

Polls-time govt with MPs

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some other articles of the constitution relating to the framework of an election-time interim government. It is for the prime minister to decide if she wants to apply this," one policymaker who attended the meeting told The Daily Star.

Asked if there was any scope for appointing a new prime minister after the dissolution of the House under the provision, he said they had discussed the issue but felt there was no such scope.

When his attention was drawn to the ongoing speculation about a polls-time government led by the president or the speaker being formed, the policymaker, also a constitutional expert, said there was no such provision in the constitution.

Replying to another query, he said he assumed the president would ask the Election Commission not to begin the process for holding the polls within the last 90 days of the current parlia-

ment's tenure, which expires on January 24.

"Parliament will be dissolved within the last 90 days [of the parliament's tenure] and the Election Commission will move to hold the polls in the next 90 days," he added.

The Daily Star contacted

no need to amend the constitution for the formation of an election-time government.

Yesterday, Minister of State for Law Quamrul Islam told this newspaper: "An election-time government will be formed as per existing provisions of the

WHAT THE CONSTITUTION SAYS
56 (4). If occasion arises for making appointments of prime minister and other ministers between a dissolution of parliament and the next following general election of members of parliament, the persons who were such members immediately before the dissolution shall be regarded for the purpose of this clause as continuing to be such members.

two other policymakers who had attended the meeting to learn more about the discussion, but neither of them would speak on the matter.

On Monday, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed told reporters that there was

constitution. If the BNP wants, it can discuss the issue."

But it is yet to be seen how much the formation of such a government can resolve the political stalemate. The BNP demands that the government restore

the caretaker government system, something the government has refused to do.

Asked about the application of article 56 (4), BNP leader Moudud Ahmed said the provision contradicted the basic structure of the constitution.

"This provision is supposed to be applied in extreme emergency situations. However, if the government wants to apply this, it will not solve the problem because a partisan government will be formed through it again," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said this provision had been in the constitution since 1972, but it was never used and nobody noticed it carefully while amending the constitution in the past.

Asked if it was possible for a new prime minister to be appointed under this provision, he said it was possible if any MP of the dissolved parliament had the support of the majority of its members.

West holds back on Syria strike

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be given a chance," Ban said, adding that he had spoken to Obama about the situation.

With any US-led missile strike unlikely to have UN Security Council backing, key Damascus allies Russia and Iran again warned against any Western intervention, saying it could set off a wider regional conflict.

Chinese media also warned the West against attacking.

In an editorial headed "No excuse for strikes", the state-run China Daily said the US and its Western allies were "acting as judge, jury and executioner".

Syria's nervous neighbours have already stepped up preparations for conflict, with Israel authorising a partial call-up of arm reservists while Turkey put its forces on heightened "vigilance".

Russia was reportedly sending warships to the Mediterranean, while Britain said it was sending

fighter jets to the strategic island of Cyprus.

International pressure for action mounted after grisly pictures emerged after the August 21 attacks in Ghouta east of Damascus showing dead children who appeared to have been gassed to death.

Obama, who a year ago warned that the use of chemical weapons in Syria would cross a "red line," said Wednesday that Washington had definitively concluded that the Assad regime was to blame.

Asked how close he was to ordering a US strike, Obama told PBS NewsHour: "I have not made a decision."

He said US action would be designed to send a "shot across the bow" to convince Syria it had "better not do it again."

The Nobel Peace laureate, who wants to seal a legacy of ending foreign wars, not getting into new ones, argued that it was vital to send a clear message not just

to Syria, but around the world.

Senior US lawmakers are expected to be briefed yesterday about classified intelligence on the chemical attack, which if confirmed would be the deadliest use of such weapons since Saddam Hussein gassed Iraqi Kurds in 1988.

Washington had bluntly signalled that a Security Council resolution that could have given a legal basis for an assault was going nowhere owing to Russian opposition.

But some commentators have warned that any US strike would effectively see Washington fighting on the side of al-Qaeda, whose fighters have joined rebels in the battle to oust Assad.

In London, lawmakers were set to vote on a response to the attacks, but the government has conceded there should be no British action until the weapons inspectors report back.

British Prime Minister David Cameron was forced

by a parliamentary revolt to pledge he would not order military action before the UN report was published.

