

AL won't reply to PM's letter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) and its left allies are divided over replying to the prime minister's letter inviting them to the ongoing dialogue on militancy.

The main opposition party is now unwilling to reply to the letter and has taken a stance against its last week's decision, sources said.

Yesterday's meeting of the liaison committee of the 14-party opposition combine was postponed as the AL leaders wanted to discuss the issue of the reply letter first.

"How can we reply to the prime minister's letter when we did not receive it?" a senior AL leader said.

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Patricia Butenis new US envoy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Patricia A Butenis, deputy chief of mission at the US embassy in Pakistan, has been nominated as

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WORLD POTENTIAL ECONOMY

Bangladesh on Goldman Sachs 'Next Eleven' list

JASIM UDDIN KHAN

Goldman Sachs, a US-based investment banking and securities firm, in a report on world's potential economies has placed Bangladesh on its "Next Eleven" list as a key member.

The report said, "Bangladesh, the world's tiny economy with most corrupt brand, will power the global economy something of the magnitude of the BRICs economies."

The "Next Eleven" is the second term the Goldman Sachs has coined to describe economies with high growth potential, such as the "BRICs" economies encompassing Brazil, Russia, India and China.

Comparing the 22 economies of the G7, BRICs and Next Eleven, the report said Bangladesh will grow faster than predicted earlier. The main reason for the change in projection is the faster growth seen in 2000-05.

The criteria for the Next Eleven list included macroeconomic stability, political maturity, openness of trade and investment policies and quality of education.

The other countries on the list are Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, South Korea, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Turkey and Vietnam.

In view of the present time that

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Jamaat shaken as BNP quarter wants its ouster

Lobbies with hardliners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Strong demand of the opposition and a section of the ruling BNP that the government should oust Jamaat-e-Islami from the ruling alliance because of its alleged link with Islamist militants has started to worry the Jamaat top brass.

Jamaat leaders are lobbying BNP hardliners as well as other alliance partners to slim down the possibility of their expulsion from the government. They are arguing that if BNP goes to elections without them it will not be able to win.

Sources said Jamaat's Amir Motiur Rahman Nizami also the minister of industries has been consulting with his party policy makers regarding the party's position in context of the current developments. The anxiety has also spread to different levels of leaders who are asking the policy makers about the party's future plan of action.

The party top brass who met on a number of occasions in the last few days also considered the vote matrix in case they have to contest the next elections alone. They also discussed how BNP might fare in the next elections if it chooses to contest the elections without Jamaat.

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Families of martyred intellectuals for ban on Jamaat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The families of the martyred intellectuals, who were killed on December 14 in 1971, yesterday demanded a ban on the politics of ruling coalition partner Jamaat-e-Islami, accusing the party of the killing.

At a meeting with Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at Awami League office in Dhanmondi, the families said they fear of departing the country if Jamaat is not banned.

Hasina assured them that she would fight against those, who opposed the country's Liberation War, until her death.

The people have understood that Jamaat had killed the intellectuals assuming Pakistani forces' defeat, helped the occupation forces kill, rape and commit all sorts of torture, and is now harbouring militancy in the country, Hasina said.

Hasina, also AL president, told

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Prayer Timing		
December 15		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-20	5-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-22	5-25
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



PHOTO: STAR
Different kinds of bombs and grenades, top, books, magazines, pamphlets on jihad, and sample book-bomb, middle, and arms, ammunition and bomb-making materials, bottom, seized in Chittagong yesterday.

PM'S DIALOGUE ON MILITANCY Journalists oppose bid to control media

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Pro-BNP journalist leaders yesterday opposed the government move to bring amendment to the Press Council Act aimed at controlling the journalists and the media.

They met Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday and urged the government not to interfere in the freedom of the press.

"Government should not interfere in the freedom of the press for a handful of persons allegedly abusing the freedom," said Shawkat Mahmud, general secretary of the Jatiya Press Club, during the meeting.

Earlier, the leaders of pro-opposition Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and all its front organisations strongly opposed the efforts to enact a law to control the journalists and the media.

They also warned the government that the journalists' community of the country would never

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SAFF CHAMPIONSHIP Sujan spotkick takes Bangladesh to final

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Karachi

with a 1-0 win over hosts Pakistan here today.

Bangladesh will take on India, who ousted Maldives 1-0 in the first semifinal earlier in the day, in the December 17 final.

Centre-back Mohammad Sujan converted a spot-kick in the first-half injury time to take defending champions Bangladesh into the final of the Fourth SAFF Championship

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