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## Fertiliser, energy prices won't be hiked for now

Govt asks for comprehensive proposal from ministries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The advisory committee on economic affairs yesterday held back a proposal for price hike of urea fertiliser and asked the ministries concerned to prepare a comprehensive proposal for possible price increases of gas, petroleum products and electricity.

The ministries will work together to prepare a proposal for price hike of power, energy and

fertiliser, and the council of advisers will decide on it," Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam told reporters after a meeting of the committee he heads.

"It is an important matter as different sectors like agriculture are related with the price increase. So, we will have to examine the matter holistically," he said.

The committee also held back a shipping ministry proposal for building the country's first deep-

sea port at Sonadia Island.

Meeting sources said the government is taking time before raising fertiliser price as it may adversely affect agriculture sector.

"Government will review all possible impacts of increased prices. So, the matter has been referred to the advisory committee, the highest decision making body," one source pointed out.

The industries ministry

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## No reforms until Hasina released

Asserts Zillur  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Acting president of Awami League (AL) Zillur Rahman yesterday said no reforms and council would take place unless Sheikh Hasina is released.

"Everyone in the party thinks there must not be any reforms or council till our leader is freed," he said at a press briefing at his Gulshan residence.

Zillur Rahman, one of the doyens of the country's politics, said, "The work on reforms will begin

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## Reforms required, not imposed ones

Discussion on changes in political parties observes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of major political parties, a former adviser to the caretaker government, and members of the civil society yesterday said splitting the major political parties or forced reforms will bring no good for the country.

Termining reforms in the political parties and the whole political system a must, they said reforms will have to come from within the parties to have a meaningful impact on politics or bring positive changes to it.

They advised the political parties to elect party leadership democratically, establish collective leadership, and ensure accountability and transparency in operating party funds to have a meaningful reform.

"The reform will not bring positive results for the country if it is forced or means splitting the

existing political parties," said former adviser Dr Akbar Ali Khan at a discussion titled "Reforms of political parties: Contemporary thoughts and debates" at the Jatiya Press Club.

Coalition for Good Governance in association with Neeti Gabeshona Kendra organised the discussion with former Dhaka University vice-chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed in the chair.

Firoz M Hasan, former Liberal Democratic Party leader, moderated the programme while Mahbubul Haque Ripon of Neeti Gabeshona Kendra presented the keynote paper.

"Solution will not come if only the parties are split in the name of reforms," Dr Akbar said, adding that if reforms are enforced, those will not work properly and it would be tough to keep them existing.

"Reforms will have to be carried

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## NGOs asked to spend 50pc foreign funds on visible dev work

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The non-government organisations (NGOs) will have to ensure accountability in getting and spending foreign funds and dedicate half the money to tangible development work, says a recent circular by the NGO Affairs Bureau.

Issued on Tuesday in the light of a notification from the army headquarters on July 9, the circular says the NGO Affairs Bureau and Social Welfare Directorate will closely observe various invisible programmes like public awareness campaigns and trainings undertaken by the NGOs to ensure accountability.

"At least 50 percent of the foreign funding will have to be spent on visible development like building and upkeep of roads, schools and culverts and excavation or re-excavation of canals," it reads.

The decision has been taken at the 11th meeting on July 3 reviewing the activities of the joint forces

deployed in aid of the civil administration and law enforcement agencies under the state of emergency.

The notification mentions that one of the agenda of the meeting was activities of the NGOs.

It asked the concerned officials at the Bureau to take steps according to the decision of the meeting that also discussed how to shut down projects that are not of any benefit to the people.

Talking to The Daily Star last evening, Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori, questioned the validity of the circular.

She said, "We don't see the Chief Adviser's Office's connection with the circular though the Bureau is under it."

"Of course, the authorities can monitor our activities; we have no problem with that. But dictating where we'll have to spend half the funds is not acceptable," she added.

The donors approve projects

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## Ad firm filling up Gulshan Lake for billboard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An advertise firm is erecting a billboard filling up a portion of Gulshan Lake beside Kalachandpur Gudaraghat on Gulshan-1-Mohakhali linkroad.

An official of the add firm Neptune claimed they have permission from Dhaka City Corporation (DCC). But the DCC official concerned brushed aside the claim and said they are not allowing anyone to construct any roadside billboards or signs.

During a visit to the spot, workers were seen laying concrete foundations of a high iron pole on which the billboard would hang.

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PHOTO STAR

An advertisement firm fills up a portion of Gulshan Lake next to Mohakhali-Gulshan-1 Link Road in the capital and erects a concrete foundation for a billboard allegedly without Dhaka City Corporation's permission.

## First ODI today

BISHWAJIT ROY from Colombo

Under heightened security, there was hardly any buzz in the city about the three-match one-day series between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka which starts today but there was no short of excitement in the visitors' tent ahead of the first game to be held at the P Sara Stadium.

The energetic and youthful Bangladesh side became more

SEE 19 COL 4

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## Hasina receives ACC letter

Says it's full of errors  
UNB, Dhaka

Detained Awami League President Sheikh Hasina said the notice issued upon her to submit wealth statement is full of mistakes, but her claim was dismissed by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).

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# মোবাইল সংযোগ (সিম) কিনতে অত্যাৱশ্যকীয় তথ্য

সরকারী নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী মোবাইল সংযোগ কিনতে নির্দিষ্ট ফর্ম পূরণ করে ছবি ও পরিচয়পত্র জমা দেয়া বাধ্যতামূলক



২ কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজ ছবি

সাথে



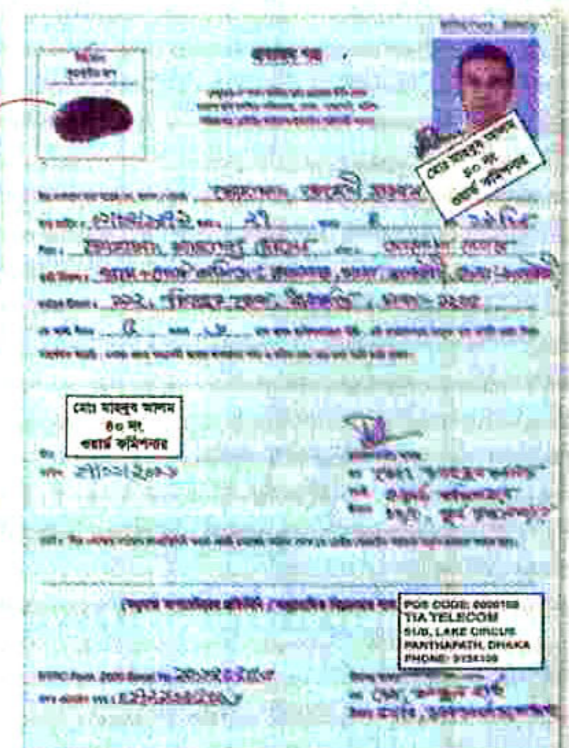
পাসপোর্ট এর ফটোকপি

অথবা



যেকোন ফটো আইডেন্টিটি কার্ডের ফটোকপি  
(ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স, বন্ধুকের লাইসেন্স ইত্যাদি)

অথবা



ফটো আইডেন্টিটি কার্ড না থাকলে সংশ্লিষ্ট অপারেটর/ডিলারের কাছ থেকে বিটিআরসি অনুমোদিত প্রত্যাশন পত্র সংগ্রহ করে স্থানীয় জনপ্রতিনিধি (যথা: উপজেলা/ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান বা ওয়ার্ড কমিশনার) বা প্রথম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তার কাছে থেকে সত্যায়িত করে নিয়ে আসুন।

