

City Corporations

FROM PAGE 1 cases against him. After a year in hiding, KM Shahidullah, commissioner of ward no 12 had surrendered before Barisal's Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court months ago, and was awarded bail. He still has four cases against him, but none of these campaigning for his candidacy in the city corporation poll.

Commissioner of ward no 22, Advocate Atiqur Rahaman Atiq, also an accused in Tyara Shajahan murder case, was detained, but now after being freed on bail is on a campaign trail.

Commissioner Syed Jamal Hossain Noman who had left Barisal after 1/11, recently returned to his area to campaign for re-election. He has allegations against him of making a large sum of money through unfairly allotting many shops in the multipurpose city market.

Jainal Abedin, commissioner of ward no 10, Mosharaf Ali Khan Badshah, commissioner of ward no 16, Habibur Rahman Tipu, commissioner of ward no 6, and Jakir Hossain Jalal were also absconding after 1/11, all of whom are now back in their areas for contesting in the election.

Advocate KM Murtaza Abedin, commissioner of ward no 2, who has multiple criminal cases against him and was detained for nine months, is now back in his area being released on bail, and campaigning for re-election.

Abdul Quaiyum Jalali Ponkhi, commissioner of ward no 10 also vice-president of city BNP collected an application form for the municipal poll. He was arrested on charges of corruption after 1/11 and after being in jail for about two months got bail from the High Court, and now he is unofficially campaigning for votes, even before being selected.

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Detained Nasim

FROM PAGE 1 Nasim's health is being evaluated at every moment, he said, adding that the patient was suffering from hypertension.

Asked about Nasim's overseas treatment, Dr Mahubb said that they were not informed about it.

Meanwhile, Inspector General of Prisons (IG-Prisons) Brig Gen Zakir Hassan said that the condition of Nasim is improving.

"Signs are good as he can recognize people and can speak," he told The Daily Star last night.

He, however, said that they would have to wait over 72 hours to get a clear picture of the AL leader's condition.

Asked about the recommendations of the medical board, the IG-Prisons said that he is not aware of any such board.

"About 20 doctors have examined Mohammad Nasim so far," he added.

On October 8 last year, Nasim was sentenced to 13 years imprisonment in the graft case while his wife Laila Azumand Banu, tried in absentia, was also jailed for three years for aiding and abetting her husband in acquiring wealth through dishonest means.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case on March 21, 2007, against the two with Dhanmondi Police Station for furnishing "false information" in their wealth statements to the commission.

He was arrested at his Dhanmondi residence by the joint forces on February 3, 2007 on charges of corruption.

AL DEMAND AL yesterday demanded that the government make necessary arrangements for Nasim to be flown to Singapore within 24 hours.

It warned that the caretaker administration would be held responsible if his condition deteriorates or he dies.

The demand came at an emergency meeting of the Presidium at party's acting president Zillur Rahman's Gulshan residence.

Briefing newsmen afterwards, AL Acting General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam expressed concern over Nasim's condition that he said was because of the government.

"The condition of Mohammad Nasim is very critical with a part of his body paralysed. Though doctors have kept him under a 72-hour observation, his condition can take a turn for the worse," he said.

Ashraf alleged that the former home minister has been detained in a "silly case" while his wife, too, has been sentenced. He urged the government to take steps so that Nasim's wife can accompany him in this moment of crisis.

SURANJIT HOSPITALISED AL presidium member Suranjit Sengupta was admitted to the Labaid Cardiac Hospital (LCH) Monday following chest pains.

He is receiving treatment under the supervision of Prof Dr Baren Chakraborty, a senior consultant cardiologist.

Mesbah Ajad, spokesperson of Labaid Group, told The Daily Star that the condition of Suranjit is better at present and he is expected to leave the hospital within a day or two.

"He [Suranjit] was suffering from chest pain, nothing serious," he added.

Koirala Nepali Congress central member Prakash Sharan Mahata said.

Nepali Congress will sit in the opposition benches if a consensus is not reached on key issues, including the army integration and power sharing, he said.

However, Koirala's resignation would come into effect only after the Constituent Assembly elects a new President, Nepali Congress sources said.

Koirala, who also holds the post of the head of the state, has been advised by his lawyers not to step down until the election of president.

The seven Maoist Ministers in the interim government had earlier submitted their resignation to the party Chairman Prachanda in a bid to pressurise Koirala to quit and hand over power to them, but technically they are still the part of the Cabinet.

Similarly, Koirala is expected to announce his resignation in the Constituent Assembly meeting, but mere announcement would not make it effective. Until a President is elected, his resignation cannot come into effect, political observers said.

NCC legally He said the purpose of the NCC is to help the ACC. "We hand over cases to the Anti-Corruption Commission after studying them. The commission then files cases after weighing up the allegations," he added.

