

AL meet with EC Aug 7

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League (AL) will sit for a dialogue with the Election Commission (EC) on August 7 to discuss electoral reforms.

The new date has been fixed when a two-member delegation led by Mrinal Kanti Das, deputy office secretary of AL, met with the Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday.

After the meeting Mrinal said, "Due to unavoidable circumstances, Awami League could not join the dialogue earlier."

An 18-member delegation including party's senior leaders Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzaq, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Matia Chowdhury, Obaidul Quader, Syed Ashraf Islam, Mahbubul Alam Hanif and Abul Maal Abdul Muhit will join the dialogue, he said.

The dialogue was slated for June 9. But the date was extended to June 18 as AL could not attend the dialogue due to placing of national budget in parliament.

Later, the dialogue was rescheduled again for July 19. But AL could not join due to a cabinet meeting.



A section of leaders and workers of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday vandalised BNP central office at Naya Paltan in the city yesterday.

JCD boys vandalise BNP central office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of leaders and workers of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), a pro-BNP student body, yesterday vandalised BNP central office at Naya Paltan in the capital demanding formation of a new central committee of the organisation.

During an hour-long demonstration, they ransacked the JCD office on the third floor of the main opposition party's headquarters and threw away the portraits of Sultan Salauddin Tuku and Amirul Islam Alim, president and general secretary of JCD.

The vandalism began around 12:45pm when a scheduled meeting of the JCD central committee leaders was called off for the second time in the last three days, witnesses said.

Shahidul Islam Babul, acting president of JCD, told The Daily Star they will take stern action against those responsible for the incident.

Angry workers set fire to posters and the portrait of Tuku, who is now in jail on different charges including torching buses in the capital during recent hartals enforced by BNP, witnesses added.

They also engaged in a heated debate with BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir who rushed to the spot after hearing the incident.

The situation came under control when Alamgir assured them of taking necessary steps for a new committee soon.

Usually, BNP chairperson announces the JCD committee through a press release, as the organisation could not hold any council after 1993.

The committee led by Tuku and Alim was declared on July 1, 2009 only for six months though as per the constitution of the organisation a central committee enjoys two-year tenure.

At least four separate factions of JCD led by Nurul Islam Nayan, Abdul Kader Jewel, Hasan Mamun and Saiful Islam Firoj were demanding new committee for the organisation.

These factions are known as dissident groups and some central committee leaders blamed them for yesterday's incident. Contacted, Nayan said that they were not involved in the incident. "Central committee leaders themselves protested yesterday when a scheduled meeting of the body was called off," he added.

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