

DIALOGUE WITH CARETAKER GOVERNMENT

# BKP alerts CG about remarks by a quarter about military

Demands all local govt elections before national polls

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Kalyan Party (BKP) yesterday alerted the caretaker government about insidious comments of few political parties or quarters about military forces "to provoke a face-off between the people and the armed forces".

The newly floated political party, which is now 205-day old, made the suggestion during its dialogue with the government at the chief adviser's office as part of the ongoing consultations with the parties on transition from the current interim regime.

Asked to clarify the matter of people-military confrontation at a post-dialogue joint press briefing, BKP Chairman Maj Gen (retd) Syed M Ibrahim said the chief of a big political party stated in the dock that they will see their end.

The BKP chief interpreted that the word 'their' indicated the caretaker government and those backing this government.

As the caretaker government is not an elected government, the joint forces are rendering their hard labour in support of the interim government, he said.

On this score, Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman, who is working as the caretaker government's spokesman in the dialogues with the political parties, said the national dialogue would have to advance on the basis of objective

statement considering overall statements.

Maj Gen (retd) Ibrahim, who led a seven-member delegation to the talks, said they stated in the dialogue that according to his party's evaluation, people's confidence in the caretaker government has been on the decline in the last 18 months.

The party suggested regaining people's confidence mainly in two ways: by introducing rationing system in rural and urban areas for the poor and apprising common masses, particularly rural people, in detail of the previous corruption and how it adversely impacted national life.

About the downturn in people's confidence, Zillur said history would consider the subject of popularity. "The present government is moving focusing on their responsibility," he said, adding that they will certainly consider public party.

Replies to a question, the education adviser said there is no possibility of advancing parliamentary elections in October because of the factor of preparation. He, however, said elections for local bodies would not put any impact on national elections, slated for December.

The BKP proposed electing the president by people's direct vote or vote of electoral colleges comprising elected representatives from

various tiers-like union parishad, municipality, upazila and the parliament.

It also strongly advocated for holding all local government elections, including upazila polls, before the general election, or upazila and parliamentary elections on the same day.

The BKP chief proposed that ethnic groups should be invited to take part in the dialogue.

He asked for inviting the Bangladesh Hindu League, the only political party representing the Hindu community, which has already appealed to the chief adviser in this regard.

He also suggested inviting Christian and Buddhist communities under coverage of the civil society, as they have no political party of their own.

The other proposals in their 9-point proposition put forward in the dialogue include comprehensive administrative reforms, balance of power between lawmakers and ministers, ministers and the prime minister, and the prime minister and the president.

They sought amendment to the Constitution to be done by the next elected parliament, and before that, some work can be done through forming Constitution Review Committee, changing the word 'Sand' in national charter for consensus or policy framework, bicameral parliament, were present on the occasion.

power to the army and law-enforcing agencies before and during the election to check violence.

Moreover, they called for holding the stalled general election within the timeframe of roadmap "to avoid crisis of confidence", and starting the trial of war criminals.

The BKP thanked the government, the Election Commission and the army for their efforts in preparing voter list with photographs.

Chief Adviser Fakhrudin Ahmed along with three advisers concerned was present at the dialogue.

This was the 16th round of the ongoing dialogue between caretaker government and political parties and different stakeholders.

The education adviser informed that they would hold talks with minor groups of population in Khagrachari on June 27.

He said the first rural and urban regional dialogue would be held in Chittagong on June 28. Dialogue with Jatiya Party will be held on June 30 while Awami League on July 3.

Communications Adviser Ghulam Quader, Law Adviser AF Hassan Arif, BKP Secretary General Abul Kalam Azad and other leaders of the party, including Mohammad Ali Sarker, Motaz Begum and Abdul Hannan Palash, were present on the occasion.



PHOTO STAR  
Group Theatre Federation forms a human chain at Segun Bagicha in the city yesterday demanding an increase in budgetary allocation for the cultural sector.

## DELIMITATION OF JS SEATS Hearing in Khulna tomorrow

UNB, Khulna

The hearing on the written objections regarding the redrawn boundaries of parliamentary seats in Khulna will be held tomorrow.

According to local election office, the hearings will take place at the Deputy Commissioner's conference room.

Chief Election Commissioner Dr ATM Shamsul Huda and Election Commissioners Sohul Hossain and Brig (Retd) M Sakhawat Hossain will attend the hearing for Khulna 5 and 6, Satkhira 3, and Jessore 4, 5 and 6.

## 10 JOCVs arrive

A 10-member team of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) have arrived Bangladesh on Tuesday for a period of two years assignment, says a press release.

The volunteers are Yumi Osawa, Kei Shiga, Miki Kashiwagi, Kenji Tsuji, Mayuko Takahashi, Yuya Ishitobi, Ayako Hirashima, Hisashi Shibata, Ryoko Miyashita and Yuko Miyamoto.

They will work on rural community development, environment education and primary school education in different regions of the country.

At present, 44 Japanese volunteers are working in different organisations across the country.

