

AL leaders move

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and Prof Abu Sayeed were offended by some rowdy party activists before and after the AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) meeting.

Swift initiatives to hold the party together were stressed during informal talks last night at the Gulshan residence of AL Acting President Zillur Rahman. Among others, Motia Chowdhury, Mahmudur Rahman Manna and Akhteruzzaman were present. The leaders also requested Zillur assign to an AL leader for making dialogue preparations with the EC.

On Tuesday night, in another meeting, Tofail Ahmed, Mukul Bose, Abdul Mannan, Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Akhteruzzaman, Prof Ali Ashraf, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, AKM Jahangir Hossain, Habibur Rahman Khan and many other leaders discussed various issues including unity in the party, dialogue with the EC and party President Sheikh Hasina's release.

The meeting opted for dialogues with the EC upon receiving the formal invitation from the EC.

A few leaders present at the meeting told The Daily Star that Tofail had telephoned them to join in the meeting.

The AL leaders present at the meeting advised Tofail that rather than holding informal meetings with anyone he should sit with all at the party office to ensure unity in the party.

The same night, a number of AL leaders including Tofail Ahmed, Abdul Mal Abdul Muhit, Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Asaduzzaman Noor met with Acting President Zillur Rahman.

They urged Zillur to take measures for improving relations among the party leaders. They also suggested that the AL should hold dialogues with the EC.

AL Probe body
AL has approved one more month for the submission of report by the

one-member probe body, headed by presidium member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, that had been formed to investigate the September 12 assault on four senior AL leaders.

Meanwhile Mukul Bose yesterday submitted several names of suspected individuals who directed to assault the leaders on September 12.

AL advisory council member Maj Gen (retd) Subid Ali Bhuiyan who was present during the September 12 incident outside the party office yesterday submitted his written statement to the probe body.

Bomb kills 5 in Lebanon

AP, Beirut

A powerful bomb killed a pro-government parliament member and four others yesterday in a Christian suburb east of the Lebanese capital, security officials said.

The blast targeted Antoine Ghanem, 64, a member of the right-wing Christian Phalange Party, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to the press.

The Voice of Lebanon radio station, which is owned by the Phalange party, also confirmed Ghanem's death. The identities of the others killed were not immediately known.

The attack occurred six days before parliament was scheduled to meet to elect a new president in a deeply divisive vote. Ghanem is the eighth prominent anti-Syrian figure assassinated since 2005, including three lawmakers from the majority, reducing the ruling party's margin in parliament.

Tigers

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Durban, Justin Kemp blasted an unbeaten 89 off 56 balls after Morne Morkel claimed four wickets for 17 runs as South Africa thrashed New Zealand by six wickets.

The hosts restricted the Black Caps to 153-8 after giving them first strike at the Kingsmead and then knocked off the modest target with five balls to spare.

Kemp hammered six sixes and as many boundaries in his match-winning knock, ending the match by lofting Mark Gillespie over the long-on fence for six.

Kemp added 65 runs for the fourth wicket with Mark Boucher (23) and an undefeated 48 for the fifth with Shaun Pollock, who remained unbeaten on 16.

The emphatic win was set up by 22-year-old fast bowler Morne Morkel who ensured that New Zealand lost wickets at regular intervals.

Morkel narrowly missed becoming the first Twenty20 bowler to claim five wickets when his penultimate ball which clean bowled Gillespie was declared a no-ball by umpire Billy Doctrove.

Craig McMillan top scored for New Zealand with 48 not out in an innings studded with four sixes.

Morkel had McCullum (38) and Ross Taylor (one) caught behind by wicket-keeper Mark Boucher in the ninth over.

Morkel returned for his second spell to bowl Jacob Oram and had Shane Bond caught by Boucher.

Govt ups prices

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tonnes of TSP in the current fiscal year; of this only 50 thousand tonnes will be produced in the country and the rest will be imported. The demand for potash is 4 lakh tonnes and the entire demand will be met through import, the sources said.

In the last fiscal year the government subsidised Tk 594 crore for around 10 lakh tonnes of TSP, diammonium phosphate (Dap) and potash. But, although three months have passed of the current fiscal year, the government has not yet taken any decision on the matter which is discouraging private importers to import these essential fertilisers.

