



Congress party President and United Progressive Alliance (UPA) chairperson Sonia Gandhi, right, meets Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee in New Delhi yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Target new formula

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some members of the committee told The Daily Star.

"BNP will not join the parliamentary election if it is held under an Awami League-led government. And Awami League will do the same if BNP is in power. So, the caretaker government system should exist in one form or the other for holding free and fair elections," a member of the special committee said.

The main opposition, BNP, already announced that it will not join the next parliamentary election, to be held in early 2014, without a caretaker government.

The member of the committee said they met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Friday, and the premier wants the special committee to find ways for an amicable solution to the problem.

"The prime minister asked us to work for averting political chaos and unrest in the country centring the caretaker government system," said the committee member.

Asked about the premier's guideline, another member of the committee said the caretaker government system may exist in one form or the other. "But the question is how is it possible now? I am confused about it," he added.

Another member of the committee also questioned, "How is it possible to keep

the caretaker government system in the constitution, after being declared void and ultra vires of the constitution by the apex court?"

Almost all committee members think the situation has become very complicated after the SC Appellate Division's May 10 verdict.

The constitution's 13th amendment in 1996 introduced the caretaker government system, against a backdrop of agitation by Awami League, and an electoral stalemate between AL and BNP.

A caretaker government assumes office after dissolution of a parliament, and along with discharging routine work its main task is to extend all out cooperation to the Election Commission for holding a free and fair parliamentary election.

Under the system, three successful parliamentary elections were held in 1996, 2001, and 2008.

At yesterday's meeting the special committee reviewed the short order of the Appellate Division on the constitution's 13th Amendment Act and discussed how the caretaker government system may exist in the constitution for holding two more parliamentary elections despite being declared void, meeting sources said.

They said the apex court declared void the present provision for caretaker governments on consideration that the state should be governed by elected representatives of the people, and governing the state by unelected persons is unconstitutional.

"Now how can we go for the unelected caretaker government system again?" a committee member questioned while talking to reporters.

Some members said they might invite eminent jurists to the committee seeking their opinion to find ways in this regard.

The committee is also waiting for a copy of the full verdict to review if there is any suggestion detailing ways for continuing the caretaker government system for two more parliamentary polls.

"The special committee cannot take any decision without reading the full verdict. So, we are waiting to get a copy of it," Suranjit Sengupta, co-chair and spokesman of the committee, said.

He was speaking at a media briefing in the parliament's Media Centre after yesterday's committee meeting.

He said the committee hopes to get a copy of the full verdict before its next meeting.

Committee members believe the main opposition

BNP's role is vital to overcome the difficulty.

"BNP should come forward with its proposals about how a caretaker government should be formed for holding a free and fair election. It will be easy to find ways and reach a consensus if BNP extends cooperation," Rashed Khan Menon, a member of the special committee, told reporters after the meeting.

The committee members said it is very difficult to find a person acceptable to all to lead a caretaker government, if there is no political consensus.

The voided constitutional provision empowers immediate past chief justices and ex-judges of the SC Appellate Division to lead caretaker governments.

But the Appellate Division in its verdict expressed its expectation that the parliament will bring necessary amendments to exclude former chief justices and judges of the Appellate Division from caretaker governments.

At yesterday's meeting, the special committee also discussed how to protect the constitution's 11th and 12th amendment acts, as their legality has come under question as well after the cancellation of the 5th amendment to the constitution.

Mamata takes oath Friday Becomes first woman CM of West Bengal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

After singlehandedly demolishing 34 years' rule of Left Front and leading her party Trinamool Congress to power in West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee will be installed as the first woman chief minister of the state on May 20.

"The new government will be sworn in on Friday [May 20]. Friday is a good day as it is the 'Jumma' day and it is also the Shiva's day", Mamata told reporters after a meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Congress Party Chief Sonia Gandhi.

Banerjee, who reached Delhi last night, had a meeting with Gandhi at her 10, Janpath residence where she was given a warm welcome.

Sonia came out and threw her arm round the back of Mamata and escorted inside her house.

"I have invited Sonijai for the oath ceremony to be held in Kolkata. She will let me know," Mamata told reporters after the meeting.

She said she also invited the PM but he had told her that he would not be able to attend the ceremony.

To a question on whether Congress men will inducted into her ministry though her party has gained majority on its own, she said, "I have invited the Congress and another ally Socialist Unity Centre of India to join the government and they will let me know."

Meanwhile, Sonia held consultations with senior party colleagues on the issue of her party's participation in the next West Bengal government.

Gandhi held talks with her political secretary Ahmed Patel and senior leader Shakeel Ahmed who is in charge of party affairs for West Bengal.

The meeting came a day after Shakeel Ahmed and Pranab Mukherjee ascertained the views of newly-elected Congress legislators in West Bengal amidst indications that majority of them favour sharing power with Trinamool Congress in the state.

