

## Khaleda, Hasina agree

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important political figures in Bangladesh for more than 15 years since 1991, but they have been refusing to talk to each other, which many believe is the main reason for the 'politics of confrontation' in the country.

Explaining the initiative, Barrister Rafiq said both leaders should take lessons from the events of 1/11, and should sit together for a dialogue to sort out their 'misunderstandings', and to work together for the betterment of the country and its people.

He said neither of the parties might come back to power. There might be a third party coming to power or there might be a coalition government, he added.

But apart from leading their parties the two top leaders should work together in the country's interest, he observed.

Talking about elections, he said the government should take steps to hold the stalled parliamentary election first.

"They must go for the national poll first because there is no time left now for either the upazila or the city corporation elections."

Rafiq also said there will be no pre-set agenda for the meeting, the two leaders themselves will pick their topics during the talk.

"For example, they might decide that they will not boycott the parliament from now on, and bring new faces into politics."

Rafiq first talked to the media about the necessity for bringing the two political archrivals to a discussion table after Khaleda had been released on bail on September 11.

Following his statement the interim government requested him to take the initiative, eliciting the lawyer's acquiescence.

Asked why the government wants to bring the two leaders to a dialogue, he said it might be because its 'minus two' policy failed.

The lawyer said he will talk to Law Adviser AF Hassan Arif so to know if there is any new development in the government camp regarding the matter.

He said he took the initiative as a concerned citizen, but eventually the matter became the most talked about issue in the country.

"I believe more than 90 percent of the people now support the initia-

## BNP, allies

**FROM PAGE 1**  
delegation. Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiqui, MK Anwar, Nazrul Islam Khan, Selima Rahman, Zainul Abedin, Abdul Mannan and Ruhul Kabir Rizvi might be the other members.

None of those who had once sided with the pro-reform group led by Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has been included in the team to be finalised by the chairperson.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, alliance leaders said they will place some common proposals that include immediate lifting of the state of emergency, holding of parliamentary election before any other polls, and scrapping of constituency demarcation and changes in the Representation of the People Order (RPO).

They might also propose reinstating the provision that allows a person to be on the electoral roll anytime.

The parties will ask the commission to suspend registration of the political parties or follow the previous system in this regard.

Besides, they will propose that the EC cancel the provision of no-vote.

A committee led by BNP standing committee member Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiqui has already prepared a set of proposals.

Khaleda Zia okayed the proposals in consultation with party colleagues last night.

"I hope the proposals will reflect the party's vision and mission," Tanbir told The Daily Star, adding that their organisation will play a responsible role in the conduct of a free and fair national election to "bail people out of the present situation."

"The constitution says a person can participate in election if he/she is a citizen of the country, but they [EC] say voter enrolment is a must for that," he said, adding that this is a violation of the constitution.

He said the revised RPO contains contradictory provisions and as a responsible political party BNP will draw the EC's attention to the matter.

About the registration requirement of severing ties with chapters abroad, Tanbir said, "If the countries where the Bangladesh expatriates live do not bear them from getting involved with politics back home, then why should we?"

To meet the criteria laid down for registration, the parties will have to amend their constitutions. But it requires holding national councils, and that is not possible for time constraints and lack of a congenial atmosphere, a BNP leader said.

According to the party sources, the BNP delegation will raise objection to the voter list ordinance.

Citing the EC's 'aim to ensure accountability within the political parties', they will call for measures so the commission itself can be held accountable for what it does.

They will also ask the EC to explain some new provisions like the one that says 'Commission has the authority to change a polling centre if it is controlled by any candidates'.

"How will they [EC] find out if a candidate is controlling a centre? A polling station being in front of a candidate's house does not necessarily mean it is controlled by him," a leader said.

Originally, September 7 was scheduled for dialogue with BNP and September 8 for Jamaat and IOJ. But the four-party alliance partners boycotted the talks and said they would not attend any dialogue if the 'unconstitutional' electoral provisions and rules are not scrapped.

However, things worked out in favour of the talks after the release of BNP chief Khaleda Zia on September 11.

