

Aziz in His Labyrinth

CHIEF Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz has so far out-lived nine lives. After his nomination as the CEC, he stood against the opinions of two fellow commissioners and went on with the making of a new voter list. At that time Aziz had managed to avoid calling any meeting of the Election Commission (EC) by what many believe, feigning illness. The CEC's so-called illness has reached the status of a myth: no sooner had the government appointed two new commissioners, who like Aziz, are also BNP-faithful, than Aziz found his feet back, and called a meeting of the commission.

He, along with two BNP-backed stooge-commissioners, has so far been enacting one new farce after another. It has taken a Supreme Court verdict to make the trio scrap the enumeration. The judgement should have come as a giant slap in the face of the CEC, but beleaguered Aziz has refused to consider it a smack. "To err is human," he has said while defending a move that has cost his poor country 600 (Aziz says its 90) million taka.

If the CEC has any degree of self-respect left in him, he would have resigned immediately after the Supreme



Court verdict. But the obstinate way in which he and his colleagues have been holding onto their posts, we have reasons to believe that they have ulterior motives behind this overzealous behaviour. Nothing it seems can deter these three persons from taking decisions that are going to harm our democratic process. It is a little less than tragic that this arrant Election Commission has got two individuals who belong to our otherwise acclaimed judiciary. That MA Aziz and Mahfuzur Rahman are actually two judges of our Supreme Court is itself unbelievable and quite difficult for us to digest.

Aziz and Co must understand that (it is presumed that they already know it) sooner or later they have to go. National election is not, after all, an issue of a group of egotistical people's whims.

Juvenile crime

Last week's incident of three teenage boys slitting throats of three of their friends of similar ages was really frightening, especially for parents of school-going children. The incident took place at a house in East Monipur. Badhan, a student of class-VII, returned home along with five of his friends to play computer games or watch movies. Since Badhan's parents used to be out the whole day and would not return before evening, Badhan would often invite his friends at his home. But this time he would have to pay a price for his hospitality. Jahan, Badhan's classmate, who was a regular at Badhan's place, along with Rajib and Masud, tied Badhan and two others, slit their throats and then took away cash, ornaments, and a CPU. Badhan and two others are still nursing their injuries in a clinic and all the three teenage criminals have been caught. What is most disturbing how boys aged between 12 to 14 could almost murder three others. Juvenile crime is not a new phenomenon, but the degree to which their desperation stretched in this particular incident, is something that really boggles the mind. It is not just another crime, but a manifestation of some serious social ill that demands serious scrutiny.

