

AL, BNP square off over polls-time govt

FROM PAGE 10
...for holding a free, fair and credible poll, added the sources.
Asked, party insiders said the AL is likely to take a stand against fresh delimitation of constituencies, saying that it would be a major victory in the 2008 national elections with the existing demarcation.
On August 24, the EC started talks with 40 registered political parties to get their opinion on the EC's preparations for the general election. It is likely to be held late next year or early 2019.
The commission has so far held dialogue with 25 registered parties. The Bangladesh dialogue is likely to end on October 19.
The AL has already held a number of intraparty meetings to discuss the issues to be raised during its dialogue with the EC. It has also scrapped the proposals at its next working committee meeting, likely to be held on Saturday, atop AL leaders said.
Earlier on January 11, the party had held a meeting during its dialogue with President Abul Hamid on formation of a new EC.
The proposals included limiting the jurisdiction of the election-time government as had been the legal provisions for the nonpartisan caretaker governments in the past.
The ruling party also recommended empowering the EC with supervising authority over the administration, law

enforcement agencies and all other departments engaged in the election process.
According to party leaders, this time the party may again place another 11-point proposal to the EC in line with its talks with the president.
The party has also asked its allies of the 14-party alliance to place similar proposals to the Election Commission. The proposals included two vital issues - holding the polls in line with the constitution and keeping army as a striking force during the election.
During the dialogue with the EC, the party is also likely to take position against "no vote" although most civil society members, they say, talk with the commission on July 30 advocated for having the system.
The provision was introduced by the caretaker government before the 2008 election, but was scrapped by the AL government in 2009.
The party may also request the EC to update the voter list and propose for a stronger Election Commission so that it can monitor the election process.
AL advisory council member Rashidul Alam, who is involved with drafting the proposals, told The Daily Star that they would request the commission to work in line with the constitutional provisions.
"We will propose the Election Commission to hold the election during the existing provisions of the constitution as it is not the proper time

to change the constitution. If any provision of the constitution is required to be amended, it should be done after the next elections," he said.
Meanwhile, the BNP during its forthcoming talks with the EC at the Nirbanch Ghaban on Sunday, would also discuss the issue of holding "supportive" government, said a top BNP leader, who is involved in finalising the party proposals.
"We will argue that all other measures, such as the EC and fair election, would be useless unless a polls-time supportive government is there," the BNP leader said wishing anonymity.
The party would also talk about "the government's interference in sending Chief Justice SK Sinha on a month's leave," he said.
BNP insiders also said party Chairperson Khaleda Zia had held a meeting with her senior leaders and gave them instructions on the dialogue before she left for London on July 15.
Sources also said party Secretary General Mirza Fakhul Islam Alamgir would meet with Khaleda before finalising proposals.
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EC may fly

FROM PAGE 16
...month's leave since October 3. Replying to a question, the official, who wished not to be named, said the EC himself can extend his leave anytime.

The letter would reach the law ministry which would forward it to the president through the prime minister's office, he said.
The official also said whenever the chief justice goes on leave or abroad, the SC authorities inform the president about the matter so that he can assign another judge of the apex court to discharge the CJ's duties.

Law Secretary ASSM Zahurul Hossain said the president's office received the letter yesterday. Meanwhile, Supreme Court Bar Association, which is currently dominated by pro-BNP lawyers, led by its President Zainul Abedin and Attorney General Mahbubuddin Khan, staged demonstrations on the SCBA premises yesterday protesting what they said confinement of the chief justice.
The BNP claimed the CJ was sent on leave for 10 days.

Nitai Roy, an attorney, Abul Kalam, Tajimul Alam, Khander, Kazimul Islam Sajal, Umam Kulsum Reza, among others, spoke on the occasion.
On the other hand, ruling Awami League leaders, including Attorney General Mahbub Alam, Bangladesh Awami Aijibji Parishad held a meeting at the North Hall of the SCBA building yesterday. They alleged the pro-BNP and pro-lawyer leaders were doing politics over the CJ's leave.

Attorney General Mahbub Alam, AL President Member Advocate Abdul Matin Khasnu, Bangladesh Awami Hossaini Parishad's Convener Yusuf Hossain Humayun and its Member Secretary Rashid Fajlul Nazim, Bangladesh Bar Association Vice Chairman Abdul Basit Majumder, among others, spoke at the meeting.

Happier

FROM PAGE 16
They analysed such measures as blood pressure, resting heart rate, weight, cholesterol, and blood sugar - potential risk factors for cardiovascular disease.
Men who had described their marriages as "improving" had better cholesterol readings and a healthier weight years later, the team reported in a study in the journal Epidemiology & Community Health.

