



PHOTO: BANGLA CHOKH

Stick-wielding Jamaat-Shibir men show up for an opposition rally in Jhenidah town yesterday morning. Jamaat-Shibir dominated opposition demonstrations at many places across the country.

Khoka appears in public

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up-to-date," he said, adding that the current constitution was ridiculous.

Khoka, the former mayor of Dhaka city, on October 14 directed his party men to arm themselves with cleavers and axes to face anything preventing them from joining the rally.

Countdown starts tomorrow

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alliance, electoral experts and political analysts say it would be difficult to hold a free and fair parliamentary election with MPs remaining in office.

"As per the constitutional provision for holding the polls within 90 days before expiry of this Jatiya Sangsad's tenure, the countdown begins on October 27 [tomorrow]," eminent jurist Shahdeeb Malik told The Daily Star yesterday.

"After this option takes effect, we will have to hold the polls without dissolving parliament in the next 90 days."

He argued any move to dissolve parliament after tomorrow would be against the constitution.

Shahdeeb Malik cited article 123(3) of the constitution that says if parliament is dissolved on expiry of its term, the general election will be held within 90 days preceding such dissolution. But in case of a dissolution otherwise, the polls will be held within 90 days after the dissolution.

Ruling Awami League lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta, a minister without portfolio, said there are two options in the constitution for the parliamentary elections. One is holding the polls without dissolving the House and other is after its dissolution.

"When one option takes effect, the other option becomes inoperative," said Suranjit, also a former chief of the parliamentary standing committee on the law ministry.

In his view, the Hasina administration from October 27 will turn into an interim government.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed and AL lawmaker Abdul Matin Khasru, also legal affairs secretary of the ruling party, disagree with Suranjit and Shahdeeb Malik.

Windows opened for LDCs

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negotiating to reduce subsidies in cotton by the US government, as they can hardly benefit from global cotton trade for this move by the American government.

The Bali conference would be the deciding factor as to whether the multilateral trade negotiation would be in place or not, as governments prefer bilateral trade negotiations in global trade, although the LDCs were more benefited from multilateral trade platforms, he said.

Trade analysts at home and abroad, academicians, diplomats and researchers also spoke at the three-day international conference at Brac Centre

Since then, police had beefed up their watch over BNP leaders and activists and a day after Khoka's call to his party men, a team of Detective Branch raided his Gopibagh home to arrest him but could not find him there.

They claimed the prime minister could advise the president to dissolve parliament even after October 27.

"However, one thing is clear: the general election must be held within 90 days since October 27," the law minister said.

He added the government will turn into an interim administration after the announcement of the election schedule by the Election Commission. He claimed the government can perform in full swing until the election schedule is announced.

Veteran jurist Rafique-Ul Huq does not see any legal complication in dissolving the House after October 27. "But it will be against the norms of democracy if the House is dissolved after October 27," he said.

In case of normal dissolution of parliament, the election will be held within 90 days before expiry of its tenure, he said. As per this provision, the next polls will be held anytime between October 27 and January 24.

But if the prime minister now announces that she would advise the president to dissolve the House any day before January 24, the last day of this parliament's term, the election will be held after parliament's dissolution on the date announced by the PM.

"If the prime minister wants to do so, she should make the announcement before October 27 [tomorrow]," he argued.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on October 18 in a televised address to the nation proposed for an all-party election-time government.

But the size of the proposed cabinet and scope of work or who would be the head of the cabinet have yet to be specified.

Her archrival BNP chief Khaleda Zia has refused Hasina's offer and proposed for a non-

Inn, a preparatory gathering for Bali conference, organised by the CPD.

William Hanna, ambassador of the EU delegation to Bangladesh, urged the WTO to negotiate the trade facilitation as it is considered as the common agenda of all countries.

Urging the LDCs to work unitedly to achieve the goals, Bangladesh Commerce Minister GM Quader said Bangladesh currently enjoyed duty benefit from almost all the developed countries except for the US.

CPD Executive Director Mustafizur Rahman presented the keynote paper at the conference.

US spied on 35 world leaders

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In addition to the list, Spain yesterday said it would summon the US ambassador to Madrid to lodge a protest against alleged spying on its government.

After Merkel's allegations became public, White House press secretary Jay Carney issued a statement that said the US "is not monitoring and will not monitor" the German chancellor's communications. But that failed to quell the row, as officials in Berlin quickly pointed out that the US did not deny monitoring the phone in the past.

