



Sit together to end crisis

CEC urges political parties

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The current political crises cannot be resolved on the streets and it has to be done through dialogues between the parties, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal said yesterday.

"The Election Commission believes that political parties should sit together at a table and have tea," Awal told reporters at his office in the capital's Agargaon after meeting US Ambassador Peter Haas.

"They [the US] also believe that dialogue between the political parties is needed," he said.

The Election Commission has made it clear that a conducive environment is needed for election, he said.

"The crises are political. If they are resolved politically, it will be much easier for the Election Commission to conduct the election.

"We hope that many of the issues in the political arena will be resolved at any cost. May political stability return."

With the next parliamentary election only months away, the Awami League and the BNP are sticking to their guns on a key issue.

The BNP says no acceptable election is possible under the AL government while the latter insists that a free and fair election is possible only under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

In recent days, both parties held programmes in the capital and elsewhere showing off their popularity.

Clashes between BNP supporters and law enforcers assisted by ruling party activists turned entries to Dhaka city into battlegrounds on Saturday.

Asked for his take on the CEC's comments, BNP leader



"The crises are political. If they are resolved politically, it will be much easier for the Election Commission to conduct the election."

Kazi Habibur Awal
Chief Election Commissioner



A train heading towards Narayanganj from Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday. The Dhaka-Narayanganj rail link, which is part of the Padma Rail Link project, was reopened yesterday after being closed for nine months for development work. The photo was taken in Gendaria area.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

US to send pre-polls observers in October

Peter Haas tells CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United States will send a pre-election monitoring team in early October to assess the situation ahead of Bangladesh's next parliamentary elections.

US Ambassador Peter Haas said this at a meeting with Chief

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Rohingyas may be taken back to own villages

Chinese special envoy hints at meeting with Momen, say sources

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and PORIMOL PALMA

Myanmar may take back the Rohingyas living in the Cox's Bazar camps to their own villages in North Maungdaw and nearby places instead of any camps or model villages.

Such an indication was communicated to Bangladesh by the Chinese Special Envoy for Asian Affairs Deng Xijun during his meetings with Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and

Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen on Monday, said sources in the know.

The special envoy discussed different aspects of bilateral relations between Bangladesh and China, but the main agenda was Rohingya repatriation.

Before coming to Dhaka on Sunday, Xijun went to Myanmar and discussed ways of implementing the repatriation of the Rohingyas with U Ko Ko Hlaing, Myanmar's

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

Hasina, AL never run away: PM



UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday came down heavily on BNP leaders for saying that Awami League won't get a way to flee the country.

"Sheikh Hasina or Awami League never runs away," she said at a blood donation programme in Dhaka.

"We hear from our opposition party -- though they can't be called an opposition party as they are not in parliament -- that we [Awami League] won't get a way to flee. I would like to remind the leader, who made this remark, that Sheikh Hasina or Awami League never runs away and never did," she said.

The premier was addressing a voluntary blood donation programme and discussion at the auditorium of Krishibid Institution Bangladesh in the city's Farmgate area.

Bangladesh Krishak League arranged the blood donation programme, discussion and Doa Mahfil ahead of the National Mourning Day to be observed on August 15.

Hasina, the President of Bangladesh Awami League, said their [BNP's] master, Ziaur Rahman, had made efforts to annihilate the Awami League, but failed. Then Ershad and Khaleda Zia tried without any success.

She said during her rule Khaleda carried out massacre like the genocide committed

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

POLITICAL VIOLENCE UN special rapporteur urges restraint

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Association and Peaceful Assembly Clement Voule urged all parties in Bangladesh to exercise restraint amid escalating violence and arrests during the ongoing protests.

"I remind the authorities of their duty to guarantee the right to assembly and refrain from using excess force. Respecting dissenting voices is key for fair and free elections," Voule said in a tweet.

He also said this call follows earlier calls and communications to the government of Bangladesh following similar reports of excessive use of violence by law enforcers, including lethal violence, and undue arrests of peaceful protesters.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Remittance continues to underwhelm

Inflows down 5.86pc to \$1.97b in July

MEHEDI HASAN

Migrant workers sent home \$1.97 billion in July, down 5.86 percent from a year earlier, in yet another bad tidings for the country's strained foreign exchange reserves.

Remittance inflows along with export receipts are the main sources of dollar for Bangladesh, and a surge in inflows is expected in line with the growing manpower exports, which would have eased some pressure on the foreign currency reserves.

That has not been the case so far this year.

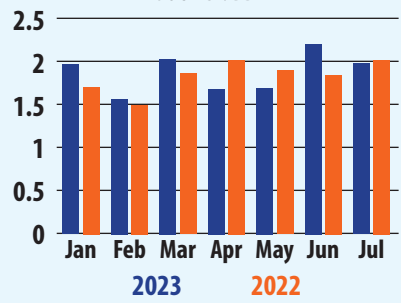
"The minimum remittance inflow should be at \$2 billion each month because of growing manpower export," said Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist of the World Bank's Dhaka office.

The inflows so far this year were less than \$2 billion every month save for March and June, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank.

In fiscal 2022-23, Bangladesh sent 11,44,993 workers abroad, up 15.8

HOW REMITTANCE FARED THIS YEAR (\$B)

SOURCE: BB



percent from a year earlier, according to data from the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training.

The inflows did not increase due to the exchange rate premium between the formal and informal markets, Hussain said. The difference in the exchange rate between the formal and informal markets is called the premium.

A World Bank study found

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4



Nurses tend to a dengue patient at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital. The patient, who has been suffering from the viral fever for five days, was admitted to the hospital yesterday upon doctors' recommendation.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

www.thecitybank.com

city bank making sense of money

City Bank Head Office Moves to its New Address

City Bank Center has shifted from Gulshan 2 to Gulshan 1. All our head office activities will be conducted from the new address forthwith.

Old address
136, Gulshan Avenue
Gulshan 2, Dhaka

New address
City Bank Center
Plot: SE (D) - 3
28, Gulshan Avenue
Gulshan 1, Dhaka

CITY BANK CENTER