

# Grim economic situation if 'one-sided' polls held

Say economists, legal experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Economists, legal experts and civil society members have predicted a grim picture of political and economic situation of the country in near future if the January 22 election is held without the participation of all major political parties.

The existing crisis will intensify further, street violence will spread out and police will be more repressive as the administration is dominated by the partisan people of the BNP-Jamaat alliance, they said.

The export-import and foreign direct investment will experience a sharp decline, and there will be no tourists making the country economically stagnant, they said at a discussion on 'Abuse of constitution and the constitutional posts militate against a free, fair and credible election' organised by Sammilita Nagorik Andolon at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday.

The speakers said all should take to the streets to wage a movement to hold a free, fair and peaceful election.

"The way the country is running suggests that we are moving towards the greatest crisis. Therefore, we all should cancel all the programme at the tables and go to the streets for a mass upsurge to resist the January 22 election," said Justice Golam Rabbani presiding over the discussion.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury said there is no alternative other than a mass upsurge if the election period is not extended for an all-party election.

"If the election is held once, it will be difficult to resist the BNP-Jamaat men, as they have gripped the administration and other organs of the state," said Prof Mahabbat Khan of Dhaka University.

The January 22 election, therefore, should be resisted and 4-party alliance be socially boycotted, he said, adding, that the consequence of this election will be the destruc-

tion of the state institutions and the killing of progressive minded people of the country.

The violence and police repression on people will take a serious turn if the one-sided election is held, said Justice KM Sobhan, adding that the changes made in the administration played no role in neutralising it.

Senior Advocate Mohsin Rashid said there is no way to bring the country back to track if the January 22 election is held. "Who will be the chief of the next caretaker government when none of the judges appointed during the BNP-Jamaat rule is qualified?" he posed a question.

Economist Atiur Rahman said the government revenue and import

has already declined while the government continued to borrow loans from the banks and there is no investment in the country.

The donors will give no foreign aid if the same situation continues, he said.

The situation will deteriorate further if the January 22 election is held, Atiur noted.

He urged the advisers to give ultimatum to the president that they all will resign if he does not listen to their advice.

Director of Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs Ambassador Waliur Rahman in his keynote presentation said the BNP-Jamaat government destroyed all the constitutional

posts by appointing politically biased persons during its last rule and affected the nascent democracy.

Blaming the chief adviser for the present crisis, he said the armed forces could be pressurised to work in favour of the BNP-Jamaat alliance during the January 22 election.

Women leader Rokeya Kabir, Principal Ahad Chowdhury of Muktijoddha Sangsads, former civil servant Syed Mahbubur Rashid, Kim Mcway of Asia Foundation, Golam Kuddus of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote also spoke at the discussion moderated by Sammilito Nagorik Andolon leader Nasiruddin Yusuf Bachchu.



Ambassador Waliur Rahman speaks at a discussion on 'Abuse of constitution and the constitutional posts militate against a free, fair and credible election' organised by Sammilita Nagorik Andolon at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left are Prof Kabir Chowdhury and Nasiruddin Yusuf.

Girl missing



A nine-year-old girl, who worked as a domestic help at a house at West Monipur, Mirpur, has been missing since Wednesday, says a press release.

The girl, Sumi, went out of the house at around 1:00pm to dump garbage in the dustbin but did not return.

Sumi, daughter of Md Anwar, hails from Boro Machua village in Mathbaria, Pirojpur. She is 3 and a half feet and wearing a biscuit-coloured dress.

A general diary was lodged with Mirpur Police Station.

Anybody knowing her whereabouts has been requested to contact her employer at 131 West Monipur, Mirpur or call at 01712642173.

Death anniversary



Today is the 14th death anniversary of Ustad Hasan Ali Khan, eminent artiste of Bangladesh. Beter and Television, composer and music director, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwan and special doa will be held. Foods will also be distributed among the poor.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the programmes and pray for peace of his departed soul.

A discussion meeting and doa mahfil will also be arranged by Khan Enterprise, Bangladesh Lokageeti Shilpi Goshithi, Social Development Centre and Piss and Rights.

MA Karim

Today is the 3rd death anniversary of MA Karim, says a press release.

On the occasion, a mild mahfil will be held after Asr prayers and feeding to the destitute after Juma prayers at Block-B, Road-5, Plot-15, Nawab Faizunnesa Waqf Estate, Duaripara, Pallabi in the city, says a press release.

ASM Mostafa

Today is the

seventh death

anniversary of

ASM

Mostafa,

a freedom

fighter and

former student

leader, says a

press release.

On the occasion, a mild

maahfil

will be held at Rahmania

Mosque at Laxmipur village in Feni after Juma prayers.

All have been requested to pray

for salvation of the departed soul.

38. Freedom of association.

39. Freedom of thought and conscience, and of speech

(1) Freedom of thought and conscience is guaranteed. Freedom of thought and conscience, and of speech.

(2) Subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interests of the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence.

The right of every citizen of freedom of speech and expression; and freedom of the press, are guaranteed.

40. Freedom of profession or occupation

Subject to any restrictions imposed by law, every citizen possessing such qualifications, if any, as may be prescribed by law in relation to his profession, occupation, trade or business shall have the right to enter upon any lawful profession or occupation, and to conduct any lawful

trade or business.

42. Rights to property

(1) Subject to any restrictions imposed by law, every citizen shall have the right to acquire, hold, transfer or otherwise dispose of property, and no property shall be compulsorily acquired, nationalised or requisitioned save by authority of law.

(2) Subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interests of the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence.

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Every citizen shall have the right to assemble and to participate in public meetings and processions peacefully and without arms, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interests of public order.

44. Freedom of association

Every citizen shall have the right to form associations or unions, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interests of morality or public order.

45. Freedom of movement

Subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the public interest, every citizen shall have the right to move freely throughout Bangladesh, to reside and settle in any place therein and to leave and re-enter Bangladesh.

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