved against a High Court order and got the functions of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) stayed up to January 21 amid growing demands for investigation into corruption of ministers and officials of the immediate past government.
The Supreme Court (SC) order means the ACC will not be able to function during almost the whole tenure of the caretaker government.
However, the ACC was learnt to be preparing for applying to the court to modify the order so that it can function.
Acknowledging that he is aware of the SC order, ACC Chairman Justice Sultan Ahmed Khan told The Daily Star Thursday night, "We will submit an application before the court to modify the order so as to make the ACC functional."
Moudud, who tabled a bill paving the way for the formation of the ACC and strongly asserted that the organisation will act independently to root out corruption to a great extent, himself made the move in the Supreme Court to halt the commission's operation.
After its formation on November 21, 2004, the ACC absorbed over 750 staff of the erstwhile Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac) through a screening process and asked the government to withdraw the rest 263.
Ahsan Ali and a few other aggrieved Bac district anti-corruption officers filed a writ petition seeking stay on the screening criteria, ACC's absorption of Bac employees and withdrawal of others, and the appointment of personal secretaries (PSs) to the ACC chairman and commissioners.
Justices Syed Mohammad Dastagir Hossain and Mamnoon Rahman passed an order on March 5 in favour of the petitioners.
Turned literally inoperative, the ACC then moved in the High Court (HC) bench of Justice Joynti Abedin for vacating the stay. After hearing for several days, the matter was sent back to the bench of justices Dastagir and Mamnoon.
On August 24, the bench vacated its stay order on the ACC screening criteria, Bac staff absorption and withdrawal processes, and appointment of the PSs.
Bac district anti-corruption officer Ahsan Ali then appealed with the Chamber Judge's court of the Appellate Division seeking stay on the August 24 HC order.
On August 28, Chamber Judge Amirul Kabir Chowdhury stayed the operation of Bac staff withdrawal order for three months and directed petitioners Ahsan Ali and others to file a regular leave petition.

BNP wants actions against 2 advisers

Says Shafi, Sultana failed to maintain neutrality

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has urged the president and chief adviser of the caretaker government to take action against two advisers who visited Sudha Sadan and met Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina on Thursday night.
"I hope they will resign willingly as they failed to maintain neutrality by visiting the AL president's house in unflagged car and without any protocol," Bhuiyan said at a press briefing yesterday at the party central office at Naya Paltan in the capital.
"It is not important for what purpose they went to Sudha Sadan but they have done a mistake by paying the visit," Bhuiyan said when reporters told him that President and Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed instructed the two advisers to go there.
Asked about Adviser Justice Fazlul Haque's controversial comment after placing wreath at the National Memorial at Savar, the BNP leader asked, "Is it fair that a person should resign only for a comment?"
On the reported dual citizenship of Adviser Sufia Rahman, Bhuiyan just said, "I don't know anything about it."
President and Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed sent Adviser Shafi Sami and Sultana Kamal to Hasina's residence on Thursday night to inform her about the interim government's move to reconstitute the Election Commission (EC) a day before expiry of the 14-party combine's ultimatum to the caretaker government to prove its neutrality.
AL and its allies issued the ultimatum to the caretaker government to meet their 11-point demand.

Advisers met Hasina on council's consensus

There's nothing to dispute, says Adviser Akbar Ali

SHAKHAWAT LITON
Advisers to the caretaker government yesterday said two of their colleagues met Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina on Thursday night following a consensus decision and on instructions of President Iajuddin Ahmed and there is no room for controversy.
Such consultations will take place with the other political parties, civil society members and professional bodies as well to work out ways to reconstitute the Election Commission (EC) in a week.
Two advisers, CM Shafi Sami and Advocate Sultana Kamal, called on the AL president to convince the 14-party combine not to go for any tough agitation programmes on expiry of its November 3 ultimatum, said a number of advisers yesterday.
AL and its allies issued the ultimatum to the caretaker government to meet their 11-point demand.
The advisers said in line with the consensus among themselves, they will keep consulting different political and professional bodies and civil society on how to make the EC effective.
The meeting between Hasina and the two advisers has drawn angry reactions from the immediate past ruling alliance. BNP and its lawyers' wing at separate press conferences yesterday demanded resignation of the two advisers for what they said was losing neutrality.
Meanwhile, some advisers said the Bangabhaban should come forward to clarify the situation by issuing a statement, but as of last night, no statement or clarification was sent to the media.
"There is nothing to dispute. It is