White House officials would not immediately say whether Washington would wait for Britain before launching any military action.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, whose army has been gaining ground against the rebels in recent months, vowed his country would emerge the victor in any confrontation with the US.

"Since the start of the crisis... we have waited for our true enemy to reveal itself," Lebanon's Al-Akhbar newspaper quoted Assad as telling Syrian officials.

"It's a historic confrontation from which we will emerge victorious," said Assad, whose regime has blamed "terrorist rebels" for the gas attack.

Global financial markets remain on edge, although stocks rose slightly yesterday while oil prices slipped back after hitting two-year highs Wednesday on supply fears.

Wisdom dawns on EC

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But in a surprise move on July 28, the EC, now led by Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, decided to scrap this authority, and asked its secretariat to send a proposal to the law ministry for abolishing Article 91E of the RPO.

The move drew widespread criticism from former election commissioners, civil society members and the media. They said if the authority was scrapped, it would weaken the EC and render it helpless in checking those candidates who use muscle power to win the battle of ballots.

CEC Ahmad and his team, however, ignored the criticism, and remained rigid on their stance.

On July 30, the CEC defended the decision, claiming that Article 91E was meaningless and inapplicable.

Even though the EC yesterday retracted its previous decision, Commissioner Nawaz tried to defend its earlier stance to scrap the authority.

Asked why the EC had made a U-turn two days after coming forth with an explanation, he said the commission believed the

explanation was right, but it had changed its stance to show respect to public opinion.

"The commission has similar powers to cancel candidature according to another article, 91A of the RPO. But there has been strong public opinion for retaining Article 91E. We have decided to keep it out of respect for the public demand, as it [EC] is a people's organisation."

Referring to some news reports that the election commissioners were divided over the scrapping of the article, Nawaz claimed, "The commission made the latest decision unanimously as it has done in the past."

The EC's latest decision has been welcomed by many who had voiced their concerns over the commission's previous move.

M Hafizuddin Khan, former adviser to a caretaker government, said, "It is good that the commission has finally paid attention to public opinion."

Stressing the need for applying authority efficiently, he hoped the EC would play an important role in preventing violations of electoral laws at the

upcoming national election.

Former election commissioner M Sakhawat Hussain said that finally good sense had prevailed, but the decision from the EC came quite late.

"However, it will not be enough for the commission to regain the public trust that has been lost due to some controversial decisions," he said.

Sakhawat urged the commission to cancel all its "controversial decisions".

He suggested that the EC hold a dialogue with all stakeholders before bringing about changes to any electoral law.

Election in January? EC Secretary Muhammed Sadique told The Daily Star that the EC Secretariat has been making preparations with the target of holding the parliamentary polls in January next year.

"We are making preparations on our part. But it is the commission that will ultimately decide the election schedule," he said.

The next parliamentary election is supposed to be held any time between October 25 this year and January 24 next year.

Noab for talks

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The statement said informing the members of the matter and holding a final discussion before presenting any proposal for a wage board to the government was a rule and it was the right of the members to know and have discussions on it.

Such an announcement made by the board chairman was unprecedented, the statement said.

Through an analysis of Sections 144, 145 and 146 of the Labour Law, it could be understood that the chairman had not been given any right to make any decision unilaterally, it further said.

"The chairman was requested to make a proposal on behalf of all as the journalists and owners could not reach a consensus, but that does not mean any proposal will be submitted to the government without informing [the board members] or holding any meeting with us or discussing the issues in the board," reads the statement.

This was how decisions were being made, avoiding or without informing the members of the eighth wage board, alleged the Noab statement.

The eighth wage board was formed to decide on the pay hike of journalists and newspaper workers.

The statement said Noab members had given their detailed opinions on the eighth wage board implementation to the cabinet committee in writing.

"Yet, we came to know that the government is

going to announce eighth wage board award without taking our opinion or logic into consideration. It is not logical to impose decisions this way," it said.

Almost all the institutions in the newspaper industry were privately owned but they were not given the right to fix their own salary structure, it said.

"Although illogical, we have accepted and implemented government-announced wage boards till date and we would like to do so this time as well. But the suggestions of the wage board will have to be finalised after consulting with us," it reads.

The statement said the newspaper industry was going through a crisis. Customs duty had been increased to 10 percent from 3 percent in this year's budget, resulting in an increase of expenditure for newspapers.

