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Opposition hands over new formula to Ninian

By Nurul Kabir

The parliamentary opposition yesterday handed over to Commonwealth emissary Sir Ninian Stephen an alternative proposal in response to the ruling party formula for an interim government for holding general elections.

The opposition leaders, at a closed-door meeting at the Sangsad Bhaban with Sheikh Hasina in the chair, resolved that the Chief Justice or a retired judge of the Supreme Court or any other non-partisan distinguished citizen acceptable to both the BNP and the Opposition should head a caretaker government for holding elections.

According to the Opposition formula, the caretaker cabinet, having 11 members including its chief, would comprise non-partisan persons. Of the 10 other members, five would be nominated by Leader of Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia and five by the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina. None of the cabinet members would be allowed to take part in the elections and the main task of the interim government would be to help the Election Commission ensure free and fair polls.

The Opposition proposal also said that a caretaker government should be constituted 60 days ahead of the elections. The Opposition formula, in agreement with the ruling party's plans, said that an 11-member joint parliamentary consultative committee, headed by the Speaker, should be formed to suggest steps to strengthen the Election Commission. The consultative committee will also draft a code of conduct for the leaders and activists of political parties during the elections.

The Opposition formula was handed over to Sir Ninian at the state guest house Meghna at 10:30 last night.

The Opposition proposal was given in response to the latest government formula handed over to Sheikh Hasina through Sir Ninian on November 13.

The BNP formula said, a 10-member interim cabinet comprising five MPs each from the treasury and Opposition benches with incumbent Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia as its head should hold the next general elections.

Majority leader Begum Khaleda Zia would nominate four treasury bench MPs while Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina would choose five Opposition legislators for such a cabinet, the ruling party plan had said.

There would be no bar for the members of such a cabinet to contest the elections. Except the Prime Minister, the others would not be permitted to campaign for candidates of their respective parties.

The Prime Minister, who would not enjoy any executive authority during the interim period, would also not use the official facilities during election campaigning for her party candidates across the country.

According to the BNP proposal, the interim cabinet would be formed 45 days ahead of the next national polls.

The BNP negotiators at the Commonwealth-brokered dialogue also proposed that an 11-member 'national consultative committee', comprising equal number of members from the treasury and Opposition benches and headed by Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, be formed to suggest necessary legal provisions to ensure free

50 pc of votes counted Nepali CP far ahead of ruling Congress

KATHMANDU, Nov 17: Tens of thousands of leftwing supporters celebrated their clean sweep of polls in the Nepalese capital today as the communist party maintained its lead over the ruling Nepali Congress (NC) with close to 50 per cent of votes counted, report AFP, AP.

With results in from 95 constituencies after Tuesday's polls the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) has won 51 seats in the 205-seat parliament, with the NC trailing on 29.

The rightist Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) has bagged 10 seats so far, a marked improvement from the 1991 May elections.

The elections were held Tuesday, and final result aren't expected for a week because some areas are remote and the Election Commission has ordered a new polling in 79

polling stations in 33 constituencies where violence marred the first vote.

The communists, who enjoy ideological support from neighbouring China, have promised land reforms that would break up large holdings, and that appeals to many poor farmers in Nepal, especially in Kathmandu, the capital, where the alliance won all seven seats.

Today, a sea of red flags dotted the skyline in Kathmandu and the adjoining cities of Patan and Bhaktapur — the centres of the nation's communist power.

The newly elected communist deputies had vermillion marks placed on their foreheads by relatives and friends in keeping with an ancient tradition that once honoured victorious warriors.

In Nepal, politicians can run for two seats and hold a

BNP standing body empowers Khaleda to consider action against 3 MPs

The BNP Standing Committee has authorised party chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia to take final decision regarding the conduct of three legislators served show causes notices for making controversial press statements.

A four-hour meeting of the ruling party's highest policy-making body last night, which began at 8 pm, was chaired by its chief Prime Minister Begum Zia.

The meeting was attended by all members of the 15-strong caucus with the exception of Water Resources Minister Majid ul-Haq and Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, both out of the country.

Two out of three party legislators — Majidul Akhtaruzzaman and Nurul Islam Moni — were given personal hearings to explain their press statements earlier this month which embarrassed the leadership. The two had earlier



Popular Indian vocalist Kumar Sanu (R) presenting songs with one of his tour mates, Uppanna Derek, at a city hotel yesterday. — Star photo



Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif administering oath of office to the newly-elected women DCC commissioners at the Nagar Bhaban yesterday. — Star photo

CIA training Muslim troops? Missiles hit Bosnian presidency bldg

SARAJEVO, Nov 17: The Bosnian presidency building in Sarajevo came under missile attack today and at least one person was believed wounded, military police said.

