



Samajwadi Party chief Mulayam Singh Yadav gives flowers to Uttar Pradesh Governor BL Joshi while State president Akhilesh Yadav looks on at Raj Bhavan (Government House) in Lucknow yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Sonia Gandhi defends Congress after poll flop

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India's ruling Congress chief Sonia Gandhi yesterday ruled out change of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in the wake of the party's electoral debacle and cited wrong selection of candidates, presence of too many leaders and organisational weaknesses as among key factors for the party's poor show.

Sonia, who met a large number of Congress office bearers individually at the party headquarters here, dismissed the possibility of the polls defeat "damaging" the UPA government at the centre.

Emerging from the nearly three-hour interactive session, the Congress president acknowledged that the election results have a lesson for the party which she would discuss with party leaders and told party men to "pull up the socks" for the coming electoral battles in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and

Chhatisgarh, all ruled by BJP and Rajasthan this year and next year.

"Congress party has got support below its expectations. We accept it with all humility," Sonia told reporters.

Asked whether the poor election results will affect the Congress-led UPA government's stability, Gandhi put up a brave front, saying she does not feel that the results will "damage the UPA government."

"The question does not arise," she shot back on the possibility of the prime minister stepping down and Congress choosing another leader for the post.

Asked who would be the Congress candidate for prime minister in the 2014 parliamentary elections, Sonia Gandhi sidestepped the question merely saying, "This is 2012".

To a question if the party failed to fare well in Uttar Pradesh because of lack of leadership, Sonia said "rather than lack of leaders, too many leaders

that is our problem".

Asked whether wrong choice of candidates was the reason for the defeat of Congress in UP, Sonia conceded that it is one of the reasons as it resulted in rebel candidates setting themselves up. "We will have to examine. I will have to talk to my colleagues," she said.

To a specific question whether Congress has failed in Uttar Pradesh and at what level the failure lay, she said, "Rahul has already told you about UP. Our organisation is weak in Uttar Pradesh, that is the main problem."

On defeat of Congress in the Nehru-Gandhi family pocket borough of Amethi and Raebareilly in Uttar Pradesh, she said there have been such defeats earlier also and it was not for the first time.

"Every election is a lesson for us, whether we win or lose," she said adding the reasons for the party's poor show will be examined.

Witness not produced

FROM PAGE 20

The prosecution produced the 27th witness in the case on February 20 while the cross-examination of the 26th witness finished on March 4.

Tanvir Ahmed Al Amin, a counsel for Sayedee, told The Daily Star yesterday that the prosecutors had previously failed to produce witnesses for at least 15 times.

The tribunal yesterday in its order said, "This [the failure to produce witnesses] and subsequent adjournments have become a regular phenomenon."

"However, as the last chance, we are allowing adjournment till March 18. The prosecution must produce witness on that day otherwise, the tribunal will pass appropriate order," the court added.

When yesterday's proceedings began at 10:35am, prosecutor Mukhlesur Rahman Badal told the judges that he had something unpleasant to say.

He said a witness was supposed to appear before the court but could not due to illness. He sought an adjournment till March 10.

Justice Nizamul Huq, chairman of the three-judge tribunal, then asked the prosecution how long should the court wait for the next witness.

Justice ATM Fazle Kabir, one of the judges of the tribunal, said the prosecution should close the proceedings of deposition, if they could not produce any witnesses.

Prosecutor Badal said they would produce a witness before the court on March 11.

Interestingly, Mizanul Islam, another counsel for Sayedee, then asked the tribunal to allow the prosecution some more time.

AKM Zaheer Ahmed, another judge of the tribunal, said it was strange that the defence had pleaded time for the prosecution.

The court then passed the order giving time to the prosecution for bringing witness in the case against Sayedee.

On February 2, the proceeding against Sayedee had to be adjourned as three witnesses asking to visit their relatives left the prosecution's custody and did not return.

In February, the prosecution produced only four witnesses -- former lawmaker Narail Saif Hafizur Rahman, senior journalist Abed Khan, and one who could not remember anything specific related to the case and another who only confirmed the seizure of some newspaper articles by the investigation agency.

