


 COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know

www.thedailystar.net

ELECTORAL DIALOGUE

EC will now wait until parties complete reforms

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission (EC) will not sit in dialogue with any political parties on its proposed electoral reforms until the much-talked intra-party reforms are completed, Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussain said yesterday.

The EC that was eager to talk with the political parties even amid the ban on indoor politics, has now taken a stance of waiting for completion of reforms within the parties.

"Reforms within the political parties are to be completed first. If we invite a political party before

the reforms are done, who will represent the party?" Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussain told reporters.

"If we hold any discussion in such a situation, it will be with individuals, not with the parties. So, we will sit in dialogue with them once they complete their reforms," he said.

The EC would take decision considering the political situation after lifting or relaxing the ban on indoor politics, Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhail Hossain told The Daily Star last night.

"Noticing hesitation in some

political parties over the intra-party reforms, we are still undecided about who to call and who not to," he said.

The political parties will have to take a shape through the reforms, Election Commissioner Sohul said when asked whether the EC will hold discussion with the political parties if the government lifts the embargo on indoor politics now.

The EC, which had been waiting for the last three months for the withdrawal of the ban on indoor politics to sit in dialogue with the parties, yesterday came up with its new stance at a time

when the government is considering relaxing the embargo on indoor politics 'for the sake of reforms in the parties'.

Dissenting leaders of the BNP, Awami League and Jatiya Party (Ershad), who are set to bring 'radical reforms' within their parties, have been holding meetings and discussions ignoring the ban on all sorts of political activities with an apparent support of the interim administration.

Pro-reforms leaders have started announcing proposals for party reforms while following pressures from within and outside

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

No atmosphere for council: Khaleda

Reformists collect signatures for meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The atmosphere in the country is not congenial enough right now for holding a party council where the councillors could speak without fear, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia said yesterday.

She issued a tacit threat of disciplinary action against BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan if he does anything against the spirit of the party constitution, and urged party leaders and activists to be unitedly vociferous against 'the conspirators who want to split the party'.

"The country is now under an emergency and political activities are banned, making it impossible for anybody to speak freely in a council right now," she quipped during a tele-conference yesterday

with journalist living in New York, moderated by Gias Ahmed, international affairs secretary of the BNP central committee.

Meanwhile, reformist leaders of the party said preparations for a council are underway according to the party constitution and they are also collecting signatures of the councillors in support of the council as part of the preparations.

They said Mannan Bhuiyan will meet the party chairperson to discuss the council and to seek her permission for it after finalising their reform proposal, while they are also preparing themselves to call a requisitioned meeting of the party councillors if Khaleda does not allow the secretary general to hold the council.

Gias Ahmed, the moderator of

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

Tofail comes up with his reform proposal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

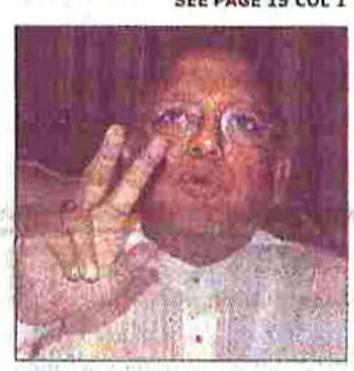
Another presidium member of Awami League (AL), this time in Tofail Ahmed, has come up with reform proposals, identical to those unveiled by Abdur Razzak.

Addressing a crowded press conference at his Banani residence, Tofail said currently the political parties are at a crossroads and there are no alternatives but to carry out reforms.

Before starting, he claimed that the proposals he would place were absolutely his own. Asking journalists not to question him, he said, "Please help us. We are going through a very critical time."

Another presidium member, Suranjan Sengupta, too will place his proposals before the media shortly. And finally, Amir Hossain Amu, who is spearheading the campaign for reforms apparently

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



Tofail Ahmed

BANGLADESH BOLSTER BATTING 2nd Test from today

BISHWAJIT ROY from Colombo

Long-serving wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud was dropped as Bangladesh, smarting from a heavy defeat in the first game, made three changes for the second Test against Sri Lanka starting here today at the P Saravanamuttu Stadium.

The hosts lead the three-match

series 1-0 and the Tigers, after the humiliating innings and 234-run defeat, fully concentrated on their batting to try and spare the blushes. That was the reason they have taken the tough decision of omitting Mashud -- still number one as a keeper -- as his replacement Mushfiqur Rahim is

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Cricket updates are now in your pocket.