Matin said the NCC would not more publish any lists of corruption suspects.

Replying to a question, he said: "We have not compromised in any case. Allegations against individuals were brought on the basis on evidence."

The NCC handled 488 cases since its formation and 65 of those have so far been disposed of.

MOEEN January 11, 2007, Moeen said, "The situation was deteriorating very rapidly. The world saw people dying in Dhaka streets. Was this the way forward?"

Asked if the growing outrage among political parties and their cadres may spill over to the streets in the form of mass people-power protests, Moeen said, "Did they want to make trouble? Let them."

The army chief favours building of effective leadership in Bangladesh and educating its vast illiterate masses "so that they don't keep on cutting off their own feet."

Gen Moeen said, "You can judge the people of a nation by their type of leaders they select."

Khaleda to endorse

FROM PAGE 1 She alleged that the government is out to hold a stage-managed election to install its favoured candidates in different positions.

"They have been in power for two long years, but did not do the nation any good. The economy has slumped and law and order situation worsened. People are starving as a famine-like situation prevails," she said adding that this government has pushed the country 20 years backwards.

Only an elected government can help the nation out of this difficult situation, she continued.

Outlining 'achievements' of the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government, she said, "People are now forced to spend whatever they had earned during our rule."

Referring to her detained sons Tarique Rahman and Koko, she said their condition is deteriorating with every passing day and the government is responsible for this. She demanded that the two be sent abroad for treatment immediately.

Turning to strike situation, she said, "Prices of essentials have spiralled out of control, causing sufferings to the people. The government-sponsored syndicates are behind the unabated price hike."

Replying to a query, Khaleda said there is no division in her party. She thanked the grassroots leaders and workers for maintaining unity in the face of all odds.

Asked if her party would expel those who would participate in the forthcoming polls, she said decisions on the matter would be taken later.

COURT PROCEEDINGS The defence yesterday prayed for a stay on the case proceedings, citing a petition waiting to be disposed of at higher court.

On June 15, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court

might also be cancelled.

When, Election Commissioner Sohul Hussain's attention was drawn to the ongoing practice, he said offices of political parties are for their organisational use, adding, "Use of party offices and party names for electoral purposes is illegal...none should get involved in illegal activities."

The restrictions came into effect automatically with the announcement of the election schedule and will continue to be in effect till the polling day is over.

The EC instructions are coming almost a week into the announcement of the election schedule.

The returning officers (RO) and assistant returning officers (ARO) will be asked to publicise the commission's instructions in the constituencies where the polls will be held, the EC officials said referring to the draft of the circular.

Copies of the code of conduct are already being distributed among aspiring candidates along with application forms for candidacy, the officials added.

The EC has also been arranging workshops for aspiring candidates to assist them in learning the electoral laws and the code of conduct.

It already organised a workshop in Sylhet City Corporation on June 18.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda and two other election commissioners --- Muhammed Sohul Hussain and Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakhatat Hussain --- are expected to talk to aspiring candidates in Barisal City Corporation on June 26.

They will also talk to the aspiring candidates in Khulna and Rajshahi city corporations this month.

"We are trying to make them aware of the electoral rules and the code of conduct so they can abide by those during campaigns," Election Commissioner Sohul said.

back information about property worth Tk 6.94 crore in his wealth statement and had accumulated Tk 7.10 crore wealth beyond his known sources of income.

Foyzal's wife was accused in the case for aiding her husband in amassing illegal wealth.

MILION CASE Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Rabbani passed the order allowing interrogation of detained Milon at jail gate following a petition by ACC Assistant Director Rafiqul Islam, the IO of the graft case.

In the petition, the IO said that he had found involvement of the accused in acquiring wealth beyond his known sources of income. So, he needs to be questioned about his wealth, the IO added.

Milon was arrested in August last year for allegedly violating Emergency Power Rules (EPR) and later he was shown arrested in different cases filed for creating panic on the Dhaka University campus on August 21, 22, and 23 last year.

However, the police later submitted final reports of the cases clearing him of the charges.

Milon was re-arrested from the jail gate on charges of violating EPR after his release in those cases.

Pre-poll reforms

FROM PAGE 1 "Despite various calamities and crop loss, the country has attained 6.2 percent GDP in the first half of the current fiscal as well as 32 percent growth of remittance during July-April period in 2007-08," he apprised the donor agency's top executive.

The CA mentioned bumper production of paddy, wheat, potatoes and other crops by farmers overcoming the devastation done by the disasters.

He also thanked the World Bank executive for his personal contribution to providing the bank's support to Bangladesh.

The CA said, "Bangladesh has many challenges ahead, including high inflation, prices of food, climate change, power and energy."

The WB vice-president appreciated the caretaker government's performance as well as Bangladesh's "excellent progress and performance" on the economic front.

He assured continued World Bank support.