**BJP COMPLAINS**  
BJP Chairman Andaleev Rahman Partho yesterday criticised the EC for not inviting them to the dialogue.

"We have been ignored though we had representation in last parliament, one of the criteria set for invitation," he said at a press conference at his Baridhara residence.

"As a component of the alliance, BJP won four seats in the last election. But for reasons unknown, the Election Commission did not invite us. It however had no problem sitting with parties like Kalyan Party that never had representation in parliament," he alleged.

## AL: Release Hasina

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release of Sheikh Hasina is made unconditional and permanent, and we will not participate in any election without her leadership," AL Presidium Member Motia Chowdhury said yesterday adding, "No election will be allowed to be held in Bangladesh without Sheikh Hasina."

She was speaking at a discussion at the Institution of Engineers' Bangladesh (IEB) in the capital.

The Association of People from Kotalipara in Dhaka organised the discussion demanding permanence of Hasina's release.

Motia said those who had been involved in widescale corruption and misuse in the country and had been responsible for making the events of 1/11 necessary, are being released from jails, but those including Sheikh Hasina who made a 'golden Bangladesh' during their regime are not being released.

Speaking at the discussion as chief guest, AL Acting President Zillur Rahman urged his party leaders to work unitedly to regain state power.

He also alleged that 'attempts are on to rehabilitate the fallen rulers,' meaning BNP and its allies.

"Sheikh Hasina is now very sick and will return among us soon," he said urging all to pray for her quick recovery.

AL Presidium Member Amir Hossain Amu also demanded permanence of Hasina's release 'for the sake of creating a congenial atmosphere for holding a free and fair election'.

He also urged the government to give up the idea of any policy summit ahead of the election. "Your only duty is to hold the national election. We don't want to see yet another new plan," Amu quipped at the government.

Tofail Ahmed, another presidium member, said the country will spiral into a political crisis if the national election is not held by the year end.

He said his party has taken all preparations for movements along with preparing for the election.

## Lanka lifts ban

**FROM PAGE 16**  
The ICL, bankrolled by India's largest listed media company Zee Telefilms, was launched last year in a direct conflict with the powerful Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

The BCCI not only barred any ICL player or official from taking part in official cricket, but also convinced other boards to take similar action against their 'rebel' players.

The Indian board also started its own lucrative Indian Premier League Twenty20 competition, featuring the world's top stars, to counter the ICL.

Not surprisingly, ICL officials welcomed Sri Lanka's decision. "This is a step in the right direction," ICL business head Himanshu Mody told the Cricinfo website.

"We hope that this decision will pave the way for Sri Lankan cricketers to play both for the ICL and their country in the near future."

The ICL's first season last year comprised Twenty20 and 50-over-a-side matches between eight teams that included a mix of international players and domestic Indian cricketers.

Among the top stars aligned with the ICL are retired former Test captains Brian Lara of the West Indies and Inzamam-ul Haq of Pakistan, besides fiery New Zealand fast bowler Shane Bond and veteran Chris Cairns.

The Dhaka Warriors will be added as the ninth team in the second season starting on October 10.

## Bill Gates richest

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briefly held the position this year but who has seen his Berkshire Hathaway investment group's shares slip 15 percent since February and is now worth \$50 billion.

According to Forbes, whose list was published late Wednesday, the golden 400 have 1.3 billion dollars net worth or more. However, their combined net worth rose only 30 billion dollars, or two percent, to 1.57 trillion dollars.

Forbes said that rising oil and dizzy air prices fuelled the entry of 31 new members into the ultra-rich club and the return of eight previous members.

A notable arrival was Mark Zuckerberg, 24, founder of the social networking site Facebook. Forbes estimates his worth at 1.5 billion dollars.

Newcomers ranged from fertilizer tycoon Alexander Rovt to Patron tequila founder John Paul DeJoria and Norman Braman, the car dealer and art collector.

Meanwhile, turmoil on the stock and housing markets saw 33 others drop off the list, including the former head of the troubled insurance giant AIG, Maurice Greenberg, and a former head of the online auction site eBay, Margaret Whitman.