It said on top of this, the finance ministry was going to make a decision on halving the government advertisement rate and a decision was made to price corporate ads at government rates. This decision was being implemented.

Overall, this attitude of the government towards the newspaper industry would not be good for the industry's prosperity, it said.

The Noab members demanded reducing customs duty on newspapers to zero percent, increasing the number and rate of government ads, and quicker payment for government ads.

Bus strike over assault of staff

Passengers of 10 districts of Khulna division suffer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Bus services between Dhaka and ten districts of Khulna division were suspended yesterday afternoon due to a sudden indefinite strike enforced by transport owners and workers.

Bangladesh Bus Owners and Workers Association enforced the strike, protesting the criminal attack on the counter of Eagle Paribahan at Gabtoli bus terminal in the capital.

Pabitra Kapuria -- central vice-president of the Bus Owners Association, and also the owner of Eagle Paribahan -- said a bus of Eagle Paribahan hit a youth named Motiar in Gabtoli area on Wednesday night, leaving him dead.

Following the incident, some youths had attacked the workers of the bus at the terminal yesterday noon, he said, adding that the unruly youths had also taken away five buses of the transport company, and shut the counter.

Azizul Alam Mintu, president of Bangladesh Paribahan Sangstha Sramik Samity, said the strike would continue until the government takes actions against the attackers.

The districts that are cut off from the capital include Jessore, Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Narail, Magura, Jhenidah, Kushtia, Meherpur and Chuadanga.

Ex-cop shot dead

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tall, slightly built and dark complexioned. None of them were masked," he said.

"One of the three then took madam into a bedroom at gunpoint, another came and locked us [Azad and Sumi] on the veranda."

He went on, "Seeing them, Nana had shouted out, 'Hey! What do you want?'" Through a window, Azad saw the first youth arguing with Fazlur Karim.

And, at one stage, the youth shot the retired man in the head. Covering, Azad heard two more gunshots.

Minutes later, Liton came back; the killers had escaped by then.

Fazlur was found face down at the door of the study. Liton and neighbours rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Swapna said the killers had taken away her husband's gold chain while escaping.

At the DMC morgue, their only daughter Farzana Karim Badhon told journalists that her father had a longstanding dispute with his brother's sons over property at their village home Ramkrishnadi in Sirajdikhan upazila, Munshiganj.

Morgue sources said the body bore a bullet wound in the head.

Nurul Alam, assistant commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police

(Khilgaon), said the motive of the murder was yet to be known. "It is very likely that the armed men were professional killers." Some other law enforcers added the murder was pre-planned.

Detectives are investigating the murder.

Fighting resumes north of Goma in DR Congo

AFP, Kinshasa

Artillery fire resumed early yesterday near Kibati, north of Goma in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, where the army backed by UN troops is fighting rebels, witnesses said.

In Goma, the capital of the turbulent and mineral-rich North Kivu province, shelling was heard in the morning coming from the Kibati region 15 kilometres (nine miles) away.

Fighters of the M23 rebel movement, a Congolese ethnic Tutsi force that deserted from the army last year, have been battling the regular army (FARDC) for a week after sporadic clashes broke a two-month truce in July.

Western military sources who asked not to be named said that the shelling could be a prelude to an assault by the army, backed by soldiers of a newly formed UN intervention brigade.

জাতীয় শিক্ষাক্রম ও পাঠ্যপুস্তক বোর্ড
"পাঠ্যপুস্তক ভবন"
৬৯-৭০, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং: ২৩৩ তারিখ: ২৬/০৮/২০১৩
বিজ্ঞপ্তি ২৬

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে, জাতীয় শিক্ষাক্রম সমন্বয় কমিটির সিদ্ধান্ত মোতাবেক জুনিয়র স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট পরীক্ষা ২০১৩ এর ইংরেজি ১ম পত্র বিষয়ের প্রশ্ন কাঠামো আংশিক পরিবর্তন করা হয়েছে। পরিবর্তিত প্রশ্ন কাঠামো নিম্নরূপ:

Question Structure
JSC Examination- 2013
English First Paper
Full Marks-100
Time- 3 hours

Section A (Reading)

