

Door shut yet open for BNP

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concessions," he added.

Earlier on Sunday, he said the EC would consider extending the time for submitting forms if the BNP decided to take part in the polls.

The opposition BNP, however, has been enforcing a countrywide blockade of roads, railway and waterways demanding elections under a non-party caretaker administration and the suspension of the polls fixture. It even extended its ongoing 72-hour blockade to a 131-hour one yesterday.

BNP chief Khaleda Zia yesterday again called on the EC to suspend the polls schedule.

The prospect of a deal between the Awami League and BNP on the type of election-time government still remains dim. However, Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday claimed that there was still hope.

He said there could be a deal brokered between the government and the opposition since the national and international communities were working towards this end.

With the BNP-led opposition alliance staying out, 1,107 people, mostly leaders belonging to 15 parties, including Awami League, its alliance component Jatiya Party, and around 150 independent candidates filed their nomination papers.

The returning officers will scrutinise their papers on December 5 and 6.

The EC on the night of November 25 announced the election schedule keeping only six days, the shortest in the last two decades, for submitting nomination papers.

Yusuf accused

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witness, testified that Razakars had killed 500-600 Hindus at the directives of Yusuf at Rampal and he learnt about Yusuf's involvement in the killings from local Peace Committee leaders.

The tribunal yesterday closed the postponed cross-examination of Sudhangshu as Yusuf's conducting counsel again failed to show up before the court and a junior counsel expressed inability to cross-examine him. Sudhangshu was initially supposed to be cross-examined on Sunday.

During his 24-minute testimony, 49-year-old Babul said Peace Committee had arranged a meeting at Rampal College Auditorium on April 19, 1971, which he along with his uncle Kalipada Mistri had attended.

In the meeting, Razzak Ali Fakir and Moslem Doctor delivered speeches and Moslem called for looting and using Hindus' properties, said Babul.

Frightened, he and his uncle returned home and went into hiding along with other family members.

After some time, Razakars came and looted six houses of their valuables in their locality. He said they escaped to India two-three days after

The EC gave 28 days' time for candidates to file nomination papers at the 2008 parliamentary polls, in which 1,500 candidates took part. In 2001, nine days' time was given and 1,900 lawmaker aspirants took part. At least 16 days were given for the seventh parliamentary elections in 1996 with 2,500 people joining the battle of ballots.

For the 10th parliamentary election, there are at least eight constituencies with only one candidate who filed the nomination papers: MK Alamgir in Chandpur-1, Momtaj Begum in Manikganj-2, Rezwan Ahmed Tawfiq in Kishoreganj-4, Abdus Shaheed in Moulvibazar-4, Nuruzzaman Ahmed in Lalmonirhat-2, Morshed Alam in Noakhali-2, Amanur Rahman Khan Rana in Tangail-3, and SK Afi Uddin in Jessore-1.

However, Awami League nominated candidates in many constituencies will have to deal with rebel candidates of their own party running as independents.

Former state minister Mannujan Sufian for Khulna-3, and Awami League leaders Zahid Ahsan Russel for Gazipur-2, Mrinal Kanti Das for Munshiganj-3, Sagupta Yesmin Emili for Munshiganj-2, and Mostofa Rashidi Suja for Khulna-4 will have to battle rebels in their party.

Meanwhile, the EC yesterday decided to request the authorities to transfer the divisional commissioner of Dhaka and deputy commissioner of Khulna.

An election commissioner told The Daily Star that the two officials did not act as per the EC's directives and that was why the EC wanted their transfer.

the incident.

He said it was probably May 19, 1971, when Razakars opened fire on 5,000-7,000 people at Dakra village in Bagerhat. He said one of his maternal uncles was there.

"From my father, I heard that the killing took place under the leadership of AKM Yusuf. I want justice for the killings," added Babul.

Babul would be cross-examined today.

Meanwhile, the defence of war crimes accused Jamaat leader Mir Quasem Ali submitted a list of 25 defence witnesses for their case. Quasem is facing 14 crimes against humanity charges.

TRIBUNAL-1

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday deferred hearing on a review petition on charge framing against Jamaat leader ATM Azharul Islam.

Yesterday was fixed for the hearing but the defence prayed for a two-day adjournment as their chief defence counsel Abdur Razzaq could not appear before the tribunal due to "personal difficulties".

The tribunal yesterday rejected a defence petition for privileged communication between Azhar and his counsels.

Woman, 7-year old

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blood on the street," tea seller Azizur Rahman, who witnessed the accident, told The Daily Star.

