

Nigeria president vows no further polls delays

AFP, Abuja

Nigerian President on Friday promised there would be no further vote delays, after the electoral agency pushed back the presidential and parliamentary polls by six weeks to May.

"We will surely conduct elections as scheduled. We promise you.

Communicate this to your homes that elections will be conducted as scheduled and on 29th of May, there will be an inauguration of a president of this country," he told the foreign envoys.

The electoral agency INEC had on Saturday postponed the presidential and parliamentary elections earlier scheduled for February 14 to March 28, citing insurgency problems especially in northeast of the country.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) also shifted state governorship and assembly elections from February 28 to April 11.

The United Nations and the European Union have led a chorus of disapproval over the poll shift.

Jonathan said that the six-week extension would give the security agencies time "to clean up" the three states -- Borno, Yobe and Adamawa -- that are mostly affected by an insurgency by Islamist Boko Haram militants.

Khaleda

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In the case statement, police mentioned that the BNP-Jamaat men set fire to the bus on Thursday night on the BNP chairperson's instructions.

The bus driver suffered burn injuries, the statement said.

Police said seven persons had been arrested in this connection.

Earlier, Khaleda was named as the mastermind in cases filed for arson attacks on buses in Comilla and Jatrabari in the capital.

The Comilla incident killed eight people. Several passengers were injured at Jatrabari, one of them later died.

The BNP chief has also been named as the mastermind in several other cases filed in connection with arson attacks and killings amid the ongoing blockade enforced by the BNP-led alliance.

Today's SSC exams

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than examinations," he said.

Around 1.5 million students are taking the tests this year across the country amid the ongoing blockade.

Earlier, the ministry had to reschedule the February 2, 4, 8 and 10 exams for February 6, 7, 13 and 14.

The government suspended the exams slated for February 12, but it is yet to announce any new date.

According to the exam routine, students under general education board were supposed to take mathematics exam today.

FB account

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after the account and will be allowed to make certain changes. They will also be able to choose to have their account deleted entirely.

The heirs will be able to pin posts, respond to new friend requests and update profile pictures. But they will be restricted from other changes, including creating new posts or deleting photos.

Before, Facebook opted just to freeze members' accounts when it learned that they had died. That meant that the page's stayed online, but couldn't be changed. If users don't opt to leave a digital will, the company will freeze the profile in a process called "memorialisation", leaving everything with the privacy settings that were left when users died.

The new feature is thought to be a response to family's wishes to use Facebook profiles to remember their owners.

The option will be rolled out to users in the US on Thursday, with it expanding to different places after that.

Users will choose the heirs in Facebook's security settings. Only one user can be chosen.

If users don't choose a Facebook heir but name a digital heir in a normal will, Facebook will honour that choice.

It is an attempt to walk the line between protecting the privacy of the people who own profiles, and allowing grieving friends and families to access the site, as the Wall Street Journal notes. That is a balance that many other internet companies have to tread as they decide how to deal with the accounts and data of those users that have died.

Google introduced a similar system of "digital heirs" in 2013, allowing users to decide what will happen with users' data after they pass away or become inactive for some time.

"We hope that this new feature will enable you to plan your digital after-life in a way that protects your privacy and security — and make life easier for your loved ones after you're gone," wrote Google product manager Andreas Tuerk in a blog post at the time.

Rare ray of hope in UN climate talks

AFP, Geneva

The detente achieved at UN talks that concluded Friday with a framework for a world climate pact is only temporary, achieved by kicking the difficult decisions down the road, parties and observers say.

But it also generated a degree of optimism rarely observed in the tense process -- a sense of common purpose which many hope will bolster negotiators in the months to come.

"I think this has been a very important meeting from a process point of view and a psychological point of view," said Union of Concerned Scientists analyst Alden Meyer.

He pointed to broad consultations held with country representatives by the talks' joint chairmen ahead of the six-day session in Geneva -- one of four official meetings this year to prepare for the December conference in Paris that must adopt a universal climate pact.

"That has paid off. People felt consulted, they felt listened to, they understood the process," he added.

"This is the parties' text, they own it

now."

An official framework text prepared for the 2009 Copenhagen climate conference, which failed to produce an agreement, had exceeded 300 pages and was challenged by a number of alternative drafts.

The 86-page Geneva blueprint, the product of years of negotiations, seems manageable by comparison, and represents the first-ever proposal with buy-in from all the world's nations.

"At this early stage, the palpable positive spirit coming out of Geneva is a much better measure of progress than the current length of the negotiating text," said Jennifer Morgan, climate director at the World Resources Institute think-tank.