Unions described as "deteriorating" on the other hand, "were associated with worsening diastolic blood pressure."
Given that the men were in relatively good health when taking part in the study, it is too early to know how their relative health risks would translate into actual disease.
Previous studies had already shown that men with a lower risk score, on average, for cardiovascular disease, such as heart attack or stroke.

"Further research needs to determine if effective marriage counselling, or other interventions, can improve a deteriorating relationship, has longer-term physical health benefits," said the team.

6,300 in no-man's land

FROM PAGE 1
...set to get any directives about them."

Kabir Ahmed, who is from Panichara area of Maungand, said, "We came not to stay here forever. We will return to our country if the Myanmar government gives us citizenship status."
LAND MINE CURSE
Salandikhar, 45, fled Myanmar in early September and lost her two legs while crossing the border.
She and her neighbours' mines were planted in the bordering area. She was taken to Chittagong Medical College where she took treatment for around one month. A few days ago she came to this no-man's land," said Arif Ahmed, who was her neighbour in Myanmar.

Nurul Amin, a farmer who owned around 15 acres of land and a number of shrimp hatcheries in Tombru Right area of Maungand, said he along with his five family members arrived on August 27.
"We do not want to stay in no-man's land anymore. We want to go to camps," he said.
Nurul added, "The Myanmar army has laid land mines in the border area. My 10-year-old son Mustakim was badly injured when he crossed the border on September 3. He is yet to recover."

Human Rights Watch in a report last month said Myanmar forces have laid land mines along the border areas and along the Bangladesh border, posing a grave risk to Rohingyas fleeing attacks.
"The dangers faced by thousands of Rohingyas fleeing atrocities in Burma include landmines and other weapons adding landmines to the mix," said Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia director, calling upon Myanmar to immediately stop the use of antipersonnel landmines and joining the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty.

Meanwhile, the death toll from Sunday's capsizing of an overloaded refugee boat in the Naf River rose to 23 as police in Cox's Bazar said the bodies of another nine Myanmar nationals washed up on the shore.
Among the nine, three were found on Monday night and six early yesterday. More than half of the victims were children, officials said.
Just last month, more than 60 refugees were feared to have died when the boat carrying them from Myanmar sank due to rough weather in the Bay.

Villagers at Shah Porir Dwpir, where the boats mostly land, told AFP that the Rohingyas were increasingly travelling to Cox's Bazar in Myanmar boats. They were being taken to Bangladesh, making the journey even more dangerous.
"NOW JUST BEGGARS"
A number of Rohingyas sheltered in the no-man's land were rich and even owned personal vehicles back in their homeland. Some were well educated, can speak English while some claim to have completed graduation.

Sayed Alam is one of them. He says he graduated in biochemistry from Sittoung University in Rakhine and completed his education in 2008. Higher education for Muslim students had been completely banned from 2012, he added.
In Maungand, my father and grandfather held the post of village administrator. We were solvent. But now we are just beggars. So we have to work. My other brothers also studied up to class 10.

"I was a good student and that's why my father spent a huge amount of money on me. I used to teach children in my village," Sayed said. His 12-year-old son, Hossain just six months ago, "I came here on September 5 with my family members. I do not know what my father did. We want a permanent solution. We are not happy in this no-man's land."
Sayed said he had 20 acres of farmland to change the constitution. If any provision of the constitution is required to be amended, it should be done after the next elections," he said.

Woman killed as Faridpur AL men clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A woman was killed and at least 29 people were injured as two factions of ruling Awami League clashed over establishing supremacy in three villages of Salha upazila yesterday.
The clash erupted in Salha village, Begum, 60, wife of Manna Matlabob of Gobindapur village.
Police arrested four people in connection with the clash.
The clash erupted between the supporters of Shar Ali Khan, a member of Gobindapur village and resident of Salha unit AL, and Delowar Khan, a resident of Khagor village and AL supporter, around 11:00am.

Violence erupted in Salha village when the supporters of Shar Ali Khan and Delowar established supremacy in the area.
They added Kanai Matlabob, a follower of Shar AL, returned home after a fight with the supporters of Delowar and looted his house that evening.
An hour-long clash between the two groups followed and left Jahura dead and 29 others injured. A number of houses were also damaged during chase and counter chase in Gobindapur, Khagor and Gardia villages under Aghar union.