Biggest gainers were led by New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg who took eighth place with 20 billion dollars worth after a transaction put a new value on his Bloomberg media and financial data network.

The biggest loser was casino tycoon Sheldon Adelson, whose fortune fell 13 billion dollars over 12 months -- the equivalent to 1.5 million dollars an hour -- although he still has 15 billion dollars and occupies 15th place.

## Frozen embryo baby

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of the gynaecology and obstetrics department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The landmark success came 24 years after the first frozen embryo baby was born in Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital in Melbourne, Australia.

The technology is similar to 'in vitro fertilisation', a process by which egg cells are fertilised by sperm outside the woman's womb in an artificial environment.

The process involves hormonally controlling the ovulation process, removing ova (eggs) from the woman's ovaries and letting sperm fertilise them in a fluid medium.

The fertilised egg (zygote) is then transferred to the patient's uterus for a successful pregnancy.

Married five years ago, Afzal-Salma couple decided to have a test tube baby as they failed to have a baby in three and a half years of their marriage.

Then they started treatment for infertility and decided to go for a test tube baby.

In their first attempt to having a test tube baby, 14 embryos were born to the couple.

On September 19 last year, three embryos were transferred to the uterus of Salma. But the attempts failed.

The remaining 11 embryos were kept frozen and preserved in a nitrogen can at a temperature of minus 196 degree centigrade in Infertility Care and Research Centre (ICRC) in the capital for four months.

"On January 18 this year, we placed four embryos in Salma's

## Acid throwers

**FROM PAGE 1**  
As their skins and flesh were burning in acid, they saw through the door two persons running away, the couple claimed.

They said they could not make out the faces of the perpetrators because of the enveloping darkness.

Twenty percent of Ashiqur's body beneath the navel was burnt while seven to eight percent of his father's body including the back was burnt.

The three were first admitted to the Burn Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) the same day.

"The baby may need a reconstructive surgery," Samanta Lal Sen, director of the unit, told The Daily Star.

ASF officials visited the family on Wednesday as they were undergoing treatment in DMCH, and took them to ASF hospital to provide better care.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mozammel said he had filed a case with Arahazur police station on Wednesday accusing seven people for the acid attack. The accused include five who had allegedly abducted him in 2001.

The complainant said Chan Mia and Solaiman took Tk 1.80 lakh and 27.5 decimal of land from him on February 22, 2001 for sending him to Australia, but did not follow through.

As Mozammel complained to Narayanjan police superintendent about the matter, the accused promised to return the money and the land by August that year.

"But they kidnapped me instead on August 23. After keeping me captive for 17 days, they took me to Keraniganj area and started beating me up," Mozammel said.

As some local people saw them beating him, the kidnappers fled the scene leaving him there, Mozammel added.

He filed a case in September 2001 against five -- Solaiman, Abdus Sobhan, Hanif, Shipon and Chan Mia -- in this connection.

"I think the same people are behind the acid attack," Mozammel said adding that he also included the

## Muggers

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Tk 80 thousand from Masud, a currency trader, at Siddique Bazar under Katwali Police Station at 6:00am yesterday.

Meanwhile, police rescued a cloth trader with bullet injury to his throat early yesterday.

DMCH sources said muggers attacked him in front of his residence at Siddique Bazar when he was going to Gulistan.

Meantime, government employee Abul Hossen sustained bullet injury to his abdomen as some unidentified miscreants shot him in front of his residence at Mohakkali Amtoli area at 8:30pm yesterday.

## Menon

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He said the only responsibility of the caretaker government is to ensure the holding of a free, fair and credible parliamentary election.

The WPB president also demanded withdrawal of the state of emergency and announcement of a specific date for the national polls.

Menon said the reform efforts after the change of 1/11 have failed to bring any change to the culture of corruption and criminalisation, rather those have helped rehabilitation of corrupt politicians.

Stressing the need for unity among the leftist democratic forces to face the rightist forces, he said, "Unity among leftist forces has become more essential in the present context."

