



The Daily Star-Students dialogue on June 12 election at the newspaper's Dhanmondi office Monday. — Star photo

Daily Star-students dialogue on election '96

A free, fair and peaceful election is their hope

By Staff Correspondent

A group of students from different schools and colleges Monday expressed their hope that the June 12 parliamentary election would be free and fair and that only the honest politicians would be elected.

At a discussion meeting of a dozen students from different schools and colleges organised by The Daily Star, they said that in the election, they would peacefully, they would expect the next government to be more patriotic and accountable to the people and the opposition more responsible.

They hoped that the armed forces would uphold their image by not interfering in the country's politics and they should help the caretaker government in completing its task of handing over power to a democratically elected government.

The enquiry committee report on former army chief Lt Gen ASM Nasim should not be made public before the June 12 election in order to avert possible conflict between parties or postponement of the election, the students said.

The politicians should overcome their narrow party interests and serve the country's interest, they said. They should also eliminate bureaucratic tangles and corruption from the administration in order to free the economy from backwardness.

The discussion was moderated by The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam. It was participated by Sha-

hed Masud of Dhaka College, Quasir Ridwan of Udayan Vidyalya, Zahidur Rahman and Ashek Rahman of Government Laboratory School, Imtiaz Faruk of St. Joseph's School, Nuzhat Mahzabin and Tasneem Zakaria of Holy Cross School, Sabera Arefin of Viharunnesa School, Mahbuba Khanam Mukta, a former student of Viharunnesa, Adeb Z Mahmud of Notre Dame College, and Galeeb Hamid Pratik of Khulna University.

Besides their expectations, they also expressed their fears that different conflicts, which were already taking place, might not lead to holding a free and fair election.

They expressed their frustration about the economic and political developments of the country saying that the political leaderships had disappointed the voters after going to power in the last 25 years by forgetting their actual role and by acting under narrow self interest.

The students observed that repeated autocratic rule since independence had destroyed the healthy political culture and they urged the politicians to prove their love for the country by practicing a healthy politics of cooperation.

I hope this election presents the nation a government which will restore the spirit of the Liberation War, put an end to politics which exploit religion and would find patriotic solution to the bilateral prob-

lems with India," said Ashek Rahman.

"The next government should discourage students' politics and invest more on the education sector of the country," said Tasneem Zakaria.

She also said that the next leader of the country should be consistent about his or her pledges and policies and would put an end to destructive politics.

"The party which would not win the election should accept its defeat naturally and I expect the Opposition of the future government would refrain from making protests which affect the whole nation," said Quasir Ridwan.

"Even after 25 years, our leaders argue who declared the war of independence. This should stop," said Imtiaz Faruk. Mahbuba Khanam said that the next government should build up an economic base which would be a model for all parties and all future governments would continue to develop it.

Adeb Z Mahmud noted that politicians should help themselves in maintaining the morals they preach, because it was them who mostly violated those morals.

He added that the parties got away safely from the public by making promises of financial benefits in their manifestos without mentioning how they would find the money for those purposes. "They should come up with a clearer vision," he said.

15 injured in ZIA bldg collapse

By DMCH Correspondent

At least 15 people were injured when an underconstruction building collapsed on them at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) yesterday afternoon.

Eight of the injured were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital sources said. Most of the injured were construction workers at the site, sources added.

The accident occurred when the underconstruction building for the extension of the airport terminal-cum-overbridge near the Domestic Terminal broke down, airport official sources said. The concrete roof was carpeted yesterday morning, the sources added.

Gen Nooruddin recovering fast

Li Gen (ret'd) Nooruddin Khan who is now undergoing treatment at a Singapore hospital following a road accident while going to his constituency recovering fast and is expected to return shortly, a family source told BSS in the city yesterday evening.

The source said Gen. Nooruddin expressed his gratitude to the people for wishing his early recovery and said he was sorry for not being able to remain with people of his constituency due to the accident.

Sallu

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Earlier on Saturday, he was placed on two-day police remand.

Nine other accused in the case were yet to be killed of city Awami League leader and ward commissioner Shahabuddin went into hiding outside the city, police officials suspected.

Special teams of detective police made several raids in Narayanganj, Gazipur, Savar and other adjoining areas of the city in search of the nine accused, police sources said. Police could not ascertain the motive behind the killing till yesterday. A senior police official said last night that the motive could be known as soon as the other accused were arrested.

Detective police has contacted the families of the accused to know their whereabouts.

Meanwhile, the four other persons arrested in this connection and now on police remand are likely to be produced before the CMM's Court today, police said.

ISPR: Comments

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regulation, the release said, adding: It is regrettable but true that various questions are being raised by some people without knowing fully the rules and regulations of the army and despite the fact that a detailed explanation had been given on the matter earlier by a press statement. Such things are not desirable for the patriotic citizen.

