

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



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.

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Teenage striker Divock Origi (R) came off the bench to shoot Belgium to the last 16 with an 88th minute winner against Russia at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

NEWS ANALYSIS

History's metaphor

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

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 prevented a good number of its leading lights

from transforming themselves into leaders on a nationwide scale.

In the beginning there was Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani who, along with Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, felt early on in Pakistan that the Muslim League was swiftly turning into a feudal, self-serving 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 at the hands of Mohammad Ali Jinnah's

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Rejoinders, 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 out!" published in The Daily Star on June 16.

WAHID'S REJOINDER
Wahidur Rahman, chief engineer of LGED,

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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 non-cooperation 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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