

Pro-BNP lawyers

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BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia told the lawyers that the opposition's ongoing movement would continue until the election is held under a non-party government, Mahub later told reporters.

They also discussed with the leader of the opposition the legal options for getting the arrested BNP leaders released, he said.

Later, a team of freedom fighters led by Shahjahan Omar, adviser to the BNP chief, held a 40-minute meeting with Khaleda.

Earlier, BNP Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed alleged that the government disrupted food and water supply to the BNP chief's residence, a claim trashed by the authorities.

Talking to reporters at the BNP's Nayapalton office on the first day of the 84-hour hartal, Rizvi claimed that none was allowed to enter her house either.

As his attention was drawn to Khaleda's meetings with pro-BNP professionals at her Gulshan residence on Saturday night, Rizvi changed his stance and said police "sometimes" barred BNP leaders from entering the house.

When reporters told Rizvi that according to their knowledge, water supply to the opposition leader's house was working fine, Rizvi replied, "I am talking about a particular point of time when the connec-

tion was cut off."

A top official of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa), however, refuted the allegation outright.

Talking to The Daily Star last night on condition of anonymity, the Wasa official said any disruption of water supply would require digging of a road and everyone could see if any such step was really taken.

"Besides, if any technical glitch had occurred, the whole area would have been affected, and people would have complained to us. We have not received any complaint."

Rizvi also termed the increased presence of law enforcers around Khaleda's residence "the beginning of maximum harassment of the opposition leader."

"I don't know how to define this situation -- confinement or house arrest," he said.

On the opening of sale of nomination papers by the ruling Awami League, he said the government was moving forward with its plan to hold a "stage-managed election" in the country.

FOUR BNP LEADERS IN KASHIMPUR JAIL. Detained BNP leaders Moudud Ahmad, MK Anwar, Rafiqul Islam Miah and BNP chairperson's adviser Abdul Awal Minto were shifted to Kashimpur prison from Dhaka Central Jail on Saturday night. They were arrested on Friday night and early Saturday.

Four war crimes prosecutors

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(Naria-Sakhipur), Nurjahan Begum Mukta for Chandpur-5 (Haziganj-Shahrasti) and Syed Sayedul Haque Suman for Habiganj-4 (Chunarughat-Madhobpur).

Abdul Hannan Khan, the coordinator of the investigation agency, collected nomination papers for Netrokona-5 (Purbadhala) and Sanaul Haq, a senior member of the agency, for Kishoreganj-3 (Tarail-Karimganj).

Meanwhile, two other prosecutors -- Mohammad Ali and Abul Kalam -- told The Daily Star that they were hopeful of collecting the AL's nomination papers for Dhaka-20 (Dhamrai) and Patuakhali-4 (Kalapara-Rangabali) constituencies.

Badal, a former leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), is currently a member of the convening committee of Pakundia upazila AL. He was also president and general secretary of Dhaka Bar Association.

Simon was Naria upazila chairman and joint secretary of Sariatpur district AL. He

contested the 2001 polls but was defeated.

Mukta, a former BCL leader, is currently international affairs secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Awami League. Her father was a parliamentarian from Chandpur.

Suman was an assistant secretary of the BCL central committee. Most of the aspirants told this correspondent if they got party nominations, they would resign from their posts.

A 22-member prosecution team has been dealing with a number of war crimes cases pending with two international crimes tribunals.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed told The Daily Star last night that there was no legal bar to any prosecutor or investigator collecting nomination papers from any political party.

However, the aspirants have to resign from their posts once they get the party's nomination as it is not possible to continue election campaign and conduct cases simultaneously, he added.

No response from parties

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government officials, expatriate Bangladeshis and other individuals but not from any political party.

"We do not bother about whether any political party has given its opinion or not. It seems they (parties) are not interested in it. But we will move forward," an election commissioner told the Daily Star.

"We will scrutinise the suggestions we received. If necessary, some of those may be included (in the draft code). Then we will send it to the law ministry for final approval," he added, seeking anonymity.

Contacted, AL Joint General Secretary Mahbul Alam Hanif said, "Our party did not give any opinion because we thought the proposed provisions of the code of conduct are rational, and we have no objection to that."

Jatiya Party Presidium Member Sunil Shuvo Roy said, "We did not know about this. If we knew, we would surely have given suggestions. It would have been better if the commission had sent copies of the proposed changes to the code to all political parties."

No BNP leader of policymaking level could be contacted over the phone yesterday for comment on this.

However, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir at an October 31 rally urged the EC to cancel the draft code of conduct.

Asked, former election commissioner M Sakhawat Hussain said since the political parties have not given opinion, it (draft code) might not be acceptable to all. So, it will be difficult for the EC to execute the code."

