

BNP memorandum

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beginning on June 6 to enact the proposed law.

Briefing newsmen later, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said they have also requested the President not to assent to the "anti-people law".

The proposed law will also provide VVIP facilities to Sheikh Hasina and her family members even after her resignation. This is contrary to the concept of caretaker government and mislead the voters during the coming election, they told the President.

During the nearly one and a half a hours' meeting from 7:45pm, the BNP leaders also complained to the President that lakhs of tones of wheat and money were being allotted to ruling party lawmakers and leaders before the government's resignation.

This will influence the election they said and sought the President's intervention to stop it, Bhuiyan said.

On the on-going drive to recover illegal arms and arrest criminals, they told the President that such a drive should be launched by the caretaker government to ensure its neutrality.

Opposition leaders and activists are being harassed now under the drive, launched despite objection from the Election Commission and the police administration, they claimed and requested the President to advise the government to stop it.

Other members of the delegation were Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, M Saifur Rahman, Khandaker Delwar

Hossain, Oli Ahmed, Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Chowdhury Tanbeer Ahmed Siddique, Dr RA Gani, Moudud Ahmed and Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed.

CHT: Voter list

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threatened that election will not be allowed in the CHT unless such a list is prepared.

The Constitution provides that there shall be one electoral roll (voter list) for each constituency for the purpose of election of parliament, and no special electoral roll shall be prepared so as to classify electors according to religion, race, cast or sex.

Officials at the EC secretariat said that the demand for a separate voter list is unconstitutional. "A constitutional amendment is needed to do so," said one official.

The CHT comprising three hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban has nearly 10.43 lakh people, mainly settlers.

Meanwhile, an EC meeting chaired by the CEC yesterday reviewed the latest status of the fresh voter list. The meeting asked the officials concerned to put the list on display across the country so that people can see it, if need be.

The meeting also discussed setting up of new polling stations and decided to finalise the list of new centers during the tenure of the caretaker government to avoid controversy, sources said.

Mother, two sons rescued

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mother got the contact for Tk 2 lakh. Iqbal hired Rafiq and Ataur for Tk 75,000. Once 'his wife and two children' were in Dubai, Mostafa would have flown there to stay with his family.

The visa for the three was issued on May 1, 2001 from Al-Ain, UAE and sponsored by one Salem Saleh Mohammad Najra Al Sherafi, PO box 114003/6439000.

Rubina and the children were originally scheduled to fly on May 21. They went to the ZIA at about 7:00 p.m. There, two airport officials talked to her outside the Departure Lounge, assuring a safe journey to Dubai.

The CID team stopped the mother and the children at about 7:30 p.m. as soon as they entered the lounge for official formalities.

"We acted on a tip-off and if we could not stop them from boarding the flight they might have reached Dubai," said CID inspector Rafiqul Islam who led the rescue.

The CID officials said some

airport staffers were involved in the incident.

Rubina of Dauatoli, Barura in Comilla was married to one Shafuiddin Khan of Khabari of Laxmipur in Chandpur. The husband abandoned her three year ago after she failed to give him money. Rubina is currently staying at her father's residence in Comilla.

Both the children were born in Comilla, but a birth certificate issued by New General Hospital at Mirpur section-2 states that they were born in the city.

Moreover, the birth certificate was notarised by notary public Mohammad Abdul Haque and bore the seal of Delwar Hossain, Assistant secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A fake marriage certificate was issued by a Kazi office at Moghbazaar in the city.

Asked how they got the passport furnishing false details, the CID officer said they are looking into the matter.

37 garment factories

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people involved. They also believe that more names could come out if the accused were properly questioned.

"If the police interrogate them, names of the corrupt customs and bank personnel would be revealed," commented an official in the NBR.

With the garment-factory owners flooding the market with duty free imported cloths, the local textile industry has been the most affected.

The prices of foreign goods have become much cheaper than the local ones. The local textile industry cannot compete with those foreign items available in the market because of their lower price and high quality.

"The government should take

stern action against those garments factory owners who are releasing duty-free imported fabrics. The government gave them special facilities to increase the country's export earning but a section of the owners have misused it and are taking undue advantages," said a textile mill owner.

Yarn producers are suffering too as some garment label making factories imported foreign yarn and sold it in the local market. The wholesale market in Narayanganj is now full of imported yarn.

The price of yarn imported through the proper channel is much higher than the ones made available by the dishonest garment factory owners, said a yarn trader.