Mahinur worked as a peon at Help Point, a philanthropic organisation housed at Pragati Tower to the west side of the road.

Her husband Jasim Uddin is a security guard at a residential building to the east side of the road. The family lived in a small room on the

ground floor of the building.

Mahinur often took her daughter to her workplace. The two were returning home when the accident occurred, said Jamila's uncle Mohammad Shahabuddin.

Police seized the vehicle a little away from the spot and detained bus driver Mizan.

The bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsies, said Badda police.

Outraged business leaders

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police officials, who have been put on high alert due to the exponential increase in violence, intercepted them at Farmgate, saying they had not been instructed to allow such a huge number of people to near the premier's residence.

After receiving the green light, police let only 20 BGMEA representatives, both incumbent and former, go to Gono Bhaban, in a number of vehicles escorted by security personnel.

Later, Kazi Akram Uddin Ahmed, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), and its senior vice-president Monowara Hakim Ali and vice-president Helal Uddin also joined the delegation, which also comprised of Standard Group Managing Director Mosharraf Hussain, whose factory units in Gazipur came under attack from arsonists last week.

Following the two-hour meeting with the prime minister, Islam told reporters: "We have told the prime minister that we do not want to be the victim of politics. If the current situation continues, we will have to shut our businesses."

In response, the prime minister assured the garment owners that the government would ensure adequate security for the sector and would bring the culprits behind the arsons and violence targeting garment factories to justice, he said.

The delegation also urged the prime minister to arrange dialogues with BNP to put an end to the political impasse sapping the economy greatly.

"In reply, the prime minister told us that she herself had taken the initiative, but the opposition party did not pay attention to her invitation."

"You should rather urge the opposition leader to sit in the dialogue," Islam quoted Hasina as saying.

FBCCI President Ahmed said the prime minister would visit the affected factory compound of Standard Group in a day or two and also assured them that the government would do everything to help the company make a comeback.

The BGMEA also submitted a memorandum to the prime minister.

Desperate to protect their sector from the wave of deadly violence and sabotage, the BGMEA leaders, along with more than 60 other garment exporters and the FBCCI leaders, set off for BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's office in Gulshan, straight from Gono Bhaban.

But they could not see her, as the BNP chief, they were told, "does not leave her house during shutdowns and blockades".

The business leaders, however, left another memorandum of understanding with the opposition leader's advisor Sabihuddin Ahmed.

"In the memorandum, we urged her to spare the garment sector from shutdowns and blockades, as it is a crucial time for us to make our shipments abroad," Shahidullah Azim, vice-president of BGMEA, told The Daily Star. Ahmed notified the delegation that the chairperson would reply to their letter soon.

But party insiders said the opposition leader refused to meet with the business leaders lest the ongoing move-

ment to force the prime minister to resign and pave way for an election under a caretaker government system, loses momentum.

Earlier at the view exchange meeting at the BGMEA headquarters, Islam conveyed the concern that the international buyers' forum in Dhaka expressed at a meeting earlier in the day over the recent arson attack on Standard Group and condemned such destructive act.

The apparel makers demanded special summary trial of the persons involved in the sabotage and sought necessary support for the owner of the group to re-establish its business.

Anwar-ul-Alam Chowdhury Parvez, a former president of BGMEA, said: "We are all worried following the arson attack. The political leaders should understand that the vested groups could take advantage of the unstable political situation."

Shafiul Islam Mohiuddin, a former BGMEA president, demanded deployment of army if necessary on the roads and highways that are used for transporting export-import cargoes.

The BGMEA members also called both the ruling and opposition parties to stop the violence for the greater interest of the country, which is the ultimate victim of the confrontational politics.

BGMEA, Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association and Bangladesh Textile Mills Association in association with all other backward linkage industries' associations will together organise a human chain in front of National Press Club in Dhaka tomorrow to protest the recent attacks on garment industry.

a regime in Iran that supports terrorism, facilitates the massacre of civilians in Syria and unceasingly arms its proxies," he said.

Netanyahu later yesterday was received for the first time at an audience by Pope Francis, who is expected to travel to the Middle East next year.

Israeli sources say the visit could take place before Israeli President Shimon Peres ends his term in July.

UN team meets EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-member delegation of the United Nations (UN) called on Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed at the Election Commission (EC) Secretariat yesterday, but declined to brief the media.

The delegation, led by UN Resident Coordinator in Dhaka Neal Walker, reached there around 2:40pm, and left the office after an hour-long meeting.

