

Legal notice served on president

UNB, Dhaka  
A legal notice was served yesterday on President Iajuddin Ahmed to refrain from performing as chief adviser to the caretaker government, the post he assumed on Sunday night in addition to his presidential responsibilities.

Challenging his action, Advocate Manzil Morshid said the president has violated the constitution by assuming himself as chief adviser without exhausting the options laid down in article 58 C (3, 4 and 5). He urged the president to appoint a chief adviser to the non-party caretaker government in accordance with the constitution within three days, failing which he will move the High Court to protect the integrity of the constitution and rule of law.

He termed Iajuddin's taking over the office of chief adviser unlawful and in disregard to the constitution.

Soon after president's oath as chief adviser on Sunday night, legal experts including Dr Kamal Hossain, Barrister Amir ul Islam and Barrister Rafique ul Huq accused him of violating the constitution.

CORRUPTION

ACC plans action against former ministers, MPs

UNB, Dhaka

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) that remained virtually dysfunctional since its inception about two years ago will take action against ministers and MPs of the immediate past government if any specific allegation of corruption is found.

"No matter who, we will take action against anyone, including (former) ministers and MPs, if there are specific allegations of corruption," ACC Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan told the news agency at his office yesterday.

He, however, said the ACC has not yet received any specific allegation of corruption against any ministers or MPs.

Asked why ACC did not take action based on newspaper reports, Justice Khan said if there is clear evidence in newspaper reports on corruption, "we may act."

Justice Khan blamed the admin-

istrative complexities for non-approval of the prosecution and recruitment rules.

The ACC chairman said he is planning to meet the president this week to seek his help in getting approval of the rules for making his organisation fully functional. He will also seek approval of the rules for recruiting lawyers for the ACC.

He said the revised prosecution rules will be sent to the Cabinet Division within a couple of days and expressed optimism that the ACC will be functional within a month.

About use of black money in the coming general elections, the ACC chairman said political parties have no initiatives to stop it. "We will take the initiative in cooperation with the Election Commission," he said, adding that the ACC with the help of the EC will try to find out source of money and monitor expenses by the candidates.

AL protests Tarique's remarks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League Joint General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday protested the provocative remarks of BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman.

He called on Tarique to withdraw his remarks. Otherwise, the people will teach him a lesson, he said at a press conference at Sudha Sadan in the city.

Referring to the remarks made by Tarique on Sunday that the Hawa Bhaban has been monitoring the AL activities, Quader said that on the contrary, the countrymen have been monitoring illegal activities of Hawa Bhaban and waiting to hit back at Tarique and his Bhaban "responsible for price hike of essentials, corruption, plunder and crimes".

The AL leader accused Tarique of harbouring criminals and resorting to corruption. He also called on the law enforcers to take action against the BNP leader and his associates for the sake of maintaining law and order.

Obaidul Quader said Tarique spoke the language of guns as the people have forged a movement against the 'election engineering' by BNP.



Vegetable sellers spend time sleeping at Karwan Bazar, the largest wholesale kitchen market in the city, as supply of vegetables and other produce to the market has decreased significantly due to 14-party combine's blockade programme. The picture was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STARS



PHOTO: STAR

Shushashoner Janney Nagorik (Sujan) and Bangladesh Manobadhikar Samonnoy Parishad take out a peace procession in the city yesterday demanding violence-free politics.

DEATH THREAT

Noman files GD against Mohiuddin

BSS, Chittagong

A general diary (GD) was filed on Sunday night with Kotwali police here against Chittagong Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury for giving death threat to Abdullah Al Noman.

Nurul Azim Hero, personal secretary of Abdullah Al Noman, former fisheries and livestock minister, also BNP joint secretary general, filed the GD.

In a written statement, the complainant alleged that Mohiuddin issued a threat to Noman's life from a rally of 14-party alliance at Lalghighi Maidan on October 28.

RMC reopens Nov 8

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi Medical College (RMC) authorities have extended Eid vacation up to November 6, a RMC press release said yesterday.

The decision was made at an emergency meeting of Academic Council of the college at the principal lounge last night with RMC principal in the chair, sources said.

