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FOR GOOD POLICING

NHRC publishes human rights training manual for police

PAGE 12

'JIBONDHULI' COMES IN JULY

Tanvir Mokammel is planning to release music album for this film

PAGE 9

BRADLEY MANNING TRIAL

Experts find the proceeding "dangerous" for civil liberties

PAGE 8

POLLS-TIME GOVT FORMAT

No proposal

Decides opposition before joining JS after a year, walks out 2 hours later with demand for withdrawal of ban on rally, procession

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP Parliamentary Party yesterday decided not to place any proposal in the House on the formation of a polls-time government, an issue that remains at the heart of the current political standoff.

The decision came at a BNPPP meeting with party chief Khaleda Zia in the chair, just before the BNP-led opposition MPs joined parliament after remaining absent from 83 consecutive sittings since March last year.

However, within two hours, the opposition MPs staged a walkout around 8:00pm in protest against the unofficial government ban on holding political meetings and rallies in the capital.

Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir on May 19 categorically said no meeting or demonstration would be allowed in the capital for one month.

BNP's decision not to place the proposal on an election-time government is in direct

contrast to the call by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who has repeatedly urged the BNP to speak on the issue in parliament.

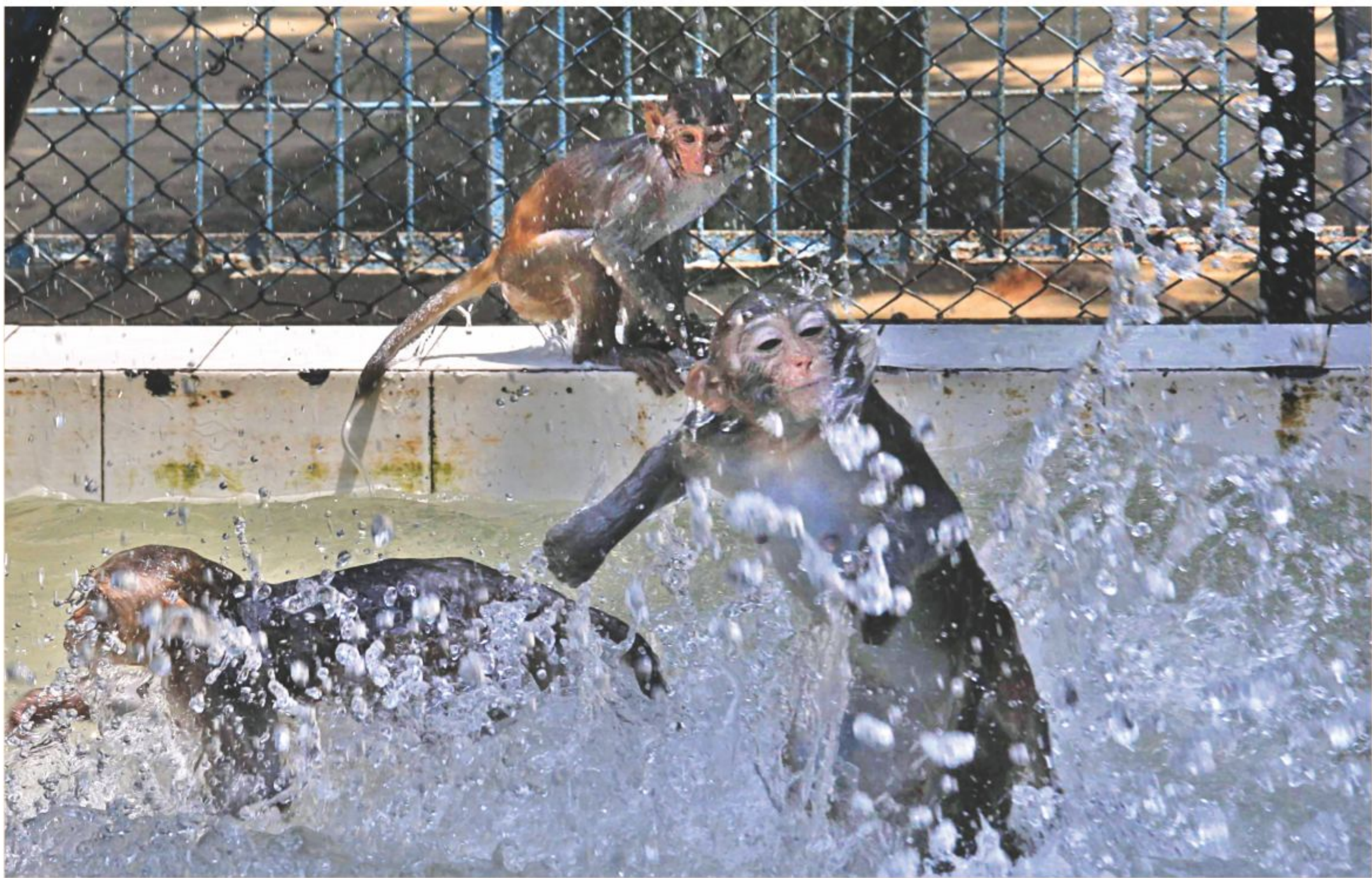
"It is our decision that we will not even discuss the caretaker government issue. The government has to move to restore the caretaker government system," Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Faroque told a press briefing after the BNPPP meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The government scrapped the system on June 30, 2011, through amending the constitution.