The CEC also denied talking to reporters about the outcome of the meeting.

However, sources in the EC said the delegation might have discussed the logistic support in the upcoming 10th parliamentary election.

EC Additional Secretary Sirajul Islam was present in the meeting.

STANDARD GARMENTS FIRE 7-member probe body formed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, GAZIPUR

Police in separate drives until yesterday arrested 41 people in connection with the fire incident at Gazipur factory compound of Standard Group early Friday.

A seven-member committee led by Gazipur Additional Superintendent of Police (North) Sanjib Kumar Roy was formed yesterday to investigate the arson.

Gazipur Superintendent of Police (SP) Abdul Baten, at a press conference in his office yesterday told journalists that the committee would submit the probe report to the court in next 10 days as part of the judicial enquiry.

He added that Md Siddikur Rahman, administrative officer of Standard Group, had filed a case in connection with the fire incident with Joydevpur Police Station.

On November 29, some unruly workers of adjacent areas aided by outsiders stormed the factory and set fire to two buildings in the factory compound.

Japan for talks

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"A credible electoral process is integral to the advancement of democracy -- we're happy to be able to contribute to this end," Sadoshima said.

He was speaking at the contract signing ceremony of a project.

Under the project, the Japanese government will donate \$1,21,514 to Fema for monitoring elections, including the 10th parliamentary election, in Bangladesh.

Sadoshima and Fema President Munira Khan signed the agreement on behalf of their respective parties, said a press release.

Fema will mobilise a total of 1,550 observers in 300 constituencies of Bangladesh through the project.

Munira Khan in her speech said the project would enable Bangladeshi citizens to peacefully participate in the electoral process.

The assistance would also support steps to enhance the electoral framework and process beyond the next general election, she added.

AL criminals responsible

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miscreants" were killing the innocent by carrying out mindless attacks on them. "They're burning people alive by hurling bombs and torching passenger buses. Even elderly people, women and children are not spared."

Mentioning Awami League leader Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim's statement after 1/11, she said the recent violence during hartals and blockades bore the hallmarks of terrorism by the AL and "it is clear to everyone that Awami terrorists are the masterminds behind all these brutal killings and destruction."

To the Election Commission, Khaleda said, "Save the country by cancelling the election schedule and don't behave like a puppet of a party through taking steps to hold a unilateral, farcical election."

She also requested all concerned not to engage in the "farcical election process".

The former prime minister asked the government to stop "harassing opposition activists and break the ongoing political impasse through consensus."

She then urged officials of the civil administration and law enforcement agencies to carry out their duties impartially and not to make any move against people.

She called on those "affected and repressed" by the Awami League-led government in its tenure to continue what she said was their movement in a peaceful manner.

"People's legitimate movements have never failed. God willing, our victory is certain and imminent."

Getting back to the recent wave of violence, the BNP chief said she along with the people wondered how such horrendous attacks could

take place amid the highest security alert across the country.

She wondered how the perpetrators could get away to safety and how none of them had so far been arrested on the spot.

Khaleda continued, "Our leaders and activists are being shot dead every day by police, Rab, BGB members and Awami terrorists. The peace-loving innocent people are not our opponents. Our movement is for saving the country and its people and it's not for taking their life and property."

She alleged that the ruling party and the prime minister have taken to various propaganda campaigns, cashing in on the heinous acts for narrow political gains.

"Failing to ensure security for the common people, resist miscreants and arrest the offenders, they now blame the opposition without any information or documents."

She said the way BNP Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi was arrested at the BNP headquarters after midnight and the party office vandalised and looted reminds one of the attacks by the Pakistani occupation forces in 1971.

Khaleda also blasted the government for filing "false cases" without any proof.

"It's now clear that these heinous activities are being carried out just to file cases against the opposition leaders and to arrest them, and to suppress the opposition's movement and confuse national and international sentiments."

Referring to a minister's comments that the arrested leaders would be freed if the opposition came to an understanding with the government, she said it proved that the opposition leaders were being implicated and arrested in false cases.

Rickshaw-puller hit

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rickshaw, as the crude bomb hit his right eye around 2:00pm.

"All of a sudden, I found myself lying on the road. I could not see anything as blood was spurting from my eye," Halim told The Daily Star.

Locals immediately took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Sitting next to Halim at the DMCH, his wife Asma Begum said, "A seven-member family depends on him. What will we do if he goes blind?"

Mallika Nasrin, medical officer at the hospital, said Halim's right eye was badly damaged by splinters. She, however, said there was a good chance that the eye would be saved.