Global Forum confce

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Mr Korthals in his speech welcomed the delegates and focussed on three points to expand various aspects of the judicial system which plays a crucial role in fighting corruption.

The first step is to have an impartial and effective legal machinery in place. The second step is to give more importance to the role of public prosecutor. Because of the complex nature of offences involved, the office of Special Public Prosecutor should be introduced for these, he suggested.

The third element is the position of judiciary itself. The judicial system must be allowed to function impartially and should get enough resources to be really effective, he added. "Fighting corruption means being transparent and accountable".

A statement by US President

3 muggers beaten

STAFF CORRESPNDENT

Three muggers were beaten up by a mob while trying to rob a woman rickshaw passenger at Bhutergali in the city's Dhanmondi area yesterday afternoon.

The incident took place when the lady was passing through the area in a rickshaw at about 4pm yesterday. When she reached Bhutergali, three muggers stopped her rickshaw and tried to take away the gold chain from her neck.

As she cried out for help, local people rushed to the spot and managed to catch all the three muggers and beat them up.

George W Bush was read out by US Ambassador Cynthia Schneider at the opening session.

President Bush said that a few years ago, talking openly about corruption was considered a taboo. Many countries from Asia to Europe and Africa to Americas are now demanding greater transparency and accountability in public affairs.

Bush underscored US support for the Global Forum's work, applauded the large number of participating states and thanked The Netherlands government for hosting this event.

Eveling Herfkens, Netherlands Minister for Development Co-operation also addressed the opening session.

Ms Herfkens said every country must tackle corruption even more ambitiously. The executive, legislative and judiciary branches of each country must make fighting corruption a priority, she added.

The minister said corruption drains away the benefits of globalisation. One has to be very careful while promoting decentralisation to stimulate economic growth, greater participation and security, especially for the poor and the most marginalised, she added.

Peter Eigen, Chairman, Transparency International, in his speech said there has been enough talking about corruption, and the need for today is to act. He requested the participants to recognise the danger from inaction and suggested that they "lock and bolt the door against those who might exploit it".

The Global Forum II will also have a series of workshops on

themes like (1) Integrity and Governance (2) Law Enforcement (3) Customs (4) Corruption, Transition and Development and (5) Government and the Business Sector.

The conference will adopt a Final Declaration and transfer the responsibility to the Republic of Korea to organise the Global Forum III in Seoul in 2003.

Frequent power outage in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only a day after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's directive to Dhaka Electric Supply Authorities (DESA) to avoid loadshedding at any cost, the city dwellers suffered frequent power outage yesterday.

Residents of a number of city areas have complained that the duration of power outage was more than six hours yesterday and the day before.

Green Road, Kathalbagan, Elephant Road, Uttara, Mugdapara, parts of Dhanmondi, Demra and most areas in the Old City were the worst affected.

The DESA control room said they had to go for loadshedding of about 45 MW during the peak hours. But sources in DESA said the actual amount was almost double the amount told by the control room.

Asked, an official concerned admitted that the amount could be around 90 MW as the local offices of the DESA also go for additional loadshedding to control the line overloading problem every day.

The directive came up at a review meeting on power supply, especially by DESA at the prime minister's Secretariat Office on Sunday.

Yasmeen Murder Case

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They also agreed with the submission made by the state attorney that such crimes should be considered a crime against the humanity.

Yasmeen's tragic end had triggered a public outcry and violent demonstrations in which seven people were killed in police firing at Dinajpur town.

The protest and women's rights bodies' pressure led the then government to bring charges against the policemen, who were also accused of tampering with and concealing evidence of rape.

Yasmeen on her way home to Dinajpur from Dhaka had boarded a bus which dropped her away from Dinajpur town at night. The policemen on highway patrol offered her a lift to the town.

But her body was found beside the highway later in the morning.

Due to the public outcry over the incident, police was forced to register a case against nine people, all policemen except one, a doctor.

The doctor conducted autopsy of Yasmeen's body and reported that she was not raped.

But the authorities had to go for a second autopsy that found evidence of rape before she was strangled.

Five policemen including the then SP of Dinajpur Abdul Mottalib and OC of Kotwali thana and the doctor who performed the first autopsy were acquitted by the trial court. They were accused of destroying evidence.

The government appealed against their acquittal and it is coming up for hearing in the High Court on June 17.

The HC verdict was greeted by a number of women's rights activists

Nikunja murder

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25 out of 28 prosecution witnesses.