#	Reading Test (Seen Passage)	Marks
1.	Multiple Choice Question	1x5 = 5
2.	Short Question	2x5 = 10
3.	Summarizing	= 10
#	Reading Test: Unseen (Information Transfer & True/False from an unseen passage)	
4.	Information Transfer	1x5 = 5
5.	True / False	1x5 = 5
6.	Fill in the gaps with app. words	1x5 = 5
7.	Rearranging Sentence	= 10
8.	Gap filling with clues	0.5x10 = 5
9.	Matching sentence parts	1x5 = 5

Section B (Writing)

10.	Dialogue writing	10
11.	Paragraph writing	10
12.	Completing story	10
13.	Informal letter	10

Total = 100 Marks

(ব্রেজ গোপাল ভৌমিক)
সচিব
জাতীয় শিক্ষাক্রম ও পাঠ্যপুস্তক বোর্ড, ঢাকা।
ফোন : ৯৫৬৫৬৪৪

BTCL MD, 22 others

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Khabiruzzaman and Afsar Alam -- former MD Azizul Islam, who has been made officer on special duty, and former MD Abu Sayeed Khan, said ACC Deputy Director SM Shahidur Rahman.

The remaining three accused are Ericsson Bangladesh's country manager Asif Zahid, relations manager Nazrul Islam and ex-engineer Mashrurul Hakim.

The BTCL officials in league with Ericsson Bangladesh's misappropriated the money between August 2009 and November 2012, erasing international call records from the call details recorder at the BTCL office in Mohakhali, according to the case statements.

The anti-graft watchdog took a year from April, 2012 to complete an investigation into the scam, Shahidur said.

During the probe, investigators found that though the Ericsson officials were not supposed to have had access to the Mohakhali BTCL exchange room, the trio had often entered it only to help BTCL officials

do the scam.

BTCL had no maintenance agreement with Ericsson Bangladesh, he added.

Ericsson supplied software for the two sub-exchanges in Mohakhali, Shahidur said, adding Ericsson had installed the software.

The ACC investigation team collected information from Mohakhali International Exchange Office, visiting its computer centres, and gathered international call records from all cellphone operators, including Grameenphone, Teletalk and Banglalink.

The ACC probe body verified the data and detected the anomalies, the ACC official said.

Calls from outside the country come through International Gateway at the international exchange and then reach different operators through two sub-exchanges at the Mohakhali office.

The accused manipulated international incoming calls through VoIP [Voice Over International Protocol], using the international exchange at Mohakhali.

Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme II (CDMP II)
Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (6th Floor), 92-93, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh
Tel: 9890937, 8821255, 8821459, Fax: 9890854, Website: www.cdmp.org.bd, E-mail: info@cdmp.org.bd

Invitation for Tenders

Procurement entity name	Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme II (CDMP II).		
1 Invitation for	Tenders for Training aid items for school earthquake drill.		
2 Date	22 August 2013.		
KEY INFORMATION			
3 Procurement method	Open Tender Method.		
FUNDING INFORMATION			
4 Budget and source of funds	Project Aid.		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
5 Project/program name	Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme II (CDMP II).		
6 Tender package name	Three package; Single Lot; Package 1-Life Jacket - 2650 pcs; Package 2-Life Bouys - 700 pcs; Package 3-Solar Lantern - 750 pcs		
7 Tender last distributing date	Please send an e-mail with formal request letter to sharif.ahmed@cdmp.org.bd to get the schedule.		
8 Tender submission date & time	15.09.2013 at 11.00am.		
9 Tender opening date & time	15.09.2013 at 11.30am.		
10 Name and address of the office(s)	As mentioned SI 15.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
11 Eligibility of tenderer	The tenderer should have a valid trade license, updated VAT & Tax certificate & bank account solvency and other documents as per tender schedule.		
12 Brief description of goods	(Detail description is available with tender schedule).		
13 Price of tender document	Free of cost/collect through e-mail.		
PROCURING ENTITY DETAIL			
14 Name/designation of inviting tender	National Program Director.		
15 Address of official inviting tender	Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme II (CDMP II), Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief Bhaban (6th Floor), 92-93, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh.		
16 Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No. 88-02-9890937	Fax No. 88-02-9890854	Website Address: www.cdmp.org.bd E-mail: info@cdmp.org.bd

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender(s) or cancel the whole process.