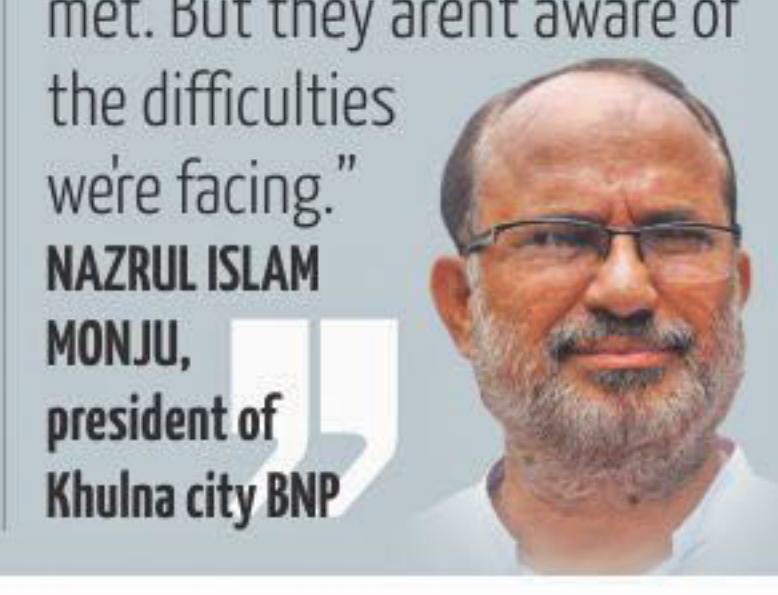




Talks, not force, hold solution

Many AL-BNP grassroots leaders contradict view of central's


"Administrative measures alone can't bring an end to the ongoing violence and crisis because a single unauthorised arm is more dangerous than 100 authorised arms. So, political step is needed."
AFZALUL KARIM,
general secretary of Barisal city AL


"The BNP high-ups are instructing us to continue the movement till the demand is met. But they aren't aware of the difficulties we're facing."
**NZRUL ISLAM
MONJU,**
president of
Khulna city BNP

SHAKHAWAT LITON, PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and RASHIDUL HASAN

Many grassroots Awami League leaders want an effective dialogue with the BNP for the political turmoil to end, as they think administrative measures alone cannot resolve the crisis.

Frustrated and exhausted by the nonstop agitation and the government crackdown, many local BNP leaders on the other hand

are venting grievances about the manner of the 20-party alliance's agitation.

They think violent agitation will not yield the desired result because it has already lost people's support. They now want programmes engaging the public.

Grassroots leaders of the two parties have shared these views with The Daily Star over the past few days. Clearly, their take on the prevailing situation and the way out is in

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ANTI-TALKS TALK



Many people these days talk about holding dialogue with Begum Zia, but what would they do if

Begum Zia misbehaved with them as she did with me? The so-called intellectuals would not go to her for a second time if she behaved with them in such a manner.

SHEIKH HASINA
at an AL central working committee meeting on Feb 6

There will be no dialogue with killers and terrorists. The BNP's demand is neither for a midterm election nor for a nonparty government. They just want to turn Bangladesh into a country like Lebanon or Syria.

SYED ASHRAFUL ISLAM,
AL spokesperson, on Feb 6

The proposal made by some eminent citizens regarding talks with the BNP is impractical and unacceptable. If we accept the proposal now, it would be a compromise with militancy.

TOFAIL AHMED,
commerce minister, at a press conference on Feb 10

There will be no dialogue with those who burn innocent people to death. Those who talk about dialogue are nothing but insane.

**SAJIB WAZED
JOY,**
PM's ICT
adviser, at a discussion on Feb 6

There would be no dialogue between humans and demons. There are groups of people who intellectualise arson attacks by saying that it is a direct outcome of BNP being denied political space.

HASANUL HAQ INU,
information minister, at a press briefing on Feb 8

SYLHET MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL So many deaths, no proper explanation

Authorities launch probe after 32 patients including 10 babies die in a day; relatives allege negligence by doctors, staff

STAR REPORT

Deaths of 32 patients, including 10 babies, in less than 24 hours have brought to the fore allegations of negligence in treating patients at the MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital in Sylhet.