Nikunja Bihari Devnath, 55, Joint-Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, was stabbed to death by muggers near the Swadhinata Sangram Sculpture on the Dhaka University campus on January 11, last year.

Victim's son Nirupam Devnath filed a murder case with Ramna thana in this connection the same day.

The IO submitted a chargesheet against eight accused on February 22, last year.

The court framed charges against them on July 9, the same year.

Jail Killing Case

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the murder, Nuruzzaman said.

The witnesses further said, everything happened in front of him during the night of the incident. But he did not get enough time to communicate with police station as he was 'busy with the security of the jail'.

Nuruzzaman informed the court that Captain Moslem and the four armed men were fully uniformed.

Eight of the 21 accused Taheruddin Thakur, Shah Moazzem Hossain, K M Obaidur Rahman, Nurul Islam Monzor, Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farokur Rahman, Lt Col (Retd) Sultan Sharier Rashid Khan, Major (Retd) Bazlul Huda and Maj (Retd) Khairuzzaman are now detained at the Dhaka Central Jail.

They were produced before the court during the hearing.

Metropolitan PP Quamrul Islam appeared for the state while Advocate Hazi Nazrul Islam, Mohammad Hanif, Mizanur Rahman, Abdul Majid Munshi, Mohammad Arshadul Haque, SM Rafiqul Islam, Masud Ahmed Talukder and Abu Abdullah Bhuiyan for the accused.

under the banner of the Sammilita Nari Samaj who were waiting outside the court.

The judges started delivering the verdict on Sunday.

Deputy Attorney General Barrister Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik conducted the case on behalf of the prosecution.

Advocate Nazrul Islam Talukder, Advocate Enladul Huq Azad and Advocate Nilufar Yasmin defended the three accused.

The accused have scope to file petition before the Supreme Court for leave to appeal within 30 days of collecting certified copies of the verdict through their lawyers.

3 Petrobangla directors

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charge as Director (Mines and Minerals) for the last two months

The sources said Ahsanullah is due to retire in October this year and Dr M Ismail in April next year.

Meanwhile, the post of Chairman remains vacant for the last one week following expiry of the tenure of Mosharraf Hossain. Director (Finance) SR Osmani is now Acting Chairman of Petrobangla.

Some sources said there are four potential candidates for the post of Chairman, including former chairman Mosharraf Hossain. He had

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Salahuddin Quader, who is MP from the area, is likely to attend the death anniversary programmes at Rangunia, heysaid.

Meanwhile, various security agencies are watching the situation and have decided to maintain tight security at Rangunia tomorrow, sources concerned said.

A leader of the city unit of BNP, seeking anonymity said, "We have to go to the 'mazar' but we are concerned about possible outbreak of violence there."

Ctg port

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Sramik League Shamsul Haq Shafi said the government with the advice of some bureaucrats is imposing the corporate tax in a bid to destroy the port.

The development activities of the port will be hampered if the decision of imposing corporate tax is not rescinded.

General secretary of BNP-backed Sramik Dal Nurullah Bahar said the government is trying to implement its plan of setting up a private container terminal keeping the port insolvent.

Trawler drivers Naeem, 24 and Shamim, 28, were also arrested.

already got a record extension of tenure as chairman for four times and it is likely that the authorities would now choose someone new.

However, other sources pointed out that Mosharraf enjoys the prime minister's confidence and there is a strong possibility of his getting extension of tenure for the fifth time.

Next in the list is former chairman of Power Development Board Nuruddin Mahmud Kamal. Having a background of geology, Nuruddin had been keeping himself busy participating in gas and energy related dialogues at the top level since his removal from PDB in March '99. Trusted by the prime minister, Nuruddin's prospect is also bright, sources noted.

The Energy Secretary had taken a move for appointment of the Energy Ministry's Additional Secretary Aminur Rahman as chairman of Petrobangla. Former director (finance) of the organisation Sajedul Karim is also an aspirant for the post.

Sources ruled out the possibility of Acting Chairman Osmany becoming the Chairman because of his age.

15 Talibans

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remanded for five days for interrogation.

The arrested have been identified as Abu Dazma, 21, Md Ismail 18, Kutubuddin, 19, Abu Saeed, 17, Zahidul Islam, 18, Naimur Rahman, 17, Akijuddin, 18, Shabbir, 16, Ariful Islam, 16, Mohattessin Billah, 20, Sultan Ahmed, 18, Afzal 18, Mostafiz 19 and Masum Billah, 18. Trawler drivers Naeem, 24 and Shamim, 28, were also arrested.