The incident led to a huge outcry in the country with a demand for ensuring that no more lives are lost in the culting out of temporary punishment to the culprits.
The accused in the charge sheet of the rape case are Tufan, his wife Tasmin Rahman Asha, 20, her sister and 29 others including the husband, Islam Rumi, 35, their mother Lovely Alias Rumi, Tufan's associates - Atikur Rahmat, AKI, 25, Munna, 24, Ali Azam Dipu, 25, Mehedi Hasan Alias Romup, 26, Saikat Lagun, alias Shinnu, 25, and Emaraul Alam Khan alias Jitu, 23.
Tufan's father-in-law Ilumir Rahman, 60, and barber Shobid Alias Joita, 25, who shared the heads of the victim and her mother at the time of the rape, were also shown arrested in the rape case but the investigation officer dropped their names in the charge sheet.
Jamilar, Joita and another local woman, Anjura Begum, were also named in the charge sheet along with the persons charged in the rape case.

All but Shumil and Anjura are now behind bars. Among the accused, Munna, Atik and Joita gave confessional statements before the magistrate.
In the charge sheet, the investigation officer mentioned that the probe findings, judicial statement and medical test report of the victim, confessions of the accused and circumstantial evidences proved the charges against the accused.
Tufan turned into a 16-year-old teenage girl and her mother were sent to a safe home in Rajshahi on security grounds.
The prime accused, Tufan, was sent to Kishampur High Security Jail in Gazipur from Bogra after allegations of taking drugs inside Bogra jail arose.

A bitter tale

FROM PAGE 16
The National Education Policy-2010, which stipulates expanding of free primary education up to class-VIII and secondary education from class-IX to XII.
The next month, Mostafar Rahman declared that there would be no primary terminal examinations for class-V since the primary education was upgraded up to class-VIII.
However, six days later, the cabinet decided that both class-V and class-VIII terminal examinations would continue until further notice.
Mostafar turned into a complete mess when the primary and mass education ministry announced on October that it would not conduct the Junior School Certificate (JSC) and Junior Dikhal Certificate (JDC) exams for class-VIII. Then the education ministry cancelled the JSC and JDC examinations for the month of October.
Soon disagreement emerged between the two ministries over the issue of extending the primary level education. The ministries exchanged letters about the matter, but they were yet to reach a resolution.

Currently, there are around 63,000 government primary schools where more than 2.19 crore students are being taught by 3.22 lakh teachers.
On the other hand, 19,900 secondary schools provide education to 1.9 crore. Of these schools, there are 2,381 junior secondary schools providing education from classes VI to VIII. These schools were supposed to go under the jurisdiction of the primary education ministry.
"UNFOLDING TRAGEDY FROM THE STARS"
The issue of extending primary education has been facing setbacks since the National Education Policy was approved by parliament in 2010.
The government had formed a sub-committee for upgrading the primary level in January 2011, but the committee failed to submit any report, said a source in the ministry.
However, in 2013, the primary ministry introduced class-VI at around 600 primary schools on a pilot basis, and the plan was to take more primary schools under this initiative and to high schools in phases.
But a number of problems began to surface soon, and the initiative stumbled due to difficulties in arranging additional classrooms and teachers. Besides, there was a basic difference in the curriculum for the primary grades and the undergrads and above, said an official of the primary ministry.
"That's why the ministry could not proceed further," said an official of the primary ministry.
Under these circumstances, it is not unclear what will happen to the more than 600 primary schools that were started.

The official said implementation of the decision for upgrading the primary education level would be a big task for the government as it required a huge amount of money for appointing additional teachers, their training and preparation of a new curriculum.

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Failure to sign Teesta deal

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Line of Credit has been utilized. If that is correct, then there must be something fundamentally wrong. We really need to address it."
Despite significant improvement in the India-Bangladesh relationship and bilateral benefits coming from trade and bilateral cooperation, the adviser said this was not correspondingly matching with the media and public perception.
"I personally don't think that problem lies in the substance; problem lies in communication and educating the public. And I don't know how we are going to do this."
Turning to connectivity, Gowher said it was neglected not only by Bangladesh but also sub-regional connectivity between Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan was also extremely important.

Significant cooperation in the power sector, he said Bangladesh was eyeing a tripartite hydroelectric project with Bhutan. When the project was taken up, it was clearly understood that it would be a tripartite agreement, that is, India should be the one that electricity from Bhutan would be transferred to India who would subsequently sell it to Bangladesh. "But I think it was a wrong way to go... It would create a personal vendetta. It would be against public interest. So I think we should make it as smooth as possible. Otherwise, we would lose out on that."

Referring to killings by the Indian Border Security Force in the international border area, he said, "The border issues have gone down. We want a border with zero death. But we have to be mindful about drug and human trafficking."
On the Rohingya crisis, he said not everything that has been done by the Indian is wrong. He said, "Cholera is a dangerous disease, especially among children living in camps. Unhygienic conditions. Prevention is essential."
In the last week, about 10,292 cases of diarrhoea have been reported and treated from across the settlements and camps. WHO has warned of the potential for an outbreak of cholera.