In Chittagong, three people, including a schoolgirl, were injured in attacks by blockaders.

Five-year-old Sumaiya Akhter Sadia was hit in the head by a cocktail while she was going to school with her mother by a rickshaw at Signal Colony around 8:30am.

The incident happened when their rickshaw was moving past a procession of blockaders.

In another incident, blockaders threw petrol bombs at a truck at Sitakunda upazila around 2:00pm, leaving its driver Md Yasin of Patiya injured.

In an arson attack on a CNG-run autorickshaw at Battali, its driver Abdul Aziz, 50, suffered burns on more than 35 percent of his body.

He was admitted to the burn unit of Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

At the DMCH's burn unit, the arson victims expressed anger at the attacks on innocent people and demanded punishment to those responsible.

Lying on a bed at the burn unit, Abdur Razzak, victim of the November 28 arson attack on a bus at Shahbagh, said, "I do not want help. I want justice. I want to see those attackers punished."

Razzak, a car driver, demanded compensation for the earnings he lost for being confined to the hospital bed.

"My eldest daughter just got admitted to college. The second one is about to sit for the Secondary School Certificate exams. If I do not get any compensation, they will have to discontinue their studies," he said.

The driver of the bus, Mahbub, who suffered burns on 30 percent of his body, demanded compensation from both the ruling and the opposition parties.

"Both parties must give compensations, since they both are fighting. They are equally responsible for our plight," he said.

Another arson victim Shamim, who was on the same bus, said he had no hope of getting justice.

"There is no justice for the poor. I might have to wait my entire life for justice or compensation. I will seek justice from Allah," said Shamim, a salesman, who suffered burns on 25 percent of his body.



ELECTRICITY GENERATION COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LIMITED

(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

BTMC Bhaban (Level-8), 7-9, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215, Tel: 880-2-9116382, 8124197
Fax: 880-2-9118345, E-mail: info@egcb.com.bd, Web: www.egcb.com.bd

Invitation for Enlistment

1.	Ministry/Division	Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources.
2.	Agency	Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd.
3.	Procuring Entity Name	Corporate Office
4.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
5.	Invitation for	Enlistment as "Advertising Agency" for publication of various advertisements of EGCB Ltd. in the widely circulated daily national Newspapers.
6.	Invitation Ref. No.	C-1956-EGCB/2013
7.	Date	01/12/2013
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
8.	Application Closing Date and Time	18/12/2013 up to 05:00 PM.
9.	Name & Address of the Office(s)	
	- <i>Application Form Availability</i>	Corporate Office, EGCB Ltd., BTMC Bhaban (Level-8), 7-9 Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
	- <i>Receiving Application Form</i>	Corporate Office, EGCB Ltd., BTMC Bhaban (Level-8), 7-9 Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT		
10.	Eligibility of Applicant	a) Must have valid Trade License. b) Must have TIN. c) Must have VAT Registration. d) Must have minimum two (2) years of experience of publication of advertisement in the widely circulated daily national Newspapers.
11.	Price of Application Form (TK)	Tk. 100/- (One hundred) in the form of Pay Order/Demand Draft in favour of "Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd."
12.	Enlistment Fee (TK)	Tk. 5,000/- (Five thousand).
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
13.	Name of Official Inviting Application	A. K. M. Mostafizur Rahaman
14.	Designation of Official Inviting Application	Executive Engineer (Procurement)
15.	Address of Official Inviting Application	Corporate Office, EGCB Ltd., BTMC Bhaban (Level-8), 7-9 Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
16.	Contact Details of Official Inviting Application	Tel: +88-02-8124197, 9134029, 9134032 Ext. 116 Fax: +88-02-9118345 E-mail: m.proc@egcb.com.bd
17.	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all Applications.	


A.K.M. Mostafizur Rahaman
 Executive Engineer (Procurement)
 Corporate Office, EGCB Ltd., Dhaka.

Netanyahu talks tough on Iran before Vatican talks

AFP, Rome

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has restated his firm opposition to a nuclear deal with Iran during a visit to Rome in which he was set to meet Pope Francis and Prime Minister Enrico Letta yesterday.

"It is very easy to receive a pat on the shoulder from the international community, to bow one's head," Netanyahu said on Sunday at a

candle-lighting ceremony in Rome's main synagogue which he visited with Letta.

"I would like to dispel any illusions. Iran aspires to attain an atomic bomb. It would thus threaten not only Israel but also Italy, Europe and the entire world," he was quoted as saying on his website.

"There should be no going astray after the attack of smiles. Today there is