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CA'S SPEECH

BNP upset at the absence of polls roadmap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP said it was disappointed that the chief adviser in his address to the nation did not provide a roadmap to polls.

The party believes that parliamentary polls should be held soon, as the interim government does not have the people's mandate to govern.

Some BNP leaders have expressed concern that the government might attempt to extend its rule under the guise of reforms, citing potential complications or any evil plan.

In his address on Sunday, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus called for patience from the people, and assured that a roadmap for the elections would be unveiled once electoral reforms were carried out.

Speaking at a programme at the Jatiya Press Club, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday expressed his dissatisfaction with the CA's national address.

"Our chief adviser addressed the nation yesterday [Sunday] to mark 100 days of his government.... I am



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Bundles of ripe paddy being taken to a farmer's house in Magolgaon village of Sylhet Sadar upazila yesterday afternoon. Paddy harvesting in the district began last week. Farmers are expecting a bumper production this year.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR



Zakaria Pintoo
(1943-2024)

Farewell to captain courageous

KHALID HOSSAIN

Zakaria Pintoo, the legendary captain of the Swadhin Bangla football team, passed away yesterday at the age of 81, leaving behind a legacy that transcends the boundaries of sport and resonates with a nation's history.

When Pintoo made a bold but heartfelt claim, saying that "I am luckier than Pele," he was not boasting about his skills on the pitch but about his unparalleled role in history.

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3,930 examinees of 44th BCS have to face viva voce again PSC scraps past vivas to 'maintain uniformity'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 3,930 candidates for the 44th Bangladesh Civil Service will have to face fresh viva voce since the newly constituted Bangladesh Public Service Commission has decided to cancel the previously conducted oral examinations.

The oral interviews of these candidates were conducted up until July 18 after a total of 11,732 examinees passed the 44th BCS written tests.

However, the oral exams were suspended on August 25, and the then commission resigned on October 8.

The newly formed commission decided to cancel the previously conducted interviews and restart oral examinations for all candidates who passed the written tests in order to "maintain uniformity", the PSC said in a press release yesterday.

The new dates for the oral examinations will be announced shortly, the press release added.

In its first meeting, the newly appointed chairman and eight members of the PSC also made significant decisions on the 45th and 46th BCS tests, as well as various non-cadre exams.

To "ensure transparency and fairness", the new commission also

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Job scarcity key reason behind AL government's fall

Says Debapriya Bhattacharya at Bay of Bengal Conversation



Whatever government jobs there were, they were chosen for the party cadres and not for the university graduates.

Debapriya Bhattacharya

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Lack of quality education and dearth of jobs were the ticking time bombs that brought down the authoritarian regime of Awami League, said noted economist Debapriya Bhattacharya.

Authoritarian governments survive on three elements: lies, fear and the illusion of development, he said yesterday at a session on the final day of the three-day Bay of Bengal Conversation organised by the Centre for Governance Studies at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon. These lead to suppression of critical voices, benefits for oligarchs, and finally the fall of the government, he said.

"Such authoritarians create structures to subjugate the media, civil society and private sectors and lie about history, figures of development and even election outcomes. Even people are picked up anytime from anywhere, which was seen in the case of Aynagar."

Then, such governments also create the illusion of prosperity to generate some growth to distribute the surplus among certain sets of people to keep them on its side, said Debapriya, the head of the 12-member committee formed by the interim government to prepare a white paper on the state of the Bangladesh economy.

"That crony capital creates oligarchs. The authoritarians think that they run the oligarchs but finally discover that actually the oligarchs are running them."

Such a system is not at all inclusive but thrives on inequality and

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Holding polls not govt's only responsibility

Says Nahid Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Just holding elections is not the sole responsibility of the current interim administration, since it is a revolutionary government, not a caretaker, Nahid Islam, adviser to the posts, telecommunications, and information technology ministry, said yesterday.

"Various commissions have already been formed for institutional reforms, and polls will be held after the reforms are completed," he said.

The adviser made the remarks during a meeting with Commonwealth Assistant Secretary-General Prof Luis Franceschi at the ministry's office, said a press release of the ministry.

Mentioning that the judicial process to ensure justice for the victims of mass killings during the July-August uprising is ongoing, he said the government requires assistance from the Commonwealth to ensure an impartial trial.

He also sought support from the Commonwealth nations in building a new Bangladesh.

Nahid mentioned that the interim government has received support from all over the world, which is still pouring in.

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Biden 'fuelling fire' of Ukraine conflict

Says Kremlin as US allows Kyiv to use long-range missiles

AFP, Kyiv

The Kremlin yesterday accused US President Joe Biden of escalating the war in Ukraine by allowing Kyiv to use long-range missiles supplied by Washington to strike targets inside Russia.

The comments came as Moscow unleashed a second missile attack in as many days on the Unesco-protected Ukrainian city of Odesa on the Black Sea that left 10 dead and more than 40 wounded.

"It's obvious that the outgoing administration in Washington intends to take steps in order to continue fuelling the fire and provoke a further escalation of tensions," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

A US official earlier confirmed the major US policy shift to AFP specifying it was in response to Russia's deployment of thousands of North Korean troops to aid its war effort.

Peskov said this marked "new spiral of tensions and a qualitatively new situation from the point of view of the US's engagement in the conflict."

He said President Vladimir Putin had expressed Moscow's position clearly in September when the Russian leader said such a move would put Nato "at war" with Russia.

Kyiv has long sought authorisation from Washington to use the powerful Army Tactical Missile System, or ATACMS, to hit military installations inside Russia as its troops come under growing pressure.

President Volodymyr Zelensky said yesterday he had visited the frontline city of Pokrovsk, which Russian forces are closing in on.

Ukraine says it needs to be able to carry out strikes in Russia to prevent aerial bombardments that have levelled entire districts of towns near the front line and decimated energy facilities across the country.

Putin said in September that if Ukraine were to attack Russia with long-range missiles, Moscow would "take the appropriate decisions based on the threats".

10 killed in Russian missile strike in Odesa

Russian forces advance on Pokrovsk in Donetsk

N Korea dispatches thousands of its troops to aid Kremlin war

Annual Integrated Report 2023

SAFA BPA AWARDS 2023

Bank Asia

Bank Asia has won SAFA Best Presented Annual Report Award 2023 for Integrated Reporting among all the participating institutions.

The prestigious win is a testament of Bank Asia's commitment for greater transparency and accountability towards its stakeholders.

On behalf of Bank Asia PLC., Mr. Rumeel A Hossain, Director & Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board and Mr. ANM Mahfuz, Additional Managing Director, received the award at a ceremony in Colombo from the Honorable Governor of The Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Mr. Nandal Weerasinghe.