Mamata, a member of Indian parlia-

ment and India's railway minister, did not contest the recent assembly elections in West Bengal and she has to get elected to the state assembly within six months, as per the constitution, reports AFP.

Her Trinamool Congress Party already sits in the national ruling coalition dominated by Congress, but her victory in West Bengal's state elections will give her more prominence.

She looks likely to emerge as a more potent but unpredictable force in New Delhi politics, analysts add.

"In the exercise of power, they (India's women leaders) let ruthless efficiency trump any expectation of genteel compassion... unleashing fury that even hell does not contain," commented the Economic Times newspaper.

Firebrand Mamata Banerjee last week demolished communist rule in West Bengal--India's fourth most populous state--prompting the Indian Express newspaper to shout in a headline: "Bengal makes her story".

Truth Commission Scientists find genetic link to depression

FROM PAGE 1

AM Aminuddin, a lawyer for the petitioners, said the ACC can take action against those who went to the Tac and confessed to their illegal income, but fresh investigation will be required.

The original HC verdict was delivered on October 13, 2008, in response to a writ petition filed by SC lawyer Adilur Rahman Khan, Ubinig Executive Director Farida Akhter, Awami Women Affairs Secretary (now the foreign minister) Dipu Moni and human rights group Odhikar's Nasiruddin Elan.

The public interest litigation was filed on August 25, 2008, challenging the legality of the Tac.

The military-backed caretaker administration of Fakhruddin Ahmed said it formed the Truth Commission in 2008 to offer the corrupt officials and businessmen an opportunity to get clemency by admitting their misdeeds and depositing the ill-gotten money to the state coffers.

It also said the Tac realised Tk 34 crore in penalties from the corruption suspects. As many as 351 civil servants went to the Tac.

There is, however, a debate over whether the government must return the penalty money to the suspects.

"As the ordinance that was used to levy the fines stands illegal, the government now has to return the money," said ACC counsel Khurshid Alam Khan.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed outright rejected the idea.

"Admittedly they are guilty of taking bribe or resorting to corruption abusing their power. They have no legal right to demand their money back," said Shafique.

Furthermore, if any, their ill-gotten property will be confiscated and they will face action from the ACC as per the anti-graft act, the minister added.

Immediately after taking office in 2009, Shafique pledged to take action against those public servants who went to the Tac. But nothing has been done so far.

Instead, many of the government officials who confessed to corruption have reportedly been promoted.

M Asaduzzaman, a lawyer for the petitioners who challenged the formation of the Tac, said, "The court [SC] has settled all debates over the issue and now there is no scope for those who went to the Truth Commission to escape prosecution. The confession they made may be used for investigation into their graft."

Senior ACC counsel Anisul Huq, who had a role in drafting the voluntary disclosure of information ordinance, said he will not comment until he has read the full verdict.

"The verdict was expected, as the commission was against the basic principles of law that everyone is equal," said Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International, Bangladesh.

He also said that while taking fresh action against those pardoned by the Tac, the fines they had paid under a legal authority should be taken into consideration.

REUTERS, London

Scientists say they have discovered the first solid evidence that variations in some peoples' genes may cause depression -- one of the world's most common and costly mental illnesses.

And in a rare occurrence in genetic research, a British-led international team's finding of a DNA region linked to depression has been replicated by another team from the United States who were studying an entirely separate group of people.

"What's remarkable is that both groups found exactly the same region in two separate studies," Pamela Madden, who led the U.S. team at Washington University, said in a statement.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
Bangladesh Road Transport Authority				
Old Airport Road, Allenbury, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215				
Website: http://www.bרת.gov.bd				
Re-Tender Notice				
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH				
1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Communication		
2.	Agency	Bangladesh Road Transport Authority		
3.	Procuring Entity Name	Director (engg.), Bangladesh Road Transport Authority		
4.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka		
5.	Invitation for	Procurement of a brand new Sedan car		
6.	Invitation Ref No	BRTA/3E-TD/(MB)/708-2010-1146		
7.	Date	08/05/2011		
KEY INFORMATION				
8.	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
9.	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB FUNDS		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
10.	Tender Publication Date	Date	Time	
11.	Tender Last Selling Date	Date	Time	
12.	Tender Closing Date and Time	Date	Time	
13.	Tender Opening Date and Time	Date	Time	
14.	Name & Address of the office (s)	Address		
-Selling Tender Document (Principal)		BRTA HQ. (Accounts Section)		
-Receiving Tender Document		Office of Director (Operation.), BRTA HQ, Allenbury, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215.		
-Opening Tender Document		Office of Director (Operation), BRTA HQ, Allenbury, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215.		
15.	Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)	NOT APPLICABLE		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
16.	Eligibility of Tenderer	Bonafide vehicle Importer/Manufacturer/Authorized dealer having the capacity of supplying the different kinds of vehicle to different govt. and semi govt. departments.		
17.	Brief Description of Goods or Works	Procurement of a brand new sedan car		
18.	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	Tk. 1,000.00 (One Thousand) only to be paid through treasury challan in Bangladesh bank to the account code no. 1/5043/0000/2366.		
19.	Lot No.	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)
20.	1	One unit of brand new sedan car	BRTA HQ, Tejgaon, Dhaka	50,000.00 (Fifty Thousand) only
COMPLETION TIME IN DAYS				
21.	07 (Seven) Days.			
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
22.	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Saiful Hogue		
23.	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Director (Engg)		
24.	Address of Official Inviting Tender	BRTA HQ, Allenbury, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215		
25.	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Phone # 9115544 Fax # 9116163		
Those who have submitted tender proposal earlier need not submit Tender Security for their offer.				
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders				
Signed/ (Md. Saiful Hogue) Director (Engg)				
GD-2325				