Political assassinations, terrorism dimmed law and order

SHAMIM ASHRAF
The nation has witnessed with awe a new and grave manifestation of terrorism, political assassinations and organised crimes as law and order figured supreme during the tenure of the BNP-led alliance government that totally failed to contain the aforementioned menace.
The home ministry, however, earned notable success in curbing nagging petty crimes like non-political killings, mugging, burglary, small-scale extortion and cheating and fighting the outlaws. Besides, it earned credit by deploying mobile courts to check food adulteration and improving logistics of the law enforcing forces and other departments under its command.
But the success has been greatly marred by alarming rise in Islamist extremism and militancy, a long queue of deaths in so-called crossfire, naked politicisation of the police administration, smuggling of huge quantity of arms and explosives, brutal political killings and bomb and grenade attacks, many of which are still unsolved.
Several gruesome bomb attacks by Islamist militant outfits over the past few years tarnished Bangladesh's image as a moderate Muslim-majority country enjoying a communal harmony. A rapid rise in Islamic fundamentalism challenged the very roots of democracy and the rule of law with an express aim of establishing an Islamic rule.
Although the government initially kept on denying the existence of Islamist militant groups, it had to

Adviser Sufia says she doesn't hold UK citizenship

UNB, Dhaka
Health and Family Welfare Adviser Prof Sufia Rahman has said the report about her British citizenship is not true.
"Those who do not like me are spreading such propaganda," she told the news agency over telephone.
Prof Rahman, an eminent cardiologist, said she had been in London for 13 years with resident status. "That's a different matter," she said.
According to article 58C(7) of the constitution, the president shall appoint advisers from among

Commentary

Let the Advisers work

Unfortunate and unnecessary controversy hampering caretaker government

MAHFUZ ANAM
Very disturbing and completely unnecessary controversies are hampering the functioning of the newly formed caretaker government (CG). This group of well meaning, patriotic and committed people have come forward to perform a constitutional task for which they deserve our thanks. We must desist from drawing them into any political controversy. We should, and we will, observe their every move to inform the public as to what they are doing and point out wrongs when we think they have made. But we should do so with a motive of helping them to perform their task and definitely not to question their every move with the aim of dragging them into one controversy after another.
The latest controversy surrounding two advisers, Shafi Sami and Sultana Kamal, in connection with their visit to the house of Sheikh Hasina, is not only most unfortunate but also an example of deliberate distortion of facts and twisting of their intentions to gain short-term political mileage. The BNP secretary general has declared that by visiting Hasina these two advisers have lost their neutrality

Education trip turns 'excursion'

BNP-blessed men get the last minute chance; non-teachers included

SHEIKH SABIHA ALAM
A 10-day ICT training programme for schoolteachers in Korea may be useful for skill building. But for the former education ministers and high officials, it was a perfect excuse to award a "pleasure trip" to their friends and cronies.
A 25-member team of "school-teachers" on November 1 flew to Korea to take part in the training course organised by DAEGU Metropolitan Office of Education.
Sources said among these 25, four are not even schoolteachers. They are
Director (training) of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education Dr Sirajuddin Ahmed, assistant private secretary to the former education minister Saiful Islam, Personal Officer of education secretary Monirul Islam Milon, and stenographer of joint secretary Golam Mostafa. Milon is also a leader of the education ministry employees association.
The 21 others include two teachers from the constituencies of the former minister and state minister for education, and others who are related to the ministry officials.
Sources in the National Front of

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