



DARK MATTER

What you see is not what you get

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THE FORCE OF 'GRAVITY'

3D space thriller tops the US and Canada box office

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JFK BRAIN MYSTERY

His younger brother may have "stolen it from National Archives"

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No homework done by BNP

14 advisers from 2 caretaker govts alive; some ailing, some unwilling

M ABUL KALAM AZAD, SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

The main opposition BNP did not do proper homework before its Chairperson Khaleda Zia proposed forming a polls-time administration by picking 10 advisers from the 1996 and 2001 caretaker governments.

The two caretaker governments had 10 advisers each. But two of them being common to both governments there were a total of 18 individuals in the two cabinets. Of them, four have passed away.

Those who have died are Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed (who served as adviser in both governments), Prof Shamsul Haq, Justice Bimalendu Bikash Roy Chowdhury and Maj Gen (retd) Moynul Hussain Chowdhury.

Of the remaining 14, some are not in good health due to old-age complications

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Non-party caretaker

Khaleda rolls out formula for polls-time govt; says JS free to elect 'selected advisers'

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday proposed forming a non-partisan polls-time government headed by a respected person to be chosen by consensus between the ruling and opposition parties.

She suggested that the Awami League and the BNP nominate five advisers each for the 10-member advisory council from among the former advisers of the 1996 and 2001 caretaker governments.

Khaleda, leader of the opposition in parliament, came up with the proposal as a counter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent offer to form an all-party election-time government.

In her proposal, Hasina didn't clarify who would head the all-party



polls-time government, but ruling party leaders have maintained that Hasina would be at the helm of that administration.

Khaleda yesterday strongly opposed the proposal for a Hasina-led all-party government, and pitched for a non-partisan head of government and advisers for running the interim administration.

OPPOSITION'S FORMULA

Polls-time government

Chief adviser thru' consensus

10 advisers from

Caretaker govts of 1996 2001

AL to pick 5

BNP to pick 5

AL not at all excited

Formal reaction to come later

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League has rejected outright BNP chief Khaleda Zia's proposal on the formation of a non-partisan election-time government and said her offer would further complicate the situation.

The ruling party leaders have also blasted the opposition leader for making such a proposal, which in their opinion is not in conformity with the constitution.

"The prime minister in her last speech [on October 18] called on everyone to come forward to strengthen democracy. But I am sorry to say that the opposition chief in her speech has proved that she wants to

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No politics of vengeance

Pledges BNP chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said if voted to power, she would come out of the "poor political culture" and introduce a new trend in politics, seeking no vengeance on those who treated her and her family members unfairly.

"I believe enough is enough. The people of Bangladesh don't want to hear any of this [vengeful politics] any more. That's why I want to initiate that change today by saying something very emphatically. I declare in unequivocal terms that I forgive those who treated me and my family unfairly in the past and continue to do so now," Khaleda said.

The main opposition party chief was addressing a crowded press conference held to dish out the BNP-led

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Hasina to phone Khaleda soon

She tells of making 'maximum sacrifice' to end crisis

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she would soon telephone her archrival Khaleda Zia and talk about the formation of an all-party polls-time government.

Addressing the weekly cabinet meeting at Bangladesh Secretariat, the prime minister said she was ready for "maximum sacrifice" to break the current political deadlock centring on the next parliamentary election.

"The prime minister informed us that she will telephone the opposition leader and talk about forming an all-party government which will oversee the next parliamentary election," a minister told The Daily Star after the meeting.

"We will try our best to ensure they [BNP] take part in the

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MIXED BAG OF REACTIONS

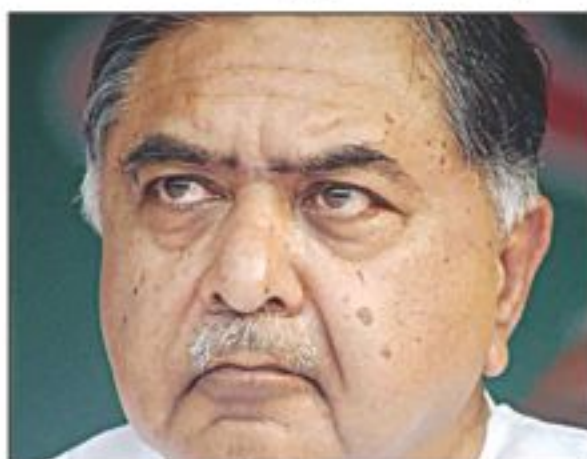
Eminent jurists and civil society members, while talking to Ashutosh Sarkar and Pankaj Karmakar, said the constitution had to be amended to approve the polls-time government proposal of the BNP chairperson.



Rafique-Ul Huq

Noted legal expert barrister Rafique-Ul Huq said BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's proposal about the formation of the election-time government was good, but the constitution had to be amended to adopt her proposal.

Premier Sheikh Hasina will not accept any non-elected representative in the polls-time government. So, the two leaders have to sit together to resolve the crisis, he added.



Kamal Hossain

Dr Kamal Hossain, an eminent constitutional expert and former law and foreign minister, said it would be possible to adopt Khaleda Zia's proposal if the major political parties reached a consensus.

Members of the interim government could be picked and elected, as proposed by Khaleda, if the leaders of the ruling and opposition parties agreed

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Akbar Ali Khan

Former caretaker government adviser Akbar Ali Khan said parliament needed to bring about constitutional changes to adopt the proposal placed by the opposition leader.

The proposals of the two major parties make clear the big difference between them. So, there is little hope of any political consensus about the election-time government, he added.

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Amir-Ul Islam

Another top jurist, barrister Amir-Ul Islam, said there were many other options to ensure a free and fair election without undermining the constitutional process.

Experts in the major political parties would be able to work out a comprehensive plan to ensure a free and fair election without disturbing the constitutional process, he observed.

The lawyer added: SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Untrue, baseless Economy at extra risk this time

Ershad bins Ashraf's remarks on JP's staying in alliance, joining polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday strongly protested Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam's claims of the JP remaining in the AL-led grand alliance in the next parliamentary elections.

At a press conference that he arranged at his Banani office, he said he hopes the AL leader will withdraw his comments.

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Moody's report cautions about poll-time politics

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON

International credit rating agency Moody's Investors Service warns that the escalating political turmoil in the run up to the national elections may weigh on Bangladesh's sovereign rating and eventually hurt its economy.

In its report in late September, Moody's noted that the election tension among major political parties was different this time as Islamist forces had emerged as an

additional risk in this otherwise secular state.

One of the two top international rating agencies that prepare credit ratings on Bangladesh, Moody's has so far given the country a steady rating which helped the country in investment and trade.

But this time, centring the elections the agency is speculating three scenarios, two of which would affect the country's sovereign worthiness.

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Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal rode his luck to play a stroke-filled 95 on the rain-hit opening day of the second Test against New Zealand at Mirpur yesterday. Here the dashing left-hander cuts a rising delivery over point for four. Bangladesh could bat for two sessions before rain stopped them at 228-5.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



Manzur Kader

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