"It would be best if the commission would hold dialogue with political parties before formulating the draft. At least, the commission ought to send copies of the draft to political parties for their opinion and suggestion," he added.

The EC incorporated in the draft amendments some new provisions concerning the prime minister, leader of the opposition, ministers, state ministers, MPs and other very important persons (VIP), saying they would not enjoy government facilities during electioneering in the general election.

Hard time for air passengers

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Those who have relatives in Dhaka could stay at their places. However, they had to pay three times the actual fare of CNG-auto rickshaws and taxicabs.

Due to a transport strike, Momin said, he had hired an auto-rickshaw from Siddhi Nagar village in Santhia upazila of Pabna on Friday evening.

After travelling around 40 kilometres, he got on a Dhaka-bound bus at Shahadatpur in Sirajganj and reached the airport on Saturday evening.

"I could not sleep for the last two nights," said Momin, whose eyes had turned red

because of lack of sleep.

Sitting nearby were Noorjahan and her daughter Tania Akhter. The two had passed the previous night outside the departure gate and had a few snacks (puri). To have food, they took the risk of leaving their luggage to a fellow passenger whom they did not know.

Noorjahan, from Ahkaura of Brahmanbaria, was there to see her daughter off. Tania was supposed to fly to Jordan at 9:00pm yesterday to join as a domestic help there.

There were about a dozen others there and everybody had a story of sufferings to tell.

Hero Siddikur

FROM PAGE 1
and promoted him up to third position in the Asian Tour Order of Merit.

This staggering amount of earnings today is only testament to the determination and hard work the former caddie has put into his game, and a wonderful story of how one man's perseverance and dedication can take him to the top of a sport, which was once considered an exclusive property of the elite.

Unlike most of the renowned golfers around the world, Siddikur had the most humbles of beginnings. Born into a desperately poor family, Siddikur had to give up his schooling very early in search of livelihood.

The boy from Madaripur came to the Kurmitola Golf Club at the age of fifteen and became a ball boy there before being promoted to a caddie. There he developed true love for the game and spent his spare time playing the game with a make-shift seven iron head stuck onto a piece of metal rod. His big break came when he won a local

tournament before being selected for the national amateur team.

Once relieved of his concerns for livelihood, Siddikur never looked back and racked up amateur titles from around the sub-continent before becoming a pro in 2007. The Madaripur man won four titles in the Professional Golfer's Tour of India in the next three years before eventually landing the biggest prize--the title of Brunei Open in 2010.

That victory presented a new image of Bangladesh before the rest of the world -- that against all adversities, it is possible to triumph, with loyalty to one's roots and sheer determination -- two features which are most noticeable in Siddikur's character.

Today Siddikur will be flying off to Melbourne to carry the national flag once more in the ISPS HANADA World Cup of Golf which begins on November 21. And one feels, with the determination and humbleness, Siddikur is destined to bring greater glories for him and the country.

ACC toothless

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who piloted the bill in parliament, claimed every country had laws with such provisions.

"If the bosses give orders, then what will a government employee do?" she asked while talking to The Daily Star yesterday.

Matia, who is also in charge of the cabinet division in parliament, said the government is the custodian of its employees, so its permission is required to lodge cases against its officials.

When the proposal was first placed in parliament in February 2011, the ACC as well as different non-government organisations and individuals working for good governance, and various donor agencies and countries expressed concern.

In response, Finance Minister AMA Muhih wrote to the parliamentary standing committee on the law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry and requested that the anti-graft body's power to sue government officials not be curtailed.

The parliamentary body itself was against curtailing the ACC's power and had recommended in September this year that the House reject the controversial provision.

Interestingly, members of the parliamentary body visited Australia, Indonesia and South Korea to gather experience on how anti-graft bodies in those countries work.

But all efforts went in vain yesterday. During the passage of the bill, ruling Awami League lawmaker RAM Obaidul Mukta Dir Chowdhury proposed the inclusion of the controversial provision.

The agriculture minister, who proposed the passage of the bill, accepted the amendment proposal, and the House passed the bill by voice vote.

The bill was scheduled for passage on October 28 this year, but the House did not pass the bill that day.

On May 19, 2011, Suranjit Sengupta, the then chief of the parliamentary body, said, "If any government official is personally involved in corruption or assists in committing corruption, the state cannot take his responsibility."

"And in that case, no prior permission should be required for filing a case against the government official for the specific crime."

Suranjit, who was later made minister without portfolio, said members of the committee questioned as to how this proposed provision would serve the nation.

The changes brought to the ACC law yesterday increased the tenure of the anti-graft body's chief and commissioners to five years from four years.