The first round of the campaign will cover 650,000 children aged one year and older. The second round will commence on 31 October and will target 250,000 children between the ages of one and five years with an additional dose of the vaccine for added protection, the press release said.
The first round is the second largest oral vaccination campaign in the world after Haiti in 2016," says Edouard Beigbeder, UNICEF Representative in Bangladesh. "Cholera is a dangerous disease, especially among children living in camps. Unhygienic conditions. Prevention is essential."
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WHO and UNICEF are supporting the health ministry with planning, distribution, volunteer orientation, operational costs and monitoring.
"Emergency vaccination saves lives. The risk of cholera is clear and present, and the need for a proactive border screening," says Dr N Paranietharan, WHO representative in Bangladesh.
"WHO is committed to mobilising its full technical and operational capacity to support the ministry and the donors for a proactive border screening to secure the health of this immensely vulnerable population."
In Ukhiya 15 teams have been deployed to vaccinate the target population, while 55 teams, each comprising of five members, have been deployed in Teknaf.

10 burnt

FROM PAGE 16
The fire authorities told them that the accident happened around 5:30am when the workers were receiving melted iron from a furnace, he added.
Almash Shimul, additional managing director of CPTI Ltd, said they were investigating the incident to find the reasons behind the accident.
Alauddin Talukdar, assistant sub-inspector of CMCH police outpost, said five injured were taken to the CMCH around 6:30am.

They analysed such measures as blood pressure, resting heart rate, weight, cholesterol, and blood sugar - potential risk factors for cardiovascular disease.
Men who had described their marriages as "improving" had better cholesterol readings and a healthier weight years later, the team reported in a study in the journal Epidemiology & Community Health.
Unions described as "deteriorating" on the other hand, "were associated with worsening diastolic blood pressure."
Given that the men were in relatively good health when taking part in the study, it is too early to know how their relative health risks would translate into actual disease.
Previous studies had already shown that men with a lower risk score, on average, for cardiovascular disease, such as heart attack or stroke.

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have abundant water during the rainy season and little water in the dry season. We actually need proper water management so that we can manage little water in the lean period effectively," he observed.
On signing of the water sharing agreement, the former diplomat said Bangladesh wanted a deal with India on sharing water, but it would be a short term solution. "We actually need a long term solution through water management."
The Teesta deal was scheduled to be signed during former Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh's official visit to Bangladesh in September 2011. But it fell through after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee objected to the deal and pulled out from Manmohan's Dhaka entourage.

Massive cholera

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and supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Unicef, is being held in Ukhiya and Teknaf, where more than half a million people have been displaced. The border screening is already in progress. India, Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan was also extremely important.

Significant cooperation in the power sector, he said Bangladesh was eyeing a tripartite hydroelectric project with Bhutan. When the project was taken up, it was clearly understood that it would be a tripartite agreement, that is, India should be the one that electricity from Bhutan would be transferred to India who would subsequently sell it to Bangladesh. "But I think it was a wrong way to go... It would create a personal vendetta. It would be against public interest. So I think we should make it as smooth as possible. Otherwise, we would lose out on that."
Referring to killings by the Indian Border Security Force in the international border area, he said, "The border issues have gone down. We want a border with zero death. But we have to be mindful about drug and human trafficking."
On the Rohingya crisis, he said not everything that has been done by the Indian is wrong. He said, "Cholera is a dangerous disease, especially among children living in camps. Unhygienic conditions. Prevention is essential."
In the last week, about 10,292 cases of diarrhoea have been reported and treated from across the settlements and camps. WHO has warned of the potential for an outbreak of cholera.

The first round of the campaign will cover 650,000 children aged one year and older. The second round will commence on 31 October and will target 250,000 children between the ages of one and five years with an additional dose of the vaccine for added protection, the press release said.
The first round is the second largest oral vaccination campaign in the world after Haiti in 2016," says Edouard Beigbeder, UNICEF Representative in Bangladesh. "Cholera is a dangerous disease, especially among children living in camps. Unhygienic conditions. Prevention is essential."
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WHO and UNICEF are supporting the health ministry with planning, distribution, volunteer orientation, operational costs and monitoring.
"Emergency vaccination saves lives. The risk of cholera is clear and present, and the need for a proactive border screening," says Dr N Paranietharan, WHO representative in Bangladesh.
"WHO is committed to mobilising its full technical and operational capacity to support the ministry and the donors for a proactive border screening to secure the health of this immensely vulnerable population."
In Ukhiya 15 teams have been deployed to vaccinate the target population, while 55 teams, each comprising of five members, have been deployed in Teknaf.

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