



US team calls for dialogue on polls

Quader: Dialogue possible if BNP withdraws conditions : **Khasru: 'Unelected govt' cannot set terms for talks**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US pre-election assessment mission yesterday recommended dialogue between political parties in order to hold a credible, inclusive and peaceful election in Bangladesh.

The mission also suggested reining in political rhetoric, protecting freedom of expression, ensuring space for civil society, committing to shun violence, and creating conditions for all parties to compete in a meaningful way.

"The parties should engage in good-faith negotiations to find a compromise to the current political stalemate and create real, lasting, and credible change," said the mission in a 10-page report yesterday.

Between October 8 and 11, the mission of the International Republican Institute and the National Democratic Institute met officials of the government, the Election Commission, leaders of political parties, representatives of civil society, women, youths, people with disabilities, journalists, lawyers and the diplomatic communities in Dhaka.

"We feel the primary problem is the lack of a constructive engagement among key political actors," the report quoted Karl Inderfurth, co-chair of the National Democratic Institute, as

US MISSION'S SUGGESTIONS

- Engage in open and substantive dialogue
- Ensure freedom of expression, space for civil society
- Hold perpetrators of political violence accountable
- Ensure meaningful political competition
- Bolster independent election management

saying. About the mission's recommendations, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader said dialogue may be considered if the BNP withdraws its conditions.

BNP's conditions are resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, dissolution of parliament, resignation of the Election Commission, and polls under a non-party caretaker government.

"We have no thoughts on a

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West's stance on democracy a boost for movement

Says Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Western countries' commitment towards democracy is a boost for BNP's movement for a fair election under an impartial government, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said yesterday.

"We are not alone... But we should also remember that we must move forward with more determination to strengthen the movement," he told a discussion yesterday.

The discussion titled The Role of Local-International Community in Restoration of Democracy in Bangladesh and What We Have to Do Right Now was held at a hotel in the capital. A book titled "No Comments" by photographer Babul Talukder was launched at the seminar.

BNP's movement is on the right track, and no election will be held without voters this time, Fakhrul said.

Referring to a recent comment by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, he said she wants to stay in power

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Afghanistan's Mujeeb Ur Rahman celebrates one of his three wickets in their 69-run victory against England in New Delhi yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



Afghanistan stun champions England

AFP, New Delhi

Afghanistan pulled off one of the greatest World Cup shocks on Sunday when they defeated defending champions England by 69 runs in New Delhi.

Chasing 285 to win, after opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz had hit a blistering 80, England were bowled out for 215 despite Harry Brook's 66 with spinners Mujeeb Ur Rahman and Rashid Khan claiming three wickets each.

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Why such hush-hush over Shakib's injury?

AL-AMIN

Although three days have passed since Bangladesh



বঙ্গদ

ডক বিজ্ঞানের ডিজিটাল লেনদেন

captain Shakib Al Hasan left the ground after feeling uncomfortable with his left thigh during the World Cup game against New Zealand on Friday, the team management has yet to provide the exact picture of the all-rounder's injury status.

Shakib had an MRI scan after that game in Chennai which Bangladesh lost by eight wickets.

The following day, the team management issued a statement where a lot of things had been said about the player's discomfort and

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Gaza crisis spirals

US fears Iran's direct involvement as Israel forces wait for 'political decision' for ground assault

AGENCIES

The Israeli army yesterday said it was awaiting a "political decision" on the timing of a major ground offensive on the Gaza Strip, as fears grew that the conflict between Israel and Hamas could spiral into a regional Middle East war.

The ground assault fear has displaced more than one million people in the Gaza Strip in the last week, the UN said yesterday.

Israel declared war on the Islamist group last Sunday, a day after waves of fighters broke through the heavily fortified border and shot, stabbed and burned to death more than 1,400, most of them civilians.

Seven days of relentless bombing

targeting those who masterminded the attack have left more than 2,450 people dead, the majority ordinary Palestinians.

But even as Israel seeks to avenge

2,450 killed in Gaza, more than 1,400 in Israel
More than 1m of Gaza's 2.4m population displaced

the worst attack in its history, it faced a grave warning about the security implications of putting boots on the ground in the densely populated enclave.

"No one can guarantee the

control of the situation and the non-expansion of the conflicts" if Israel sends its soldiers into Gaza, said Iran's foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.

"Those who are interested in preventing the scope of war and crisis from expanding need to prevent the current barbaric attacks... against citizens and civilians in Gaza," he added.

Iran is Israel's number one enemy and as well as funding Hamas also backs Hezbollah in Lebanon to the north, where cross-border fire has intensified in the last week.

At least 10 people have now been killed in Lebanon and two in Israel, prompting Israel to shut the border

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We Deeply Mourn

Honorable Chairman of Esquire Group
Alhaj Md. Mofazzal Hossain passed away on October 14, 2023 at 10:37 AM Bangladesh time (12:37 PM Singapore time) while undergoing treatment at Mount Elizabeth Hospital, Singapore.

"Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Raziun"

Namaz-e-Janaza arrangement have been made as follows:
Date: October 16, 2023
Namaz-e-Janaza Prayers-1: After Zuhr Salat at Baitul Aman Jame Masjid, Dhanmondi-07, Dhaka.
Namaz-e-Janaza Prayers-2: After Isha Salat at Jamia Rahmania Arabia, Mridhabari, Deobogh, Munshiganj Madrasa premises.

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21st

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