

Inching back to '96?

FROM PAGE 1

even if the Awami League and other major parties, agitating for a polls-time caretaker government, didn't participate in the election.

The eminent citizens, including former chief justice Kemal Uddin Hossain, Prof Rehman Sobhan and Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, moved to engage Khaleda and Sheikh Hasina in a dialogue to resolve the political crisis over polls-time government, according to the book "The Ishtiaq Papers" by Ishtiaq Ahmed.

They held a series of meetings with Khaleda and Hasina, then in opposition, to find a solution acceptable to both sides. But talks between the two top leaders were not held, as they both stuck to their positions.

Terming the proposal for caretaker government unconstitutional, Khaleda refused to pay heed to the opposition's demand. And her government dissolved the then parliament without resolving the issue of polls-time government.

A constitutional provision made it obligatory to hold the parliamentary election within 90 days since the dissolution of parliament.

Finally, her government held a farcical parliamentary election on February 15, 1996 amid boycott by the AL, the Jatiya Party and other political parties. The BNP and only a few non-descript parties took part in the polls.

Hasina, the incumbent prime minister, seems to be moving ahead with a plan to hold a one-sided election.

The premier continues to defend the current

constitutional provision that allows her government to stay in power during the polls. She is determined to hold the election within 90 days between October 27 and January 24 no matter whether the BNP-led alliance joins it or not.

The ruling AL is making preparations for the election while the BNP-led 18-party combine is gearing up for agitation to resist polls under the Hasina-led government.

The opposition has already announced boycotting the polls if not held under a non-party government.

At a cabinet meeting on Monday, Hasina talked about her plan to form an all-party polls-time government by mid-November, whether the BNP joins it or not.

She wants the election-time cabinet to start functioning under her leadership immediately after the Election Commission announces the polls schedule in the second week of next month.

Hasina told them that lawmakers of different political parties, except for the Jamaat-e-Islami, will be included in the interim cabinet.

Speaking at a press briefing yesterday, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu urged Khaleda to act promptly to join talks over the polls-time government.

"If Khaleda Zia misses the dialogue train, she will also miss the election train. The polls will be held in line with the constitution for continuation of democracy."

On Saturday, Hasina phoned Khaleda and invited her to the Gono Bhaban for talks on Monday evening. The dialogue didn't take place, as they couldn't reach a consensus on the date

They took treatment at a local hospital.

Journos attacked

FROM PAGE 16

Witnesses said leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami held a rally at Kaliganj Shaheed Smriti College around 12:30pm. While returning from the rally, the Jamaat activists vandalised and torched the office of Kaliganj Upazila Awami League President Abdul Wahed at Kaliganj Sadar.

As Habib was taking photographs, the attackers beat him up, and snatched his camera and mobile phone. They then cut down a finger of his left hand, leaving him seriously injured. He was admitted to Satkhira Sadar Hospital.

Orthopaedic surgeon of the hospital Walid Siddique said Habib's almost-severed thumb was dangling from the palm, and he was advised to take treatment at Pangu Hospital in Dhaka.

Habib himself also told The Daily Star that Jamaat men had cut down his thumb.

This correspondent attempted to talk to two top leaders of Jamaat Satkhira unit over the phone, but could not reach them.

In Narayanganj, four journalists sustained splinter injuries as two crude bombs were hurled at their motorbikes allegedly from a BNP procession in Kanchan Khan Bari area of Rugganj.

The injured are Rasel Ahmed of Kaler Kantho, Riaz Hossain of Ajkaler Khabor, GM Shahid of Sakaler Khabor, and Imdadul Haque Dulal of Arthoniti Protidin. All were Rugganj correspondents of the dailies.

Riaz Hossain said the hartal supporters led by Narayanganj district BNP General Secretary Kazi Moniruzzaman brought out a procession at Kanchan around 11:00am.

As the journalists were heading towards Kanchan Bridge two crude bombs were hurled at them, he added.

3-day blockade from Monday

FROM PAGE 1

[between Hasina and Khaleda] and it proves the whole process of dialogue was the prime minister's pre-planned drama," a BNP standing committee member quoted Khaleda as saying.

"We believe the dialogue is a dead issue now," said another policymaker wishing not to be named.

After November 10, the opposition alliance may lay siege to the Prime Minister's Office, secretariat and Election Commission.