The document lists a variety of alternative approaches on most issues -- often reflecting country positions that diametrically oppose one another.

It more than doubled from a 37-page draft compiled at a conference in Lima last December, with parties allowed to add items until they were satisfied all their views were represented.

'Bomber' killed

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Meanwhile, on the 40th day of the blockade yesterday, six vehicles were torched in separate incidents in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rangpur and Laxmipur, according to fire service sources.

Laxmipur police said they arrested Anwar, 15, in connection with torching a lorry and a CNG-run auto-rickshaw in the town.

In Dhaka, alleged blockaders hurled two crude bombs at the car of KM Zakaria, director (treasury) of Banglalink, near Mohakhali flyover around 7:30pm. None was hurt.

A bus was also torched at Nabisco intersection yesterday.

At least eight people were injured in a crude bomb attack on a bus near Beribandh of Mohammadpur and another homemade bomb attack near TSC of Dhaka University.

Two bombs exploded at Karwan Bazar underpass yesterday evening while another one went off near BGMEA Bhaban, where a token hunger strike was being observed against the blockade.

Alleged hartal and blockade supporters threw a petrol bomb at a bus in Bahaddarhat of Chittagong last night. None was hurt.

A truck was torched at Pirganj of Rangpur.

Alleged blockaders exploded three crude bombs in front of the Shaheed Minar in Munshiganj.

Police yesterday arrested seven BNP-Jamaat men from Trishal and Ishwarganj of Mymensingh in connection with "planning subversive activities", reports our correspondent.

Meanwhile, activists of the BNP-led alliance brought out processions at several places in the country protesting "oppression" on alliance men and demanding fresh parliamentary polls under a neutral government.

BNP units in Sirajganj and Bogra called 48-hour hartals in the districts from today protesting police action on its processions.

Activists of BNP-Jamaat clashed with police at Simkhali Bazar in Shalikh upazila in Magura, leaving three shot and injuring at least 30.

A police vehicle was vandalised in the incident.

The clash erupted when police tried to disperse a procession of around 400 activists of BNP and Jamaat men, said Zihadul Kabir, superintendent of police in the district.

In Thakurgaon, police detained 26 BNP-Jamaat men yesterday afternoon in connection with assaulting police and vandalising vehicles.

Questionable indemnity

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On expiry of the original two-year tenure, parliament in 2012 amended it and extended its tenure by two years which too expired in October 2014.

The House passed a bill on January 27 extending the lifespan of the law for another four years with the controversial provision.

This law protected the government while it took up dozens of rental power projects now meeting more than a quarter of the country's demand. Initially this law was used for awarding contracts to really interested investors. But later on it was used to give companies, which neither had the experience nor genuine interest, the job to build rental power plants.

For instance, the-then Awami League parliamentarian Aslamul Haque got two power projects in 2011 to be implemented in Dhaka. None of them saw the light of day.

Then different authorities started misusing the power to cover their inefficiencies in contract negotiations. For instance, the Petrobangla's 2010 move to building a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal through an open tender fell flat due to flawed negotiation. This fast-track project ultimately was placed under this controversial act and approved earlier this month, five years behind schedule.

Similarly, the Petrobangla floated a tender to drill 10 wells in various national gas fields of the country. After some poor handling of tenders, it opted for a deal with Russian company Gazprom and placed the deal with a \$200 million price tag under this law arguing that the wells needed to be drilled by late 2014 to increase gas supply.

Despite being the world's top gas producer, Gazprom's actions were slow and unimpressive and the gas supply it achieved was half the target. Petrobangla is now asking whether it was worth spending \$200 million to get the paltry quantity of gas.

Amid such malpractices, it is expected that more deals would be brought under this law and thus incompetent officials would be protected and negligent bidders would be richly rewarded with jobs they would not feel compelled to finish in time, because there was no way to question how they got the deal.

The said legal provision had been criticised by some jurists in 2010. They had said parliament could not deny

the apex court its jurisdiction to look into allegations of misuse of power.

The Supreme Court had long ago settled the matter in the verdicts in a number of cases saying parliament could not limit the court's authority to review the government actions.

In Anwar Hossain Chowdhury versus Bangladesh, the apex court in 1988 said the power of judicial review was a basic feature of the constitution and it could not be taken away or curtailed even by the amendment of the constitution.

After more than two decades, the Supreme Court in a verdict declaring the constitution's fifth amendment illegal and void observed that the power to declare any provision seeking to limit the jurisdiction of the court was ultra vires.

The constitution's fifth amendment passed by the second parliament had validated and ratified all actions done by the martial law regimes between August 15, 1975 and April 9, 1979.