Opposition vows

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midway through her way to a programme in the city immediately after the AL came to power.

Even the vehicle of handful security personnel currently provided for the leader of the opposition cannot run properly because of its bad condition. "If her vehicle reaches Rangpur and then she takes rest, the security vehicle would stay at Jamuna Bridge," he added.

Bhuiyan alleged that more than 50,000 people were killed for various reasons during the last five years, and this was due to the government's failure. So, no law can give security to Sheikh Hasina and her family members by leaving the common people insecure.

Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid said the process to introduce 'monarchism' in Bangladesh would begin, if the new law is enacted.

Sadeque Hossain Khoka MP advised the prime minister to lodge a GD entry with the police station concerned so that the police could

ensure security after her resignation.

BNP leader Mirza Abbas said the only safest place for Sheikh Hasina is Dhaka Central Jail and no law would be required if she is sent to jail on charge of corruption, crime, killing of hundreds of people and looting of the public wealth.

The four-party opposition alliance will stage countrywide demonstrations on June 11.

City BNP President Sadeque Hossain Khoka presided over the rally. And BNP leaders Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Selima Rahman, Amanullah Aman, Abdus Salam and Abu Sayed Khan Khokon, Jamaat leaders ATM Azharul Islam, Jashimuddin Sarkar and Rafiqul Islam Khan, JP leaders Kazi Firoz, Taiubur Rahman and Quamrul Islam Sajal, and Islami Oikya Jote leaders Ahmed Abdul Qader, Abdur Rab Yusuf and Abul Kashem, among others, addressed it.

6X2

Hasina approves draft manifesto

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When contacted for details, member-secretary of the steering committee, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, however, declined to say anything about the manifesto at this stage. Other committee members are equally tight-lipped.

Other members of the manifesto drafting committee are advocate Gaziul Haq, architect Mazharul Islam, Professor Dr Harun-ur-Rashid and Ataur Rahman Kaiser, Syed Ahmed, Monaem Sarkar and Nuh-ul-Alam Lenin.

AL is conducting all of its polls-related activities, printing and publicity activities from a rented house at Dhanmondi, where Kibria meets his steering committee members and different sub-committees on a regular basis.

It is reliably learnt that in its draft manifesto, the AL did not go for much change in its strategies and commitments drawn out earlier in the 1996 manifesto.

The new 21-point poll manifesto sets a growth target of seven to eight per cent for the country and put special emphasis on reducing the wide gap between the import and export volumes and eradicate trade imbalance.

It promises to simplify laws to attract direct foreign investment in industrial sector with special thrusts on information technology, agro-

based industries, jute, and leather and cement manufacturing.

It says that steps will be taken to face the post-2004 challenge in the garment sector on expiry of the existing preferential quota system.

It claims that one lakh and 3,777 new industrial units have been set up in the country since Awami League took over in 1996.

The manifesto says that AL, if elected to power, will consider export of gas after confirming a 50-year reserve for domestic consumption.

The AL manifesto says it will continuously enhance the country's defense capability by ensuring modern training and gadgets.

On the question of judiciary, AL manifesto speaks of bringing in reforms to laws to ensure judicial accountability and enhancing the number of judges. This time AL, however, falls short of promising separation of judiciary from the executives, as it promised in its earlier poll manifesto in 1996.

It says that AL will bring the entire country under power distribution coverage within the next five years. It claims that currently 3,803 megawatt is being produced in the country comparing to a mere 1600MW during the previous BNP regime. Current power coverage is 30 per cent.

It claims that much improvement has been achieved in law and order situation in the country over the past five years but it also acknowledges that it still remains a matter of great concern for the public.

It promises to further improve upon the current law and order situation and take stern actions against any sort of corruption.

Encouraged by autarky, the manifesto says that, if re-elected, the AL will implement 'One House, One Farm' programme, introduce crop insurance scheme, frame out policies to apply genetic engineering in agriculture and maintain current level of farm credit, agro-subsidy, and duty rebate.

To ensure accountability and transparency in administration, the manifesto says AL will implement all recommendations of the Public Administration Reform Commission (PARC).

It promises steps to stop all forms of child labour and ensure trade union right to all workers.

The manifesto envisages greater financial autonomy to local government bodies at four-tires - village, union, upazila and district.

It says that to protect the local viewers from bad influence of satellite television culture, AL will chart out policy guidelines for private satellite channels.

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