

BNP favours compromise at dialogue on reforms

Says Moudud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday said BNP wants a compromise at the ongoing secretary-level dialogue on reform proposals.

"I am very happy over the dialogue... and optimistic that there will be an amicable compromise. We surely want this," he said while speaking as chief guest at a discussion in the city.

The discussion titled 'Multi-party democracy and President Ziaur Rahman' was organised by Bangladesh Sangskritik Academy (BSA) at the National Press Club.

The dialogue means discussions with open mind to reach an agreement on holding an election in a congenial environment, but the opposition wants to compel the government to remove Chief Election Commissioner MA Aziz and refrain from appointing Justice KM Hasan as chief of next caretaker government, Moudud said referring to Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina's speeches.

"What is the necessity of dialogue if everything has to be accepted," he asked and added that AL is arrogant in its attitude, which is why its leader has

asked people for getting ready with poles and oars of boat if the government does not accept the reform proposals.

"This is not democracy. Can poles and oars be the language of democracy," he posed a question, adding that

everything to be discussed during the dialogue must be within the framework of the constitution.

Moudud, who was the vice-president during Ershad's autocratic rule, said President Ziaur Rahman and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia had played

the most important role in establishing democracy in the country, while the formulation of the Constitution of 1972 was the only contribution of AL to democracy.

But the AL destroyed its contribution by introducing one-party government through the 4th amendment of the constitution, he said.

"Democracy is our capital and we have to protect it. The opposition who destroyed democracy cannot uphold it," said Moudud, also BNP's standing committee member.

Speaking as special guest BNP Joint Secretary General Gayeshwar Chandra Roy said AL does not understand the language of democracy.

"When the dialogue is on, AL chief is threatening the government with the launching of agitation if reform proposals are not accepted. This is not the way of talking in a democracy," he said, adding that there is nothing in the proposals that interest people but the AL only.

Gayeshwar said media of the country now supports only AL which imposed restrictions on the publication of newspapers when it first came to power after the War of Liberation.

It was President Ziaur Rahman who gave freedom to media, but the accusations made by today's media are all against Khaleda, he added.

Gayeshwar said, "There is no account of falsehoods in the media in the name of truth. There are some ill-motivated intellectuals who are doing this."

'Vow to resist anarchy'

DU CORRESPONDENT

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman yesterday vowed to resist any attempts of the opposition to create anarchy in the name of electoral reforms.

Referring to Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina's call to the party men to come to Dhaka with oars and poles of boats the day Justice KM Hasan takes over as the chief of the caretaker government, he said the people then will come out onto the streets with sickles, which farmers use to cut sheaves of paddy, to resist them.

Tarique was addressing a grand reunion of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of the BNP, at Dhaka University playground as the chief guest.

Refuting the allegation that BNP-Jamaat coalition government has appointed Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Justice MA Aziz only to manipulate election results, he said the government of Sheikh Hasina had also appointed a CEC of their choice with a view to resorting to election engineering.

But their conspiracy has failed as

the people had voted the four-party alliance to power, he added.

Tarique said all the previous voter lists had seen an increase of 23 or 24 percent in the number of voters, but it was 32 percent in 2001 when the Awami League government prepared the voter list.

Communication Minister Nazmul Huda, DU Vice-chancellor (VC) Prof SMA Faiz, Pro-VC Prof AFM Yusuf Haider, Treasurer Prof Syed Rashidul Hasan, former VC Anwarullah Chowdhury, Jagannath University VC Prof Sirajul Islam, Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas and State Minister for Labour and Employment Aman Ullah Aman attended the reunion.

JCD Senior Vice-president Sultan Salauddin Tuku, DU JCD President Hasan Mamun, General secretary Saiful Islam Firoz and former presidents and general secretaries of the student organisation also attended the programme.

Presided over by JCD President Azizul Bari Helal, the programme was conducted by General Secretary Shafiqul Bari Babu.



Outgoing Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Veena Sikri calls on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday.

MANPOWER RECRUITMENT

Malaysian team arrives October 15

BSS, Dhaka

A five-member Malaysian delegation led by Deputy Secretary General of the Malaysian Home Ministry Dato Raja Azhar will arrive in Dhaka on October 15.

The delegation would discuss with leaders here matters relating to manpower recruitment for Malaysia, official sources said yesterday. The government is yet to take any initiative to fulfil the conditions set by the Malaysian authorities.

They said a total of 22,000 Bangladeshis should be recruited for Malaysia by this month by the Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira).

Otherwise, the Malaysian government would not allow recruitment of 50,000 Bangladeshi people in the first phase as stipulated earlier.



Sangjukta Sramik Federation stages a demonstration in front of the Srama Bhaban in the city yesterday demanding review of minimum wage and implementation of the agreement signed with SKOP.

PM attends Iftar party hosted by Jamaat

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday attended an Iftar party hosted by Jamaat-e-Islami at Hotel Sonargaon.

Jamaat Ameer and Industries Minister Matiur Rahman Nizami and its Secretary General and Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mujahed received the PM on her arrival at the venue.

Ministers, MPs, leaders of various political parties, particularly of the four-party alliance, and distinguished personalities of different professions attended the Iftar party.