As per the standing committee decisions, the 18-party will hold protest rallies in the capital and at all divisional, district and upazila headquarters on November 2 [Saturday].

The decisions came hours after the 60-hour hartal of the BNP-led 18-party alliance ended yesterday evening.

During the nationwide shutdown, political violence spread even to the remotest parts of the country in an unprecedented way, raising public safety concerns.

To make sure that the hartal is strictly enforced, the opposition men took to the streets at the district and upazila levels. They clashed with police and the ruling Awami League men in more than 30 districts.

The violence left at least 14 people dead, all outside the capital. Unlike in the past, no major incidents of violence took place in the capital.

Security experts fear further violence apprehending more such hartals in the coming days.

The fear seems justified. Justified because "satisfied" over the opposition men's strong presence in the remote areas to enforce the hartal, the BNP high command is now planning to bank on its grassroots strength to intensify its agitation in the weeks ahead.

"Through their unprecedented participation in the hartal, people of all walks life have shown that they staged an uprising against the government," BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told a post-hartal press briefing at the party's Nayapaltan headquarters.

"We wanted to take the agitation over to district and upazila levels and we succeeded in it. We are now confident that we will be able to enforce successfully any tougher agitation in the coming days relying on the grassroots leaders and activists," said Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, a senior BNP leader.

Asked about the violence, Mosharraf expressed his concern but blamed the ruling party and law enforcers for it.

Some BNP policymakers, however, are worried about the violent protest by the Jamaat-Shibir men and they fear that more such violence will take place in the next agitation programmes.

Jamaat-Shibir men took to the streets with their own agenda of foiling the war crimes trial, alongside the opposition demand for installation of a non-partisan government.

During the shutdown, they returned with their

contacted, Inspector General of Police Hassan Mahmood Khandker said his forces had also changed strategy to contain violence. "We are determined to ensure people's safety by thwarting any kind of strategy of miscreants."

Meanwhile, unidentified people blasted two cocktails in front of the gate of Mirza Fakhrul Islam's Uttara house around 8:45pm yesterday, said Yunus Ali, Fakhrul's personal secretary.

Fakhrul was not home at the time, Yunus added.

No one was hurt in the incident. Nisharul Arif, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Uttara division), said he heard about the incident and assigned his forces to investigate it.

Three killed in boiler blast

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

At least three workers were killed and three others injured in a boiler explosion at a rice mill at Bholerhat intersection in Thakurgaon sadar upazila yesterday.

The dead are Ramesh Chandra, 45, of Dighidangi village, Kofil, 40, and Posirul, 42, of Paikpara village under the upazila.

Officer-in-charge of Thakurgaon Police Station Firoz Khan said the boiler of Salauddin Ullubbi's rice mill exploded around 10:00am and blew onto adjacent Abdul Matin's mill terrace, leaving the three dead on the spot.

The injured -- Shariful, Dabirul and Saiful -- were rushed to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital.

Brief gunfight near US embassy in Yemen

AFP, Sanaa

A gun battle broke out on Monday near the US embassy in Yemen's capital, but the situation was rapidly brought under control, security sources and witnesses said.

The clash took place around a kilometre (0.6 miles) west of the US mission in Sanaa, a security official said, in an area with a strong presence of security forces.

However, another security official said the area borders on the Musaik neighbourhood in central Sanaa, where dormant cells of Al-Qaeda are believed to be based.

Security sources said the shooting had nothing to do with the US mission, and local residents said the situation was back to normal.

The US embassy and several Western missions closed in August after US warnings of an Al-Qaeda attack.

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) has intensified its attacks on security forces in Yemen, taking advantage of the weakening of the Sanaa central government since a popular uprising that toppled president Ali Abdullah Saleh in 2011.

Verdict

FROM PAGE 1

of the erstwhile BDR (now Border Guard Bangladesh) on February 25-26, 2009.

The mutiny left 74 people, including 57 top and mid-ranking army officers, killed by the rebel BDR personnel.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last night said although the trial in the BDR carnage case was at final stage, the announcement of the verdict required more time as the gravity of the offence was very serious.

She was at a meeting with the leaders of Communist Party of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal at Gono Bhaban.