Just dial **8Crl (8274)**

AKTEL CLEARLY BETTER

Pintu sued for plundering relief materials

STAR REPORT

Police filed two cases against former BNP lawmaker from Lalbagh Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu on Sunday for misappropriating government relief material while another case was filed against former BNP lawmaker from Natore-4 constituency Mozammel Haq yesterday on charges of embezzlement of money.

The two cases against Pintu were filed with Kamrangirchar Police Station following recovery of 216 corrugated iron (CI) sheets meant for relief from two places at Kamrangirchar in the capital, reported our staff correspondent.

Some 110 CI sheets were seized from Abdul Awal College at Ashrafabad and 106 sheets from Shamsul Haq Market at Nabinagar, police said.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Abdul

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Over 200 hill plunderers identified in Chittagong

Noman, Mohiuddin on the DoE list

DWAIKAYAN BARUA, Chittagong

Department of Environment (DoE) has primarily identified 155 hilly areas in Chittagong Division that were subjected to illegal hill cutting and listed over 200 individuals, organisations and business groups as plunderers of hills.

Former fisheries and livestock minister Abdullah Al Noman and district engineer Md. Nazmul Hoque told The Daily Star.

They might finalise the list today and send it to the Ministry of Environment.

The DoE director said they would continue mobile court drives in the affected areas and take legal action against all those responsible for hill cutting.

In the port city, hills were devoured for setting up housing projects, brickfields, hospitals and other establishments in around 48 areas. Fifty people and thirteen organisations and commercial firms were involved in the evil practice.

The DoE teams detected 27 incidents of hill cutting in Sitakunda, 16 in Satkania, 14 in

Rangunia and Chandraghona, 14 in Hathazari, 4 in Chandaish, 5 in Anwara, 5 in Banshkhali, 2 in Mirsarai, 4 in Lohagara and 7 in Cox's Bazar, 5 in Rangamati and 4 in Khagrachhari, DoE sources said.

Abdullah Al Noman levelled huge hills spreading over 10 acres of land on the west of Chittagong Polytechnic Institute till 2006 and gave it to one Md. Sagir for setting up a poultry farm.

Mayor Mohiuddin levelled a hill in the name of Thandachhara Chinnaul Astami project at South Pahartali, Prof Rabiu Hossain and SM Moshred Jafar levelled hills for setting up a hospital -- Imperial Hospital -- in Khulshi area near DoE divisional office.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

10 low-tariff small power schemes get govt nod

SHARIER KHAN

The caretaker government's purchase committee yesterday approved awarding of contracts for 10 small power projects with a total production capacity of around 200 MW at a better tariff rate than that in a previously cancelled bid.

Installation of these gas-fired plants is supposed to be completed with power generation starting within 15 months of signing of the agreement with the Power Cell of the power ministry, cell sources said.

"But given the situation, we are negotiating with them to have the plants completed, and run within a shorter time," said an official.

Tariff offers by these plants are

also much better than those found in the previous tender (cancelled in April). The previous tender for nine plants with 190 MW capacity drew tariff offers ranging between Tk 2.48 per kilowatthour (per one unit) and Tk 3 while the present offers range between Tk 2.28 and Tk 2.49 per unit.

Four of these plants will be set up by Summit Power, which is already operating some small power plants and a 110 MW barge-mounted plant. The four plants of Summit will generate 100 MW. Of these, three 30 MW plants will be set up in Comilla, Narayanganj and Gazipur (power tariff for each of these plants is Tk 2.38 per unit) and one 10 MW plant in Sirajganj (Tk 2.49 per unit).

Regent Textiles will set up a 20 MW plant in Barabkundu of Chittagong (tariff Tk 2.32 per unit) and Energy Pac a 10 MW plant in Habiganj (Tk 2.48 per unit).

Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam, who presided over the purchase body meeting, said the newly approved schemes will save around Tk 450 crore.

The Power Cell is also expected

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Govt to show zero tolerance for illegal tree felling: CA

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said the government will show "zero-tolerance" for indiscriminate felling of trees and destruction of forests in the country.

Referring to the arrest of some top forest officials on charges of corruption, he asked the officials to remain 100 per cent accountable in conserving trees and forests to avert such action.