They also made graft offences non-bailable and introduced a provision for punishment up to five years' imprisonment for supplying false information to influence investigation and trial.

They also empowered the police to investigate graft allegations against ACC officials and employees.

Currently, the ACC law allows the anti-graft body to do the job.

CONTROVERSIAL PROVISION

Yesterday's amendment to the ACC Act introduced the provision for prior government permission to file cases against public servants and begin trial of the cases under section 197 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

As per the provision, no court shall take cognisance of an offence without prior government sanction to hold trial of a judge, or a magistrate or any public servant.

Prosecutors will have to submit proof of government permission to the court before it begins trial of a judge or a magistrate or any public servant.

Section 197 allows the government to determine the nature of the offences under which public servants can be prosecuted. It can also determine which court would try them.

Hefajat's Nov 15

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in Hathazari with its Ameer Shah Ahmed Shafi in the chair.

The decision was taken as the three-day Ijtema of Tablighi Jamaat would begin at Tongi on the outskirts of the capital on November 15, said Azizul Haque Islamabadi, organising secretary of the organisation.

Moreover, the holy Ashura would be observed across the country on the same day, he added.

Hefajat Secretary General Junaid Babunagari, among others, was present at the meeting.

Earlier, at a rally in Hathazari on November 2, Hefajat leaders announced that a grand rally would be held in the capital on November 15 to press home their demands.

Their demands included the cancellation of the proposed Qwami Madrasa Shikha Kartirpakha Ain-2013, realisation of the organisation's 13 points, and formation of a judicial probe body to investigate the 'mass killing' at the capital's Shapla Chatter in the early hours of May 6.

Azizul Haque said they would hold rallies in Munshiganj, Tangail, Brahmanbaria, Mymensingh, Narayanganj, Manikganj, Gazipur, Habiganj, Feni, Noakhali, Comilla and Chandpur after November 15.

The organisation also plans to hold a rally in Chittagong on December 12-13.

Armed men kill six in central Nigeria

AFP, Lagos

Gunmen attacked five farming villages in volatile central Nigeria's Benue State, killing six people and burning many houses, police said yesterday.

"Five Agatu villages were attacked yesterday by suspected Fulani cattle herders who killed six people," state police spokesman Daniel Ezeala told AFP.

He said "many houses" were razed during the violence, the latest on mainly ethnic Tiv people, who are predominantly farmers.

Local media however said 36 people were killed in the mayhem.

AL cheers, BNP jeers

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opposition's non-participation in the elections under the AL formula of an all-party government.

This also makes clear that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and many leaders of her party are confident about holding the election in early January without any major resistance from the opposition.

The BNP-led alliance has already declared that it will boycott and resist the polls if held under a Hasina-led government.

The AL believes that the BNP, mainly for its organisational weakness, would not be able to put up strong resistance as the AL did in the run-up to the farical polls of February 15 in 1996, said AL insiders.

The AL leaders feel so confident since the BNP couldn't perk up street agitation during this government's tenure, they said.

In reality, the ruling party's assessment is largely true.

Organisational weakness, intra-party conflict and the government's tough stance on the opposition have made the BNP high command doubtful about the success of the ongoing agitation, according to BNP insiders.

They fear the BNP-led alliance may not succeed in waging a street agitation strong enough to either force the government to install a non-party interim administration or call off the polls.

In efforts to resist the 1996 election, the AL and its allies held tougher agitation programmes like blockade and hartal.

The then BNP government held the election though the opposition parties boycotted it. The polls failed to gain credibility because of very low turnout -- only 20.97 percent.

This time, the AL policymakers are making efforts to ensure a turnout of more than 50 percent in the next election even if the BNP-led alliance finally boycotts the polls, said AL insiders.

"The upcoming election would be held

amid festivity. We hope that all voters would exercise their franchise," said AL General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam while opening the sale of nomination papers at the party central office at Bangabandhu Avenue.

"The country will have a new government by mid-January next year," he said.

The AL's current strategy has already worried the BNP. With the recent change in the Representation of the People Order, a candidate is no longer required to be affiliated with a party for three years to contest the polls on its ticket. This allows a party member to join any other party to contest the election.

BNP high-ups fear many mid-level leaders may leave the party and join other parties to contest the next polls on the ruling party's assurance that they will be elected as lawmakers.

It will be a big challenge for the BNP to prevent its leaders from contesting the election alongside waging a strong street agitation, according to party insiders.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was initially unwilling to contest the 2008 polls under the then military-backed caretaker government, said a BNP standing committee member, preferring anonymity.

But she finally changed her mind, fearing that her party might get split if it boycotted the election, said the BNP leader.

