

EC electoral talks

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on the committee.

Later, a party press release revealed names of 16 leaders instead of 15.

Since then a few party leaders expressed resentment as their names were not included in the committee and started mounting pressure on the party's Acting President Zillur Rahman.

Sources said Zillur was forced to nominate five low profile leaders—Advocate Shahara Khutun, Dr Hasan Mahmud, Abdul Mannan Khan, Prof Abu Sayeed and Raziauddin Ahmed Razu—for the committee.

Most committee members opposed the decision, saying if these five leaders have really been included in the committee, then half of the party's Central Working Committee members staying in Dhaka now are going to represent the AL at the EC dialogue.

An angered AL leader said, "As the party will hold a highly professional and technical discussion with the Election Commission, the committee should be small in size."

Sources also said some of the committee members will give their reaction at a meeting of the committee today. A few even told The Daily Star that they might not join the talks at the EC although they will work for preparing the party's statement to be placed before the committee.

"We wanted to keep the committee confined to the members of the party presidium and advisory council so that the committee has some dignity," said a committee member.

"But with the expansion of the committee, everything will be funny...as if we are going for a football match with the Election Commission. There will be no fruitful discussion if 21 members go for dialogue with the commission," the AL leader told The Daily Star preferring

ring not to be named.

A few AL leaders believe that the fresh names have been included to keep a balance between the pro-Sheikh Hasina and the dissident reformist blocks within the party.

The committee will sit today at the political office of detained AL President Sheikh Hasina at Dhannondi at 11:00am to review the EC's draft of reform proposals and prepare a set of recommendations.

AL Acting General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam is the member secretary of the committee. The other members are Suranjit Sengupta, Moti Chowdhury, Abdul Mal Abdul Muhith, Advocate Rahmat Ali, Mukul Bose, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan, Mahmudur Rahman Mannan, Akbaruzzaman, Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed, Abdur Rahman, Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Abdul Latif Siddiqui, and AKM Jahangir Hossain.

Govt official

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officers who had political connections, managed to grab key positions in the administration although some of them had corruption charges against them.

The last BNP-led alliance government put officers of choice at the filed administration, allegedly to get advantages in the now-postponed general elections.

Political influence on civil servants threw the administration's chain of command into disarray at the fag end of the BNP regime and during President Jajuddin Ahmed's caretaker government.

A group of government officials met secretly at Uttara late last year, purportedly to devise election win for the BNP, making the administration shaky, sources added.

SC asked

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Mainul sought cooperation from all quarters so that the separation can be done smoothly.

During a seminar on Sunday, administrative officials from across the country urged the government to return some judicial power to them so that they can initiate legal proceedings, order investigation into cognisable cases, maintain law and order, run mobile courts and inspect examination halls.

After holding negotiations with Bangladesh Administrative Service Association the following day, the government on Tuesday announced of giving the executive magistrates some judicial power.

However, some legal experts voiced strong opposition to the government decision, saying that giving judicial power to the executive conflicts with the spirit of separation of the judiciary from the executive.

Home ministers

FROM PAGE 1
Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec) in January.

Dhaka has been prevaricating around the bilateral treaty with India, which has been sitting with Bangladesh since 2003, despite several approaches from New Delhi since June 2003 because of the extra-territorial clause.

In its present shape, the draft recommends sharing information and evidence on suspects and instruments of terrorism.

If signed, the deal will also make detained suspects available for investigators across borders, request for search and seizure of instruments and proceeds of crimes and refining in money laundering that has link with terrorist activities within the Saarc states.

Both Dhaka and New Delhi announced in June that they would share information regarding terrorism, but no details on the nature of the information were released.

Experts from the eight Saarc states met in Colombo last month to discuss the MLAT treaty draft.

India and Sri Lanka backed the treaty in an experts group meeting in March that was followed by substantial talks during the 14th Saarc summit in New Delhi in April.

As of now, India has failed to secure bilateral mechanisms with other Saarc nations to cooperate in this area even though it has similar agreements with 25 other countries.

HOME SECSY FIRMAN

CHECKING TERRORISM

Home secretaries of Saarc countries have expressed their determination to strengthen mutual assistance to check terrorism and trans-border crimes, reports our correspondent from New Delhi.

They also stressed the need for better cooperation among police organisations of member countries yesterday, the second day of the three-day Saarc Home Ministers' conference in New Delhi.

The need for strengthening Saarc Terrorism Offence Monitoring Desk and Saarc Drug Offences Monitoring Desk in Sri Lanka was also discussed at the meeting.

The meeting also reviewed the progress in implementing the decisions of the first meeting of Saarc home ministers held in Dhaka in May last year.

Meanwhile, police chiefs of Saarc countries mooted the creation of a database to help security agencies of member nations combat terrorism, drug smuggling and cyber crime on Tuesday, the first day of the three-day meeting of home ministers and senior officials of Saarc nations.

Representatives from eight member countries stressed the need for an effective institutional mechanism for greater coordination and agreed on sharing information among police organisations to check trans-border crimes.