CA's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim briefed newsmen about the meeting.

World Bank Country Director Xian Zhu, ERD Secretary M Aminul Islam Bhuiyan and Secretary to CA's office Kazi Aminul Islam were also present.

Customs

FROM PAGE 16 importer appealed to the customs authority for one month's time to send back the powdered milk to its Malaysian exporter, alleging violation of L/C conditions in making the shipment.

The customs allowed the importer the time, barring Mozahed Sawdagar from getting the powdered milk he had won in auction.

Following a writ petition filed by Mozahed Sawdagar, the court on October 18, 2005 fined Abu Khaer Milk and Beverage Ltd Tk 1 lakh for delaying in sending back the cargo and ordered the customs authority to refund the deposit of Mozahed Sawdagar.

Meanwhile, the exporter concerned denied the accusation and refused to take back the cargo. As a result, the six containers lied at the Chittagong Port jetty and its date expired in 2006.

26 more killed FROM PAGE 16 policemen who were going to bathe in river, the military said.

Two days earlier a roadside blast killed two police in the same area.

Government troops claimed last year that they had cleared the rebels from the country's entire Eastern Province, but the insurgents still operate in scattered cells there and occasionally ambush the army and police.

Fighting is now concentrated in the north. The government has vowed to crush the rebels by the end of this year.

The ministry figures raises the number of rebels killed by government troops since the beginning of the year to 4,397, while 412 soldiers have died.

The rebels have since 1972 been fighting for a separate homeland for minority Tamils from the majority Sinhalese community.

The Tamil Tigers have fought since 1983 to create an independent homeland for ethnic minority Tamils, who have been marginalised for decades by governments controlled by the majority ethnic Sinhalese.

Turbulent Jamuna FROM PAGE 1 During a visit to different affected areas including Natuarpara, Shubbogachha and Maizbari in Kaziapur, The Daily Star found that many families in Shubbogachha and Maizbari are moving to safer places. The hapless were seen living under the open sky in the pouring rain.

Surman Ali, 55, of Maizbari village said he had moved his home eight times in the last 10 years. This year, he has taken shelter on a road as his dwelling was devoured by the Jamuna a few days ago.

Rokeya Khatun, 42, a widow of Natuarpara village, said she lost her hut built on the only piece of land she owns to river erosion. She has now taken shelter on the Meghai embankment with her livestock.

The WDB office sources said the water level of the Jamuna is increasing unusually due to heavy rain and the rush of water from upstream, causing massive erosion along the western bank. They said the water level of the Jamuna is still below the danger mark.

Nizamul Huq Bhuiyan, executive engineer of WDB, told The Daily Star that they, with the help of army personnel, started dumping sandbags along the bank to protect areas in Kaziapur and Shahzadpur upazilas.

He said he asked higher authorities to provide funding to implement projects to stop the erosion. He mentioned that they have built about 17 km of flood-control embankments on the western bank of the Jamuna which should save many areas from flooding this year.

However, locals claim that the embankments are built with sand and will not help improve the situation since they usually wash away in heavy current.

Tigers see off UAE

FROM PAGE 1 to score 204 before being all out in 45.4 overs.

While Bangladesh ambled in Lahore, host Pakistan needed an Asia Cup-record 100-run eighth-wicket stand between Sohail Tanvir and Fawad Alam to beat an inexperienced Hong Kong by 155 runs in Karachi.

UAE delayed the inevitable mainly because of a fighting 78 by middle-order batsman Khurram Khan after they had lost their top half with 117 runs on the board.

The victory, Bangladesh's first since their 3-0 series win against Ireland in March, not only ended their long spell of defeats but also virtually assured their place in the next round of the competition even before the acid test against defending champions Sri Lanka at the same venue today.

The day however belonged to Mohammad Ashraf who hit a 126-ball 109 for his second one-day hundred and added a record 141 runs for the third wicket with Rokibul Hasan (83) after Bangladesh won the toss and opted to bat in the Group A match.

Ashraf and Rokibul eclipsed the previous third wicket best of 134 between Shahriar Nafees and Shakib Al Hasan as Bangladesh landed their second ODI highest total behind 301 against Kenya in 2006 at Bogra.

Bangladesh skipper Ashrafur ensured his side made full use of a placid pitch after losing opener Nazimuddin for two in the third over and he found an able ally in opener Tamim Iqbal (40) with whom he added 95 runs for the second wicket to steer Bangladesh on course for a big total.

The partnership was broken when left-handed Tamim failed to heed his captain's call to avoid an unnecessary third run in the 24th over but Rokibul joined Ashrafur to steady the ship.

Ashrafur continued his different style of batting by replacing his usually aggressive approach with a more conservative one on way to his second century.

