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AL to take part in EC dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) will participate in the Election Commission's (EC) dialogue over electoral reforms on November 4.

The decision came at an AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) meeting held at party President Sheikh Hasina's Dhanmondi office yesterday.

Chaired by acting president Zillur Rahman, the meeting called for complete withdrawal of the ban on indoor politics and immediate lifting of the state of emergency.

It decided to send a letter to the EC seeking expansion of the AL delegation from 10 to 16 members. Earlier on Friday, the EC sent a formal invitation to the AL for its ongoing dialogue that began on September 12. It asked the party to send a 10-member delegation.

The meeting, which has been adjourned till November 1, formed a 16-member sub-committee to review thoroughly the EC's draft proposals for electoral reforms. Presidium Member Tofail Ahmed will head the committee while acting general secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam will be its member secretary.

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President leaves for US Oct 30

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed will leave for New York on October 30 on a weeklong visit to the United States.

He will reach New York on October 31 by a regular flight of Emirates Airlines via Dubai, an official announcement said yesterday.

During his stay in the USA, the president will attend functions in Ohio and New Orleans. He is scheduled to visit Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Centre on November 1 and deliver a speech on "The Education System of Bangladesh" at Ohio State University on November 2.

The president will stay in Ohio on November 3 and go to New Orleans on November 4.

He will attend a conference and present a scientific paper on "Bangladesh: Problems of Global Warming, Land Inundation and Arsenic Poisoning" in New Orleans.

The function is being organised jointly by the Soil Science Society of America, the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Science Society of America.

He will also attend a reception and award programme sponsored by the Soil Science Society of America.

On November 6, the president

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DCC comes under task force watch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid allegations of massive corruption and irregularities, the army-led Task Force against Egregious Crimes and Corruption yesterday started looking after the activities of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) to bring necessary reforms to make it a vibrant service-oriented organisation.

The DCC came under the task force's supervision as part of the caretaker government's drive against institutionalised corruption in the second phase of the ongoing anti-graft campaign.

The task force is already looking after the activities of Rajdhan Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) that first came under its monitoring.

Such other organisations, allegedly corrupt, will also be brought under the purge but they are giving priority to training their guns first on service-oriented ones, according to sources.

"The task force came to look into the DCC's service rules and its mandates and work for bringing reforms in it to make the corporation more service-oriented so that people could get more facilities. They will also look into whether there were any corruption in the DCC in the past," Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka told The Daily Star after a meeting with the task force.

A task force team led by Lt Col Shamsuzzoha Mohammad Salehuddin rushed to the Nagar Bhaban Building at about 1:30pm and held a meeting with the mayor and heads of different wings of the DCC.

Talking to reporters, Salehuddin said they came to the DCC to review its policy-level matters. "DCC is a service provider institution. So, we will work on how we could increase facilities for the city dwellers," he said.

Replying to a question, he said, "We have come here to examine

different things so that we could bring reforms in the DCC." Their work is at a preliminary stage now, and they will use an office at the DCC when needed, he added.

The mayor said the task force would also work for simplifying tax collection process to reduce city dwellers' sufferings.

They would investigate whether there were corruptions or irregularities in tender processes, purchases, setting up of flyovers, management of graveyards and terminals, and implementation of other DCC projects, he added.

Khoka said he told the task force coordinator to use a place within the DCC headquarters so that they could perform their duties quickly and in a convenient way.

"If the task force could bring reforms in the DCC, city people will be benefited," the mayor said adding that he had already sent a letter to the chief adviser to bring

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Separation of judiciary hailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations yesterday hailed the government's decision to implement separation of the judiciary from the executive on November 1.

They also came down heavily on the move of Bangladesh Administrative Service Association opposing the separation at the eleventh hour of implementing the decision.

Terming the decision to separate the judiciary historic, they said it has fulfilled expectations of the lawyers as well as the people of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Bar Council in a press release said all the successive governments gave assurance and even took some steps to separate the judiciary, but could not do it due to an "evil force".

It also said some executive officials in fear of losing power if the judiciary is separated had influenced the matter that delayed the process. The political governments also could not implement it

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JUDICIARY SEPARATION

Govt, admin cadre meet to end row

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A negotiation yesterday between Bangladesh Administrative Service Association and the law adviser apparently cleared the obstruction to separation of the judiciary from the executive on November 1 as the association moved away from the cadres' demand of deferring the date.

