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Sarjis, Hasnat take flak at NCP meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party leaders Sarjis Alam and Hasnat Abdullah came under intense scrutiny at a key party meeting on Friday over allegations of breaching party discipline, said sources.

Allegations of financial irregularities were also raised against another top leader, Gazi Salahuddin Tanvir, during the closed-door general meeting held at the NCP's temporary central office in Rupayan Trade Center in the capital's Banglamotor area.



In response, the less than two-month-old party decided to form a "discipline and investigation" committee to address the allegations and uphold internal discipline.

Requesting anonymity, at least three leaders of NCP, who know the developments, confirmed to The Daily Star that, during the nine-hour-long meeting, the allegations against Chief Organiser (North) Sarjis, Chief Organiser (South) Hasnat, and Joint Member Secretary Tanvir dominated the discussions.

They said, referring to various allegations swirling against the three leaders on social media, participants

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PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Carrying a pitcher and a large container, Bhaktilata Mandal and her husband set off with his bicycle in search of fresh drinking water. Another woman is seen returning with a pitcher full of water. This everyday ritual is all too familiar for communities living in coastal regions highly affected by salinity. The struggle for freshwater sources is particularly immense in summer when rain is sparse. Residents must hike several kilometres daily to fetch drinking water. The photo was taken recently from Dakshin Kadamtala village in Shyamnagar upazila of Satkhira.

DEMAND FOR POLLS BY DEC BNP now sees no need to go for movement

UNB, Dhaka

BNP does not see the need to launch a movement against the Prof Yunus-led administration, for now, to compel it to hold the next national election in December, said BNP senior leader Nazrul Islam Khan.

"We don't think we have to do anything like that [waging a movement], because we brought this government to power with the expectation that it would play a role in establishing democracy in the country and act according to the people's aspirations," he said.

Nazrul, also a member of the BNP Standing Committee, made the remarks while speaking to reporters at the BNP Chairperson's Gulshan office following a meeting with leaders of the 12-party alliance — one of the components that carried out a joint movement with BNP against the Sheikh Hasina regime.

"We don't think there is a need to initiate a movement against this government. We believe it will work in line with the people's wishes," he added.

However, Nazrul said a final decision regarding their next course of action will be made after discussions with other parties and alliances that took to the streets against the Awami League government.

The BNP leader claimed that during a meeting with BNP leaders on February 10, the chief adviser had clearly

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Ensure youth-led inclusive development

Say speakers at discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh must shift from an economy and polity controlled by vested interest groups to a system that ensures active participation of the youth and equal access to opportunities and state benefits for all citizens, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

Government advisers, political leaders, diplomats, teachers, and economists, who attended the discussion, also emphasised inclusive growth, good governance, and amplification of marginalised voices to navigate the current political and developmental challenges.

In his keynote, Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed said a concentration of economic and political power in the hands of a few oligarchs led to persistent problems in the financial sector.

"The visible development hasn't reached the poor and marginalised," he noted.

The discussion, titled "Empowering Bangladesh: Pathways to Leadership, Unity, and Growth," was organised by the Bangladesh Empowered Foundation and North South University's Department of History and Philosophy.

Salehuddin said the past 15 years saw widespread irregularities, corruption, and money laundering, driven by vested business interests.

"The banking sector is in a mess. Bank chairmen and directors looted vast sums, while similar issues plagued the capital market, non-bank institutions, and trade," he said.

The interim government, he added, inherited serious challenges on political, economic, administrative, and law-and-order fronts. To stabilise the financial sector, reforms have begun in banking, capital markets, the NBR, taxation, and non-bank development institutes.

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BHABESH'S DEATH Dhaka terms Delhi's claim 'baseless'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has rejected the claim made by India's Ministry of External Affairs regarding the death of Bhabesh Chandra Roy, saying Bangladesh is not a country where one will find government-sponsored systematic discrimination against minorities.

Responding to a question on the comments of Indian MEA on the death of Bhabesh of Dinajpur, Shafiqul Alam, press secretary to the chief adviser, yesterday in a statement said, "It is unfortunate that the death of Mr Bhabesh Chandra Roy has been described as part of a 'pattern of systematic persecution of Hindu minorities under the interim government'."

"We reject this baseless claim. This government protects the rights of all of its citizens irrespective of religious denominations.

"In this particular case, we have ascertained that the victim went out with some individuals previously known to him. Nobody from the victim's family reported his going out

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Putin declares Easter ceasefire in Ukraine

Trump warns of ditching Ukraine talks if no progress is made soon

AGENCIES

Russian President Vladimir Putin declared a unilateral Easter ceasefire in Ukraine, ordering his forces to end hostilities at 6:00pm Moscow time (1500 GMT) on Saturday until the end of Sunday.