Arriving in Brussels for an EU summit Merkel accused the US of a breach of trust. "We need to have trust in our allies and partners, and this must now be established once again. I repeat that spying among friends is not at all acceptable against anyone, and that goes for every citizen in Germany."

The NSA memo obtained by the Guardian suggests that such surveillance was not isolated, as the agency routinely monitors the phone numbers of world leaders - and even asks for the assistance of other US officials to do so.

The memo, dated October 2006 and which was issued to staff in the agency's Signals Intelligence Directorate (SID), was titled "Customers Can Help SID Obtain Targetable Phone Numbers".

It begins by setting out an example of how US officials who mixed with world leaders and politicians could help agency surveillance.

"In one recent case," the memo notes, "a US official provided NSA with 200 phone numbers to 35 world leaders ... Despite the fact that the majority is probably available via open source, the PCs [intelligence production centers] have noted 43 previously unknown phone numbers. These numbers plus several others have been tasked."

The document continues by saying the new phone numbers had helped the agency discover still more new contact details to add to their

monitoring. "These numbers have provided lead information to other numbers that have subsequently been tasked."

But the memo acknowledges that eavesdropping on the numbers had produced "little reportable intelligence".

The Guardian approached the Obama administration for comment on the latest document. Officials declined to respond directly to the new material, instead referring to comments delivered by Carney at Thursday's daily briefing.

Carney told reporters: "The [NSA] revelations have clearly caused tension in our relationships with some countries, and we are dealing with that through diplomatic channels."

"These are very important relations both economically and for our security, and we will work to maintain the closest possible ties."

The public accusation of spying on Merkel adds to mounting political tensions in Europe about the scope of US surveillance on the governments of its allies, after a cascade of backlashes and apologetic phone calls with leaders across the continent over the course of the week.

The NSA memo seen by the Guardian was written halfway through George W Bush's second term, when Condoleezza Rice was secretary of state and Donald Rumsfeld was in his final months as defence secretary.

Merkel, who, according to Reuters, suspected the surveillance after finding her mobile phone number written on a US document, is said to have called for US surveillance to be placed on a new legal footing during a phone call to President Obama.

Earlier in the week, Obama called the French president François Hollande in response to reports in Le Monde that the NSA accessed more than 70m phone records of French citizens in a single 30-day period, while earlier reports in Der Spiegel uncovered NSA activity against the offices and communications of senior officials of the

French government.

Jamaat, Shibir

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Their banners and festoons were portraying the images of their top leaders, who are now in death row or under trial in connection with war crimes committed during the Liberation War in 1971.

Witnesses said the Jamaat-Shibir activists, who were the first to reach the rally venue since 10:00am, had captured the vast areas of the podium and kept chanting slogans demanding release of notorious war criminals Ghulam Azam, Sayeedee, Mojahed, Quader Mollah, Kamaruzzaman and others.

They hung huge banners with photographs of the top Jamaat leaders from the footbridge in front of The Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh. Almost each and every Jamaat-Shibir activist was carrying placards in and around the venue.

Six large banners hung around the fence of "Swadhinata Stambha" were inscribed with the allegation: "The grand rally is to protest against the conspiracy to kill the national leaders through politicisation of the judiciary."

Around 1:15pm, the activists of Jamaat-Shibir locked into a clash with BNP activists. Central leaders of both the sides soon calmed the situation down.

The opposition rally finally began at 2:20pm with the speech of Shibir Secretary General Abdul Jabbar.

Jamaat-Shibir activists were seen chanting slogans at the top of their lungs only when their leaders were invited to deliver speech. They were not seen echoing the slogans enthusiastically when leaders of BNP and other alliance parties were addressing the rally.

All their slogans were mainly about the release of the top Jamaat leaders.

During his speech, Jamaat's acting ameer Makbul Ahmed termed the International Crimes Tribunal "unlawful" and "politically motivated". He called upon the government to stop the trials and release all the Jamaat leaders accused or convicted of war crimes committed in 1971.

He also said Jamaat would continue its demonstrations. "The nation will not tolerate the repression," he added.

Talking to The Daily Star, many Shibir activists said the party high command had ordered them to rush to the venue and take control of the rally after Fazr prayers to avoid police obstruction.

They said hundreds of Shibir men had come from different parts of the country, especially from nearby districts, to join the rally.

Our Correspondents from different districts reported that in most places Jamaat-Shibir men took control of the rallies and demonstrations.

Around 10,000 people belonging to 18-party alliance brought out a procession in Pabna after the Juma prayers, reports our correspondent there.

Witnesses said more than 60 percent of the processionists belonged to Jamaat-Shibir and most of them had been armed with bamboo sticks.