Charge framing hearing of Nizami

The tribunal yesterday deferred till March 13 the hearing on charge framing against Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Matiuur Rahman Nizami, as the defence was yet to get legible copy of some relevant documents from the prosecution.

The tribunal will fix date for the defence to place their arguments on March 13 after prosecutors finish their argument.

It also directed the prosecution to supply legible copies of the documents by March 12.

On February 13, the tribunal directed the prosecution to supply legible copies of formal charges and relevant documents against Nizami to the registrar's office by February 22 and asked the defence to collect the copy from there.

However, 198 pages of the 416-page document were still illegible, said Tajul Islam, a counsel of Nizami.

Akhilesh Yadav surges beyond UP

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The recent assembly elections to India's biggest state of Uttar Pradesh, where Samajwadi Party stormed back to power, saw the coming of age of a new leader--Akhilesh Yadav, 38-year-old son-lawmaker of the party's founder Mulayam Singh Yadav.

All political commentators had billed the battle for Uttar Pradesh as a clash between Akhilesh and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, 41-year-old scion of Nehru-Gandhi family seen by many as India's future Prime Minister.

However, Akhilesh, an engineer by training who has had his higher education in Australia, has consistently maintained that he dislikes the comparison with Rahul and dismissed it as a "creation by the media".

But with the results of the elections to Uttar Pradesh legislative assembly giving a historic victory to Samajwadi Party which grabbed majority on its own and would not depend on coalition to form the new government, the focus is firmly on

Akhilesh as the next generation leader not only of the most populous state but of India as well.

Akhilesh has proved that he has come into his own in the rough and tumble politics in India's politically key state and is credited with scripting his party emphatic victory in this year's assembly elections.

A father of a son and two daughters, Akhilesh, very tech savvy, was in the forefront facing the media and articulating the party's views and strategies.

The Samajwadi Party's remarkable victory in Uttar Pradesh has already sparked speculation in political circles of Akhilesh becoming the chief minister. However, he brushed it aside yesterday saying, "I am not in the race for chief minister's post. The party feels that the



responsibility should go to Netaji (his father Mulayam Singh Yadav).

But speculation is rife that chief ministership may go to Akhilesh if Mulayam, a wrestler-turned-politician, ever finds a bigger role in national politics.

Akhilesh introduced a new look to the party's profile and policies. The party has promised free laptops for students and computer education, with a focus on educating girls, in the state. This was in sharp contrast to the year 2009 when the party's manifesto and Mulayam Singh Yadav had trashed the use of English and computer in education. It was Akhilesh who succeeded to some extent in ensuring that those criminal background did not get party nominations in the just-concluded elections, a contrast from

the past. Walking along or riding on the dusty roads of impoverished heartland of Uttar Pradesh, Akhilesh had carried out an intensive campaign for the party in the elections, connecting with the people at the grassroots in an unassuming style not marked by drama.

Party leaders said Akhilesh reshaped SP's thinking by going beyond caste mobilisation and sought to connect its campaign to the aspirations of the youth in the country's most populous state, which lags behind in human development parameters.

Born on July 1, 1973, Akhilesh did graduation in engineering from a college in Mysore in southern India and obtained masters in environmental engineering from Sydney University, before starting his electoral innings in 2000 winning a parliamentary by-poll Kannauj. He had also won the Firozabad Lok Sabha seat in 2009 but vacated it to retain Kannauj.

Quader Mollah

FROM PAGE 20

The Pakistan army and Biharis led by Quader Mollah chased Hazrat Ali Lashkar, a tailor at Mirpur-12 in Dhaka, from his shop as he had attended several meetings organised by pro-liberation forces and chanted Joy Bangla slogans there, said prosecutor Mohammad Ali.

Panicked Ali reached his house and shut the door. But after some time the Pakistani soldiers and their collaborators arrived there and asked the household to open the door, he said.

The Pakistani soldiers and the collaborators threatened to kill everyone in the house by blasting bombs if they did not let them in. They, how-

ever, did explode a bomb.

As Ali opened the door, the army and their collaborators shot him. When his pregnant wife Amena Begum approached to save him, they slit her throat, the prosecutor added.