"It is a win-win situation as Bangladeshi workers are contributing to the economy of Brunei and sending remittances to Bangladesh as well," he said.

It was informed in the meeting that, presently, per month 100 Bangladeshi people are going to

## Dhaka committed to maintaining liberal Muslim country image

CA tells Brunei Darussalam envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Brunei with confirmed jobs and higher salary.

The high commissioner said no middleman is working in the recruitment process of manpower rather it is going on through direct government-to-government contact.

"Big manpower recruitment will take place in Brunei and Bangladeshi workforce can avail of the opportunity," the diplomat said.

The chief adviser said the existing brotherly relations between Bangladesh and Brunei are deeply rooted in common faith and shared culture and history.

Fakhrudin recalled his meeting with the Sultan of Brunei on the sidelines of the 13th OIC Summit in Dakar, the capital of Senegal.

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

## Int'l exhibition on pollution control begins

DU CORRESPONDENT

With a view to creating awareness on pollution control management, a three-day international exhibition on pollution control and environment management technology begins at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre (BCFCC) today.

A droit Environment Consultants Ltd will organise the exhibition styled "Pollutec Bangladesh 2008" where a total of 11 international and 29 local companies will demonstrate and display their technologies, services and products related to the pollution control and management.

Dr Nasir Uddin Khan, managing director of Adroit Environment Consultants Ltd, informed this at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday.

Nasir expressed hope that the exhibition will create awareness among business groups, play a matchmaking role between polluters and pollution control solution providers and to create business opportunity for the local business groups related to the environment management.



PHOTO STAR  
Awami League leaders sing the national anthem at the beginning of a discussion marking the party's 59th founding anniversary at the Engineers' Institute auditorium in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

## Concern over bus fare hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations yesterday expressed grave concern over the hike in bus fare in different routes in the city and urged the government to take immediate steps to this end.

In a joint statement, the leaders of Nagorik Sanghati, Citizens' Rights Movement, Green Voice and Projonner Chetona said that when the people are tired of struggling with the hiked price of essentials, the city transports have been realising extra fares, giving price hike of

CNG gas as an excuse.

Although Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) sometimes fined some buses, it did not work at all. Those buses have again charged extended fares from the passengers and no steps were taken against the owners of these buses.

Blaming the management system and corruption of BRTA for this anarchic situation, the leaders of those organisations also said that BRTA should inform people why the route permit of these companies who charged extended money even after being fined have yet not been cancelled.

They also urged the Ministry of Communications to take necessary actions.

Signatories to the statement include President of Nagorik Sanghati Dr ASM Atikur Rahman, General Secretary Sharifuzzaman Sharif, President of Citizens' Rights Movement Dr Masud Rahman, Secretary General Tushar Rehman, Coordinator of Green Voice Alamgir Kabir, Joint Coordinator Rashed Rabbi and Convener of Projonner Chetona Golam Nabi Hossain.

Journalist Kamal Lohani and Jatiya Kabita Parishad will be awarded Jahanara Imam Memorial Award at the programme.

In the morning, the Forum will place wreaths at the grave of Jahanara Imam at Mirpur.

Promta Aabriti Sangathan, a recitation organisation, will also hold a discussion, rally and recitation session in Chittagong to mark the day.

Bangladesh fair begins in Nepal on Aug 26

UNB, Dhaka

A four-day 'Bangladesh Single Country Fair' will be held at Decoration Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC), Kathmandu on August 26-29 to promote local products in the Nepalese market.

Nepal, the most potential market of Bangladeshi products among the SAARC countries, is keen to import Bangladeshi products like saree, readymade garments, all kinds of ladies wear, medicine, ceramic and sanitary wares, food and beverage, industrial products, electric cable and wire, plastic wares, household durables, toiletries and cosmetics, lubricant oil and services.

Bangladesh is also the best choice of Nepalese students for higher study. So, the universities can expose their services in Nepal.

An agreement was signed on June 23 with Surround Nepal, a leading event management company and the authorised agent of DECC, and Dhaka International Exhibition Company (DIEC).

Surround Nepal Director Marketing Rajesh KC and Managing Director of DIEC Enayet Karim signed the agreement on behalf of their respective companies.



PHOTO STAR  
Justice Golam Rabbani speaks at a discussion at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) auditorium yesterday. On his left is Convenor of National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Electricity and Port Engineer Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah and on his right are Shafikur Rahman Mazumder and Sahida Sarkar. (Story on Page 2)

Citycell One™  
It's Simple.

Celebrating  
2nd  
Hello Tunes' Birthday

## Registration Free! for Hello Tunes!



Welcome everyone with a tune

For registration, type REG and SMS to 9999

To set tune, type the song's name and the singer's name and SMS to 4356 (HELO)

Or dial \*007

Hello  
Tunes™

\* Offer valid till July 26, 2008 • Charge, VAT and Conditions Apply  
Helpline: 121, 011 99 121 121 (from any phone)