Our Dinajpur correspondent reports: BNP activists locked into an internal clash over allowing Jamaat leaders to address a rally yesterday.

A section of BNP activists raised strong objection immediately after the name of Mozibar Rahman, nayeb-e-ameer of Dinajpur Jamaat, was announced around 5:00pm.

A clash ensued, but party leaders and police brought the situation under control. The BNP instantly wrapped up the rally to avoid further trouble.

A report from Chittagong says the 18-party alliance held a rally at Kazir Dewri intersection and it was too dominated by Jamaat-Shibir men.

Witnesses said Jamaat men carrying placards and festoons had occupied the entire front portion of the podium and chanted slogans in favour of their top leaders.

In Khulna, at least five Shibir activists were injured when they clashed with activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, pro-BNP student wing, over taking control of the front rows of a rally at Ferry Ghat Chattar.

Several hundred Jamaat-Shibir activists joined the programme wearing yellow ribbons around their heads. They carried placards inscribing their demand for immediate release of their party leaders.

Most of the participants joining an 18-party rally held at Rajshahi Government College premises belonged to Jamaat-Shibir, reports our Rajshahi correspondent.

Four passengers of the bus were killed on the spot and 12 others injured in the accident.

Two of the injured succumbed to their injuries after they were admitted to Gazipur Sadar Hospital. In the afternoon, seven of the injured were referred to different hospitals in the capital.

Police seized the truck, but its driver and helper managed to flee the scene.

Call off hartal

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like it gave in and decided to hold its rally at Suhrarwady Udyan instead of Paltan.

Around 20 central leaders of Awami League watched Khaleda's speech on TV at the office yesterday and then held a meeting before briefing the press.

Criticising Khaleda for terming the government illegal from October 27, Nasim said the present government was mandated by the people until January 24, 2014.

Nasim said his party protests and condemns the BNP-Jamaat violence and attacks on law enforcement agencies, Awami League men and offices and across the country.

He reiterated that the Awami League would ensure an election where all parties take part. "People still have not forgotten killings, torture, repression and corruption during your [Khaleda's] tenure last time," he added.

Awami League leaders Mahbubul Alam Hanif, Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Dipu Moni, AFM Bahauddin Nasim, and Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury were also present at the briefing.

Dreadful days ahead?

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the opposition slapped 39 days of shutdown over several issues. With the upcoming three days the number will climb to 42.

Since yesterday morning, vehicular movement on city streets was very thin. The footpaths too were free of regular hustle and bustle of pedestrians. This greatly hampered the earnings of the transport workers, vendors and others who live on their daily income.

The industries too will have to suffer a double blow during the shutdown, as apart from disruption in production they often face vandalism.

"On hartal days, most factories remain closed. This is a certain loss for us, but it feels like a double blow when pickets resort to vandalising factories," said Kazi Akram

Uddin Ahmed, president of Federation of Bangladesh Chamber and Commerce.

However, the horrid reality was revealed in the statement of Osamn Ali, general secretary of Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation.

Around 4,700 vehicles had been damaged while 100 more burnt by hartal pickets in the last five years, he said, adding that on a hartal day, transport workers receive only Tk 100 each as food allowance, but no wage. With this money they have to maintain their families.

The opposition from its Suhrarwady Udyan rally yesterday called hartal from 6:00am Sunday until 6:00pm Tuesday, giving the government a two-day ultimatum to initiate a dialogue on a neutral polls-time government.

Police thank

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adequate deployment of law enforcers.

He also thanked the rally organisers for holding it in a peaceful manner.

Citing some stray incidents of violence that took place during and after the meeting, Monirul called upon political leaders to refrain from such acts.

"During and after the meeting, cocktails and bombs were hurled at police at several

points and a political party's office was set ablaze," the police official alleged.

"We would expect [political] leaders would ensure that such incidents do not take place in future," Monirul added.

Putting an end to all apprehension, the BNP-led 18-party alliance yesterday afternoon held its pre-scheduled rally in the capital's Suhrarwady Udyan in keeping with the DMP's conditional permission.

Dhaka South City Corporation, Dhaka

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Re-Tender Notice

1)	Ministry/Division	:	Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives/Local Government Division.
2)	Agency	:	Dhaka South City Corporation, Dhaka.
3)	Procuring entity name	:	Project Director, Dhaka Urban Infrastructure Improvement Project, Dhaka South City Corporation, Dhaka.
4)	Procuring entity code	:	None.
5)	Procuring entity district	:	Dhaka.
6)	Invitation for	:	Works.
7)	Invitation Ref. No		