"This time, the situation is different. It will be difficult for the party to change its decision and take part in the election under the current government," said the party leader.

Some BNP policymakers said the issue was discussed briefly at the standing committee meeting at the party chief's Gulshan office on Thursday.

In its efforts to smother disagreement within the party, the BNP took a strategy to keep its leaders and activists busy by holding tougher programmes like hartal, said a senior BNP leader.

Attacks in eastern Libya kill six

AFP, Benghazi

A string of attacks in eastern Libya has killed a public prosecutor and five members of the security forces in less than 24 hours, judicial and medical sources said Saturday.

Since the ouster of veteran dictator Moamer Kadhafi in October 2011, eastern Libya has been hit by a wave of bombings and shootings, mostly targeting security officials.

Prosecutor Mohamed al-Naass was killed in the town of Derna on Saturday when an explosive device attached to his car detonated, a judicial source told AFP.

Naass was responsible for the "Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar region, east of Benghazi," the source said.

Also on Saturday, unidentified gunmen shot dead two traffic policemen, Al-Jala hospital spokeswoman Fadia al-Barghathi told AFP.

In nearby Benghazi, Libya's second city, gunmen driving past an army checkpoint shot

dead two special forces soldiers late on Friday, she said.

Barghathi added that the body of a police lieutenant colonel, Sherif al-Ajili, had been brought to the hospital late on Friday, and that he had been "killed by a gunshot wound to the head."

Troops and police have beefed up their presence in Benghazi to try to check the attacks, although so far their presence has done little to stop the violence.

Libya's government has struggled to stamp its authority as militias of ex-rebels have carved their own fiefdoms in a country flooded with weapons looted from Kadhafi's arsenal.

Violence and insecurity have also hit the capital this week.

Two people were killed and 29 others wounded in clashes between rival militias in Tripoli on Thursday, the latest incident in a wave of violence that is terrorising residents and underlines the country's instability.

Admin awaits

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Senior Secretary to the Public Administration Ministry Abdus Sobhan Sikder said excessive promotion contributes to the number of OSD, but promotion should be given to those who deserve it and those who would soon retire from service.

The Superior Selection Board (SSB) is reviewing records of the prospective officials for promotion. A summary in this regard will be sent to the prime minister for the final decision, he told The Daily Star yesterday.

The cabinet secretary is the head of the board that sends a recommendation to the prime minister for promoting bureaucrats.

Most of those who would become deputy secretary are from the 20th batch of Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) while most of the would-be additional secretaries are from the 1984 batch.

"Everyone knows there is no vacant post, but demand for promotion is there from the officials. The promoted officials will not get new desks. We are giving them promotion for their status and honour," Sikder added.

Currently, there are 1,316 deputy secretaries against 830 posts, 1,013 joint secretaries against 250 posts and 239 additional secretaries against 120 posts. Four secretaries have been made OSD as there were no vacant posts for them.

The Awami League-led government in this tenure has given promotion to nearly 2,500 officials. Most promotions came in the last two years as the government was apparently liberal

5 war heroes

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with others went there and buried the bodies.

"There is a tomb there," the witness said.

On June 9, 1971, Razakar men led by Yusuf detained freedom fighters Zainul Fakir and Basarat Kha from Tafalbari village and shot them dead.

"I heard it from people of the [village] market, who had witnessed the incident," Sikder said.

The Razakars also shot dead freedom fighter Salam Khan while he was going to Rayenda Bazar on July 19 of that year.

In the last part of his testimony, Sikder identified Yusuf, who had been produced in the dock. Yusuf is facing 13 charges of crimes against humanity and genocide committed in greater Khulna district during the war.

The tribunal adjourned the case proceedings until tomorrow.

TENDER NOTICE

Tender RFQ no: CAMPE/RFQ/PC-PHOTOPIER/21/13 Date: 6.11.2013

Sealed Tenders are invited from genuine importers, authorized dealers/agents & genuine suppliers for supplying the following items for CAMPE Protayasha project funded by DFID and Ongikar Project funded by EU.

Sl no	Particulars	Qty
01	Photocopier	04
02	Desktop PC	35

Details of the items and other terms & conditions of the tender are mentioned in the schedule.

Interested bidders may collect tender schedule from the Administration section of CAMPE from 12 November 2013 to 20 November 2013 during office hours free of cost.

The tender has to be submitted back to the Administration section Tender box by 21 November 2013 within 11:30 am and the tender will be opened on the same day at 11:45 am in presence of the bidders, if any.

The successful bidder will have to deposit 5% of the quoted value of the equipments as performance security through Bank Guarantee (refundable) at the time of signing the purchase agreement/work order.

CAMPE authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender in part or full or all the tenders without assigning any reason what so ever.

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