Smoke rose from the building in the city centre after the attack at about 11 am (1000 GMT). Reuter journalists reported.

Bosnian police guarding the building said they heard three blasts and believed wire-guided missiles had hit the building, which houses the government's collective presidency.

Shards of glass covered the street after the attack and several cars were damaged.

AP adds: Seven shells hit the center of the Bosnian capital in a sudden pre-noon barrage Thursday, including two that landed on the presidency building, witnesses said.

The shells also landed in neighbourhoods that often are crowded with people.

Meanwhile, rebel Muslim forces have advanced against the Bosnian government around the town of Velika Kladusa, in the north of Bosnia's

Bihac pocket, and cut it off in a pincer movement, a UN military spokesman said today.

"Velika Kladusa is surrounded and there is very heavy fighting with all weapons systems being used, including tanks and multiple barrel rocket launchers," said Colonel Tim Spicer. "The 5th corps (of the Bosnian army) is having to fight on three fronts, which is very bad news for them."

Spicer said the rebel Muslims, loyal to deposed warlord Fikret Abdic, had also broken through the western defence lines of the Bosnian army fifth corps. Abdic's forces were expelled from Bihac by the government army in August after a 10-month revolt.

Another report says, the United States, which has decided to stop enforcing a United Nations arms embargo against Bosnia, has joined the war and is helping the Muslim-led government army. The European newspaper said.

Quoting European sources, the newspaper's Thursday edition says small teams of

Two Indians with dagger held for bid to enter JS

By Staff Correspondent

Two Indian nationals — a teenage girl carrying a dagger and her uncle — were detained by police while attempting to enter the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday evening.

Metal detectors spotted a six-inch dagger in the bag of Mena Malik, 18, as she was about to enter the Sangsad Bhaban around seven in the evening when the House was in session.

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18 DCC women commissioners take oath

Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif administered the oath of office of the 18 women commissioners of the corporation at a simple ceremony held at the Nagar Bhaban in the city yesterday morning, reports BSS.

The commissioners are Taslima Chowdhury, Sufia Khatun, Ashrafun Musharraf, Mahmuda Begum, Jahannara Begum, Nazma Akhtar Kawsar, Naima Chowdhury, Aleya Parveen, Rozy Haroon, Sabera Begum, Anjali Sarker, Asma

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BNP has set example of neutral polls: PM

SIRAJDIKHAN (Munshiganj), Nov 17: The BNP government has set an example of impartiality in holding elections in the country during its three-and-a-half-year rule, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said brushing aside the Opposition allegations, reports UNB.

"All union parishad, pourashava, city corporation, polls and by-elections were free and fair. We have lost in many elections being in power," she pointed out.

Addressing a huge public meeting at the Rajdi Abhoy Pilot High School ground here this afternoon, the Prime Minister asserted that her government had ensured the people's right to vote and food denied by past regimes of the Opposition during their 'misrule'.

The Prime Minister said: "Rights of vote and food were denied during their rule. They do not believe in them."

Begum Zia alleged that massive riggings were a matter of practice during their rule when ballot boxes were snatched and stuffed. They even did not allow many to submit their nomination papers, she recalled.

"From 1972 to 1975 they had ignored the people's right to food. Nobody has forgotten the severe famine during that regime," the Prime Minister said referring to the Awami League rule.

"They have now banded with the autocratic forces" which looted public wealth, misappropriated development funds and destroyed democratic institutions, she alleged in what appears to be a counter-attack on the recalcitrant Opposition.

"It's not befitting to speak of democracy by making alliance with autocratic forces," she pointed out in an oblique reference to the Awami League's joint move with the Jatiya Party against her government.

She blasted the demand of releasing Ershad from jail saying, "If the great thief is released, there is no need to keep any other criminal in prison."

Begum Zia called upon the people to raise their voice against the snatchers of right to vote and food in the interest of democracy and development.

The Prime Minister said the crisis in national politics

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JS boycott case Hearing adjourned till Nov 20

The hearing of the writ petition challenging the validity of continued boycott of Parliament (Sangsad) by the Opposition was adjourned till November 20, reports BSS.

Respondent no. 4 of the case Moudud Ahmed yesterday filed his reply to the petition before the High Court Division of the Supreme Court. One of the respondents Jamaat leader Matur Rahman Nizami did not, however, reply till yesterday.

After placing the petition Mohammad Ali Bar at Law prayed for two days time to prepare a counter reply to Moudud Ahmed. The court comprising Justice Kazi A T Monwaruddin granted his prayer and fixed the date of hearing at 2 pm on November 20.

Meantime Moudud Ahmed prepared an application seeking to refer the matter to the Chief Justice to constitute a larger special bench to hear the matter.

