

Trinamool all set

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"The decision has already been taken," she said, adding the party had sought an appointment with the president today.
Trinamool has six ministers, including one of cabinet rank, in the UPA government. After Trinamool's exit, the UPA government's strength in parliament will come down to 254 from 273 -- 19 short of majority in the 545-member Lok Sabha, and the coalition will be heavily dependent on the Samajwadi Party (SP) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) to regain its majority in the House.
The SP and BSP together have 43 lawmakers.
The federal government, however, has not faltered at the threat of instability following Trinamool's decision.
"We had enough friends yesterday, we have enough friends today. So, I don't think you should doubt our stability," Finance Minister

and senior Congress leader Palaniappan Chidambaram told reporters in Delhi.
Asked whether the UPA government would look for new allies, he said, "If we can acquire new friends, why would we not?"
India's Information and Broadcasting Minister Ambika Soni claimed the government was stable as it had the support of 300 MPs (considering those from SP and BSP) in the Lok Sabha.
However, the UPA's key outside supporter SP Chief Mulayam Singh Yadav appeared to share the concerns of the Left and other parties about the government's "anti-people" policies.
Yadav, who did not join the Bharatiya Janata Party leaders at a protest venue in Delhi yesterday, said the SP was supporting the UPA government only to keep communal forces at bay.
"I have said this several times that we are supporting

the government only to stop communal forces [from coming to power]. But we will not tolerate a price rise," he told reporters.
If the UPA government did not backtrack on the recent reforms decision immediately, the parties opposing it would announce a big agitation, Yadav said.
Mamata said the proposals were unrealistic and anti-people.
"You can't sell out your country to foreign direct investment. People will silence the voices of those who are favouring entry of FDI in retail."
The Indian government last Friday unveiled reforms, including allowing FDI in retail, permitting foreign airlines to pick stakes in domestic air carriers and hiking the price of diesel by 12 percent, one of the steepest in recent times.
Meanwhile, strikes called by the BJP, Left parties and

ACC quizzes

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disclose the location for the questioning.
Asked why the anti-graft watchdog questioned Modasser outside its office, he said the place does not matter as they aim to unearth truth.
An ACC committee has almost completed its enquiry into the loan scam and the committee might submit its report to the commission next week, mentioned the ACC chief.
After reviewing the report, the ACC will decide whether it would file a case in this connection or not.
A Bangladesh Bank investigation had found that Hall-Mark Group and five other companies had swindled the Hotel Ruposhi Bangla branch of the Sonali Bank out of Tk 3,547 crore through forgery.
SIX MORE SONALI OFFICIALS QUIZZED
The six-member ACC enquiry team led by its Deputy Director Mir Md Zainul Abedin Shebly yesterday quizzed six more officials of Sonali Bank head office in connection with the Hall-Mark loan scam.
The officials are KM Shahida Khanam, senior executive officer, Ekramul Haque Mondal, executive officer, Kamrul Hossain Khan, branch inspector, ASM Abdul Latif, executive officer, Anisuzzaman, executive officer and SHS Abu Zafar, deputy general manager.
Talking to journalists, Branch Inspector Kamrul said according to the bank's rules, auditing a corporate branch like the Hotel Ruposhi Bangla branch in every six months is mandatory. But a team including him had audited the branch in February last year after an interval of one and a half years.
The team, he claimed, could not unearth the loan scam as it was given only 10 days to conduct the audit instead of the usual 30 days.
The ACC team has so far quizzed 52 Sonali Bank officials in connection with the scam.

Absolute power

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But the constitution provides Premier Hasina with absolute authority to decide when parliament will be dissolved if it does not get dissolved automatically on the expiry of its tenure. Before the expiry of the tenure, the president may dissolve the House only on the written advice of the premier, meaning the life of parliament depends on the premier's decision.
Similarly, it is the absolute jurisdiction of Prime Minister Hasina to determine whether the current cabinet will continue or its size will be reduced. She will decide who will resign from and who will be retained in her cabinet. The president may appoint individuals as ministers if she advises him to do so.
There is no ambiguity in the president's jurisdiction. Article 48 (3) of the constitution clearly says: "In the exercise of all his functions, save only that of appointing the prime minister pursuant to clause (3) of article 56 and the chief justice pursuant to clause (1) of article 95, the president shall act in accordance with the advice of the prime minister."
Even in these two cases, his discretionary power is very nominal because he has no option but to appoint the leader of the majority party in parliament as prime minister.
And in the case of appointing the chief justice, the president is expected to appoint the senior most judge of the Appellate Division. It cannot be said that the president makes this appointment without the prime minister's advice.
However, Hasina's announcement on Wednesday of a dissolution of the incumbent Jatiya Sangsad before the next parliamentary polls is being considered as a major breakthrough in the prevailing political deadlock over holding the next parliamentary elections.
Scrapping the non-partisan caretaker government and retaining the Jatiya Sangsad during the election are considered as the two major obstacles to making the next parliamentary polls free and fair with the participation of the

major political parties.
Interestingly, the constitution's 15th amendment brought about by Hasina's government last year now prevents the present parliament from completing its five year tenure. If the government wants to allow parliament to complete its five year tenure, then the next polls must be held within its last 90 days, meaning the polls will be held without dissolving the current Jatiya Sangsad.
So there is no alternative, but to dissolve the running parliament at least three months before it completes its tenure. Or what the government can do is reinstate the previous provision by amending the constitution which would allow parliament to get dissolved after completion of the tenure and holding polls within 90 days of the dissolution.
The premier's announcement, however, has triggered widespread speculation as to whether her government is going for early polls at least by a few months before the scheduled time.