WPB General Secretary Bimal Biswas termed the united movement against the BNP-Jamaat alliance a unique experience.

However, the movement suffered a setback due to the signing of the 5-point agreement between Awami League and Khelafat Majlis and the formation of the 'so-called greater alliance'.

"We have to correct such mistakes and unite the non-communal democratic forces," he added.

## Transformer

**FROM PAGE 16**  
of these before and in the process of starting it up there will inevitably be glitches," she said.

Fermilab is home to the Tevatron, an accelerator that collides protons and antiprotons in a 4-mile-long underground ring to allow physicists to study subatomic particles. Jackson said transformer malfunctions can be common and aren't dangerous.

"These things happen," she said. "It's a little setback and it sounds like they've dealt with it and are moving forward."

The Large Hadron Collider is designed to collide protons in the beams so that they shatter and reveal more about the makeup of matter and the universe.

After it was started up Sept. 10, scientists circled a beam of protons in a clockwise direction at the speed of light. They shut that down, then turned on a counterclockwise beam.

"Several hundred orbits" were made, CERN's statement said.

## Banned Branches of Foreign University

Local branches of foreign universities	Location
World University Bangladesh	Dhanmondi
Headway Institute of Bangladesh	Dhanmondi
Victoria University Study Centre	Dhanmondi
Bhuiyan Academy	Dhanmondi
Newcastle Law Academy	Dhanmondi
Centre for Management Development	Dhanmondi
Maple Leaf International Centre for Higher Studies	Dhanmondi
Environment, Agriculture and Development Services Ltd	Dhanmondi
Perdana College of Malaysia	Dhanmondi
World Institute of Business & Technology	Dhanmondi
Global Institute of Resource Management	Dhanmondi
University of Newcastle	Dhanmondi
University of Honolulu	Dhanmondi
The Law Tutors	Dhanmondi
Soft-Ed Ltd	Dhanmondi
University of Luton	Dhanmondi
Centre for Law & Economics	Dhanmondi
Central Institute for International Technology	Dhanmondi
SAFS International	Dhanmondi
Bhuiyan Institute of Technology	Dhanmondi
Victoria University, USA	Dhanmondi
Neural Systems Limited	Dhanmondi
North American University	Lalmatia
Mantrust Institute of Information Technology	Banani
Australasia Institute of Business Technology	Banani
Royal Roads University	Banani
University of North America	Banani
University of Wollongong Australia	Banani
Asian Centre for Management and Information Technology	Banani
CATACCA Preston University	Banani
Green Valley University	Panbapath
National Institute of Business Administration & Information Science	Green Road
GESA Bangladesh	Dilkusha
El Dorado	Utara
International University	Utara
Progressive Mentoracy Ltd	Utara
Pitch Blend University of Science & Technology	Utara
Bangladesh Institute of Arts Design and Technology	Utara
Neural Institute of Management & Information Technology	Mohammadpur
Foreign Education Services Bangladesh	Khilgaon
James Cook University	Dhaka
University of Ballarat	Nayapattan
Cambrian College Canada	Gulshan
British School of Law	Gulshan
Atlantic National University	Jigatola
GESA Bangladesh	Dilkusha
Assumption University (ABAC) Thailand	Tophkana Road
Daffodil Institute of IT	Kalabagan
SRGB-AEC Centre for Business Studies	New Eskaton
Institute of Business and Information Technology	Syhet
Unique Computing	Rajshahi
Victoria University, USA	Chittagong
Institute of Management Technology and Research	Chittagong
Panama University	Khulna
West Coast University of Panama	Khulna
Australian National University	Khulna

## Banned Outer Campuses of Private Universities

International Islamic University
Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology
Leading University
University of Science and Technology
Independent University
Northern University of Bangladesh
Royal University
Prime University
Darul Ihsan University
University of Information Technology and Sciences

## Hizb ut-Tahrir

**FROM PAGE 1**  
the country.

"We always want to oust all governments in all Muslim countries in the world to establish Khelafat states. We have been asking for establishing Khelafat rule in the country instead of the present servile government since our first procession in the country," he said.