It is needless to say that Bangladesh army is our national army. As a national institution it cannot be a partisan organisation of any particular party or opinion, the ISPR said adding: Involvement of army in politics is not desirable and similarly it is not proper for the patriotic citizens to raise a debate on the institution.

The ISPR said Bangladesh army, created through a bloody independence war, is a well-organised, well-educated and disciplined institution where every member is bound to abide by the existing rules and regulations of the army.

The ISPR mentioned that there has been a well-defined policy as well as rules and regulation to manage all activities of Bangladesh army. In the natural course, steps have been taken as per rules and regulations on the recent happenings in the army, it said.

Dhaka-8

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candidate Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin.

Supporters of the rival candidates were seen busy doing door-to-door campaign. The candidates themselves are delivering speeches near market places and other spots to rally support for them.

In Chawkbazaar, Azampur and Palashy areas of the constituency, colourful posters published by the Election Commission were seen drawing voters' attention. These posters called for maintaining a congenial atmosphere free and fair elections.

AL to observe

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The Election Commission Secretariat at She-e-Bagla Nagar to submit a memorandum, according to a press release.

The cultural wing of the AL Central Election Steering Committee (ALCESC) will observe the anti-terrorism day through a function to be held in front of the Jatiya Press Club at 5 pm today.

Ban on arms

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Section 17 'Ka' (2) of the Arms Act. However, law-enforcers involved in maintaining law and order for smooth voting, set for June 12, and security guards of government, semi and non-government offices and establishments will be exempt from the order.

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AL urges CA to intensify drive against terrorism

Awami League yesterday urged Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman to intensify the drive against terrorism for smooth holding of the next week's parliamentary elections, reports UNB.

An Awami League delegation, led by SAMS Kibria, the co-chairman of the party's Central Election Steering Committee, met urgently with the Chief Adviser at his office in the afternoon.

The delegation expressed their apprehensions about a free and fair polls following what it said pre-planned steps taken by a quarter to destroy the congenial atmosphere and finally to foil the election.

Disclosing this at a press briefing, Kibria said: "BNP's motive is clear: they want to foil the election."

Referring to Monday's attack on two police stations, he said there cannot be any congenial atmosphere for election, if the terrorists know that they would be released by their patron political party by gheraoing the thana soon after their arrest.

'Awami terrorists' moving freely, says BNP

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) yesterday accused the caretaker government of being reluctant to arrest 'Awami terrorists' moving freely in almost all constituencies brandishing firearms, reports UNB.

Talking to newsmen at BNP's Kakrail office yesterday evening, a spokesman for the party alleged that despite specific charges and evidences police did not take any action against them.

Anwar Zahid, member of BNP's national election coordination committee, mentioned that a party candidate and over 40 workers were injured in an attack by AL activists in Jamalpur on Sunday.

BNP candidate stabbed

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, June 4: The BNP candidate from Jamalpur-3 constituency was seriously stabbed allegedly by some Awami League activists at Teguria Bazar under Madarganj thana on Sunday evening.

He was attacked while leading an election procession. He was admitted to the Melandaha thana health complex.

Ballot papers

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tees (DEEC), officials said. They said the DEECs sent 135 recommendations to the EC and of them 84 allegations were proved.

On the other hand, 160 foreign observers have so far confirmed the EC to monitor the June 12 election.

More than 30,000 local observers from different organisations, including individuals, have sought EC's permission to watch the polls.

The Midnight File

Delhi welcomes Pak offer to resume talks

NEW DELHI, June 4: The new Indian government today welcomed Pakistan's offer to resume bilateral talks after a gap of more than two years on Kashmir and other contentious issues, reports AP.

Dacoity at a city house

By Staff Correspondent

A gang of four armed dacoits looted cash and valuables worth about Tk five lakh from a house at Babar road under Mohammadpur thana in the city early hours of Monday.

The unidentified gang, armed with sawed-off rifle, dagger and other sharp weapons, entered the ground floor of the house at Babar road in Mohammadpur, at around 3:45 am, according to the FIR filed with police.

They broke the window grills and tied the family members. The gang assaulted them and threatened them, family sources said.

Breaking the almirahs, the dacoits took away cash and valuables including gold ornaments and four expensive wrist watches, according to the FIR.

The owner of the house, Alauddin Sikder, filed a case with Mohammadpur thana in this connection.

JP notice

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in favour of his release and if we do not get any response we will file a writ petition with the High Court on Sunday."

Ershad's lawyer and Jatiya Party leader Barrister Shahadat Hossain told a press conference yesterday.

He said that before taking the 'legal step', Jatiya Party would make all-out efforts for the party chief's release on parole ahead of the polls. It has now started its legal battle to justify the demand, he added.