				
Investment Promotion and Financing Facility (IPFF) Project Cell				
Bangladesh Bank, Head Office (2nd Annex Building, 24th Floor) Motijheel, Dhaka				
Invitation for Tender				
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Finance		
2.	Agency	Bangladesh Bank		
3.	Procuring entity name	Project Director, IPFF Project, Bangladesh Bank, Dhaka.		
4.	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.		
5.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka		
6.	Invitation for	Goods		
7.	Invitation Ref No.	IPFF/18/proc/G17/2011-24		
8.	Date	12-05-2011		
KEY INFORMATION				
9.	Procurement method	National Open Tendering Method.		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10.	Budget and source of funds	Development partner .		
11.	Development partners (if applicable)	International Development Association (IDA).		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12.	Project/programme code (if applicable)	5-0905-5011-0000		
13.	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Investment Promotion and Financing Facility (IPFF) Project.		
14.	Tender package No.	G17		
15.	Tender package name	12 Laptops, 24 Desktop Computers, 25 UPS, 28 Laser Printers (Black & White), 1 Colour Laser Printer and 7 Scanners.		
16.	Tender publication date	08-06-2011 (during office hour).		
17.	Tender last selling date	09-06-2011, 11.00 am.		
18.	Tender closing date and time	09-06-2011, 11.30am.		
19.	Tender opening date and time	09-06-2011, 11.30am.		
20.	Name & address of the office(s)			
-Selling tender document		IPFF Project Cell, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office (2nd Annex Building, 24th Floor) Motijheel, Dhaka		
-Receiving tender document		Same as above.		
-Opening tender document		Conference Room, IPFF Project Cell, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office (2nd Annex Building, 24th Floor) Motijheel, Dhaka.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
21.	Eligibility of tenderer	01. The tenderer shall have a minimum of 5 (five) years of overall experience in the supply of goods and related services. 02. The tenderer shall have a minimum of 3 (three) years of specific experience in the supply of similar goods and related services. 03. Other conditions and eligibility criteria of the tenderers are furnished in the tender document.		
22.	Brief description of goods	12 Nos. Laptop Computer, 24 Nos. Desktop Computer, 25 Nos. UPS, 28 Nos. Black & White Laser Printer, 1 No. Colour Laser Printer and 7 Nos. Scanner.		
23.	Brief description of related services	Installation, commissioning, fitting and fixing power outlet & operational training for supplied items.		
24.	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk 500.000 (five hundred only) per set of tender schedule.		
25.	Item No.	Identification of item	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)
26.	1	Laptop Computer	IPFF Project Cell, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Motijheel, Dhaka	Tk 25,000.00 (twenty-five thousand only)
27.	2	Desktop Computer	-Do-	Tk 30,000.00 (thirty thousand only)
28.	3	UPS	-Do-	Tk 5,000.00 (five thousand only)
29.	4	B/W Laser Printer	-Do-	Tk 24,000.00 (twenty-four thousand only)
30.	5	Colour Laser Printer	-Do-	Tk 1,500 (one thousand five hundred only)
31.	6	Scanner	-Do-	Tk 2,500 (two thousand five hundred only)
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
32.	Name of official inviting tender	Shitangshu Kumar Sur Chowdhury		
33.	Designation of official inviting tender	Executive Director, Bangladesh Bank & Project Director, IPFF Project.		
34.	Address of official Inviting tender	IPFF Project Cell, Bangladesh Bank, Head office (2nd Annex Building, 24th Floor), Motijheel, Dhaka		
35.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: 88-02-9512553, 7126101-14/3126 Fax: 88-02-7114706 E-mail: ipffbb@bangla.net		
36.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.			
37.	If it is not possible to receive/open the tender on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received/opened on the next working date at the same time and same venue.			
Shitangshu Kumar Sur Chowdhury Executive Director, Bangladesh Bank & Project Director, IPFF Project				
DPP: 48/2011-927 Dt: 12-05-2011 GD-2280				