BFA officials said private importers imported 1.25 lakh tonnes of TSP and 80 thousand tonnes of potash during the last fiscal year but 80 thousand tonnes of TSP and 37 thousand tonnes of potash still remain unsold because of the delay in government declaration about subsidy.

BFA Chairman Kafil Uddin Ahmed said, "The private sector importers could not import fertiliser as the government is yet to take any decision about the subsidy. This may result in a fertiliser crisis during the upcoming Irri-Boro season."

He said the prices of fertiliser in the international market have increased greatly. In the previous year, the price of TSP was \$215-220 per tonne but now it has increased to \$440. The price of potash was \$225-230 and it has increased to \$330, he added.

Major parties

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parties permanently soon after they [the political parties] register with the Election Commission (EC). The parties, however, will have to seek to receive their desired symbol to the EC."

According to the current laws, before a parliamentary election, the EC allocates temporary symbols to political parties contesting the election.

In the meantime, the EC has proposed to cancel four or five election symbols, such as Minaret, book and sankho, considering their religious aspects, Sohul added.

Asked whether the EC would also cancel 'scales' as an election symbol -- as demanded by a number of political parties -- he said the EC had no such plan at the moment.

However, "since 'scales' are recognised as emblem of justice worldwide, and if different political parties demand for the cancellation of the symbol, the commission might take a decision on the matter," he added.

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain said if a political party does not contest the parliamentary election, the election symbol it usually uses might be allocated to a different party upon request.

City's low-lying

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recede further in next 24 hours, improving the flood situation in the northern districts of Sirajganj and Tangail.

Citing FFWC bulletin, BSS reported that water flow in the Ganges-Padma is also likely to continue to fall, which will further improve the flood situation in the south-central districts of Rajbari, Faridpur, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Madaripur, Sharariatpur, Gopalganj, Chandpur and some upazilas of Dhaka.

The FFWC said flood situation in Sylhet and Sunamganj is seeing gradual improvement.

Official sources said 61,510 people have taken shelters at 167 centres in the flood-hit areas.

Rajuk houses

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information report (FIR) with Motijheel Police Station against 12 individuals, including detained former minister Mirza Abas, for causing a loss of over Tk 127 crore to the national exchequer by selling 18 abandoned houses.

It was stated in the FIR that these individuals in connivance with each other sold or approved the selling of 18 abandoned houses in the capital's posh areas of Gulshan, Banani, Dhanmondi and New Eskaton through fake auctions. These houses were sold at much lower prices than the market ones.

Their irregularities caused the government a huge loss of Tk 127,64,19,059.86, the FIR said.

Although the FIR was filed against 12 accused, there will be 25 names in the charge sheet as involvement of 14 others, including a former commerce minister, was found during investigation. The name of ex-Works Division executive engineer Syed Mahfuz Ahmed, who was one of the accused, will be dropped, as his wrongdoing was not proved during the investigation.

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Craig McMillan top scored for New Zealand with 48 not out in an innings studded with four sixes.

Morkel had McCullum (38) and Ross Taylor (one) caught behind by wicket-keeper Mark Boucher in the ninth over.

Morkel returned for his second spell to bowl Jacob Oram and had Shane Bond caught by Boucher.

The 14 individuals who are also going to be included in the charge sheet along with 11 others are

former commerce minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, former prime minister Khaleda Zia's political secretary Harris Chowdhury, former MP Kazir Anwar Hossain, former secretary Iqbal Uddin Chowdhury, managing director of Cocola Foods.

Shukur Miah, chairman of a housing developer SM Anwar Hossain, Niu ze Mendes, Nuris Sofa, Shafiqur Rahman Kiron, Chittagong Awami League leader Abari Uddin's wife Hasna Ahmed, Ambia Group Managing Director Abul Kasem, former secretary general of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) Ali Haider Chowdhury, Mehedi Hasan of Orion Group and Basundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan alias Shah Alam.

The chairman of the committee said BDR is operating 270 fair-price outlets across the country, 100 of which are in the capital.

TCB is operating 45 stationary outlets and 15 mobile trucks in the city.

Mostakim said TCB has in its stock 886 tons of sugar, 252 tons of lentil, and 466 tons of edible oil for sale.

Quoting from the daily list of

essential goods of TCB the committee chairman said prices of most of the essential goods remain steady in the first week of Ramadan.

Representatives of different ministries and departments also attended the meeting.

