

'We're against it in either houses of parliament'

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such demands may be different. Perhaps they want to gain an extra advantage by calling for more parties to be banned," he said.

Salahuddin said the case of the Awami League was completely different, as the party was responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and destroying the country's democratic system.

"We demanded first that the Awami League, as a political party, should be brought to trial. The court will decide whether they can continue in politics or not," Salahuddin said.

On the issue of constitutional reform, he said BNP will not support any "special constitutional order" or "extra-constitutional order" that bypasses Parliament.

"That would create a bad example for the future. Only the Jatiya Sangsad is the proper forum to bring in necessary constitutional amendments."

Salahuddin, however, said their party is open to any lawful and constitutional process agreed upon through discussions.

The BNP leader also warned of a constitutional vacuum if political stability and an elected government are not ensured within the set timeframe. "That vacuum could destroy national unity, open the door to fascism, and even draw in regional or global powers. We cannot take the country in that direction."

Regarding the joint movement by Jamaat-e-Islami and some other Islamic parties demanding proportional

representation and other reforms, Salahuddin made it clear that their party is totally against the PR (proportional representation) system.

"We are against PR everywhere (both the lower and upper house). If any party wants it, they should put it in their manifesto and seek a mandate from the people. If the people support it, only then can they legislate," he said.

The BNP leader also described the three day protest programmes announced by Islamist parties as a possible attempt to derail the polls.

"People have sacrificed too much for the right to vote and for democracy. Any attempt to delay or obstruct the election for narrow political gain will be rejected by the people."

SC halts

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Barua, lawyer for the writ petitioners, told The Daily Star.

Deputy Attorney General Khan Ziaur Rahman stated that the chamber judge will hold a hearing on the leave to appeal petition after it is filed and will issue a further order.

Following a writ petition filed by nine academics, teachers, writers, researchers, and environmental activists, the HC on September 10 directed the government not to carry out any construction work in Panthakunja Park and Hatirjheel, or restrict public access to these spots.

The government, on September 11, filed a petition with the Appellate Division seeking a stay on the HC order, stating that it has been carrying out development works for the interest of the people in Panthakunja Park and Hatirjheel, which are public lands.

Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua appeared for the writ petitioners, while Additional Attorney General Md Arshadur Rauf represented the government.

Land allocated

FROM PAGE 5
Iqbal Hossain, former president of Tangail District Bus Coach-Minibus Owners Association.

Mominul Islam Lavlu, general secretary of Tangail District Bus Coach-Minibus Workers Union, said the municipality had declared the old terminal building abandoned 10 years ago.

"It was never rebuilt or renovated and is still in use despite the inconveniences. A modern terminal is badly needed," he added.

Tangail Municipality Administrator Md Shihab Raihan, also deputy director of the Local Government Department in the district, said a tender has been issued to fill the government land allocated for the terminal.

"Once the tender process is completed, work will begin soon," he said.

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