

Tofail's proposal

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general secretary for more than two terms in a row.

He however stressed that his proposals do not intend to have the party minus any particular individual. He added that his will be placed before the central working committee meeting as per the AL constitution.

At the news briefing, the AL leader came down heavily on different moves by the party chief. Without mentioning Hasina's name, he said that the AL has been rendered controversial through selling nominations to those who had never been involved with it.

He also said leaders and workers across the country have been made stand against the military-backed caretaker government through provocative speeches.

"If one thing is said today and the other tomorrow, where does a political party's acceptability stand?" Tofail questioned in an oblique reference to Hasina who once said if voted to power her government would legitimise all activities of the present government and then a few days later, she termed the government unconstitutional and undemocratic.

Tofail, a former minister, said Bangabandhu would always keep the party and the government separate and take decision in consultation with the senior leaders.

He said today all the powers rest with one person surrounded by sycophants. He severely criticised the AL's now scrapped deal with the Khelafat Majlis.

He pointed a finger at the AL chief also for not maintaining transparency in handling the party funds.

Citing his party's role in different historic movements including the Liberation War, he said he would never harm the organisation that Bangabandhu held so close to his heart.

"If I'm responsible for any damage to the party, I will quit since I can never betray the ideals of Bangabandhu," he observed.

He also urged the leaders and workers not to do anything that might harm the organisation. He said none has the power to divide the AL. "Those who will try to split Awami League will in fact betray the blood of Bangabandhu and will be binned by the history," said the veteran AL leader adding that he would not stand anyone questioning his integrity.

Reiterating his support for the caretaker administration, he said the government is implementing what they have long been demanding for a free and fair election. So, all should come forward to help it as everything would depend on its success.

Even the advisers should not utter anything that would make the government controversial, said one a young firebrand.

He called on the leaders, workers as well as the countrymen to be on the alert for conspiracies and wait patiently for a free and fair election as promised by the chief adviser.

PROPOSALS

Tofail said his reform proposals aim to make sure that democracy is practised at all levels of the party, and establish collective leadership to promote transparency and accountability in decision-making.

Electoral dialogue

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the party, HM Ershad on Saturday quit as Jatiya Party chairman and appointed barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud as the acting chief until the party's next council.

Political analysts think Ershad's announcement will have an effect on Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina -- heads of two major political parties BNP and Awami League -- to take decision in the wake of the changing political situation.

Analysts also hint at some 'dramatic' political development by mid-July following completion of a framework for political reforms.

The government also plans to relax the restriction on indoor politics paving the way for holding the political parties' national council to implement proposals by the 'pro-reform' leaders.

The EC on April 5 unveiled a set of proposals for electoral reforms including the one for registration of political parties to ensure practice of democracy' and 'financial transparency' with the parties and announced that it would be finalised through consultation with the political parties.

The chief election commissioner on April 4 at a meeting with the law adviser asked the government to lift the ban on indoor politics allowing the EC to hold talks with the political parties on reform proposals.

Following no response from the government for over three months, the EC last week announced that any political parties could sit with the EC to discuss the draft proposals for electoral reforms by sending representatives despite the embargo on indoor politics.

But the initiative failed apparently due to the political parties' unwillingness to sit in talks amid the ban on politics.

A proposal is that the party funds should be deposited in a bank under supervision of the party treasurer, who will report quarterly at party meetings.

They also suggest a set of amendments to the AL constitution not to allow anyone to hold the posts of president or general secretary twice in a row. The same rule shall apply to those at district and upazila levels.

Anyone down to the secretary level cannot simultaneously hold posts in the party and government.

All committees will be elected through secret ballots. Anyone accused of having a role against the Liberation War or war crime will be considered ineligible for membership of the party. Likewise, criminals or black money owners will not be eligible to contest elections on the AL ticket.

A member convicted of criminal offence by the highest court will be disqualified from holding any post in the party and getting nomination for any election.

In the proposals, he also calls for national recognition of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman as the father of the nation, execution of those condemned to death for the gruesome killings on August 15, 1975, and punishment to those responsible for killing four national leaders on November 3, 1975.

He also suggests abolition of communal politics and establishment of a secular, democratic Bangladesh.

Some other proposals that he has come up with relate to economic, administrative and judicial overhaul, electoral reforms proposed by the Election Commission, and functioning of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Besides, Tofail proposed amendments to the national constitution to define the balance of power between the president and the prime minister.

