

Dialogue not on AL's mind at the moment

Amu makes U-turn a day after saying AL is open to talks with BNP

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The Awami League at this point is not considering talks with the BNP to solve the current political impasse over the next general elections.

According to AL sources, the party believes this is not the time to invite the BNP for talks and that dialogue with the BNP will never bear any fruit as the latter's main demand is the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

AL veteran Amir Hossain Amu brought the issue to the fore through some remarks on Tuesday.

At a programme of the AL-led 14-party alliance on Bangabandhu Avenue that day, Amu said, "The door for dialogue is open. Keeping the constitution in mind, we are ready to do anything for a solution. Come forward, we are willing to sit with you [the BNP]."

"Let a representative of the United Nations come. We want to sit with the BNP face to face and see where the differences are," he added.

Sources said AL President Sheikh Hasina spoke to Amu about his statement yesterday morning after she placed a wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on Dhanmondi-32 on the occasion of the historic Six-Point Day.

They said Hasina conveyed to Amu that what he said on Tuesday was not the party line. There is no need to go so soft, she said.

Later in the day, Amu, during a discussion which was presided over by Hasina, made a U-turn and said nothing was said about dialogue and no one was invited.

"There is no chance of inviting anyone. It's not like the Awami League will treat someone in its house by inviting them," he said.

"Elections will be held as per the constitution and all political parties must participate in the election following the constitution," Amu continued.

"Let them [the BNP] do whatever movement they want to do. We'll not say anything."

AL President
Sheikh Hasina

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A traffic policeman splashes water on his face to beat the oppressive heat at the capital's Nilkhet intersection. The Met office forecasts that the mild to moderate heatwave will continue in Dhaka and some other parts of the country for a few more days. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Depreciation, tax pose medium-term risk

Finds finance division study

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

One of the consequences of years of economic mismanagement is the dramatic depreciation of the taka against the dollar in recent times, and its fallout will spill over into the medium term markedly, said a finance division study.

And one of the ways it will manifest is through the public sector debt, which may shoot up if the taka depreciates further, said the medium-

term macroeconomic policy statement (MTMPS).

The public and publicly guaranteed debt is estimated to reach Tk 36,400 crore in fiscal 2023-24, Tk 36,600 crore in fiscal 2024-25 and Tk 37,100 crore in fiscal 2025-26.

Now, if the taka depreciates by 10 percent in the coming fiscal year, the debt stock will be Tk 40,200 crore instead of the projected Tk 36,400 crore.

The taka depreciated by about 21.3

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SATIRE ARTICLE Mayor Taposh serves legal notice on Star Seeks Tk 100cr for 'defamation'

STAR REPORT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh's lawyer yesterday said the mayor has served a legal notice on The Daily Star, seeking Tk 100 crore for "defaming him in a satire piece on May 13".

Speaking at a briefing on the Supreme Court premises, Taposh's lawyer Mejbahur Rahman said The Daily Star published the "column", titled "Cutting trees to make way for air", in both their print edition and online.

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Our reply to legal notice

The Lex Counsel sent a legal notice dated June 5, 2023, undersigned by Barrister Mejbahur Rahman, on behalf of Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, Mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation. It finds a satirical article, published in our May 13, 2023, issue of Satireshday under the title "Cutting trees to make way for air," highly offensive and defamatory to the notice giver.

The legal notice, which we received late on June 6 afternoon, allowed us

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Blender's Choice - The Daily Star OTT AND DIGITAL CONTENT AWARDS 2022

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AWARDS 2022**

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The categories that are in
FILM/ DRAMA/SERIES

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2. Best Actor, Female
3. Best Actor in Negative Role
4. Best Supporting Actor, Series (Male)
5. Best Supporting Actor, Series (Female)
6. Best Director, Series
7. Best Director, Film
8. Best Cinematographer
9. Best Drama/Series
10. Best Film
11. Best Makeup Artist
12. Best Editing
13. Best Script Writer, Story

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3. Best Background Score
4. Best Lyricist

CRITIC'S CHOICE

1. Best Actor, Male
2. Best Actor, Female
3. Best Film/Drama/Series
4. Best Director
Film/Drama/Series

The categories that are in
INDIVIDUAL CONTENT

1. Best Content Creator,
Entertainment/Comedy
2. Best Content Creator,
Education/Well-being
3. Best Content Creator, Kids
4. Best Content Creator, Food & Recipe
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