



EC TALKS WITH PARTIES

Supervisory govt sought for polls

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Nearly half of the 39 registered political parties are in favour of a polls-time government under interim, caretaker or all-party system for ensuring a participatory and credible parliamentary election.

Ten out of the 28 parties that joined a series of dialogue organised by the Election Commission and eight out of the nine parties that skipped the talks demand such forms of polls-time government.

Twelve parties, including Jatiya Party (Ershad), the main opposition in parliament, said nothing about the matter.

The country has seen a lot of conflicts and chaos over the issue of election-time government with the two major parties, the Awami League and the BNP, diametrically opposed.

The BNP, which boycotted the talks with the EC, continues to demand a neutral government as it believes free and fair parliamentary polls are not possible under the AL rule.

Party's Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on July 24 called for a handover of power to a neutral caretaker government and formation of a new Election Commission to ensure a participatory election.

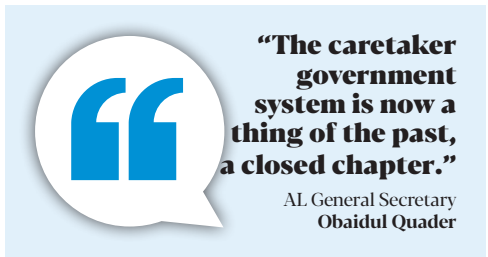
The AL leaders, on the other hand, categorically said the next general election will take place under the current government and there is no scope for a caretaker system.

"The caretaker government system is

now a thing of the past, a closed chapter," AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader said while taking part in a dialogue with the EC yesterday.

The Supreme Court declared the caretaker government system "unconstitutional and illegal", Quader said, adding that the last two elections were held very much within a constitutional framework.

In November 2013, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina formed a polls-time cabinet of 29



ministers with MPs from the AL, the JP and the Workers Party ahead of January 5, 2014 national polls, boycotted by the BNP and its allies.

No such government was formed for the last parliamentary election held on December 30, 2018. The BNP this time participated in the election under the banner of Jatiya Oikya Front.

In talks with Bangladesh Jatiya Party at his EC office on July 21, Chief Election

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AL for all-EVM nat'l polls, JP against it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League has demanded that EVM be used in all 300 constituencies in the next national polls while Jatiya Party, the main opposition in parliament, strongly opposes it.

AL leaders believe there is no alternative to electronic voting machine (EVM) to prevent vote rigging. JP leaders, however, say neither they nor the people of the country have any trust in EVM.

The two parties yesterday held talks with the Election Commission at the EC office. The commission has so far held talks with 28 political parties, seeking their suggestions on how to conduct the next national polls in a free and fair manner.

"Most parties do not have trust in EVM. They think there might be something inside the machine ... There is no consensus among political parties about EVM use," Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal said during talks with the AL.

Awal further said they were yet to decide on EVM use, and that they would make the decision independently.

There have been a lot of criticism and debate about the 2014 and 2018 elections, he said.

"The criticism of the Election Commission is bitter and severe ... We want to stay above controversy and criticism by holding free and fair elections," added the CEC.

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With a freight train just a few feet away, two men run across a level crossing in the capital's Khilgaon yesterday. They seem to have no regard for their safety though accidents at level crossings have been frequent, the latest being in Chattogram's Mirsharai that resulted in the deaths of 11 people.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Hasina, Modi to inaugurate Rampal plant from India

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi are expected to jointly inaugurate the Rampal power station during the former's visit to India in September, reported The Hindustan Times yesterday.

The power station, which has been named Maitree Super Thermal Power Station, is being constructed by the Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company, a 50:50 joint venture between the Bangladesh Power Development Board and National Thermal Power Corporation for \$1.5 billion.

It will be the largest power plant in Bangladesh.

The coal-fired power plant, which is located on 1,834 acres of land 14 kilometres north of the Sundarbans, has two units with a capacity to produce about 660 megawatts of electricity each.

The Modi government is according the utmost importance on Hasina's visit, expected any time between September 5 and 7, the Indian daily reported.

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1 killed as police, BNP activists clash in Bhola

Scores injured after cops swooped on procession

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

One person was killed and scores, including policemen, were wounded as BNP activists clashed with law enforcers in Bhola town yesterday.

Witnesses said at least 60 people, including bystanders, were injured in the running battles that continued for hours.

The dead, Abdur Rahim, is a resident of South Dighaldi of Bhola Sadar Upazila. The BNP said he was a member secretary of local Swachhasebak Dal, the party's volunteer wing.