He also urges the leaders and workers not to do anything that might harm the organisation. He said none has the power to divide the AL. "Those who will try to split Awami League will in fact betray the blood of Bangabandhu and will be binned by the history," said the veteran AL leader adding that he would not stand anyone questioning his integrity.

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"What she [Rawshan] has done is against the party's constitution," Anisul claimed.

Anisul said that two separate councils would be held -- one for the reforms and the other for electing the chairman of the party.

He wished to work together with everyone to bring new and positive changes in the party.

Hill plunderers

FROM PAGE 1
organisations and commercial firms were involved in the evil

The DoE teams detected 27 incidents of hill cutting in Sitakunda, 16 in Sanktakunda, 14 in Rangunia and Chandraghona, 14 in Hathazari, 4 in Chandanapahar, 5 in Anwara, 5 in Banskhali, 2 in Mirsara, 4 in Lohagara and 7 in Cox's Bazar, 5 in Rangamati and 4 in Khagrachari, 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.

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

Two brick kilns of Abul Khair Group and another of Yakub Ali & Sons were set up by devouring hills on the west of the Polytechnic Institute, the sources mentioned.

Indiscriminate hill-cutting went on for developing at least 12 housing projects in the city. These include Nandan Housing and Spandan Properties (North Pahartali), Kube Housing (Khulshi), Chakrsho Kanan (Nasirabad), VIP Residential Project (South Khulshi) of the CCC, Gaosia Lake City (Khulshi), Shapla Housing (Pahartali Biswa Colony) and Khulshi Garden View Housing Project.

Developer of Garden View Project SM Jamiruddin levelled a large hill spreading over 42 acres of land since 2002, sources said.

DANIDA STAFF KIDNAP Danish detective makes field visit

A CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

The Danish detective who arrived in Bandarban on Sunday started field level investigations yesterday by visiting Thanchi -- from where Danida (Danish International Development Agency) project officer Hossain Shahid Sumon was based.

No official statement however was available over the Danish detective's visit in the area.

Local sources said the detective talked with locals and police officials in the area. He made detailed inquiries about the area and the abduction incident.

Meanwhile, to further intensify and expedite the rescue operation, joint forces deployed more personnel at new locations, said sources in the district administration and security forces.

A source in the army said the detained employees of local NGOs including Bangladeshi Danida official Kirti Nishan Chakma were not arrested. They have been taken into custody for interrogation.

The security forces confirmed that seven out of the 12-member group that abducted the two Danida staff on June 25 were indigenous. Later, Sub-Inspector (SI) Kazi Abdul Awal filed an arms case and Mamun was placed on a four-day remand.

Earlier, Mamun was sentenced three years' imprisonment for not submitting wealth statement to the Anti-Corruption Commission within the stipulated time frame.

REDWAN IN JAIL

Redwan was sent to jail with a proposal for thirty-day detention order after Uttara police produced him before a Dhaka court yesterday on completion of four-day remand.

OC of Uttara Police Station placed a forwarding report where he said Redwan gave important information about his corruption. So, he needs to be confined in jail custody until the investigation is completed.

Moreover, he was trying to stand against the present government after his name was included on the list of top graft suspects. So, the home ministry sent a proposal for detaining him in jail custody.

Opposing the prosecution plea, the defence lawyers submitted a petition seeking bail for their client.

After the hearing, the court rejected the defence petition and ordered to send Redwan to jail.

The army-led joint forces on June 26 arrested Redwan from the city's Baridhara area.

BABUL CASE

Judge Nuruzzaman of the Special Tribunal-7 framed charges against Babul and three others in connection with a bomb blast case filed in March 2004.

Babul and others, who were present at the court, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after the court read out the charges.

Three others are Jahid Hossain, Sader Rahman and Maj (retd) Mokbul Hossain.

The case was filed with Badda Police Station on March 21, 2004 for taking possession of a piece of land forcefully and exploded bombs there.

BABAR CASE

A Dhaka court could not frame charges against Babar in connection with a case filed for possessing illegal firearms and ammunition at his residence, as the jail authorities failed to produce him before the court due to his illness.

Judge Sayed Jahed Mansur of the Metropolitan Special Tribunal-9 set Sunday for hearing on charge framing against the accused.

OC of Gulshan Police Station Obaidul Haq pressed charges against Babar on June 24 showing 18 people as prosecution witnesses.