"It was his [Khokon's] personal move [to submit the proposal]. At the meeting, we asked him to withdraw the notice," BNP lawmaker Moudud Ahmed told The Daily Star after the meeting.

But Khokon expressed his surprise at this when contacted by The Daily Star, and said nobody had asked him to withdraw the notice.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



As the summer heat becomes a lot to take, monkeys have fun in the water at Dhaka Zoo yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

NIMTOLI FIRE TRAGEDY

No lessons learned

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and TAMANNA KHAN

Little action has been taken to make Old Dhaka a safer place for residents even after the deadly Nimtoli fire from chemicals three years ago.

The inferno killed as many as 123 people and injured 200 others on June 3, 2010 as it spread through inflammable chemicals stored on the ground

floor of a residential building. But that seems to have been a less than stern warning against such chemical storage as many buildings at Nabab Katra, Bangshal, Siddique Bazar, Sat Rowza, Babu Bazar and Armanitola still have factories with flammable objects on their ground floors.

Following the incident, the Dhaka district administration carried out

drives for four days in Old Dhaka and sealed off 25 chemical warehouses, said the then executive magistrate Mohammad Al Amin, who had led the operation.

But the mobile court stopped raiding the areas after businessmen dealing in chemical goods appealed to the government for some time for relocation.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Even after the devastating Nimtoli inferno, chemicals are still being sold from shops on the ground floor of residential buildings in Old Dhaka. The photo was taken from SCC Road in Armanitola.

PHOTO: STAR

Lack of consensus to sink economy

CPD warns businesses will suffer badly if parties fail to agree on polls-time govt format

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The economy will suffer greatly if the ruling alliance and the opposition fail to reach a consensus over a framework for holding the next parliamentary election, Centre for Policy Dialogue warned yesterday.

"The performance of the economy will depend largely on how we will pass the first two quarters of the next fiscal year. If there is consensus it is okay. But if not, economy will suffer deeply," CPD Executive Director Mustafizur Rahman said at a press briefing at the CPD office in the capital.

The words of caution come at a time when Bangladesh is hit by faltering private investments, sluggish trade, rising default loans, excess liquidity in banks and weakness in economic management, especially in the banking sector.

The CPD yesterday released its review on the performance of economy in fiscal 2012-13.

Political turmoil, hartal and vandalism centring the next polls have already deepened the strain on the economy.

"Such an uncertain environment leaves a negative impact on normal economic trends at a time when we want to accelerate our economic growth," Mustafiz said.

During the year, exports and remittance grew and helped boost foreign exchange reserves and a favourable balance of payments.

There was upward trend in public sector investment and Annual Development Plan implementation that contributed to the country's

RELATED STORY ON B1

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

INDIA'S POLITICAL PARTIES

Disclosure of funds a must under RTI act

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Setting a new benchmark in transparency in Indian politics, the Central Information Commission yesterday ruled that political parties are answerable under the Right to Information (RTI) Act and have to disclose their sources of funding.

A Full Bench of the Commission comprising Chief Information Commissioner Satyananda Mishra and Information Commissioner M L Sharma and Annapurna Dixit held that six parties fulfill the criteria of being public authorities under the act.

The six parties to whom queries under RTI Act were directed are Congress, BJP, CPI-M, CPI, Nationalist Congress Party and Bahujan Samaj Party.

"The Presidents, General Secretaries of these parties are hereby directed to designate Central Public Information Officers (CPIOs) and Appellate Authorities at their headquarters in six weeks.

"The CPIOs will respond to the RTI applications extracted in this order in four weeks time," the Bench directed.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



এখন সবার জন্যই আছে আর্থিক পরিকল্পনা

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