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Mosquito menace is already posing a threat when the days of dengue are not too far away. The organisers of a children's art competition at the Institute of Fine Arts at Dhaka University had to use repellent coils yesterday to drive off the desperate mosquitoes.

## ROADMAP TO POLL EC to declare timeframe for talks with parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) will declare specific time frame for holding talks with political parties on its roadmap to parliamentary elections, which will be made public by mid-July.

"At one stage, we will have to talk with the political parties. A time frame for holding dialogues with the political parties will be mentioned in our roadmap," Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda told the BBC Bangla Radio during an interview last evening.

He also said in the roadmap they would make recommendation for a time frame for lifting the ban on indoor politics and withdrawal of the state of emergency. "Preparation of the roadmap is now almost complete," he headed.

A few days ago the EC said a complete roadmap, with specific time frame for preparing a voter list with photographs and a date for election schedule announcement, would be made public by mid-July.

## 'People's role in governance a must for direct democracy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former adviser to the caretaker government Dr Akbar Ali Khan called for ensuring people's participation in the governance procedure to establish 'direct democracy' in the country.

"Proper development of the country is not possible by giving the power of attorney to the government. We should take part in every state institutions like school and hospital," Khan said.

He was speaking as the chief

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## Security forces, kidnappers trade fire at Bandarban

### One held as more troops join operation for rescue of Danida staff

A OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Security forces exchanged fires with the kidnappers of the Danida official Shahid Suman during their rescue operation at Thanchi in the district yesterday.

No casualty was reported as a result of the gun battle that took place 3-4km west of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) camp at Yangrai and lasted for more than an hour, but the law enforcers said they arrested a kidnapper during the operation.

Suman, who was abducted on June 25 along with his driver, could not be rescued after 250 hours of combing operations in the rugged terrain of the hilly regions.

Danida driver Md Hanif was rescued unconscious some 40km away from Kya Buri Para in

Thanchi where Danida Programme Officer Shahid Suman and he had been kidnapped.

The authorities meanwhile sent more commando troops and supplies to the spot by helicopter as the forces claimed to have encircled the kidnappers.

Sources said the law enforcers yesterday surrounded the Rang Rang hill between the BDR camps at Yangrai and Chhoti Modok. The kidnappers suddenly started shooting at them in the morning without any provocation.

The two groups exchanged more than 200 rounds of bullet.

At one stage the kidnappers retreated and the law enforcers arrested one Mong Mong Chho.

Meanwhile, three NGO officials who were detained in connection with Suman's abduction were released Thursday after-

noon after 10 days' interrogation at the BDR zonal headquarters at Balipara.

The officials are Danida Senior Programming Officer Kirti Nishan Chakma, Eco Development Executive Director Ong Sa Thui Marma and NGO worker Ong Gaw Marma.

After his release, Kirti Nishan Chakma went to the Bandarban Tourism Motel to meet the first secretary of the Danish Embassy and a Danish detective.

Neither Chakma nor the Danish officials, however, spoke to the media.

Security forces are still maintaining massive rescue operations to rescue the Danida official. Even the locals have joined the rescue operations as part of a new rescue strategy, said government sources.

## NACHOLE PROBE REPORT TODAY Dishonest dealers, officials create fertiliser crisis

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

The probe team for Wednesday's Nachole riot yesterday said a few dishonest traders are taking advantage of the growing demand for fertiliser and doing illegal marketing allegedly with the help of administrative officials, creating artificial fertiliser crisis in the northern districts.

The probe committee headed by Chapainawabganj Additional

District Magistrate Mustafizur Rahman reportedly found a top-upazila official responsible for the rampage and recommended his punishment.

The committee is likely to submit its report today. The other committee members are Additional Superintendent of Police Sazzadur Rahman and Deputy Director of Agriculture Extension Department Asim

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## Rab recovers 10 bombs at Khulna newspaper stall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered ten bombs from a newspaper stall at Daulatpur here on Thursday night.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-6, Khulna, went to the spot near Daulatpur bus stand at around 11:15pm, unlocked the stall and found the bombs kept in a bag on the shelf. No one was arrested in connection with the recovery of bombs as of 6:00pm yesterday.

Intelligence agencies have stepped up surveillance all over the city and district following recovery of the bombs.

The elite force also recovered a

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## Kaiser wants reforms in AL involving the party chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yet another Awami League (AL) presidium member, Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser, yesterday came up with reform proposals including the one that none should simultaneously hold posts in the party and the government.

He said no one should be allowed to hold the posts of president, presidium member and general secretary for more than two consecutive terms.

"This provision should take effect following the next council," Kaiser told reporters outside AL President Sheikh Hasina's Sudha Sadan residence. Earlier, he was barred from entering the former premier's Dhanmondi house.

His proposals followed those of Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed and Suranjit Sengupta, all three stressing the need for more democratisation, decentralisation of power, and establishment of joint leader-



Describing his as personal opinion, Kaiser, known as a Hasina leader, said reforms in the AL should be done with its President Sheikh Hasina taking active part in the process. "The constitution of Awami League is quite acceptable. It's only

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## Mannan to meet party chief for consent to hold council

### Denies anti-party activity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In reaction to BNP Chairperson Khaleeda Zia's warning against anti-party activities, Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said they have not been doing anything contrary to the party constitution.