Turkish

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Meanwhile, unconscious body of Zamaluddin was recovered from a wholesale market for fish at Jatrabari.

Employees of the market rushed him to the DMCH at 1:30pm where the on-duty doctors pronounced him dead.

Relatives of the victim suspect 'rogue party' members might feed him something to snatch his valuables.

10 interrogated

FROM PAGE 1
Yeasmin to the general recording officer at prosecution office of the ACC at the Chief Metropolitan Magistrates' Court, Dhaka.

They amassed wealth worth Tk 142 crore during the five-year tenure of the alliance government. Their wealth includes movable and immovable property, investment and shares in different businesses, according to the charge sheet.

Mamun accumulated Tk 129 crore, paid tax on around Tk 27 crore and hid information about Tk 102 crore.

Yeasmin amassed wealth worth Tk 13 crore and paid tax on Tk 3.19 crore but concealed information about Tk 9.23 crore.

The couple thus hid information about Tk 110.97 crore.

Mamun used his close relation with Tarique, elder son of Khaleda - both now detained-- to amass the huge wealth, the charge sheet mentioned.

Mamun owns 9,000 shares worth Tk 33.94 crore in three industries and the couple owns houses and land and has fixed deposits in banks at home and abroad.

Mamun used to maintain 45 bank accounts at home and abroad. He has Tk 26.32 crore in three accounts with Natwest Bank and City Bank in London and Singapore. He has 24 fixed deposits in Banani branch of Dhaka Bank and seven in Banani branch of Dutch Bangla Bank, according to the charge sheet.

Meanwhile, the ACC had issued a notice on Mamun for submitting his wealth statement within 72 hours of receipt of the notice but he failed to do so. ACC Deputy Director Akther Hamid Bhuiyan then file a case against him on April 5 under the ACC Act and Emergency Power Rules 2007.

A special court sentenced Mamun to three years of imprisonment in the case. Assistant Director of ACC Ibrahim filed a case with Cantonment Police Station against Mamun and his wife on May 8 for accumulating wealth illegally. ACC Assistant Director Tahsinul Haque investigated the case.

The joint forces arrested Mamun, who was on the first list of 50 high profile graft suspects published by the commission on

February 18, from his Gulshan residence on March 26, and he is in Narsinghdi jail now.

FORMER AIGP AND HIS WIFE SUED

ACC Assistant Director Taufikul Islam filed a case with Tejgaon police station against former AIGP Shahidullah Khan and his wife Masuda Khan under the ACC Act and Emergency Power Rules.

In the first information report (FIR), the complainant said the AIGP in his wealth statement submitted to the commission on June 7 mentioned his own wealth worth about Tk 53 lakh.

Investigation found that he owned Tk 1.7 crore in his name and in the name of his wife and family members.

His wife is accused in the case for abetting her husband in hiding information about wealth.

4 murdered

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Local people took the wounded Anwar to Islami Bank Central Hospital at Kakrail where the doctors declared him dead.

Khasru Chowdhury, one of Anwar's accomplices, also received bullets in the incident.

In another occurrence, police recovered Aizul's body from Uttar Moudra under Madinabagh at 1:30am yesterday. Marks of stab injuries were seen in his back, chest and abdomen.

According to Ansarul Haq Razan, Aizul's brother, the van driver went out of the house at 3:00pm on Tuesday and did not come back until 10:00pm.

Police and relatives suspect the muggers might kill Aizul while he was returning home.

Unidentified killers slaughtered Shaheen between 12:00am and 6:00am, sources said. Khilgaon police recovered the body from Meria.

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Arrest warrant

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BNP plans

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unity in the party adding that it would not come by force. Pointing at the pro-Bhuiyan leaders he said, "It is not possible to unite with the opportunists".

Those who were expelled by the party chief have no right to call for unity in the party, he said adding that it is a matter of contemplation whether it would be useful for the party to forge unity with those who tried to split the party.

Expressing concern over the physical condition of Arafat Rahman Koko, youngest son of detained party chief Khaleda Zia, he urged the government either to send him abroad for better treatment or release him.

When asked about the Awami League's proposal to sit for dialogue with the chief adviser he said he was unaware of the agenda on which AL would have talks with the government.

He also urged the party leaders and activists to strengthen the

movement to free detained party chairperson Khaleda Zia.

"Since we did not have any decision," he said while replying to a question about their participation in the next local government election.

Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Joint Secretary General of the party, said those who do not have any respect for Khaleda Zia, have no right to work for BNP.

"BNP's door is only open to those who accept Khaleda Zia as chairperson and Khandaker Dewar as secretary general," he said adding that some leaders are fighting for self-rule in southeast Turkey since 1984.

The court also directed the authorities concerned to send a copy of the arrest warrant and the order of property attachment to the officer in charge (OC) of Gulshan Police Station for implementation of its strike.

Officials also raised the possibility of economic sanctions against Iraq.

"We are the country with which Iraq has the largest trade. But this has now become meaningless," Foreign Trade Minister Kursat Tuzmen said.

Acting office secretary Rizvi Ahmed and Jubo Dal general secretary Moazzem Hossain Alal, among others, were present.

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