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Release of Khaleda at final stage

Claims Adviser Zillur
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education and Commerce Adviser Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman said yesterday that the procedures for the release of former prime minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia are at their final stages.

Dr Hossain Zillur also said that the government would hold both formal and informal talks with political parties regarding holding of the national election under the state of emergency.

"I can let you know that the release of Khaleda Zia is at the final stages," said Zillur, an adviser often regarded as the spokesperson of the caretaker government.

He was replying to questions by reporters after a workshop in city's LGED conference hall yesterday.

The education adviser, one of the government's key negotiator

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REGISTRATION WITH EC

Parties must bid bye to front organisations

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Three major political parties --- Awami League (AL), BNP and Jatiya Party --- must amend their constitutions severing ties with at least 17 of their auxiliary organisations in order to be registered with the Election Commission (EC), according to the planned new electoral law.

The parties will also have to scrap from their constitutions the provision that allows them to have overseas chapters.

A new provision in the electoral law will make it mandatory for political parties to be registered with the EC for becoming eligible to contest in the parliamentary poll.

The council of advisers to the

caretaker government on Wednesday approved a number of proposed amendments to the Representation of People's Order (RPO) 1972.

But successful implementation of the proposed laws remains uncertain as major political parties have been vehemently opposing the restriction on having auxiliary organisations of students and professionals.

They said the new provisions are undemocratic and contradictory to the spirit of the constitution that ensures the people's freedom of speech, conscience, and association.

According to the approved proposals, political parties seeking registration must declare in their constitutions that they will not

have auxiliary organisations of students, teachers and workers, and neither will they have overseas chapters.

Once the new law is enacted, no political party will be allowed to contest in parliamentary elections unless it is registered with the EC, and a registration may be cancelled if a party violates the provisions of the amended electoral law.

After the new law is promulgated as an ordinance by the president, the EC will invite applications for registration from political parties. According to the plan, the EC might begin the process of registration by the middle of this month.

Parties seeking registration will have to amend their constitutions

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3 'robbers' beaten to death

UNB, Jessore

Three alleged robbers were beaten to death and two others injured in Monirampur upazila of the district on Friday night.

Police said a team of community police chased five robbers while they were roaming in Chapakona Bazar area of the upazila in a private car at about 9:30pm.

They also informed the other teams of community police about the robbers over mobile phone.

Being informed, local people and other teams of community police intercepted the car at Zirat rail gate, dragged the five out of the vehicle and beat them up severely, killing three on the spot and injuring two others.

The dead were identified as Mazed, 25, Abdur Rouf, 50, and Kamrul, 30.

On information, police rushed to the spot, rescued the injured

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2,000 killed as Russia bombs Georgian towns

Conflict escalates as Moscow sends hundreds of tanks, troops to separatist province of South Ossetia

AP, Gori

Russia sent hundreds of tanks and troops into the separatist province of South Ossetia and bombed Georgian towns yesterday in a major escalation of the conflict that has left scores of civilians dead and wounded.

More stories on page 7

Georgia, a staunch US ally, launched a major offensive Friday to retake control of breakaway South Ossetia. Russia, which has close ties to the province and posts peacekeepers there, responded by sending in armed convoys and military combat aircraft.

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Who's Mannan Bhuiyan?

Asks Delwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday said a vested quarter that "created a BNP in its factory" is now persuading leaders like Mannan Bhuiyan to make remarks against the party's decision to boycott the August 4 polls.

"Who is Mannan Bhuiyan to say that BNP is in the wrong to decide not to take part in the August 4 elections? Khaleda Zia had ousted him from the party," Delwar said at a views-exchange meeting at the Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium in the capital.

Bhuiyan on Friday told journalists that the party's decision to boycott the local body election was wrong.

Delwar also brought allegations against the caretaker government that it wants to hold the general election under the state of emergency to ensure the victory of the "politicians of entente". If the emergency is lifted, BNP will emerge victorious in the polls, he said.

Dhaka city unit of Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum, a body of pro-BNP lawyers, organised the meeting

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Bangladesh Adibashi Forum brings out a procession near the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka yesterday marking International Day of the World's Indigenous People.

PHOTO: STAR

CTG CUSTOMS HOUSE

Automation link 'sabotaged'

Crime syndicate gets into action 24 hours after inauguration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Criminals Friday night disconnected the link between the automation server and the Import General Manifest (IGM) and Export General Manifest (EGM) module in Chittagong Customs House halting the automation system introduced there less than 24 hours before.

They unplugged two cables linking the automation server to the module. Officials and businessmen concerned termed the incident an act of sabotage.

Sources said the plugs might have been pulled out after the server room of the Chittagong Customs House was closed at 10:00pm Friday.

Shipping agents, freight forwarders and stakeholders failed to submit IGM and EGM online to the IGM-EGM module yesterday morning. They informed customs

authorities about the issue and the problem was fixed almost immediately after discovery.

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) Director Amirul Haq, who was the chief coordinator of the automation implementing process, termed the incident an act of sabotage and a futile bid to disrupt the system.

