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**Opposition's grand rally in Khulna Sept 8**

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 5: The grand rally of BNP-led Opposition Alliance will be held at the Circuit House Maidan here on September 8.

Heads of four political parties are expected to address the grand rally from where Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia will announce fresh programmes.

Khulna city and district units of APAC have taken elaborate programmes to make the grand rally a success.

City BNP president M Nurul Islam was made convenor of the Grand Rally Implementation Committee.

**Dengue: 10 more hospitalised in city**

By Staff Correspondent

Ten more people with dengue fever were admitted to hospitals and private clinics in the city yesterday.

The Central Control Room at the Health Directorate yesterday said Dhaka Medical College Hospital reported admitting three patients, Mitford Hospital two, Bangladesh Medical College and Dhaka Shishu Hospital one each, Red Crescent Holy Family Hospital two and Ibhne Sina clinic reported admitting one.

Meanwhile, Chittagong Medical College Hospital yesterday reported admitting eight people with dengue fever while Khulna, Khagrachari and Bagerhat Sadar hospitals one each.

Fifty people have so far died of dengue haemorrhagic fever and shock syndrome across the country.

**HSC scam**

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Professor of Economics Department of Hajee Muhammad Mohsin College and now the chairman of Chittagong Education Board, Ahmid Hossain, was formed in December 1998 on the basis of specific allegations against Ashil and Ruhul.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: The Chittagong Board may also go for legal action against the two students, a high official of the Board told The Daily Star yesterday.

Ashikul Kabir Mahmud and Ruhul Haq are now studying in Australia, sources said.

Clause VIII of the Public Examination Act, 1980 prescribes two years' rigorous imprisonment or fine or both for changing answer script or replacing answer script with earlier written answer.

Regarding the Board's decision to cancel the examination centre, some of the guardians, when contacted over telephone, said an institution should not be punished for corruption by an individual.

**Akhteruzzaman**

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meeting of the BNP lawmakers during the last session as he strongly advocated for the party's return to the House.

As part of his latest move, Akhter wrote a 14-page letter to Leader of the Opposition in parliament Khaleda Zia, requesting her to put an end to the party's long boycott of the House.

In his letter submitted on September 1, the BNP MP again appealed to the party chief to go back to parliament. The letter bitterly criticised the opposition leader for rushing to the Ershad's residence no sooner had the latter was convicted by the High Court in the Janata Tower case.

The letter caused widespread discussions in the BNP ranks and file with some lawmakers suggesting that the party chief expel their defiant colleague. Moreover, the day before Parliament goes into session, the National Standing Committee — BNP's highest policy-making body — met to discuss Akhteruzzaman's move, among other issues.

Akhter had also written a similar letter to Khaleda Zia earlier and was rebuked by party leaders.

But the outspoken MP is not ready yet to give up his fight against the wrongdoing by his party. "I must continue the fight and take the trouble to achieve something good... It is my success that the standing committee has met after so many days."

"I can foresee my fate with BNP. Maybe I will be kicked out of the party. But I'm not at all worried because I've opted to step on the path knowing fully well the consequences."

Akhteruzzaman was last night suspended indefinitely for acting against the interest of the party as well as its constituents.

**Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

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**AL to open 'election office' in city next week**

By Reaz Ahmad

Awami League opens an election office in the city next week to kick off electioneering well ahead of the next year's parliamentary polls, sources said.

The next general election is due sometime between July 14 and October 14, 2001. The last one was held on June 12, 1996.

The AL is renting the same house on Road No. 12 at Dhanmondi that it had rented for election campaign before the 1996 polls. The party president's former advisor and Finance Minister SAMS Kibria has been given the responsibility to lead a team of AL leaders who would run the show.

The decisions were made during a series of meetings over the weekend with Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. She had exclusive meetings with her cabinet colleagues belonging to Awami League, members of her party's student front and with leaders from some of the district units.

Before leaving for New York on Sunday, Hasina had the last meeting in the current series with the central working committee and party advisors.

According to the party insiders, 'dispute resolution' would be a major workload for the AL Election Office even before it takes up other tasks, which include publication of promotional materials in a bid to brighten the party's poll prospects and monitoring all political developments involving major parties in the country.

Sources said some of the district units were plagued with internal problems and many stalwarts fear that the party would see its poll prospects diminished if it did not immediately take care of the squabbles within the party fold.

Awami League has 70 organisational districts and some of these units have no full-fledged committees but ad-hoc committees in function. AL Organising Secretary and Home Minister Mohammad Nasrin had already submitted to the party chief a report card on malfunctioning of some organisational units.

The AL president has already reminded her senior party colleagues of the debacle that a

few ministers of Khaleda Zia's cabinet had had in 1996 elections. She also sounded tough against trouble-mongers in the party.

The organising secretary also briefed her recently about the intra-party feuds that have been existing at different layers of the party hierarchy. Councilors at the last triennial council of the party in June this year had expressed concern that intra-party conflicts were eating into the party base.

A party councilor from Khulna region had called upon AL leaders in the upper echelon to either resolve disputes or act against those breaching party discipline.

However, the following months saw escalation in incidents of violence resulting from conflicts at party levels at every nook and corner of the country.

Intra-party bickering resulted bullet-injury to an AL lawmaker in greater Sylhet region while another local leader was murdered in Bagerhat and police had to seize posters which said a ruling party lawmaker was behind the killing.

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