The second martial law ruler Ershad had followed the same suit to indemnify himself and all his actions. The parliament dominated by his Jatiya Party in 1986 passed the constitution's seventh amendment act. It had also the same provision to oust the court's jurisdiction.

The apex court in 2011 scrapped the seventh amendment act too.

The much talked joint drive indemnity act of 2003 has also been questioned by the High Court in 2012. The matter remains pending with the court. The then BNP-led government had enacted the law indemnifying the joint forces against legal actions for their wrongdoings.

As many as 44 people died in custody and hundreds sustained injuries following torture during the Operation Clean Heart carried out to curb criminal activities.

In 1975, the martial law regime led by Khandaker Mushtaque had also promulgated the heinous indemnity ordinance to protect killers of Bangabandhu and most of his family members.

Assuming power in 1996, the AL-led government, however, scrapped the ordinance paving the way for trial.

Given all these instances, why has the AL-led government opted for an indemnity law to legitimise its actions on energy sector?

The answer lies in the shady deals and expenditure in the energy sector.

Shooting

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French ambassador to Denmark Francois Zimeray, who had been present at the debate but was not hurt, told AFP the shooting was an attempt to replicate the Charlie Hebdo killings in Paris.

"They shot from the outside (and) had the same intention as Charlie Hebdo, only they didn't manage to get in," he said by telephone from the venue.

"Intuitively I would say there were at least 50 gunshots, and the police here are saying 200," he told AFP.

"Bullets went through the doors and everyone threw themselves to the floor."

A statement by Danish police said "an unidentified man died after having been hit by bullets" in the strike, and three officers were wounded in the shooting.

Police also said the Volkswagen Polo, by which the two suspected assailants fled the scene, was found abandoned around two hours after the attack.

Specialists commenting on the attack in initial media reports said it was likely automatic rifles were used in the strike in order to fire as many rounds in a short period of time.

The assault comes at a time of heightened security and rising fears of Islamist attacks, following January 7 and 9 incidents in Paris that left 17 people dead.

A series of anti-terror sweeps have been carried out across Europe since mid-January, resulting in the arrests of dozens of suspected jihadist and seizures of large stocks of weapons and explosives.

Those included January 17 raids in Belgium that thwarted what police called imminent "terrorist attacks to kill police officers on public roads and in police stations."

Two suspects were killed fighting Belgian police in those sweeps.

Charlie Hebdo raised the ire of Islamist extremists by republishing cartoons by Vilks and other caricatures, and periodically satirising Islam on its own in later editions.

Vilks has been under police protection since his earlier controversial cartoons were published.

Concern of renewed attacks targeting symbols of press liberties and freedom of expression have been growing since the Charlie Hebdo strike, Reporters Without Borders secretary general Christophe Deloire told AFP after the Copenhagen assault.

"It's something that we feared after Charlie Hebdo. We see that ultra-radical groups are leading a war against freedom of expression, against the freedom to be irreverent about religion and against the simple freedom to debate them," Deloire said.

Tragedy

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Sixty arson victims, including Bappi, were taking treatment at the burn unit now. The hospital has so far provided treatment to 135 victims of the ongoing blockade violence. Of them, nine died and 68 were released, said doctors at a press briefing at DMCH yesterday.

Meanwhile, at least three people were injured as alleged pickets hurled a crude bomb at a bus near the Mohammadpur Beribandh area in the capital yesterday.

Victims Mozammel Haq, Hira Mia, and Nurul Islam were rushed to DMCH where they received primary treatment, said Inspector Mozammel Haque, in-charge of DMCH police camp.

The bus was on its way to Gabtoli from Babubazar when it came under attack around 6:00am, said Mohammadpur police.

The attack came on the 39th day of the BNP-led 20-party alliance's non-stop countryside blockade which has so far claimed 69 lives.

Greece, creditors lay ground for last-ditch meeting

AFP, Brussels

Greece has begun tough negotiations with its creditors as hopes rise that a make-or-break meeting next week could reach a deal on the new government's demands to overhaul its huge international bailout.

The technical talks in Brussels Friday came a day after Greece's anti-austerity Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras laid out his plans to sceptical counterparts including German Chancellor Angela Merkel at his first European summit.

World stocks and the euro both rose Friday amid growing optimism that debt-stricken Athens could now thrash out a compromise with finance ministers from the 19-country eurozone at a

critical meeting on Monday.

But the clock is ticking as the 240-billion-euro (\$270-billion) EU-IMF bailout is due to expire at the end of February, and failure to reach a replacement agreement could trigger a Greek default and a chaotic exit from the euro.