Jatiya Party Election Steering Committee Chairman Sayeed Tarek said that his party had submitted the text of Ershad's speech for television to the authorities concerned after receiving a letter from the Information Ministry.

JCD leader held in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, June 4: Police arrested a central leader of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of the BNP, from Goshala area in the town on Monday night, police said.

Sohel Rijvi Raj, the central committee member of the JCD and former VP of Sirajganj University College, was arrested in a case reports UNB.

Beximco loan

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their Beximco group, had loan liabilities of over Tk 118 crores to IFIC Bank in those 112 accounts as on September 30, 1993.

The liabilities were rescheduled for repayment of Tk 10 crore within June 30, 1994 and the balance in 15 quarterly instalments starting from September 30, 1994, on an undertaking given by them that in the event they default to pay any one instalment then the entire amount would become payable at a time.

An instalment of Tk 6.3 crore became due on March 30, 1996, but they failed to pay the same and asked the managing director of IFIC Bank for rescheduling the loan repayment.

The petitioners further alleged that the said managing director of IFIC Bank, without obtaining the approval of the Board of Directors of IFIC Bank, forwarded the proposal to the Bangladesh Bank.

Meanwhile, Barrister Fida Kamal yesterday said in a press release, it was also alleged that the Bangladesh Bank purporting to approve the rescheduling without approval of the Board of Directors of IFIC Bank.

Barrister Rakanuddin Mahmud, Barrister Fida M Kamal and Advocate Humayun Kabir Sikder appeared for the petitioners in the writ petitions.

CA: Fair election

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the recent incident involving her freedom fighter son.

Replying to a question, the Chief Adviser said there is no constitutional requirement for the President to consult him on defence matter.

Asked about existence of dual governments, Habib said, "We are working under a constitutional arrangement and there is only one government in this country and there is no dairchy."

"I have got a happy relationship with the President. We know each other for last two decades. I conducted his oath when he became President and he (President) conducted my oath when I became the Chief Justice and also Chief Adviser of the caretaker government."

About press reports that Indian diplomats are moving around the country and is conducting a poll survey, the Chief Adviser said all diplomats here are good friends. "If they move around, we know where they are going and with whom they are talking. They also give prior notice about their movement," he said.

Hearing of Salman's petition today

By SC Correspondent

The hearing of Salman F Rahman's petition for stay of the High Court Judgement on Dr Kamal Hossain's writ petition will be held today in the Appellate Division.

The division bench of the HC comprising Justices Qazi Shafuddin and Justice Syed J R Modasser Hussain on May 30 by a judgement set aside the order of the Returning Officer accepting Salman's nomination paper and the order of the Election Commission expressing its inability to review the said order of acceptance.

The HC also remanded the matter to the EC for its disposal with an observation that the EC holds power to review any order passed by its functionaries.

Acute water shortage in city likely

By Staff Correspondent

The city dwellers are likely to feel the shortage of water more as the extraction of water was decreasing due to the ongoing load shedding, observed some officials of the Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA).

Extraction of water by the WASA has gone down by four crore litres on an average every day, due to the ongoing loadshedding in power supply, according to official sources.

A senior official of WASA quoting the log book of average daily production said that from May 5 to May 10 the production of water was lower by 4.01 crore litres every day, while the average production went down by 4.11 crore litres a day between May 11 to May 17.

According to the official estimates, the requirement of water in the city is 130 crore litre a day, while WASA has a daily production capacity of 18 crore litres. The shortage of water in the city was around 49 crore litres every day. It, however, has shot upto 53 crore litres a day due to load shedding, the officials pointed out.

Opinion poll

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others. In urban areas, 30.5 per cent of respondents would cast their votes for BNP, 31.5 per cent for AL, 11.8 per cent for JP and 5.3 per cent for JI while 15.7 still remained undecided.

In rural areas, 26.4 per cent of respondents would cast their votes in favour of BNP and 30.1 for AL. The JP and JI would draw 12.1 and 7.2 per cent of votes respectively.

Regarding the role of the administration, 68 per cent of respondents said the administration would be neutral.

Fifty-nine per cent favoured deployment of army. 51 attached importance to ensuring administration's neutrality and 45 per cent wanted to see more assertive role of the caretaker government as necessary steps to ensure a safe and fair election.

Thirty per cent voters listed to BBC while 13 per cent rated Radio Bangladesh and 10 per cent BTV as the most reliable media on public information.

World Environment Day today

The World Environment Day will be observed in the country as elsewhere in the world today, reports UNB.

"Our Earth, Our Habitat, Our Home" is the theme of this year's observance of the day.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas in a message yesterday stressed the need for concerted efforts of all to make the country's environment more beautiful and healthier.

UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali has termed the day as a call for conscience, and a call for action. "Let us enlighten ourselves, not only for the benefit of our own lives, but also for the well-being of generations to come," he said.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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