Tigers' moment

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talking positively about this match for quite a long time and skipper Mushfiqur Rahim continued along that vein when speaking at the pre-match briefing yesterday. They have targeted the Black Caps to fulfil their dream of reaching the Super Eight because the other team in the group are top favourites Pakistan. So their mantra is 'whatever we want to do, we must do it against the Kiwis'.
The team management and the players have already claimed that this team is Bangladesh's best T20 side and preparation-wise they did everything they could during the last three months, although they hardly faced any top sides on their journey. After a tremendous Asia Cup campaign at home Bangladesh fully devoted themselves to the shortest version of the game, so they are well-prepared, unlike in the previous three editions where they could manage only one victory

against West Indies in their first match in the inaugural edition of the tournament in 2007. Bangladesh's other major T20 victory also came against the Caribbean side while they have so far played only one match against New Zealand which they lost by ten wickets.
Bangladesh improved their status in T20 cricket after winning nine games out of 15 matches they played over the last three months but their worth will be tested in the tournament. There are whispers doing the rounds that expectations may exert extra pressure on the team, which may be why coach Richard Pybus emphasised on a 'calm and composed' approach in T20 cricket.
Bangladesh however hold a mental edge over their opponents as they crushed them 4-0 in a one-day series two years back but neither team were willing to look back at what happened two years ago; rather they were focussed on their current form as New

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Voice Call	12:00am-8:00am	20 paisa/10 sec (BDT 1.20/min)	20 paisa/10 sec (BDT 1.20/min)	
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Pulse		10 sec	

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	12:00pm-4:00pm	15 paisa/10 sec (90 paisa/min)	30 paisa/10 sec (BDT 1.80/min)
	4:00pm-12:00am	30 paisa/10 sec (BDT 1.80/min)	30 paisa/10 sec (BDT 1.80/min)
	12:00am-8:00am	11 paisa/10 sec (66 paisa/min)	25 paisa/10 sec (BDT 1.50/min)
3 F&F	24 hour	10 paisa/10 sec (60 paisa/min)	NA
Pulse		10 sec	

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Anxious wait

FROM PAGE 1
"I passed sleepless night at the airport and without food. I continued my efforts to convince the officials until 2:00pm on Wednesday, but all my efforts went in vain. At one stage, I decided not to go to Saudi Arabia," he said.
However, Shariful had to return to the airport one day later as his family members and relatives had convinced him that they would be in deep trouble if he did not go abroad.
In his 30s, Shariful, hailing from Daulatpur Upazila of Kushtia, had flown to Jeddah around 10 years back selling out three bigas of his ancestral land. He said now they had only the home-stead. He works as an electrician in Jeddah.
"Now my family lives on the money I send from Saudi Arabia. I had deposited around Tk 5 lakh, which I gave to a manpower broker to bring my younger brother to Jeddah. But the broker misappropriated the money," said Shariful.
He still does not know for sure when he would be able to board the Jeddah-bound Biman flight as the national carrier has been in a schedule mess since September 12.
The massive timetable chaos, seen for the first time, has already shattered the travel plans of several thousand Biman flyers, mostly Middle East-bound passengers.
The ambitious plan of the Biman authorities to carry

around 57,000 hajj pilgrims to earn a big amount without proper back-up aircraft is the main reason behind the schedule disaster.
The hajj flights, however, are flying on time.
Visa period of some people have already been expired, alleged the stranded passengers, while many were in grave uncertainty as to whether they would be able to go to their destinations before their visa period expired.
Shariful also said he saw a passenger fell unconscious at the airport on Tuesday as his visa period expired by the time. He, however, could not give details of the passenger.
Many of the passengers were shuttling between the airport and hotels and relatives' residences in the capitals as the Biman officials were deferring flight schedules several times.
During a visit to the airport in the early hours and at noon yesterday, this correspondent found several hundred passengers waiting inside and outside the lounge.
"I came to the airport on

September 14. After getting several extensions, I was told that my flight has been rescheduled for Sunday. As I came again on that day, the Biman officials told me that my flight was rescheduled for September 19," Hasina Begum, who works at a Madrasa in Kuwait, told this correspondent around 12:45am yesterday.
Like Hasina, Hazera Begum and her daughter Asma who work as domestic helps in Kuwait, were also waiting outside an entry gate anxiously as the Biman officials had promised them of sending on the scheduled time at 3:00am.
Contacted over phone last morning, a shocked Hazera said none of them could fly. So she and her daughter returned to Nababganj of Dhaka in the morning as the Biman officials deferred the flight schedule for Friday (today).
In a latest development at 1:30am today, Shariful Islam told The Daily Star over the phone that his flight for Saudi Arabia was scheduled for 2:30am.



Registration for AusAID Alumni

The Australian Government has supported citizens of Bangladesh to study in Australia since, at least, the 1970s. Many hundreds of scholars have benefitted from these opportunities and returned to Bangladesh to contribute to its continued development.

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) is establishing an alumni network for recipients of AusAID scholarships. The network will provide opportunities for professional development, social events, either as part of official functions or generated by alumni themselves, and link people with similar Australian experiences.

The South Asia Scholarships Program (SASP) manages the Australian Development Awards for AusAID in Bangladesh. It has developed a website (<http://alumni.southasiascholarships.org>) where AusAID alumni can register. The alumni website can also be accessed through the SASP website at: www.southasiascholarships.org.

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For queries about registering as an alumnus, contact webmaster@southasiascholarship.org.

For general enquiries or more information about this AusAID initiative, contact

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Submission of Proposal: The envelope should state the tender subject mentioned above and should be submitted to the **UNDP -Registry**, IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.

The deadline for submission of proposal is **October 11, 2012, 01.00 p.m. Bangladesh Time.**