Eurogroup chief Jeroen Dijsselbloem said Friday he was "pesimistic" about any quick deal with Greece, labelling under a mountain of debt equivalent to 175 percent of its annual economic output.

"The Greeks have sky-high ambitions. The possibilities, given the state of the Greek economy, are limited," said Dijsselbloem, who is also Dutch finance minister. "I don't know if we'll get there by Monday," he added.

No food for staff

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Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police Shahidul Hoque claimed yesterday that food items went in Khaleda's office regularly. The police chief also said they had information that Khaleda was taking food and was physically well.

Kabir said they had brought three regular meals in the last four days every day, but police blocked the supply every time. "It is a cruel action to any human being," he observed.

Sources said the BNP office had earlier brought the food by a rickshaw van; yesterday they used a CNG-run auto-rickshaw in a futile attempt to avoid police interception.

The law enforcers did not respond when The Daily Star correspondent tried to talk to them about it.

In a written statement, BNP Joint Secretary General Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday alleged that the government was trying to "kill" Khaleda through unofficial house arrest.

He called upon the United Nations Human Rights Commission to take proper steps immediately.

Insiders at Khaleda's office claim everyone is living on dry food, the supply of which is running out fast.

They have also said the stock of dry food would be finished within two to three days and it would be very tough for them to live in the office if things went on like that.

More than 50 people including BNP Vice-Chairman Selima Rahman and

Mohila Dal Secretary Shirin Sultana have been staying at the office.

It is believed to be the government's move to put pressure on Khaleda so that she calls off her countrywide agitation programmes. During this movement at least 69 people have been killed in violence.

Khaleda has been living in her office with her office staff and a number of leaders since January 3. The police on January 5 prevented her from going out to observe "democracy killing day" and confined her for more than two weeks.

On January 31, power supply, cable, land phone and mobile connections to her office were snapped. However, the authorities restored the power supply that day and the mobile network last week.

On the law enforcers' interception of food supply, State Minister for Home Affairs Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal has said, "The allegation is not realistic."

He made the comment while talking to the BBC Bangla service yesterday. The minister said they did not issue any such instruction to the law enforcers.

"Food and different food ingredients are regularly being supplied to the office. They have a kitchen and a cook inside and are preparing their meals every day," he claimed.

When his attention was drawn to the fact that journalists had observed food supply being stopped, he said it happened only once.

Malnutrition easing up

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in 2010, states the report released at a press conference at Brac Centre Inn in the capital yesterday.

Businesses and jobs were the principle sources of income for almost 40 percent of households nationally but the prevalence of salaried income was generally much lower in the food insecure agro-ecological zones like coastal belt, eastern hills, haor, padma chars and northern chars, the study finds.

Twenty-four percent women aged between 14-49 years were earning in 2013 and one-fifth of the households studied received remittance. The people of Chittagong, Sylhet and Dhaka divisions received higher remittances than those of Rajshahi and Rangpur, it said.

"It is encouraging that some indicators of food security are improving ... We can use the report to make new plans to make Bangladesh free from poverty," said State Minister for Finance MA Mannan.

Ninety-six percent households across the country had sanitation

facilities in 2013, the report adds.


A total of 22,896 households in 954 communities across the country were surveyed under the project. Of the samples, 19,013 women aged between 19-49 years and 4,263 girls between 10-18 years were interviewed.

Additionally, 12,000 children's weights were measured and 9,984 caregivers were interviewed.

Of the respondents, 59 percent women consumed inadequately diverse diets. The situation is worst in Khulna, Rajshahi and Rangpur, the survey said.

In 2013, too many girls had children too early and over half of the pregnancies occurred among adolescent girls aged 18 or younger.

The overall pattern of child feeding practices was similar between 2012 and 2013. Unfortunately, the prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding among children in their first month of life decreased to 74 percent in 2013, from 84 percent a year back, the survey mentioned.

