

# Govt to bar AL from 'political participation'

Says Chief Adviser's Office after talks with 10 parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government will bar the Awami League and the like-minded parties from participating in political activities, said the chief adviser's office yesterday.

"Those who had taken part in the last three elections and come to parliament illegally deceived the people, and the interim government will of course put obstacles to their political participation," said Mahfuj Alam, special assistant to the chief adviser.

"You will see how these barriers will come into effect. It has a legal aspect and it has an administrative aspect — you will see it soon. These things will become clearer when the election process starts."

Mahfuj was briefing journalists after talks with 10 political parties.

On a query about the possibility of banning the AL and its allies, he said this will be decided upon discussions with different political parties.

"The government will not take the decision unilaterally."



Outsourced employees of different government institutions demonstrate blocking the capital's Shahbagh intersection yesterday demanding nationalisation of their jobs. The protest disrupted traffic in and around Shahbagh, causing severe traffic congestion.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMAN

# Two S Alam sons dodged Tk 75cr in taxes in 20-21

Govt probe finds; 3 tax officials suspended

MOHAMMAD SUMAN

At least six tax officials, including the then tax commissioner, were involved in extending undue favour to two sons of controversial businessman Mohammed Saiful Alam to legalise undisclosed money worth Tk 500 crore, an investigation by the tax intelligence has found.

In the process, S Alam's sons Ashraf Alam and Asadul Alam were allowed to evade Tk 75 crore in taxes in 2020-21, according to the report, prepared by Mohammad Abdur Rakib, tax commissioner of income tax intelligence and investigation unit.

Following the report on October 15, the finance ministry has suspended three officials, while further investigations into the matter are underway.

The suspended officials are Joint Taxes Commissioner of Dhaka Taxes Zone 2 AKM Shamsuzzaman; Additional Taxes Commissioner of Chattogram Taxes

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➤ Search committee for EC formation soon

➤ Parties call for polls soon, but after reforms

➤ Demand for banning AL, allies gets louder

➤ Worries expressed about price hikes, law and order

At the dialogue with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, some parties yesterday demanded banning the AL and its allies or at least keeping them from taking part in the next national election.

Jatiya Party and other AL allies have not been invited to the talks.

Mahfuj said the government is not inviting the AL's allies as those parties provided "silent support and participated in the illegal elections".

"The interim government has made it clear that those parties were allies of fascism and consented to genocide — they took a stance directly against the people. Similar views were expressed by the political parties."

About constituting the Election Commission, he said the government will soon form a search committee to appoint a new chief election commissioner and other election commissioners.

Discussions on election-related issues including voter list preparation will go on in parallel with the work of the reform commissions.

During the dialogue with 10 political parties yesterday, SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

# COMPLAINTS AGAINST COPS Police want to investigate on their own

Reform proposal seeks no involvement of home ministry

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The police want the power to investigate complaints against their members, reforming the current system that requires the home ministry's involvement when the officer facing charges is of a certain rank.

Rights defenders say such a change will obstruct impartial investigations and further lower the chances of justice prevailing when the perpetrator is a cop.

An independent body must do the investigations because police officers rarely find their colleagues guilty in investigations, according to Supreme Court lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua and rights activist Nur Khan Liton.

Currently, the home ministry with assistance from Police Headquarters (PHQ)



investigates when the officer facing allegations is of the rank of assistant superintendent of police or higher.

If the individual facing allegations is an inspector or of a lower rank, the PHQ alone investigates the matter.

The PHQ recently submitted 44 reform proposals to the home ministry.

"The discipline wing of the police needs to be rearranged to prevent unprofessional activities, ensure prompt disposal of complaints against police members and appropriate punishment as per the law," reads one of the reform proposals.

England, Wales, Northern Ireland, and Sri Lanka have independent oversight bodies to investigate complaints against police and

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# Only CA can announce polls timing

Says law adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two days after commenting on the possibility of the next election being held in 2025, Law Adviser Asif Nazrul yesterday clarified that only the chief adviser of the interim government has the authority to make such an announcement.

"An election is a highly important policy decision and its timing will be determined under the leadership of the chief adviser. Only he has the authority to make such an announcement," Nazrul wrote on his verified Facebook page.

Nazrul's comment came a day after his colleague and Religious Affairs Adviser



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# the BUSINESS

## \$400m lost to unrest: BGMEA

The garment industry has suffered collective production losses of nearly \$400 million due to a series of labour unrest in September and early October, according to exporters.

However, the industry has now regained stability as the labour situation in major industrial belts improved, they said.

Exporters also highlighted that maintaining law and order alongside discipline is now the major challenge for the garment industry.

STORY ON B1

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