The Pakistani soldiers and their collaborators also slaughtered Ali's nine-year-old third daughter and around seven-year-old fourth daughter Taslima. They also threw his two-year-old son Babu on the ground to death at the instruction of Quader Mollah, he continued.

Ali's first and second daughters were hiding under the bed when the Pakistani military arrived. The second daughter, who was 11, came out seeing the deaths of her family members one by one. Then 10 to 12 army personnel raped and killed her, the prosecutor said.

Ali's first daughter Momena Begum, who was married, fainted seeing the killings. She recovered after three hours and fled from the house.

Momena is now a prosecution witness against Quader Mollah, the prosecutor said, adding, the incidents took place between 6:00pm and 8:00pm on March 26, 1971.

Mohammad Ali alleged Quader Mollah is responsible for killing thousands of Bengalis like Ali and his family during the Liberation War.

The charge of killing this family against Quader Mollah was brought in a supplementary petition by the prosecution on January 17 before the tribunal.

Mohammad Ali and another prosecutor Hasan Mahmud yesterday read out the three-page supplementary petition along with the 44-page original one before the court.

The three-judge tribunal headed by Justice Nizamul Huq fixed 2:00pm today for hearing arguments on the petition.

Earlier on December 18 last year, the prosecution submitted seven specific crimes against humanity charges against Quader Mollah before the tribunal, which took the charges into cognisance on December 28.

Quader Mollah is among six Jamaat and two BNP leaders who are facing charges of crimes against humanity at the tribunal.

Concluding reading out the formal charges, prosecutor Mohammad Ali yesterday told the tribunal Quader was individually and jointly involved in killings, arsons, rapes, tortures, looting and other offences and they have enough evidence and documents to prove the charges.

He said Quader Mollah was known as a butcher since he and his accomplices -- Razakars and Al Badrs -- had created an awful and horrendous scenario at Mirpur, Kalyanpur and Mohammadpur by committing crimes against humanity.

Pakistan army in collaboration with Quader Mollah and his accomplices killed more than 344 pro-liberation people at Albuldi village in Mirpur on April 24, 1971, he said. Mollah was responsible for killing one Meherunnesa of Mirpur, one Pallab, a student of Mirpur Bangla College, on April 5 and Khandker Abu Taleb at Mirpur Bus Stand on March 29, and 11 people at Shaheed Nagar of Keraniganj on November 25, 1971, he added.

During yesterday's proceedings, the tribunal asked the prosecution to correct the "factual mistakes" on the history of Liberation War and its previous events stated in the formal charges against Quader Mollah.

"Besides printing mistakes, there are some mistakes of facts in the formal charges," commented Justice Nizamul Huq.

The court also asked the prosecutors to supply a corrected copy of formal charges to the defence.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EoI) for a