Amirul Haq, also a director of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), held a vested syndicate responsible.

"The syndicate that kept us hostage and deprived the government of revenue must have had a hand behind the sabotage as they know that they would lose their grip on taxation procedures due to the automation system," he said.

Amirul demanded that the

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AL warns again against holding upazila elections before JS polls

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League central leaders yesterday questioned the caretaker government's mandate for holding upazila elections before the parliamentary polls, sounding a note of warning against such a plan.

They said no other election before the parliamentary polls will be acceptable to the political parties and the people.

"Who has given the caretaker government the mandate to arrange upazila elections before the parliamentary polls? No upazila election before the parliamentary polls will be allowed," AL presidium member Tofail Ahmed said.

He was addressing a discussion meeting marking the death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at National Museum in the afternoon.

Another presidium member, Amir Hossain Amu, also addressed the discussion with Prof. AAMS Arefin Siddique in the chair.

Tofail said the caretaker government is yet to hand over power

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Hosts off to a gold start

Rare attack on foreigners in China leaves relative of a US coach dead

REUTERS, Beijing

China made a winning start to their Olympics on Saturday but the murder of a relative of a US volleyball coach in Beijing dashed hopes for a peaceful Games.

A 47-year-old Chinese man attacked two American relatives of the coach and a Chinese tour guide at a popular tourist site, leaving one man dead, Beijing police said.

The assailant then jumped to his death from high up the Drum Tower, a 700-year-old 45-metre (yard) high monument once used to sound time for the Chinese capital's residents.

Attacks on foreigners in Beijing are rare. Olympic organisers have deployed a 100,000-strong security force to protect the 10,500 athletes and thousands of spectators, citing the threat of terrorism but sparking criticism they were blocking protests.

Chinese hopes of quick wins were partly met as competition got under way in earnest. A woman's weightlifting gold and men's

shooting gold came their way, though they lost the first medal to be awarded after the Chinese favourite buckled under pressure.

Katerina Emmons won the first gold, in the women's 10-metre air rifle, for the Czech Republic. Pre-Games favourite Du Li of China finished fifth and left in tears.

"There was pressure for all of us but for her it was even harder," Emmons said of her rival. "I'm sorry, but the Chinese press is putting a lot of pressure on Chinese athletes."

"I wasn't fully prepared for the pressure of competing at home," said Du, who won gold in Athens in

2004.

Pang Wei restored home pride in the shooting with victory in the men's 10-metre air pistol, the second gold for China after Chen Xixia won, as expected, in the women's 48kg weightlifting.

US swimming sensation Michael Phelps set off on his quest for a record eight gold medals, diving into the pool at the bubble-wrap Water Cube building to win his heat in the 400 meters individual medley in an Olympic record.

Phelps first gold could come on Sunday, when the mighty US swim team is well-placed to triumph in

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MONEY LAUNDERING Deal with KL soon on info sharing

Repatriation of smuggled money subjected to negotiation

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh is going to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Malaysia for the first time for exchange of information about money smuggled into that country.

Sources in Bangladesh Bank say the MoU would be signed between the financial intelligence units of the central banks of the two countries on August 12.

The central bank is also negoti-

ating with its counterparts in 25 other countries for similar agreements.

The MoU is focused on sharing information on money laundering. "It'll help investigation of cases in which some criminals have smuggled out huge money from Bangladesh into Malaysia," says a central bank source.

"The government will negotiate the issue of further cooperation in

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Garment workers clash with Ansars 2 bullet-hit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Clashes between garment workers and Ansars at Nayarhat in Ashulia yesterday left four people injured, two of them with gunshot wounds.

For overnight assaults on two of their fellows, workers of Biswas Synthetic Ltd attacked the Ansars camp on the factory premises at around 9:30am. The Ansars replied by shooting at the protesters.

Later, the camp was withdrawn in the face of demonstrations.

The injured were admitted to local hospital and clinic. Of them, two are workers and two factory

officials.

The employees agitated also for regular payment of salary, introduction of eight-hour work period and removal of the general manager.

Production remained suspended throughout the day for clashes and agitation.

Witnesses said the Ansars personnel deployed in the factory slapped two employees on the graveyard shift. In the morning, co-workers of the two flew into a rage when they learned about the incident.

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Overall Medal	G	S	B
CHN	2	0	0
USA	1	1	1
KOR	1	1	0
CZE	1	0	0
ESP	1	0	0

Czech Republic's Katerina Emmons shows off the gold medal she won in the women's 10m Air Rifle at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing Shooting Range Hall yesterday. Emmons's was the first gold medal of the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

PHOTO: AFP



ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear readers,
For the Beijing Olympic Games 2008, The Daily Star Sport's all three pages are turning into four colours from today, illustrated with attractive photos, graphics and news and stats. This will continue until the end of the Games. Stay with Star Sport.

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August 10, 2008

Karwan Bazar Branch: Zenith Tower, Holding # 40, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215

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