Stern legal actions will be taken if any official and employee's negligence is proved in protecting trees and forest resources," he warned.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Thinking about studying in the UK? Why not contact us? We are An Approved Partner of the British High Commission. Promoting Education to the UK.

In addition we are the Country Representative/Agent for the following Universities/Colleges in Bangladesh.

The University of Greenwich
The University of Sheffield
Thames Valley University
City University London
Middlesex University
Coventry University

To confirm your admission in September - 07 entry please contact immediately :
OVERSEAS STUDY COUNSELLING LTD.
DAKKA OFFICE
15, Banu Bhaban (3rd floor)
Gulshan - 2 Dhaka - 1212
Tel : 9886735, 9896516,
8854002, Fax : 9813221
Mobile : 01914243056-64
e-mail: oscltd@bdcl.com

Holborn College
Highbury College
Glasgow Int'l College
Liverpool Int'l College
West Kent College
FTC Kaplan

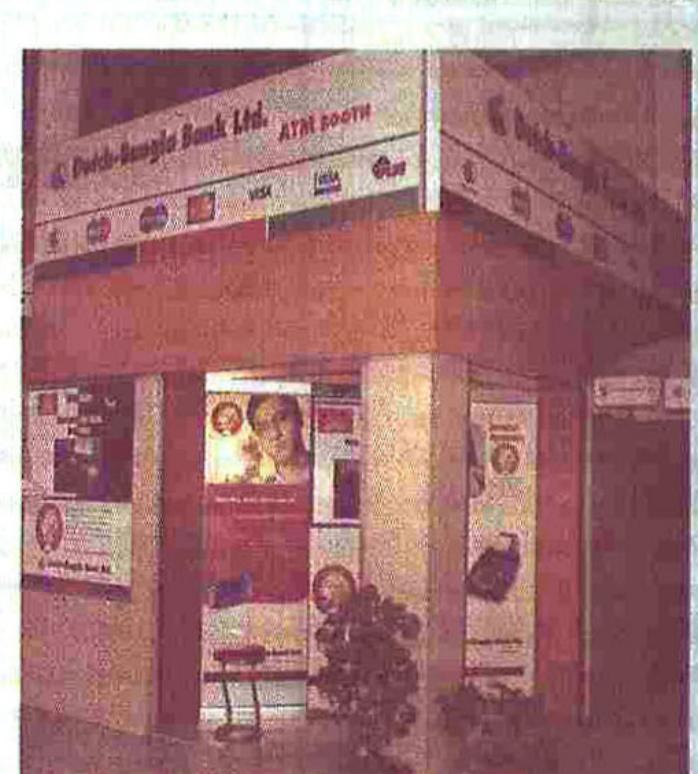
Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited
YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER

Prime Bank Limited
a bank with a difference

AGREEMENT FOR SHARING ATM/POS NETWORK



Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited (DBBL) and Prime Bank Limited (PBL) sign an agreement for sharing ATM/POS Network. Md. Yeasin Ali, Managing Director of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited, M. Shahjahan Bhuiyan, Managing Director of Prime Bank Limited signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations. A. H. M. Nazmul Quadir, Additional Managing Director of DBBL, K. S. Tabrez, Deputy Managing Director (Administration) of DBBL, Ghulam Kabir, Deputy Managing Director (Operation) of DBBL, Abul Kashem Md. Shirin, Senior Executive Vice President & Head of Information Technology of DBBL, Moyen Uddin Ahmed, Executive Vice President & Head of Card of DBBL, Nasiruddin Ahmed, Deputy Managing Director of PBL, Mahbubul Alam, Deputy Managing Director of PBL, Md. Mukhter Hossain, Executive Vice President of PBL, M. Shahidul Islam, Executive Vice President of PBL, Md. Mahmood Husain, Executive Vice President of PBL, S.M. Mainuddin Chowdhury, Executive Vice President & Head of IT of PBL, Manash K. Ghosh, Executive Vice President & Company Secretary of PBL, Habibur Rahman, Senior Vice President of PBL, Adil Raihan, Senior Vice President of PBL, Md. Iqbal Hossain, Senior Vice President of PBL, Md. Abul Kashem Khan, Vice President of PBL were present on the occasion. DBBL owns the nation's largest ATM fleet.



Take advantage of DBBL's ATM Fleet and broaden your reach