



THE JAMAATI WAY

It's fascinating when Jamaat politicians speak of history

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CONCERT FOR FREEDOM

Bands show their love for motherland on V-Day

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MERKEL SWORN IN

Germany elects her to a third term as the chancellor

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MOLLAH EXECUTION

Dhaka protests Pak resolution

High commissioner summoned

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka yesterday summoned the Pakistan high commissioner and strongly protested Islamabad's reaction to the execution of war criminal Quader Mollah, terming it interference in the domestic affairs of Bangladesh.

In a two-page aide-memoire to the envoy, the government deplored the resolutions adopted by the Pakistan National Assembly and Punjab Provincial Assembly expressing concern over Mollah's capital punishment.

It also sharply reacted to a senior Pakistan minister's calling the execution "a judicial murder". "Bangladesh finds such remarks completely untrue, biased and absolutely inappropriate," reads the aide-memoire.

The statement was handed to Pakistan High Commissioner in Dhaka Afrasiab Mehdi Hashmi Qureshi at the foreign ministry late in the afternoon.

It says, "It is the expectations of the people of Bangladesh that decisions and stature of the highest courts and judicial bodies of Bangladesh are duly respected by all concerned in Pakistan and utmost restraint is exercised specially by the responsible quarters of the government."

Later, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali told reporters, "For where Bangladesh stands today, we are not afraid of anyone's threat."

He said the hanging of Mollah is Bangladesh's domestic affairs. Pakistan must not meddle in it. The adoption of the resolutions in Pakistan assemblies was tantamount to interfering in internal affairs of Bangladesh and it

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Farmers and traders in Jhenidah, like any other districts, have been hit hard due to blockades and hartals of the opposition. With communications snapped following acts of sabotage, transportation of perishable goods from wholesale markets has become quite difficult. Wholesalers are selling vegetables for half the price. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO:
FOCUS BANGLA



REMOTE AREAS IN THE NORTH

Banks run short of cash

Branches unable to bring cash due to blockade; clients suffer

SOHEL PARVEZ

An excited Sajjad Ali, a rice trader from the Sapahar upazila of Naogaon, arrived at the local branch of Mercantile Bank on Sunday noon to cash in the Tk 2.30 lakh cheque that the wholesaler had given him earlier in the day.

But his anticipation soon turned to disappointment when the bank official informed him that they have run out of cash.

Flustered, he then nervously approached the Sapahar branch of Islami Bank to cash in the other cheque worth Tk 90,000 that the whole-

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VISIT TO
NORTH

saler had given him. As luck would have it, he had to return empty-handed from there as well. "I had paddy growers on my back asking for their money. I was so annoyed."

Ali's is not an isolated incident, though. Thanks to the brutal activism that the opposition alliance has unleashed up north since October 26, cash transport between branches has come to a halt.

In many areas, the severe disruption in cash logistics is not creating much of a problem, as demand for withdrawals have dropped with the ebbing economic activities.

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SATKHIRA RESTIVE DESPITE RAIDS

Another AL man killed by 'Jamaat'

Bodies of 2 BNP men found in Laxmipur

STAR REPORT

A local Awami League leader was stabbed to death allegedly by Jamaat-Shibir men in Kaliganj upazila of Satkhira while law enforcers were conducting a joint drive in the same upazila yesterday, the first day of the BNP-led opposition's 72-hour nationwide blockade.

The victim, Moslemuddin Ali, 65, was president of the AL's Bishnapur union unit. Nine other ruling party leaders and activists were killed in political violence in the district over the last 27 days.

Meanwhile, police recovered the bullet-riddled bodies of two BNP men in Sadar upazila of Laxmipur yesterday morning.

A Jamaat activist, who suffered bullet wounds during Sunday's clash between Jamaat men and law enforcers in Joypurhat, died at a private hospital in the capital early yesterday.

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Rakib in footsteps of Sadek, Aziz?

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Holding a general election is undoubtedly a herculean task and it involves a complicated legal process. Individuals with high integrity and leadership skills require supervising, controlling and directing each and every step of this process to ensure that the job is done freely and fairly.

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad and his team were empowered by the constitution to do the job. By their oath of office, they were also bound to work towards making the January 5 parliamentary election acceptable.

But the incidents unfolding in the name of the polls have not left any hope of holding a free and fair election, a fundamental of democracy.

Candidates in more than half of the 300 constituencies are set to be elected uncontested, thus creating an

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Passengers wait for trains for hours at Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital yesterday. Amid the ongoing political turbulence, blockaders have targeted rail communications, uprooting tracks and removing fishplates, causing derailments. As a result, train schedules across the country have gone haywire.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

'Detained' Ershad being sent abroad

Uncontested polls challenged in HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Moves are on to send Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad out of the country anytime soon.

"Initially, Ershad was informed that he would be sent to Singapore. But he refused to go to Singapore. Now he may be sent to Malaysia," a senior JP leader close to Ershad told The Daily Star yesterday, requesting anonymity.

A government agency has already collected the passports of Ershad, his son Eric Ershad and his two personal staff, JP sources said.

They added the government was trying to gain Ershad's support for the January 5 election, even by "confining" him in the Combined Military Hospital.

Contacted yesterday, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu said Ershad was not detained. "He was admitted to the hospital for treatment."

Interestingly, a few hours before Ershad's "admission" under Rab escort, he had sent a letter to the Election Commission, requesting it not to

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Moudud sued for 'grabbing govt land'

M RAHMAN

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday lodged a case against BNP lawmaker Moudud Ahmed and his brother Manjur Ahmed on charge of grabbing an abandoned public land worth over Tk 300 crore in capital's Gulshan.

Harunur Rashid, deputy director (DD) of the ACC, filed the case with Gulshan Police Station stating that Moudud and his brother grabbed the land -- stretching over around one bigha and 13 katha -- at Gulshan between 1978 and 2006.

Moudud prepared fake documents abusing his power of minister in different terms to grab the land, cancelled its aban

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