During his 126-ball innings the 23-year-old right-hander smashed eight boundaries to overcome a long slump in form as well as reached the three digit after a long gap as his first one-day hundred came in Bangladesh's famous win over world champions Australia at Cardiff in 2005.

On the other hand Rokibul made his second successive 80-plus score to help his side put a formidable score on the board. The right-hander hit nine boundaries during an 83-run knock which came from only 63 deliveries.

UAE captain Saqib Ali used as many as eight bowlers in an effort to dislodge the Ashrafur-Hasan stand.

Once Ashrafur and Rokibul were dismissed within two runs of each other, Bangladesh had a minor slump, losing Alok Kapali (one) and Mashrafe Mortaza (three) in quick succession but Dollar Mahmud's cameo 20 off nine balls that included the only six in the Bangladesh innings ensured 300 runs.

Paceman Zahid Shah was the pick of the UAE bowlers with 3-49. BRIEF SCORES: Bangladesh v UAE Bangladesh 300-8 in 50 overs (Ashrafur 109, Rokibul 83, Tamim 40; Zahid 49)

UAE 204 all out in 45.4 overs (Khurram 78, Arshad 41; Razzak 3-20, Kapali 2-27, Mahmudullah 2-38) Result: Bangladesh won by 96 runs. Man-of-the-match: Mohammad Ashrafur.

Pakistan v Hong Kong Pakistan 288-9 in 50 overs (Younis 67, Sohail 59, Fawad 63; Nadeem 4-51)

Hong Kong 133 all out in 37.2 overs (Tabarak 24, Zain Abbas 26; Sohail 2-20) Result: Pakistan won by 155 runs. Man-of-the-match: Sohail Tanvir.

BNP, allies FROM PAGE 16 Mohammad Mojahid has been repeatedly demanding withdrawal of the election schedule for local bodies announced by the Election Commission.

But a BNP leader last night told The Daily Star, "We cannot sit idle if Awami League participates in election. So, we have to find out a new strategy to join the election." He hoped that top leaders of the alliance would consider the 'demand' of grassroots level leaders.

Seeking anonymity, he also said many of the party leaders have already collected nomination forms and registered their names as candidates for elections to city corporations and municipalities. The party must consider their sentiment, he added.

Four-party leaders will sit soon to decide on participation in local body polls.

But the meeting might be held after the ALCWC meeting, sources said.

Delwarto party leaders Delwar yesterday reiterated his earlier stance on local body polls, saying BNP will not participate in 'elections under a blueprint'.

"Those who will take part in local body polls will be branded by the people as lackeys of the government," he said at a meeting with Sreepur Thana BNP at his NAM apartment.

Meanwhile, Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal leaders and workers yesterday observed a 2-hour token hunger strike on the ground floor of NAM Building-5 to press for release of Khaleda and overseas treatment of her two detained sons.

They also demanded release of Juba Dal General Secretary Moazzem Hossain Alal.

ACC to freeze FROM PAGE 16 The ACC filed the case against the couple on June 18 with Motijheel Police Station for taking bribe from a contractor of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority.

The case mentioned that Nazmul Huda demanded a bribe from the owner of a bridge maintenance firm in exchange for a work order for the maintenance of the Jamuna Bridge.

Huda was communications minister at that time.

As per his demand, the owner of the firm provided Huda with Tk 6 lakh, depositing the amount to the account of weekly Khoboror Antorale at the Amin court (Motijheel) branch of Agrani Bank in 20 cheques between September 30, 2004 and October 18, 2006, the case statement said.

The firm was given the work order.

Sigma Huda, who used to run the weekly, withdrew the money from the account, the complainant said.

Nato raids FROM PAGE 16 insurgency-related violence so far this year.

The coalition said Monday that it had killed about 55 insurgents in a two-day battle in neighbouring Paktia province. Paktia borders Pakistan, where some Taliban and al-Qaeda militants are based.

Summit

FROM PAGE 16 fresh appeal along with a new independent opinion determining the net value of the company.

The opinion given by Hoda Vasi Chowdhury & Company now once again put Summit's net value at \$122 million on September 30 last year. Summit noted that Hoda Vasi was one of the four Power Cell-recommended professional firms.

Hoda Vasi's opinion confirms correctness of the certificate issued by SF Ahmed & Co.

In a letter addressed to the chief adviser's special assistant in charge of the energy ministry, Summit now requested withdrawal of the Power Cell's March 31 letter that disqualified the company and its bid partner GE of USA.

The Power Cell had originally set June 11 as the project's bid submission date. It has now fixed July 15 for this.

Both the Bibiyana and Sirajganj power project tenders, floated by the Power Cell, now lack competition. Bibiyana scheme has Chevron (Bibiyana gas field's operator) and a consortium led by Powertek as bidders, and Sirajganj scheme just has Powertek as bidder. Summit is trying to qualify in both these bids.

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