5 cops held

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in the capital at 1:30pm on Tuesday.

Sources said the detainees then patrolled different city streets with Ibrahim on board for several hours.

Later they forced Ibrahim out of the vehicle in front of the High Court after taking Tk 1.90 lakh and 120 Malaysian Ringgit from him, sources added.

The detainees told Ibrahim that they could have arrested him, as he is engaged in hundi business.

They also asked Ibrahim not to say anything to any one about the matter.

Ibrahim said he came to the capital with the money as his younger brother has planned to go abroad.

Ibrahim filed a case under the Speedy Trial Tribunal with Paltan Police Station accusing the seven.

Police also recovered the money from the police detainees.

Top defaulters

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Janata Bank's performance was a bit better and it realised Tk 32.9 crore while its target was Tk 27.5 crore for the six-month period.

In case of other defaulted loans, Sonali Bank recovered Tk 231.91 crore in the first six months against the year's target of Tk 440 crore, Janata Bank Tk 118.16 crore against the target of Tk 165 crore, Agrani Bank Tk 118.76 crore against its Tk 275.5 crore target and Rupali Bank realised Tk 13.15 crore against the target of Tk 66 crore.

Credit disbursement of Janata and Agrani declined in June this year compared to December last year's. But loan disbursement of Sonali and Rupali rose during the period.

According to available data, Janata Bank's credit declined by 2.67 percent and Agrani Bank's by 1.55 percent. Sonali and Rupali's credit rose by 0.77 percent and 2.46 percent respectively.

Earlier, the central bank had set a limit of credit growth in the NCBs that says it will not exceed five percent comparing to that of the previous year.

Overall defaulted loans increased as new loans were defaulted.

Total classified loans of Sonali Bank went up by four percentage point to 29.59 percent in June compared to December last year while that of Janata rose by 0.93 percentage point to 14.13 percent.

Agrani Bank's classified loans went up by 0.81 percentage point to 28.91 percent in June while that of Rupali rose by 10.04 percentage point to 36.07 percent.

Writ petition

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son, for possessing wealth "beyond known sources" of his income.

After 15 days of their (Khaleda and Arafat) arrest in connection with a corruption case, it was recently placed under the EPR just for rejecting their bail petition," the lawyer contended.

About the ACC decision to file corruption case against Tarique and taking the case against Khaleda Zia under EPR, he said, "It is regrettable, unfortunate and not fair."

"Tarique Rahman doesn't have any property in the country and elsewhere outside his shown assets. The daily Dinkal is not one's personal property, it's the property of BNP," he said.

Refuting the allegation of leaving out from the wealth statement Tarique's possessed lands at Uttarkhan in the city, Ahmed Azam said former president Ziaur Rahman had bought those lands paying Tk 3,300 in 1974 when he was a brigadier. And it is also mentioned in Khaleda Zia's statement submitted to the ACC.

The magistrate passed the order as Shafiqi prayed for it yesterday.

South Sumra Police of Sylhet filed a case against two including Shafiqi after the joint force members recovered huge relief materials including CI sheets, biscuits and others from his village house.

MIR NASIR CASE

After completion of the arguments from the prosecution, Judge Sayed Jahed Mansur of the Metropolitan Special Tribunal-9 fixed October 4 for verdict of the money laundering case.

SI Babul Hossain of Gulshan Police Station, also the IO, submitted charge sheet to the Dhaka's CM Court on July 1.

According to the case statement, Harris collected foreign currencies worth Tk 5.64 lakh to siphon the sum abroad.

Earlier, a special court sentenced Harris to three years' imprisonment on May 22 for not submitting his wealth statement to the Anti-Corruption Commission within the stipulated time.

According to the allegations made in the cases, Mir Nasir evaded worth Tk 13.79 crore taxes from 1991 to 2007 while his son Helaluddin did not pay taxes worth Tk 11.59 crore from 2001 to 2007.

The lawyers in the panel also urged the government to ensure better treatment of Koko, now under treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Hospital, by sending him abroad.

Traders

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businessmen of Chittagong on September 25 to restore confidence among them.

Apart from the commerce ministry initiative the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), and the Department of Fisheries are also continuing to operate their fair-price outlets across the country getting positive public response.

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886 tons of sugar, 252 tons of lentil, and 466 tons of edible oil for sale.

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Legal trouble

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