There was no immediate reaction from Ukraine.

"Based on humanitarian considerations... the Russian side announces an Easter truce. I order a stop to all military activities for this period," Putin told his military chief, Valery Gerasimov, at a meeting in the Kremlin.

"We assume that Ukraine will follow our example. At the same time, our troops should be prepared to repel possible violations of the truce and provocations by the enemy, any aggressive actions," Putin added.

The development came after the United States said it will walk away from efforts to broker a Russia-Ukraine peace deal unless there are clear signs of progress soon.

"Quickly, we want to get it done," Trump told reporters at the White House. "Now, if for some reason one of the two parties makes it very difficult, we're just going to say, 'you're foolish, you're fools, you're horrible people, and we're going to just take a pass. But hopefully we won't have to do that.'"

Trump's comments followed remarks by Rubio, his top diplomat, who said the sides had just days to show progress or Washington would walk

"We're not going to continue with this endeavour for weeks and months on end. So we need to determine very quickly now, and I'm talking about a matter of days, whether or not this is doable in the next few weeks," Rubio said in Paris after meeting European and Ukrainian leaders.

"If it's not possible, if we're so far apart that this is not going to happen, then I think the president is probably at a point where he's going to say, 'well, we're done'."

Trump, when asked, declined to set a specific deadline for how long he was willing to wait.

"Marco's right in saying... we want to see it end," Trump said. Asked if Russian President Vladimir Putin was stalling, Trump replied: "I hope not."

Over the past few weeks, Trump officials have acknowledged privately that the chances of a quick peace deal in Ukraine have grown elusive. Rubio's comments, three European diplomats said, reflected growing frustration in the White House over Russian intransigence to end the war.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said some progress on a peace settlement had already been made but that contacts with Washington were difficult. He said Russia was striving to resolve the conflict while ensuring its own interests. Moscow remained open to dialogue with the United States, he added.

- Rubio says US needs to decide on Ukraine talks 'in a matter of days'
- Russia says retook penultimate village in Kursk seized by Ukraine
- Moscow launches 8 missiles, 87 drones on Ukraine: Kyiv

Pvt univ student stabbed to death hours after brawl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Primeasia University student was stabbed to death allegedly by another student in the capital yesterday afternoon.

Jahidul Islam Parvez, 24, was a student of textile engineering. He was from B h a l u k a , Mymensingh.



Jahidul was having snacks in front of the university campus in Banani area around 4:00pm when two students of the English department came to the scene and attacked him, said Russel Sarwar, officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station, quoting witnesses.

Al Mamun Apu, a student of the university, told this correspondent that Jahidul and several others were hanging out on campus around 10:00am when another group confronted them, saying that they were making fun of female classmates.

As the groups quarreled, university authorities intervened and resolved the matter.

Jahidul was stabbed hours later. His body was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for an autopsy, said the OC, adding that there was a stab wound on his chest.

As of last night, no arrests had been made in connection with the incident.

Tigresses qualify for WC by barest of margins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh qualified for the Women's ODI World Cup for the second consecutive time by the barest of margins despite a seven-wicket defeat against Pakistan in their last match of the qualifying campaign in Lahore on Saturday.

The Tigresses needed a victory to seal their second-ever World Cup spot, but a poor batting display saw concede a seven-wicket defeat against the already-qualified Pakistan, and in the process, suffering a bit of a blow to their net run-rate.



The result kept the Tigresses waiting for the last match of the qualifying competition, with West Indies taking on Thailand and hoping to overtake Bangladesh on net run-rate.

Winning the toss, West Indies put Thailand in to bat, and bowled them out for 166 runs in 46.1 overs, despite a defiant 66-run knock from Natthakan Chantham.

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People mourn near the bodies of Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes, at Nasser hospital of the southern Gaza Strip's Khan Younis yesterday. Israeli air strikes killed at least 92 people in Gaza in the last 48 hours, said the Palestinian territory's health ministry.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Law enforcers ordered to stop AL processions

Says home adviser; DMP to take action by analysing photos, video footage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday said police had been ordered to make sure that the Awami League cannot organise any more processions.

Officers who fail to prevent the AL from marching will face disciplinary action, he said when reporters asked him about allegations that police personnel had not done anything when AL activists marched in the capital's Uttara on Friday.

Earlier on April 15, Dhaka North AL Organising Secretary Mazhar Anam led another procession in Rampura.

The home adviser spoke to journalists after visiting the Airport Police Station in the capital. He also visited Uttara West, Turag, and Uttara East police stations.

He said the government was trying to further improve law and order.

About allegations that some police officers were not complying with transfer orders, he said the authorities would take action if they got "specific information".

The government was considering whether low-ranking police personnel could be posted within the divisions

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