Talking to The Daily Star around 7:00 last night, the officer-in-charge of a city police station said, "The higher authorities had asked me to deploy forces in the court tomorrow. But minutes ago, I was informed that no force would be required there."

Contacted, chief prosecutor of the case Anisul Huq said he was not sure about the timing of the delivery of the verdict. "Government sources told me that the verdict might not be announced tomorrow [today]," he added.

A total of 850 people, including 823 BDR jawans and 23 civilians, were accused in the case. Among the accused are BNP leader Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, city ward unit Awami League leader Torab Ali and the then BDR deputy assistant director Mohammad Towhidul Islam.

Of the accused, 813 are now behind bars, 13 are on bail, while four have died in custody, said prosecutor Sheikh Baharul Islam. The rest have been absconding.

The trial was held at the court set up at a makeshift building at Bakshibazar in Old Dhaka. During the trial, the court recorded statements of 654 people out of 1345 prosecution witnesses.

Forget lunch

FROM PAGE 16

option but to commit suicide if the situation continues," said Anik.

Around 200 workers wait in front of Buriganga Setu Market at Jurain on an average day. Yesterday the number was less than half of that, as labourers are aware that the chances of getting an employer during a hartal are slim.

Madhu Mia, a day labourer and a father of four, waits every day in front of Savar New Market to be hired. He said the hartal had brought further misery to his already struggling family because he had failed to find any work since Sunday.

"They [political leaders] are only busy trying to achieve their own ends, no matter at what cost. They do not have the time to care about poor people like me," he added.

When Mohammad Mahbub, a 20-year-old mason, was asked why he had been waiting at Jurain despite knowing about the harsh reality, he replied, "Who knows, perhaps someone will come and hire me."

His face fell when these correspondents identified themselves.

"I thought you were looking for workers. No one has showed up and offered me a job since Sunday -- not even for an hour," he sighed.

Day labourer Adom Ali came to Dhaka from Satkhira three years ago for a better living. He said political events such as hartals and blockades are forcing him to rethink his profession.

"I am rather considering going back to my village, as it is really hard to earn money during hartals," he noted.

Both he and Mahbub are of the view that political programmes like hartals, whether they actually benefit the parties or not, play havoc with their daily lives.

Ansarul Islam, a mason who came from Rangpur, said it is urgent to send at least Tk 5,000 to help his family meet its daily needs and pay for the schooling of his three daughters.

"But I am helpless now. I don't know how many days it will take me to earn the money in a situation like this," he observed.

Abul Kalam, a painter who lives in Jurain, said if more shutdowns and blockades follow, then he and his four-member family would have to live on the streets.

PATNA SERIAL BLASTS

Indian home minister says Centre alerted Bihar

PTI, Gurgaon

India's central government yesterday said it had alerted the Bihar government about possible terror attack on BJP Prime Ministerial candidate Narendra Modi's rally in Patna which was rocked by serial blasts on Sunday.

"We have said that we had given input (about Patna rally). Now, it was general or specific input that is a different thing. Whenever there is specific input we give but whenever there are such rallies we give input saying you have rally in your state so there could be a possibility of an attack," he told reporters. He was replying to a question whether the Central government had alerted the Bihar government beforehand about possible terror attack on Modi's rally. Multiple blasts rocked in and around the rally venue in Patna on Sunday claiming six lives and injuring more than 80 people. "We

give input saying you could be attacked in 2-3 days or so and so day. We keep doing that. We also give specific input," he said on the sidelines of a function organized on the occasion of the 74th raising day of CRPF.

Shinde said the home ministry had given alerts to all states with regard to rallies and asking the state police forces to beef up security. The home minister, who was supposed to visit Patna on Tuesday to review security in Bihar but cancelled it on Monday night, said Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar would travel to Delhi on Wednesday and they would meet to take stock of the law and order situation there.

"The Bihar chief minister will meet me tomorrow. I was supposed to go today but he has a meeting in Rajgir. So, he would not be in Patna. Hence, I have sent the Union home secretary, additional secretary and NIA chief. They will go there and report me back. Tomorrow, I will talk to Kumar," he said.

AL, BNP ask each other

FROM PAGE 16

Alamgir yesterday said since his party was not hosting the dialogue, it is the duty of the government side to take the initiative.