Mahjuddin said their organisation always opposes all mainstream political parties, including the Awami League and BNP. "We will always oppose all ruling governments and opposition political parties. We also oppose both the democratic and caretaker government systems," he said, labelling the caretaker government as a 'puppet government'.

Pointing at the media, he said, "We do not have confidence in the present media. Why do you not brand the USA as a terrorist state? Why do you not say the Fakhruddin-led government is a puppet government?"

Police arrested our leaders and activists for circulating leaflets because the caretaker government is afraid of our leaflets," he said and asked all Hizb ut-Tahrir activists to spread the organisation's leaflets across the country to oust the government and establish a Khelafat state.

Mahjuddin said his organisation would stage tougher agitation programmes at all educational institutions including Dhaka University if their leaders are not released within 48 hours.

Ramzan Ali, officer-in-charge of Boalia Police Station in Rajshahi, said the police need to interrogate the arrestees for further investigation and that they would seek remand for the arrestees from the court today.

A senior police official yesterday told The Daily Star that the activities of Hizb ut-Tahrir are clearly anti-state as the contents of their leaflets distributed are provocative and call for militancy and toppling the government.

Seeking anonymity, he said, "The leaflets are sufficient for bringing seditious charges against them but we want further investigation since the organisation has been active in the country for several years."

At the top of the Hizb ut-Tahrir leaflet, the organisation calls upon Muslims, saying, "Take oath for establishing the rule of Khelafat by ousting the present rulers in this holy month of Ramadan and this will help unite the Muslims and revive their lost glory."

The leaflet criticises sending of forces to the United Nations peace-keeping missions instead of turning them into 'flag bearers of Islam'.

Security has been beefed up in and around Rajshahi city and adjacent upazilas following the arrest of Hizb ut-Tahrir activists.

## Potholes

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process completes."

It is the duty of the Dhaka City Corporation to replace the manhole lids on the Shyampur Thana Road, he said.

Sub-divisional engineer of Roads and Highways Department of Dhaka division, Abdur Rashid said they plan to construct drains which will take the water to the Buriganga to reduce the waterlogging problem.

## 4 arrested

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they arrested Khokan Miah at Tejaon and seized Tk 30,000 from him.

Acting on Khokan's information, they arrested Hazrat Ali at Tejaon and Sekul at Mohammadpur in the capital.

They also seized Tk 87,700 from Sekul.

Arrested Khokan, a tea vendor, said he was given the responsibility to watch when the ACI officials start for the bank with the money to deposit it. He got Tk 30,000 for the task, Khokan added.

DB personnel said the hunt is on for the other criminals involved in the robbery. If they are arrested, the rest of the money could be recovered, added the DB officials.

The criminals robbed the ACI Group officials of Tk 52 lakh while they were on their way to the Gulshan Branch of Standard Chartered Bank to deposit the money.

When ACI Group Assistant Manager Biplab Kumar Chakrabarti tried to resist them, they fired shots at Biplab, who sustained injuries to his abdomen and hand.

The criminals escaped the scene spreading over Tk 6 lakh on the road to stop the locals from chasing them.

## Zardari

**FROM PAGE 16**  
United Nations headquarters in New York.

The talks will come just three days before Bush meets Afghan President Hamid Karzai, and as drones apparently operated by US troops from Afghanistan almost daily strike targets in the tribal border areas of northwest Pakistan.

The Bush administration has accused Taliban Islamic militants and al-Qaeda followers of using the unruly border areas as bases from which to direct a growing deadly insurgency in Afghanistan.

## Rab recovers 12 bombs in Shariatpur

**UNB, Shariatpur**  
Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members recovered 12 bombs from a shop at Nolta in Noria upazila early yesterday.

Acting on tip-off, Rab personnel raided a shop in the area at around 4:00am and recovered the bombs, which were kept in a carton.

Rab sources said there was a gunfight between two groups of criminals at Nolta on August 24 that left 10 people injured, six with bullets.

The elite force suspected that one of the two groups might have kept the bombs at the shop.