HIGHEST GLASS CEILING Hillary Clinton on the chances of electing a female **US** president

REGD. NO. DA 781 VOL. XXIV No. 157

ASHAR 9, 1421 BS

SHABAN 24, 1435 HIJRI

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24 PAGES PRICE : TK 12.00

AL turns a blind eye to its charter

Intra-party democracy missing as party forums ignore rules on holding meetings

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The Awami League has often undermined intra-party democracy by flouting its charter since assuming office in 2009.

The party's constitution has provisions about committees and their role in ensuring internal democratic practices, but most of them have become

ineffective over the last five to six years. The AL presidium, the party's highest policy-making body, last had its meeting on April 11 last year and the party's think-tank advisory council on August 17 the same year.

The national committee has not sat since October 13, 2012, though its meeting is mandatory every six months as per section 17 of the party charter. In violation of section 25, the general secretary has not held

The place of the Awami League in

Bangladesh's history has been an enviable

one. As the party observes its founding

anniversary today, it is well and proper to

look back at the story it has scripted for itself

since June 1949. There is pain and then

there is pleasure in that story. There is the

record of the huge advances made by its

leaders over the decades; and there are the

demonstrations of pettiness that have pre-

vented a good number of its leading lights

NEWS ANALYSIS

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

AWAMI LEAGUE

TURNS 65 TODAY

History's metaphor

any monthly meeting with departmental secretaries after the January 5 national elections.

The party is supposed to hold meetings of all its 19 sub-committees every three months but most of those are to be formed, even though the 19th triennial council was held on December 29, 2012.

Contacted, AL Presidium Member Mohammad Nasim admitted that meetings of different forums had become irregular as, he claimed, leaders were busy running the government.

A senior leader of the AL central committee said the party was not following its charter in many fields and because of this, the organisation had lapsed into chaos.

from transforming themselves into leaders

Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani who, along

with Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, felt early

on in Pakistan that the Muslim League was

organization. And thus was the Awami

Muslim League forged into shape, a party of

Muslim League dissidents who believed

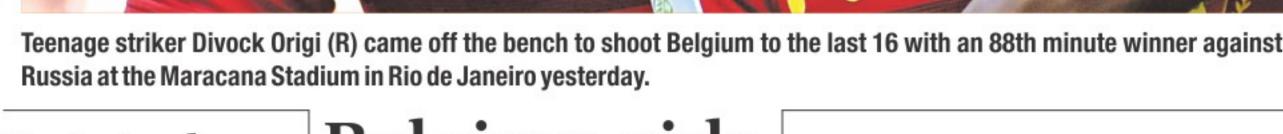
that the genesis of Pakistan was under threat

In the beginning there was Moulana

on a nationwide scale.

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our reply

Wahidur Rahman and Mahbubul Haque Chisty alias Babul Chisty, newly elected vice-chairman and secretariat member of Muktijoddha Sangsad central command council, respectively, have issued separate rejoinders to the report headlined "Bought swiftly turning into a feudal, self-serving out!" published in The Daily Star on June 16.

Wahidur Rahman, chief at the hands of Mohammad Ali Jinnah's engineer of LGED,

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Rejoinders,

WAHID'S REJOINDER

Belgium ride on supersub

Through to last 16

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Divock Origi sent Belgium into the last 16 of the World Cup when the teenager struck an 88th minute winner to secure a 1-0 victory against Russia in a largely lifeless Group H match at the Maracana on Sunday.

The striker rifled in following great work from Eden Hazard just minutes after Kevin Mirallas crashed a free kick against the base of the Russian post to give Belgium six points from two games. Origi, who came in the 57th minute,

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Sit for talks or face hartal

Khaleda threatens govt with agitation after Eid

RASHIDUL HASAN, from Joypurhat

There would be hartals, blockades and a noncooperation movement, if the Sheikh Hasina-led government does not sit for a dialogue on fresh elections with the BNP before Eid, warned BNP chief Khaleda Zia yesterday.

She said fresh elections must be held under a non-party administration.

"No hartal for now. We will announce all sorts of movements after Eid and if the government creates any obstacle to our movement, we will be

compelled to announce tougher programmes," she said in a rally. Thousands of BNP leaders and activists gathered on RB High School ground in Joypurhat braving heavy downpours to attend the rally organised by Joypurhat district BNP.

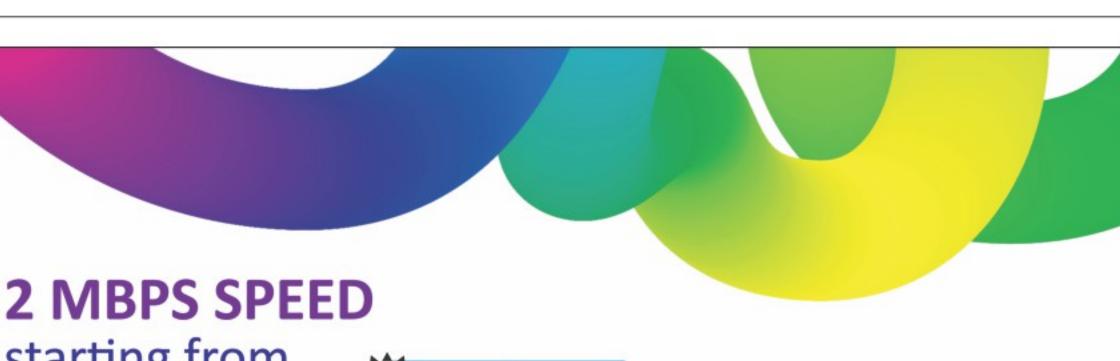
... Do not force us to announce hartals. Hold a dialogue beforehand [announcement of protest programmes] and hold an election to save the country and people's lives. We will accept whoever assumes power," she said.

She claimed herself to be the representative of the country's 95 percent

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PHOTO

AFP



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প্রধান অতিথি জনাব তোফায়েল আহমেদ, এমপি

মাননীয় মন্ত্রী, বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়, গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

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