The separation is going to take place on the slated date and the government assured the association of looking into the "inconsistencies" in four rules promulgated for separation, association leaders said yesterday after the meeting convened to ease tension created over the issue.

Although both the law adviser and the association leaders said

they were yet to reach a decision regarding the whole issue and that talks will continue, both the sides said separation will be implemented on the scheduled date.

"I'm feeling reassured... By the grace of Allah, the judiciary is going to be separated [from the executive] on November 1," Law Adviser Mainul Hossain said after the meeting.

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Irked ex-NBR chief retires

Says he may have failed to please his 'masters'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unhappy with his transfer orders, former National Board of Revenue (NBR) chairman Badiur Rahman sought voluntary retirement on October 18, the day of his transfer to the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management from the board.

"Senior-level officers are usually asked by their superiors before

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CJ to inaugurate judiciary separation on Nov 1

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Justice (CJ) M Ruhul Amin will formally inaugurate the historic event of separating the judiciary from the executive control over the subordinate courts on November 1.

With the inauguration of the separation at a landmark ceremony at the district court in Old Dhaka, the country's judiciary, one of the state organs, will be fully independent in its domain of dispensation of justice.

Informing the media about the preparation, Supreme Court

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PHOTO: STAR

Wastes dumped by nearby tanneries polluting this water body in Hazaribagh in the capital and spreading an unbearable stench in the locality.

No uncertainty in polls by end-2008

General Moeen says at Boston reception

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Army chief General Moeen U Ahmed said fears over the uncertainty of holding free, fair, credible elections will be proved baseless by the end of 2008, as the government will take adequate measures in the remaining 14 months.

He was speaking at a civic reception in Boston, United States yesterday.

Asked when the army would return to the barracks, a smiling Moeen replied, "Where would the army return? Where do you want to expel us? We are citizens of

Bangladesh, after all. So we will stay with you and share your moments of joy and sadness."

"There is still 14 months left to hold elections in accordance with the roadmap. Fourteen months is not a short time... a lot will happen during this time. So, those who are anxious about whether acceptable elections can be held in a free, fair, and credible climate, their fears will be proved baseless," he said.

He said the present caretaker government is fulfilling a promise given by the past three elected governments, by separating the

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11 RU students charged with arson, violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police yesterday pressed charges against 11 student activists of Rajshahi University (RU) in two cases for arson and damaging properties on the university campus last August.

Police also submitted the final report on the killing of rickshaw puller Afzal Hossain during violence on RU campus saying they could not identify the killers.

Sub-inspector Rajab Ali of Motihar police station submitted the charge sheet against 10 students in the case filed by sub-inspector Faruk Hossain.

The accused are RU Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) General Secretary Ayen Uddin, former RU Samajtantrik Chhatra Front president Sushanta Sinha, BCL members

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ACC to quiz Hasina in Tk 3cr graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) will question Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina in connection with the Tk 3 crore graft case filed against her and six others on September 2.

Investigation Officer (IO) and ACC Deputy Director Morshed Alam in a petition with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka yesterday sought permission to quiz the former premier who has been detained since July 16 on extortion charges.

During a routine briefing at the ACC headquarters, ACC Secretary Mukles Ur Rahman said, "The former prime minister will be questioned as per the law."

The anti-graft body filed the

case with Tejgaon Police Station, accusing Hasina and others of helping a foreign company and its local partners win a deal for setting up a 100-MW barge-mounted power plant in Khulna for Tk 3 crore kickback.

Meanwhile, sources at the ACC said investigation into the wealth statement of Hasina has been stalled after her lawyer Fazle Nur Tapash served a legal notice on the commission on October 18.

The ACC secretary however claimed that the probe is going on as per the rules. He said, "A lawyer's legal notice cannot postpone the proceedings. We are not bound to follow the legal notice; we are abiding by the Supreme Court orders."

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DBH Rated AAA
Triple A for 3rd Consecutive Time

CREDIT RATING REPORT		
Date of Rating	Long Term	Short Term
27 September 2007	AAA	ST-1
09 October 2006	AAA	ST-1
16 March 2006	AAA	ST-1

Credit Rating Agency of Bangladesh Limited (CRAB) has retained the highest "AAA" (pronounced Triple A) rating in the Long Term and "ST-1" rating in the Short Term to Delta Brac Housing Finance Corporation (DBH) Limited.

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২৯ তম প্রতিষ্ঠা বার্ষিকী

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