SI Helal Uddin of the same

CA

FROM PAGE 1
Chapainawabganj.

Environment and Forest Adviser CS Karim presided over the function. Acting Secretary of the Environment Ministry AHM Rezaul Kabir delivered the address of welcome.

The head of the caretaker government said if necessary, the existing laws will be amended to make tougher provision to protect trees and forests.

He stressed the need for bringing strategic changes in forest management to ensure good governance, honesty and discipline in this sector. This responsibility basically falls on the Forest Department and its officials and employees, he said.

The CA noted that despite increase in the number of trees in the country following social afforestation and participation of people in tree planting, the situation is not improving as much as expected due to the wiping out of natural forests in different places.

"We all have to give attention in preserving forests for the sake of our future generation," he observed.

Narrating the macabre experience of the loss of 126 lives in landslides in Chittagong on June 10, the chief adviser said hill cutting will have to be stopped to maintain ecological balance.

"From now on, all will have to stop cutting hill at any cost and all concerned will have to keep vigilance so that no such human disaster recur," he said and informed the function that directive has been given to the authorities concerned in this regard.

The CA called upon all concerned to plant tree on hillocks and hills on a large scale to prevent landslide and restore natural environment.

He said the government has planned to bring 20 percent land under government and private forestation by the year 2015.

Advisors to the caretaker government, environmentalists and senior government officials were also present at the function.

Mamun's arms case

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defence, Judge Mohammad Abul Bashar of the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka set today for delivery of the verdict.

The court will give the judgement at 11:30am, court sources said.

During the arguments, the prosecution told the court that they were able to prove the charges against Mamun beyond doubt and prayed for highest punishment while the defence appealed to the court for acquittal of their client.

Earlier, the court recorded statements of 26 prosecution witnesses including the complainant and investigation officer (IO) of the case.

On April 26, Cantonment police submitted the charge sheet against Mamun to the CMM's Court, Dhaka showing 29 people as prosecution witnesses.

Shahrum Khan, officer-in-charge (OC) of Cantonment Police Station and also the IO of the case, pressed charges against Mamun, who was arrested at his Banani DOHS residence on March 26. Police seized a .22 Spanish pistol and eight bullets from his house.

Later, Sub-Inspector (SI) Kazi Abdul Awal filed an arms case and Mamun was placed on a four-day remand.

Earlier, Mamun was sentenced three years' imprisonment for not submitting wealth statement to the Anti-Corruption Commission within the stipulated time frame.

Redwan was sentenced four years' imprisonment for not submitting wealth statement to the Anti-Corruption Commission within the stipulated time frame.

On June 26, Gulshan Police Station also the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Dhaka on May 28 showing 10 people as prosecution witnesses.

The joint forces apprehended Moudud, also an influential BNP leader, on April 13 raiding his Gulshan residence in the capital.

Charges were framed against the 44 accused on June 27 this year.

In his statement to the court, Asaduzzaman, president of Natore district Jatiya Chhatra Samaj, narrated the atrocities of Dulu and his thugs. He claimed that the former deputy minister Dulu began the arson attack by first torching his (Asaduzzaman's) house at Ramsa Kazipur village.

"Dulu, the minister himself, torched my home using a matchstick. ... two sacks of gunpowder were unloaded from his government vehicle and distributed among his cadres. ... the cadres later sprayed the gunpowder on houses and set those on fire," said Asaduzzaman.

The public prosecutors produced five witnesses, but the court heard the deposition from Asaduzzaman till 4:00pm.

The court scheduled July 4 for hearing depositions from the rest of witnesses.

Dulu and 24 other accused were present in the court while 69 others are still on the loose.

The plaintiff told the journalists of his worries that justice might not be served in the case since the public prosecutors had been appointed on Dulu's recommendation and they have been collaborating with the defendants.

The ACC had filed the case with Mohamaduzzaman Police Station on March 21 against them for giving false information about their source of income.

Our Chapainawabganj correspondent adds: Ex-MP of Chapainawabganj-1 (Shibganj) constituency Shahjahan Miah was placed on a two-day remand in an extort case.

Police sources said SI Lutfar Rahman of Shibganj Police Station and also the IO of the case produced the lawmaker before a first class magistrate with a prayer for a five-day remand but the magistrate Shahidul Islam Choudhury granted 61 people as prosecution witnesses.

Of them, Tuku was earlier arrested while his wife, son and daughter are absconding.

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