The clash broke out when police intercepted the procession that the party men were bringing out from their office in Bhola municipality around 11:30am. The procession was part of its countrywide programme protesting the power crisis and price spiral of essentials.

Nine people were detained over the incident till last night, according to sources at Bhola Sadar Police Station.

Earlier at a press briefing, Bhola Superintendent of Police Saiful Islam said the party had not taken permission for the



One of those injured during the clash in Bhola.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

procession, adding that BNP supporters hurled brick chips and even glass bottles as law enforcers intercepted the procession.

District BNP President Golam Nabi Alamgir, however, told The Daily Star later that they had verbally notified the authorities of the rally and the procession.

"Otherwise, why police were there?" he asked.

At the press briefing, the SP claimed their

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Consecutively 17 years
The world's
No.1
Air conditioner
brand is
GREE

Gree is the Number one brand of air conditioners in the world in 2021

Source: EuroMonitor International Limited
Consumer appliances Division
Retail volume share in units, 2021 Asia

GREE AC has been rated as the No.1 brand of air conditioners in the world for 17 consecutive years.

Gree AC recognized as the world's number one brand air conditioner in 17 consecutive years. Recently, EuroMonitor International titled Gree Air Conditioner as the best brand for the year 2021. "Gree" achieved this recognition by evaluating the four basic indicators of business intelligence, market analysis, retail sales volume and consumer insight for air conditioning products marketed globally.

Gree was founded in 1991 with 9 production bases at present. It is the world's largest specialized air conditioning enterprise which has integrated R&D, manufacturing, marketing and service. Today Gree's annual production capacity of RAC and CAC are more than 60 million sets and 5.6 million sets respectively. Gree are now manufacturing and delivering 127000 models of RAC & 1000 models of CAC. Gree products are sold widely in more than 200 countries and regions with over 900 million users all across the world. Gree is the Master of Core Technology for air conditioning system.

Gree manufactures and markets residential AC, all inverter control multi VRF and magnetic bearing chiller air conditioning systems worldwide. At present, Gree's central air conditioning system used for making air-condition the maximum space at a low cost. As a result its use now everywhere. Gree's Multi VRF system is used in most of the large corporate offices, high-rise buildings, hospitals and industrial plants around the world. Gree Multi VRF air conditioning system features: DC inverter compressor and fan motor, low installation cost, adjustable indoor selection according to smart design, maximum temperature capability up to 52 degree Celsius, maximum 36HP/28.8TR single outdoor unit & minimum operation and maintenance cost. In addition, Gree's VRF system saves 32 percent space. The modern magnetic chiller technology invented by Gree is making the air conditioning operation of industrial projects affordable and widely eco-friendly. Gree's technology saves up to 50 percent electricity and is an oil free system.

Electro Mart Group, the country's leading manufacturer and marketer of electronics

products, has been supplying and marketing Gree Air Conditioners in the Bangladesh market over 25 years with credibility, reputation and trust. Over the last 15 years, Gree AC has occupied the number one position in the Bangladesh air conditioner market. Gree Air Conditioner's current market share is 60 percent in Bangladesh. Electro Mart Group serves new series of air conditioners with advanced technology and environment friendly regularly in the country. At present, there are more than 100 series of Gree brand air conditioners available in all sales & display centers, retail showrooms and partner showrooms in Bangladesh.

Gree has the World's first G-boost inverter compressor, efficient and energy saving. Gree AC is enriched with built-in inverter technology which is environment friendly. Gree AC has Biological Filter, Catalytic filter, Silver Ion Filter and Column Air Purification Technology which is able to completely purify the indoor air. I-Feel Technology able to regulate room & body temperature and thus save electricity. Gree AC has also temperature adjustment technology which automatically adjusts the room temperature to the environment.

With the world's first boost inverter compressor, Gree AC saves up to 70% of power consumption. Gree AC equipped with a nano-technology compressor. The I-3 technology can reduce airflow up to 8°C in any working conditions, giving you extreme cooling and a comfortable position. In just 1 minute, Gree AC can reduce the temperature of 27°C inside and 35°C outside to 8°C. In addition, Gree AC is also working at 68 degrees outside temperature. Double air blower technology cools every corner of the room at a distance of 13 meters. In addition, Gree AC also has a swing function with "3-D Air Flow" technology that circulates air around the room. Gree AC is capable of emitting at a low noise level of 31dB for keeping the room environment calm. Gree AC has seven stages of air flow and four stages of automatic air clean and flow. Condensers and evaporators enriched with Gold Pin and Anti-Corrosion do not rust easily. As a result, performance is maintained for a long time.