Photovoltaic Components and Systems Testing Laboratory in Bangladesh

- The Government of Bangladesh has received financing from the International Development Agency of the World Bank towards the Bangladesh Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Development (RERED) Project, implemented by Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL).
- Under the leadership of IDCOL, with support from the World Bank and other development partners, Solar Home System (SHS) Program of Bangladesh has become one of the most successful off-grid solar electrification programs in the world. SHS program have been established as a viable model for increasing access to electricity in rural areas where the electric power grid is not presently economically feasible or available. More than 1.3 million SHSs have been installed to date, and IDCOL has a goal of providing SHSs to 2.5 million households by 2014. In addition, photovoltaic (PV) water pumping and PV hybrid mini-grids are being supported.
- Maintaining quality standards for components and systems is a key aspect of this program, and essential for its success. Certain technical standards for systems and components have been specifically developed for this program, to help ensure the best possible system performance and level of consumer satisfaction. Components are presently approved based on independent test results provided by manufacturers and suppliers, in accordance with the technical specifications. The current technical standards applicable to the SHS program are available on the IDCOL website: <http://www.idcol.org/publications.php>.
- Presently, PV component suppliers and manufacturers have to depend on product testing and certification services from other countries. This has added expense and uncertainty in the performance and quality of products, and made it more difficult for the domestic industry to compete globally. Given that over 40,000 SHSs are being installed monthly and other PV applications are to be supported, it is becoming urgent to have a more responsive and credible capability for PV testing and certification in Bangladesh.
- IDCOL is taking immediate steps to select a qualified institution to establish and operate a testing laboratory in Bangladesh. Approximately US\$500,000 in funds are available as a Technical Assistance grant from an IDA credit provided by the World Bank for the Second Additional Financing of the RERED Project. The funds will be used for the purchase of equipment and other resources necessary to develop a PV systems testing facility. The goals for the testing center are to obtain ISO 17025 laboratory accreditation for PV systems testing within 5 years, and to become a commercially-viable and internationally-recognized testing laboratory.
- The scope of testing should validate and build on the existing IDCOL program standards for components and systems. Initially, the focus will be on verifying the performance of specific components. The component testing will include but not be limited to: verification of nameplate peak power ratings for PV modules, verification of battery capacity under prescribed conditions, determination of charge controller set points, and measurement of lamp lumen output. The testing program will be based on the appropriate international standards for testing PV system components, and should ultimately include reliability and life-time testing for systems and components in the laboratory as well as the field.
- The testing laboratory will operate independently on a commercial basis under certain guidelines of IDCOL and charge fees for testing products. All products approved will be sample tested every year to remain approved by IDCOL for the SHS program.
- IDCOL invites responses to this EoI from internationally accredited testing laboratories, qualified universities, laboratories and other organizations from Bangladesh as well as abroad that are interested in providing these testing services. IDCOL partner organizations, suppliers or manufacturers providing equipment, systems or other services for this program are not eligible due to conflicts of interests. Qualified entities will have access to appropriate facilities, personnel and other resources as required to execute the testing program objectives.
- Responses to this EoI should consist of a well-organized package of documents and supporting information addressing the project requirements and qualifications as outlined below.
 - Institution or organization name, location and primary contact person.
 - Description of entity and years in primary business activity, including administrative and organizational structure.
 - Experience and capabilities in testing electrical equipment, specifically PV systems and components.
 - Qualifications and experience of responsible persons and key staff to be designated for this project, and for the development and operation of the testing facilities.
 - Description of proposed indoor laboratory facilities suitable for component testing.
 - Description of proposed outdoor facilities suitable for systems and component exposure testing and meteorological measurements.

Responses to this EoI are due by March 29, 2012. Submittals and questions concerning this EoI should be clearly marked "EoI for Establishing a Photovoltaic Components and Systems Test Center in Bangladesh", and directed to:



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Infrastructure Development Company Limited

UTC Building, Level-16, 8 Panthapath, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh

Phone: +880-2-9102171-8 (Ext. 15), fislam@idcol.org, www.idcol.org

Responses to this EoI will be reviewed and successful candidates will be notified within two weeks of submission deadline. Selection of the institution or organization will be done based on the criteria outlined above. A specific contract and agreement with the selected testing laboratory will be executed subsequent to this initial EoI screening process.

UTTARA BANK LIMITED

ICT Division
Head Office, 47, Bir Uttom Shahid Ashfaque Samad Sarak (Former-90, Motijheel C/A), Dhaka-1000

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from authorized dealers/partners/distributors for supply of following equipments:

Sl.	Description
01	Desktop and Laptop PC
02	Dot Matrix and Laser Printer
03	UPS and Stabilizer
04	Scanner
05	Accessories
06	Hardware Service/Repair

Tender schedules can be collected by payment (non refundable) of Taka 2,000/- (Two Thousand) only from the ICT Division, Head Office (6th Floor), 47, Bir Uttom Shahid Ashfaque Samad Sarak, (Former-90, Motijheel C/A), Dhaka-1000 from 10:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. on all working days between 8th March 2012 and 19th March 2012. Tenders will be received up to 3:00 PM on 20th March 2012 and will be opened at 3:15 PM on the same date and same place in presence of the bidders or their authorized representative(s), if any. All other terms & conditions are available in the Tender Schedules.

The Bank authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all, in part or full offers without assigning any reason.

Deputy General Manager
ICT Division