

Rivals ready to face off on street

Opposition threatens agitation soon; ruling party preparing to resist

HASAN JAHID TUSHER
Ruling Awami League and main opposition BNP are at the threshold of a face off on the streets in the coming days, as both parties already announced street demonstrations, with AL threatening to resist the opposition. AL insiders said the party will come down heavy on the opposition if the latter tries to obstruct the upcoming trials of war criminals in the name of anti-government movements. BNP insiders said they will launch a movement protesting the government's failure to resolve power, gas and water supply crises, price hike of essentials, and deterioration of law and order, among others. BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain recently told journalists, "This government will be ousted through a people's movement, for its anti-people and anti-nation activities." Bitterly criticising the government for deterioration of law and order, BNP Chairperson

Khaleda Zia on August 24 at an iftar party said her party will announce street demonstrations soon, to protect the country and its people from the "existing intolerable situation". AL Presidium Member Obaidul Quader, however, said BNP neither has the courage nor the strength to launch a movement right now, as the entire party is facing "protocol and chain of command problems". "So I can say they are not organised or ready for street level movements. They don't even have any issue for a movement. Their only headache is Awami League," he observed. Saying that AL has a long tradition of launching and facing movements, he added, if the opposition embarks on an anti-government movement, it will be faced politically. Brushing aside Khaleda Zia's recent statement that her party wants to help the government, the AL policymaker urged her to help democracy instead.

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Fishing boats are anchored to Fisheryghat of Firingibazar in Chittagong as adverse weather over the Bay forces them to stay put.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Pressure within BNP, Jamaat for return to JS

RASHIDUL HASAN and RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

A large section of opposition lawmakers are mounting pressure on the high-ups of BNP and Jamaat-e Islami for joining the next parliamentary session. The section believes that along side waging an anti-government movement the opposition should place its points in the parliament. "It is not yet the time to take to the street. We have to first raise our demands in the parliament to create public opinion in our favour," said a BNP lawmaker requesting anonymity. Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque yesterday said they would clear their

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JMB still getting plenty of funds

Flow of money from local, foreign sources remains intact despite arrest of top brass

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Financial strength of militant organisation Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh has been a grave concern for law enforcement agencies as the banned outfit is reportedly getting more than Tk 50 lakh a month from local and foreign sources. JMB's activities have lately appeared on the wane following the arrest of its top brass, including its chief Moulana Saidur Rahman, and explosives experts. But law enforcers involved with anti-militancy drives believe its network of financial support survives intact. The flow of fund in the form of supporters' monthly contributions, Zakat and donation apparently remains uninterrupted. The officers, however, could not say who handles the funds after the arrest of Saidur in

May. The JMB chief himself was in charge of its finance division. Of their monthly earning, around Tk 6 lakh is being sent by around 3,000 JMB supporters staying in Australia, England, Italy, Canada, Malaysia and middle-east countries, according to a statement made by Saidur at Taskforce for Interrogation cell recently. They send cash to their families mainly via people including friends and relatives. A portion of the money goes to JMB fund. Most of the 3,000 sympathisers belong to Ahle Hadith community, a top detective branch official quoted Saidur as saying. Saidur also claimed to have received 18,000 British pounds and 1,500 US dollars -- equivalent to around Tk 20 to 22 lakh -- at the end of 2008 and early 2009 from a person named Ahmed.

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Ibrahim Murder Shaon to be questioned by Sept 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) lawmaker Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shaon will be interrogated by the Detective Branch (DB) of police by September 20 regarding the killing of Ibrahim Ahmed. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Mohammad Moniruzzaman of DB told The Daily Star they are now taking preparation to summon Shaon at the DB office at Minto Road. Meanwhile, Rina Islam, Ibrahim's widow, said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked her to wait assuring that the killers will be punished. "Shaon will not be spared, if he is found guilty in the killing," Rina quoted Sheikh Hasina as saying. The PM said this while

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Row over power plant contract

One Chinese firm complains about PDB's 'undue favour' to another for Ghorashal plant

SHARIER KHAN

A Chinese company has filed a complaint with the government that the Power Development Board was unduly favouring another Chinese company in the tender for 200-300 megawatt power plant at Ghorashal. Shandong Electric Power that stands third in the Ghorashal project's tender evaluation lodged the formal complaint to the power ministry earlier this month that the PDB unduly evaluated Chinese Sinohydro Corporation instead of disqualifying it for submitting "fabricated" bid documents. The PDB late last month recommended Sinohydro for the power plant construction as the lowest bidder. This is the second time in Bangladesh that one Chinese company is lodging complaint against another in a tender for electricity generation. In the past, a company named CMC had lodged a complaint against the PDB for unduly favouring Harbin in the tender for 150MW Chandpur power project. PDB Chairman Alamgir Kabir told The Daily Star that the PDB would certainly review the bid evaluation if the ministry instructed it to investigate the allegations. The PDB floated the re-tender for this plant in late July. Its first tender was floated last year along with that for nine other government-funded power projects. The first tender for Ghorashal plant was cancelled as it drew just one bid. Eleven companies participated in the re-tender. During evaluation in August, the PDB ranked Sinohydro at the top followed by another Chinese company Shanghai Electric and then Shandong. During the evaluation, information about the selection was leaked. The PDB received an anonymous complaint that the selection of Sinohydro was incorrect, as it had submitted "fabricated" documents.

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China pledges to help build deep-sea port

Envoy claims Myanmar agrees on road transit to Kunming

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will get assistance from China to set up a deep-sea port at Sonadia in Cox's Bazar. China Ambassador Zhang Xianyuan said this at a bilateral meeting with State Minister for Environment and Forest Dr Hasan Mahmud at his office yesterday, says a press release. Zhang Xianyuan said China has already started to collect primary data and information for establishing the port. There is possibility of constructing Bangladesh-Kunming Highway via Myanmar, the ambassador said. Though Myanmar opposed the proposal of constructing highway earlier, it has agreed to the formal proposal from China, he added. The state minister called upon the ambassador to play more effective role to help Bangladesh to face the climate change hazard. UNB adds: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, during her visit to Beijing in March this year, had sought Chinese assistance in the construction of

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আপার সম্ভাবনার বাংলাদেশ তোমাদের নেতৃত্বের অপেক্ষায়

২০১০ সালের এইচএসসি, আলিম ও এইচএসসি ভোকেশনাল পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ কৃতী ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের প্রাণঢালা অভিনন্দন

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NHRC team to visit hospitals to monitor services

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) will make sudden visit to government health complexes across the country to monitor the health service for the poor people. "If the people are found deprived of health service at government health centres, we will take immediate step against the persons responsible," said NHRC chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman Khan yesterday. The chairman also said the

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