"Whatever we are doing is in line with our [BNP] constitution," he told reporters at his Gulshan residence yesterday.

Bhuiyan said that after wrapping up the work on reform proposals he would meet the chairperson. "I will see her for permission to hold the council," he said smilingly.

Visiting the mausoleum of late president Ziaur Rahman on Thursday, Khaleeda Zia cautioned that those who are active against the unity of the party would be disciplined.

Besides, she said that had the secretary general been sincerely caring about her permission he



would have talked to her about the reforms and the party council.

The pro-reform group announced a 15-point proposal for reforms in the party on June 25. Besides revising those proposals, they have been drawing up some for reforms in the country's political culture and state affairs.

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## Two brothers drown in pond at Maniknagar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two brothers drowned in a pond at Maniknagar in the city's Jatrabari area on Thursday, leaving their parents and relatives shell-shocked.

Locals yesterday morning retrieved the bodies of 11-year-old Sayeed Hossain Shaon and 10-year-old Saif Hossain Shovon from the pond. Both were class III students of Motijheel Ideal School and College.

Family members said the two brothers returned home at Golapbagh from school at 12:00 noon on Thursday. After playing for sometime, they went to a neighbour's house along with their grandmother to attend a milad. They left the house telling their grandmother that they were going around.

As they did not return home in the afternoon, their father Tofazzel Hossain Bhanu filed a general diary

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Relatives wail over the death of Shaon and Shovon (inset), class three students of Motijheel Ideal School and College, after recovery of their bodies from a pond at Maniknagar in the capital yesterday.

## BNP reformists retreat from move to oust the corrupt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The pro-reform BNP leaders have apparently retreated from their move to launch a cleansing drive to free the party of corrupt leaders fearing negative impact since a few among themselves could be identified as corrupt.

The formation of an inquiry committee announced earlier to identify the corrupt leaders in the party now seems uncertain. But a few pro-reform leaders told The Daily Star that the probe body might be formed in future.

"We are now busy with making preparations for holding the

party's national council. The formation of such a committee will be considered later," BNP Vice-President Major (ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed told The Daily Star.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, who unveiled the 15-point reform proposals on June 25, said an inquiry committee will be formed soon to take action against leaders involved in corruption, nepotism and misuse of power and thus are responsible for the party's current disaster.

A number of senior BNP leaders, however, said the announcement was nothing but an attempt to draw people's attention. The party

does not have any mechanism to identify leaders involved in corruption, they said requesting anonymity.

The pro-reform leaders cannot even take action against any leader for their alleged involvement in corruption since the pro-reform leaders have a few corrupt among themselves, they observed.

If formed, such a probe body would pick up the already detained leaders and avoid those who are in favour of the reforms, they explained.

A senior leader said he is not interested to be a member of any

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## Jalil's petition evokes mixed reaction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of different political parties and civil society members yesterday came up with mixed reactions to detained Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil's letter to the chief adviser.

The AL raised question if it was written by Jalil himself while the BNP described as contradictory the letter where the leader of its arch rival has begged for release and said if necessary he was ready to quit politics.

In the petition made public by his wife Thursday Jalil also blasted AL President Sheikh Hasina for what he said was her dictatorial leadership.

Talking to The Daily Star, former adviser to the caretaker government Sultana Kamal said, "Abdul Jalil was the general secretary of an age-old political party. I find it difficult to appreciate the way he has quit politics."

She said she doubts if he has taken the decision independently. It would be very unfortunate if it

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## Jalil's career

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil started his political career through Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), students wing of the AL.

Jalil, who first met Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1969, served in many vital posts in the BCL before joining the AL.

He served as the Naogaon district AL general secretary for consecutive 16 years. Then, he became the international affairs secretary and joint secretary of the AL central committee.

At present he is a presidium member of the party.

Jalil became the chief whip of the third parliament in 1986 and the commerce minister of the AL

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## Gunmen fire shots at Musharraf's plane

AFP, Islamabad

Gunmen fired on Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's plane using an improvised Taliban-style anti-aircraft gun after it took off from a military airbase yesterday, intelligence officials said.

Musharraf, a key US ally who has escaped several al-Qaeda-linked assassination attempts, was unharmed and the shots did not hit the aircraft, the officials said on condition of anonymity.

"It was an unsuccessful attempt to shoot the president's plane," one official told AFP.

Musharraf flew from the Chaklala military base in Rawalpindi, a garrison city adjoining Islamabad, to the southern provinces of Sindh and Baluchistan to visit people affected by recent floods, the military said in a statement.



Pakistani military spokesman Major General Waheed Arshad denied that the shots had targeted Musharraf's plane. "It was not related to the president," he told AFP.

But intelligence officials dealing directly with the incident insisted

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**Invitation-Taiwan Trade Meeting 2007**

TAITRA (Taiwan External Trade Development Council), the foremost trade promotion organization in Taiwan, will lead a delegation consisting of 10 companies to visit Dhaka & Chittagong

Date: Dhaka - July 08, 2007 (Sunday) at Ball Room, Sheraton Hotel  
Chittagong - July 11, 2007 (Wednesday) at Ichamati Hall, Hotel Agrabad  
Time: 09:00 a.m. - 06:00 p.m.

Products

- Textile, Garments Accessories (button, zipper)
- Weave Belt for Garments, Shoes
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