<div><div></div><div>বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় BANGLADESH OPEN UNIVERSITY</div></div>						
উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি						
০১.	দরপত্র আহবানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম		বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় (বাউবি)।			
০২.	অর্থের উৎস		বাউবি'র নিজস্ব বাজেট থেকে। বাংলাদেশী টাকায় মূল্য পরিশোধিত হবে।			
০৩.	দরপত্রের নম্বর		টেন্ডার নং: ০৯ (প্রকি:)/২০১৪-২০১৫।			
০৪.	দরপত্র আহবানের স্মারক ও তারিখ		স্মারক নং: বাউবি/প্রশা(ক্রয়)-৩৭(৩০৭)/২০১২-২০১৩/পাট-১/৫৭৫; তারিখ: ১১-০২-২০১৫ ইং।			
০৫.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান, শেষ তারিখ ও সময়		০৮-০৩-২০১৫ তারিখ, রবিবার অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব প্যাডে অবৈদনের মাধ্যমে এবং শিডিউলের মূল্য অফেরতযোগ্য নগদে প্রদান করে বাউবি'র অর্থ ও হিসাব বিভাগের ক্যাশ শাখা থেকে দরপত্র কেনা যাবে।			
০৬.	দরদাতা কর্তৃক দরপত্র সিডিউল জমা দেয়ার শেষ তারিখ ও সময়		০৯-০৩-২০১৫ তারিখ, সোমবার বেলা ০২:০০ টা পর্যন্ত। দ্বিজারার দপ্তর, বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, গাজীপুর-১৭০৫। ডাক ও কুরিয়ার সার্ভিস মাফত দরপত্র প্রেরণ করলে অবশ্যই দরপত্র গ্রহণের জন্য নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের মধ্যে নির্ধারিত স্থানে পৌছাতে হবে। উক্ত তারিখ ও সময়ের পর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। ০৯-০৩-২০১৫ তারিখ, সোমবার বেলা ০২:১৫ টায়। বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়-এর প্রশাসন বিভাগের সংগ্রহ শাখায় (উত্তর ব্লকের পুরাতন ৫ম তলা ভবন, কক্ষ নং: ২১৭), গাজীপুর-১৭০৫। দরপত্র সমূহ উল্লেখিত তারিখ, সময় ও স্থানে দরদাতাগণের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হবে।			
০৭.	মালামাল/সার্ভিসের বিবরণ :	IFT	মালামালের বিবরণ	বায়না টাকা (ফেরতযোগ্য)	শিডিউলের মূল্য	মালামাল/সার্ভিস সরবরাহের সময়সীমা (NOA প্রদানের তারিখ থেকে)
	২৫	সম্পূর্ণ নতুন মিনিবাস (৩০ সিট)-০২টি		২,৫০,০০০/-	১,০০০/- টাকা	০৮ (আট) সপ্তাহের মধ্যে।
	২৬	সম্পূর্ণ নতুন ডাবল কেরিন পিক-আপ (ক্যানালিসহ)-০২টি		২,০০,০০০/-	(এক হাজার)	০৮ (আট) সপ্তাহের মধ্যে।
০৮.	প্রিভিড সভার তারিখ		০১-০৩-২০১৫ তারিখ, রবিবার বেলা ১২:০০ টায়। সংগ্রহ শাখা (উত্তর ব্লকের পুরাতন ৫ম তলা ভবন, কক্ষ নং: ২১৭), গাজীপুর-১৭০৫।			
০৯.	বিশেষ দ্রষ্টব্য:		বায়না বাবদ টাকা বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, গাজীপুর-এর অনুকূলে জমা দিতে হবে (সে-অর্ডার/বাংক গ্যারান্টি আকারে)। এতদসংক্রান্ত আরো তথ্যাদি www.bou.edu.bd -এই ওয়েব সাইটে দেখার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। সমস্তিফি টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টে অধ্যাদেশ বিজ্ঞাপিত তথ্যাদি পাওয়া যাবে। পিপিআর-২০০৮ অনুযায়ী ক্রয়কার্য সম্পন্ন করা হবে। একই দরদাতা/সরবরাহকারী এক বা একাধিক আইএফটি-এর জন্য যথারীতি দরপত্র দাখিল করতে পারবে। অর্থাৎ একটি শিডিউল ক্রয় করে একজন সম্ভাব্য দরদাতা ঐ শিডিউলভুক্ত একটি অথবা সকল আইএফটি-এর জন্য যথারীতি দর দাখিল করতে পারবেন। প্রতিটি আইএফটি পৃথক পৃথক দরপত্র/চুক্তি হিসাবে পরিগনিত হবে। দরপত্র সিডিউল গ্রহণ এবং খোলার দিন কোন অনিবার্য কারণে বন্ধ/সমস্যা দেখা দিলে তা পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে সম্পন্ন করা যেতে পারে।			
<div>বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের বিভিন্ন প্রোগ্রামের ভর্তি তথ্যের জন্য বাউবি'র ওয়েবসাইট www.bou.edu.bd দেখুন।</div> <div><div>মোঃ মাহবুব উল ইসলাম উপ-পরিচালক (সংগ্রহ), বাউবি। ফোন : ৯২৩১১০১-৪/৪২৯। Email: mahbub_bou@yahoo.com</div><div>02/2015</div></div>						