Sources also said RMC authorities extended the duration of Eid vacation on the ground of countrywide political turmoil situation and fear of violence on the RMC campus.

All scheduled classes and examinations will remain suspended during the vacation.

Classes will resume on November 8.

The postponed examination dates will be announced next time, the press releases added.

IUB classes resume tomorrow

The management of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), has extended the Eid holiday till October 31 today, says a press release.

Classes of the university will resume tomorrow.

'Iajuddin must prove himself to be neutral thru' activities'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday said President Iajuddin Ahmed must prove himself to be neutral through his activities, as the countrymen do not want to see the caretaker government as an extension of BNP-Jamaat alliance rule.

Many questions have arisen in people's mind after the president took over as the chief adviser to the non-partisan caretaker government, but he can dispel all confusions through appointing impartial advisers, reforming the Election Commission and taking stern action against the black money holders, CPB leaders said at a discussion.

They also placed a 53-point proposal for the caretaker government to ensure a free and fair election.

"Now the main duty of the care-

taker government is to create an environment conducive to a free and fair election. The caretaker government can easily do it through implementing the 53-point proposal," said CPB President

Manzurul Ahsan Khan.

CPB General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, Sahidullah Chowdhury, Dr Dibalok Singh, Ruhin Hossain Prince, Sazzad Zahir Chandan and Ahsan Habib Lablu also spoke.

Odhikar concerned

Odhikar, an organisation working for promotion of human rights, in a statement yesterday expressed deep concern over the recent political violence that left 23 people dead and more than two thousand injured, says a press release.

Calling upon all to unite against all types of violence, it said the violence erupted due to intolerance and lack of trust among the political parties.

Obaidul Huq's 96th anniversary of birth today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 96th birth anniversary of Obaidul Huq, a veteran journalist and litterateur, says a press release.

He was born at Feni on this day in 1911.

He started his career in journalism in the then Pakistan Observer in 1951 and was the editor of The Bangladesh Observer from 1972 to 1984.

Obaidul Huq was also the editor of the Daily News till 1987 and the chairman of Dainik Bangla Trust and The Bangladesh Times Trust for five years.

He was awarded Ekushey Padak, Nasiruddin Gold Medal, Zahur Hossain Chowdhury Gold Medal and Dainik Janakontha Award for his contributions to journalism besides Bangla Academy Award, 100 years of Film Industries Award and many others.

His publications include six titles in Bengali drama, three novels and four collections of poems.

Buet classes begin Nov 18

BSS, Dhaka

Classes of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) will begin November 18, instead of November 11.

Campus sources said the classes of the university were suspended for a week due to unavoidable circumstances.

According to the new academic programme, students have to complete their course registration work on November 14 and 15, the sources added.

WUB reopens tomorrow

World University of Bangladesh will remain closed until today due to unavoidable reasons, says a press release.

The normal activities will resume tomorrow.

Appoint neutral men as advisers

Speakers urge President

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday urged the President to appoint acceptable and neutral persons as advisers to caretaker government on the basis of consensus.

They also urged the President to act impartially and take immediate measures to resolve the ongoing political crisis in the country.

The rally was organised jointly by Shujan (Shushashoner Janney Nagorik) and Bangladesh Manobadhikar Samannaya Parishad (BMSP) at Panthapath in the city.

In order to hold a free and fair election, the speakers called for an independent Election Commission and appointment of impartial and competent persons in the EC and

measures to remove all suspicions about recent reshuffling in the secretariat.

They also spoke for compulsory registration of political parties, equipping voters with adequate information about the candidates and provision for giving negative votes indicating that none of the candidates in the ballot paper is fit for election.

BMSP President AHM Noman, Director Advocate Shamsuddin, Joint General Secretary of Shujan Zakir Hossain, Swapan Kumar Saha, Dilip Sarkar and Tushar Rahman spoke at the rally.

Earlier, a procession was brought out that marched through different city streets.



PHOTO: STAR

As a portion of the road at Manik Mia Avenue intersection in the city has subsided, somebody has put a branch of a tree in a crack to warn drivers of danger.