Addressing a post-hartal press conference at BNP's Nayapaltan central office, Fakhrul also said disclosure of the conversation between the PM and the opposition leader to the media was a departure from "political decency" and was "politically motivated." He blamed the government for this.

At yesterday's meeting at the AL president's political office at Dhanmondi, 14-party leaders urged the law enforcement agencies to contain hartal-related violence across the country with an iron hand to ensure safety and security of people.

"You [Khaleda] and your party must come forward to have a dialogue," AL Presidium Member and 14-party coordinator Mohammad Nasim said after the meeting with Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal General Secretary Sharif Nurul Ambia in the chair.

Nasim criticised Khaleda for turning down Hasina's invitation for dialogue on October 28 on grounds of hartal.

Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL)				
Level-16, UTC Building, 8 Panthapath, Kawran bazaar, Dhaka Telephone No.: 9102171-8, Fax No.: +880-2-8116663				
Invitation for Tenders (IFT)				
1.	Ministry /Division	Finance/ERD		
2.	Agency	Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL)		
3.	Procuring Entity Name	Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL)		
4.	Procuring Entity Code	Not Used at Present		
5.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka.		
6.	Invitation for	Tender, Goods (Single Lot)		
7.	Invitation Reference No.	IDCOL/RERDP-II/NCB-2013/02		
8.	Date	30/10/2013		
KEY INFORMATION				
9.	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (National Competitive Tendering)		
FOUNDING INFORMATION				
10.	Budget & Source of Funds	International Development Association (IDA)		
11.	Development Partner	International Development Association (IDA)/World Bank		
PARTICULAR NFORMATION				
12.	Project Code	Not Applicable		
13.	Project Name	Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Development Project-II(REREDP-II)		
14.	Tender Package No.	G-04		
15.	Tender Publication Date	30/10/2013		
16.	Tender Last selling, Date & Time	24/11/2013, 6:00PM		
17.	Tender closing Date & Time	25/11/2013, 12:30PM		
18.	Tender Opening Date & Time	25/11/2013, 01:00PM		
19.	Name & Address Of The Office(s)			
20.	-Selling Tender Documents.	Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL) Level-16, UTC Building, 8 Panthapath, Kawran bazaar, Dhaka Telephone No.: 9102171-8, Fax No.: +880-2-8116663 Pre-Tender Meeting will be held on: 10/11/2013 at 11:00AM		
	-Receiving Tender Documents			
	-Opening Tender Documents			
21.	Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender meeting			
INFORMATION FOR TENDER				
22.	Eligibility of Tenderer	Any eligible supplier/distributor/manufacturer meeting the following criteria: 1. Shall have valid trade license, Tax and VAT certificate for national tenderer and equivalent certificate for foreign tenderer 2. Shall have a minimum of 05(five) years of overall experience in the supply of similar nature of goods and related services. 3. The Tenderer shall have successfully completed supply contract of similar goods in maximum ten (10) contracts of the value BDT 55,00,000/- (Fifty Five Lakh) within last three years; years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper. 4. Shall have minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility or any combination is BDT 91,00,000.00 (Ninety One Lakh)		
23.	Brief Description of Goods	Clip on meter, multi meter, hammer, hacks saw blade, combination pliers, cutting pliers, nose pliers, flat screw driver, star screw driver, centre punch, slay wrench, anti-cutter, hydro-meter, dc soldering iron, calculator, wire stripper, tool bag		
24.	Brief Description of Related Services	After sales service minimum 03 Years		
25.	Price of Tender Documents	Tk. 2000/- (Taka Two thousand only) Tenderer shall provide pay-order or Bank Draft in favor of "Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL)"		
	Lot No.	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)
26.	1	Procurement of Tool Box	Kawran Bazar, Dhaka	BDT 3,30,000.00 (Three Lakh Thirty Thousand Only)
27.	Special Instruction	a) This Tender notice is in brief, and the details of the Tender can be seen from the office of the undersigned during office hours. b) If the Tenderer Submits any false/incorrect or forged certificate, the Tender security may be forfeited.		
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
28.	Name of Official Inviting Tender	S.M. Monirul Islam, CFO and Head of Operations Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL) Address:Level-16, UTC Building, 8Panthapath, Kawranbazar, Telephone No.: 9102171-8, Fax No.: +880-2-8116663, E-mail address: mislam@idcol.org		
29.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all Tenders.			