Parents and relatives of the babies alleged none of the duty doctors was present in the paediatric ward when seven babies died between Monday midnight and 8:00am yesterday.

The hospital authorities admitted that such a big number of deaths between Monday afternoon and yesterday morning was abnormal as 14 to 15 patients usually die at the hospital every day.

Abdul Kalam Mia, auto-rickshaw driver from Shekherghat, said no doctor was available at the ward when his newborn baby died around 7:30 am yesterday.

"It happened only because of their negligence," he said.

His wife Nilufa Akhtar, who gave birth to the baby girl on Sunday, was frantically looking for a doctor as their newborn condition worsened around 7:00am yesterday.

As she repeatedly requested the ward boy to call a doctor, he rebuked Nilufa, asking her to wait till 8:00am.

Many others also complained of misbehaviour by nurses and ward boys at the hospital.

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BJP mauled in Delhi elections

AAP wins landslide

AFP, New Delhi

India's Narendra Modi yesterday suffered his first major election setback since becoming prime minister last May, as anti-corruption campaigner Arvind Kejriwal won a landslide victory in Delhi state polls.

Modi's Hindu nationalist party won just three of the 70 seats in the Delhi assembly in elections held over the weekend, dealing a setback to his efforts to consolidate power and push through much-needed economic reforms.

Former Delhi chief minister Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi (Common Man) Party won 67 seats, according to official results

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Indian Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal speaks to supporters as he celebrates victory in the state assembly elections outside the party's headquarters in New Delhi yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

A lesson in Aam Aadmi

HINDUSTAN TIMES

The Delhi wave confirms lessons the Lok Sabha elections had offered. In a limited setting, Arvind Kejriwal has done precisely what Narendra Modi and the BJP had done to beat them at their game.

Here are five big takeaways.

Indian democracy is alive and kicking. Modi won the general elections with a resounding 282 seats using the vibrancy of Indian democracy, the disillusionment with the establishment, and every conceivable technique of reaching out to the electorate. But the overwhelming verdict left

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Ministers, AL leaders slam call for talks initiative

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ministers and senior leaders of the Awami League-led 14-party alliance yesterday launched a broadside against civil society members for making efforts to hold a national dialogue.

Their criticism comes a day after Nagorik Samaj, a civil society platform, requested the president, the prime minister and the BNP chairperson in three separate letters to initiate a dialogue to find a way out of the political crisis that has so far left 69 people dead.

Comparing the civil society members to paid fighters who work for the highest bidder, AL presidium member Kazi Zafarullah said they proposed a solution with the intention to become ministers.

"They want to be caretaker government advisers and also want to become ministers without any public support or

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NEWS ANALYSIS

It's 1/11 amnesia

SHAKHAWAT LITON

They must have very short memories.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her cabinet colleagues are now calling civil society members -- who are putting in efforts for a dialogue to resolve the ongoing political standoff -- as "key actors" in the 1/11 changeover.

In doing so they are being oblivious to their own stance on the changeover in 2007.

In Hasina's view which she expressed on Monday, the "key actors" [civil society members] in the 1/11 changeover are out to push the agenda of dialogue.

It does come as a surprise. It was eight years ago that Hasina herself had emphatically endorsed the changeover claiming it a result of the movement her own party had led.

Amid a protracted political standoff over the one-sided parliamentary polls slated for January 22 in 2007, then President Iajuddin Ahmed was forced to resign as chief adviser and declare a state of emergency on the night of January 11.

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وَهُوَ أَنْتَ الْأَعْلَمُ بِالْأَيْمَنِ



PROF. A.H.M. AHSAN ULLAH

28th Feb 1937 – 11th Feb 2014

Softly the Leaves of Memory Fall

As each day passes

We Miss you more

Too dearly loved to be Forgotten.

Prof. Fukhrun Nisa

Kamal – Laila Dr. Sonia – Ishtiaque
Abrar – Ayman Anisha – Ayana