Mohammad Ali, Abu Baker Siddique and Humayun Kabir Bulbul appeared for the petitioner.

Rafiqul Haq Bar at Law appeared for Moudud Ahmed. Moudud Ahmed himself was present in the court.

H R Sharif appeared for Opposition leader Shaikh Hasina Wazed while Abdur Razzak Bar at Law appeared for Jamaat leader Matur Rahman Nizami.

Dilip, Saira to visit Dhaka

Dilip Kumar (Yusuf Khan), the legend of the wide screen and a great humanist of the sub-continent, and his wife and actress Saira Banu will arrive in Dhaka on a private visit to Bangladesh in January next, a reception committee press release said here last night, reports BSS.

During their visit they are expected to attend various cultural and social functions.

A 26-member high powered reception committee under the title Dilip Kumar (Yusuf Khan) Reception Committee has been formed with State Minister for Cultural Affairs as the chief advisor. A K A Firoze Noon as the convener.

Drought isn't the sole cause of distress



VICTIMS OF THE TEESTA. Concern writ large on their faces, these village elders were until the other day prosperous farmers before erosion by the Teesta in Aditmari thana of Lalmonirhat district washed away their lands, rendering them virtual destitutes. — Star photo

By Nazmul Ashraf back from drought-hit North

Joblessness, erosion by rivers, lack of industrialisation, absence of modern irrigation system, faulty land management, increasing number of marginal farmers and the landless, limited activities of the NGOs and the absence of long-term plans to cope with the situation are the reasons behind a 'famine-like situation' persisting in the country's northern region since long according to various quarters concerned.

The situation worsens when crops are claimed by drought or flood, they pointed out.

Acute crisis of jobs for the marginal farmers and landless day labourers, who constitute about 80 per cent of the population of the region, resulting in their mounting suffering is

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কয়লা পরিদপ্তর (বিলুপ্ত) বিলুপ্তিকরণ সেল
 ৪৮, মতিঝিল স/এ, ঢাকা।

কয়লা বিক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আলীপুর (নারায়ণগঞ্জ) এ অবস্থিত আলীপুর-২ নম্বর সরকারী কয়লা ডিপোতে মজুদকৃত কয়লা সীত টোডারের মাধ্যমে বিক্রয়ের জন্য আত্মীয় ক্রেতাদের নিকট হইতে সীল মোহরকৃত নামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। উক্ত ডিপোতে মজুদ কয়লার পরিমাণ সহ বিস্তারিত তথ্যাবলী দরপত্র তফসিলে উল্লেখিত আছে। নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর এবং সরকার অনুমোদিত নিলামকারী মেসার্স এনসো ট্রেডার্স, ১২, জহুরা মার্কেট, বাংলা মটর, ঢাকা হইতে নগদ ২০০/- (দুইশত) টাকা (অফিসব্যয়াদি) প্রদান করিয়া আগামী ১৯-১১-৯৪ই/০৫-০৮-১৪০১ বাং হইতে ২২-১১-৯৪ই/০৮-০৮-১৪০১ বাং তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে দরপত্র তফসিল সজ্ঞা করা যাইবে।

২। দরপত্র তফসিলের সহিত সেল প্রদান, কয়লা পরিদপ্তর (বিলুপ্ত) বিলুপ্তিকরণ সেল এর অনুকূলে প্রস্তাবিত মূল্যের উপর ২.৫% (আড়াই শতাংশ) হারে আনুমানিক যে কোন তফসিলভুক্ত ব্যাংক কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত পে.অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে দাখিল করিতে হইবে।

৩। আগামী ২২-১১-৯৪ ই/০৮-০৮-১৪০১ বাং তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে ডিপোর কয়লা পরিদর্শন করা যাইবে।

৪। নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে রক্ষিত টোডার ব্যালু আগামী ২৩-১১-৯৪ই/০৯-০৮-১৪০১ বাং তারিখে সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা হইতে দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দাখিল করা যাইবে। উক্ত দিন বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকার দরপত্র দাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) টোডার ব্যালু খোলা হইবে।

৫। একজন দরপত্রদাতা ডিপোর সম্পূর্ণ মজুদের জন্য বা সবমিল ১,০০০ মেট্রিক টনের জন্য দরপত্র দাখিল করিতে পারিবেন। সম্পূর্ণ মজুদের জন্য সম্ভাব্যজনক দর প্রস্তাব পাওয়া গেলে তাহা গ্রহণাদি পাইবে।

৬। প্রাপ্ত দরপত্র সম্পর্কে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত জরুরী ভিত্তিতে প্রদান করা হইবে।

৭। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

এম. শহিদুল্লাহ
 সেল প্রধান ও আহ্বায়ক, টোডার কমিটি।
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