

# Appoint new CA as per constitution, recast EC

## 11-Party tells President

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the 11-Party yesterday called on the President to appoint a new chief adviser (CA) to the caretaker government as per constitutional provisions.

They also demanded sacking of the chief election commissioner and other commissioners and recasting of the Election Commission (EC) to ensure its neutrality.

The President did not properly follow the constitution while assuming the responsibility as the chief adviser, Convener of the 11-Party

Nurul Islam said at a press conference in the city.

"Nevertheless, we urged him to prove his neutrality, but he failed," he added.

Expressing doubt about the President's willingness to create an environment conducive to a free and fair election, Nurul Islam said the President has not yet done anything to earn people's trust.

Saying that there are about one and a half crore false voters on the voter list, he demanded the list be updated in accordance with the Supreme Court directives.

Nurul Islam, also the president

of Gonorantri Party, also called on the President to confiscate assets from corrupt lawmakers and ministers of immediate past government in order to make the upcoming election free from the influence of black money and muscle.

He also called for measures to stop harassment of 14-party leaders and activists by the law enforcers.

General Secretary of Workers' Party Bimal Biswas, Samyabadi Dal President Dilip Barua and Gono Forum presidium member Pankaj Bhattacharya were present at the press conference.

## Hasina sick, advised full rest for three days

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina fell sick with viral infection causing fever, throat pain as well as deterioration of her ear problem, her personal physician said yesterday.

Prof Pran Gopal, an ENT specialist, told UNB that she has been given medicine and advised to take complete rest for at least three days.

Hasina fell sick on Tuesday but developed pain in her throat yesterday morning.

Prof Gopal said her previous problem with ears, caused by the August 21 grenade attack on a rally, deteriorated a little, causing hearing problem.

"At the moment, she does not need to go abroad for treatment. Medicine was given to her," said Prof Gopal.

Sheikh Hasina's personal aide Najib Ahmed said all her appointments were cancelled. She also could not attend the meeting with foreign diplomats at Hotel Raddison yesterday.



US Ambassador Patricia A Butenis speaks at a view exchange meeting of AL-led 14-party combine with foreign diplomats at Raddison Hotel yesterday.



Wearing black T-shirts with peace symbol, people from all walks of life form a human chain at Shahbagh intersection in the city yesterday demanding peaceful atmosphere in the country.

## Distribution of DU admission forms begins today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Distribution of admission forms of Dhaka University (DU) for first year honours for the session 2006-2007 begins today.

Sales and submission of admission forms will continue until November 16.

Admission tests of the university will start with C unit under Business Studies Faculty on December 1. Admission test of B unit under Arts Faculty, A unit under Science Faculty and D (transferred) unit under Social Science Faculty will be held on December 8, December 15 and December 22.

The price of admission forms has been fixed at Tk 250 each like previous years.

Admission forms of C unit will be available at DU Registrar Building branch of Sonali Bank while admission forms of B and D units will be available at the TSC branch of Janata Bank. Curzon Hall branch of Agrani Bank will sell A unit admission forms.

Excluding fourth subjects, students having GPA 7.5 (grade point average) for Science background, and GPA 6 for Humanities group and 6.5 for Commerce group will be eligible to sit for admission test, according to university's website.

The application forms must be duly filled in by the applicants and submitted to the deans' offices of concerned units on or before November 16 during office hours, the website added.

Twenty per cent marks will be deducted in C unit test and 25 per cent in B, A and D unit tests for every incorrect answer of MCQ type questions, sources said, explaining, this means that one mark would be deducted for four incorrect answers in C unit while in other units one mark would be deducted for every five incorrect answers.

# 'Remove CEC by Nov 3'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Steps taken so far by President and Chief Adviser to the caretaker government Iajuddin Ahmed do not prove his neutrality, said civil society members yesterday.

Terming the steps an eye-wash, they said the performance of Iajuddin is very poor and his activities in the last three days have failed to build people's trust.

To prove himself neutral, the President should first remove Chief Election Commissioner Justice MA Aziz, three election commissioners and the secretary of the Election Commission by November 3, they said at a press conference in the city.

Sammlita Nagorik Andolon organised the press conference where writers, cultural activists, university teachers and journalists placed a 11-point proposal to the caretaker government with a view to ensuring a free and fair election.

The first and foremost duty of Iajuddin as the chief adviser is to reshuffle the administration, particularly the civil and police, and recast the Election Commission in order to depoliticise them, said writer and columnist Shahriar Kabir.

Iajuddin can pass the preliminary test of neutrality if he removes the CEC and three election commissioners by November 3, said Proshika chief Dr Kazi Faruque Ahmed.

Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, former president of Dhaka University Teachers' Association, said that although the caretaker government took over three days ago, the politicised administration, which is virtually an extension of the BNP, is still in place.

If such set-up is not changed, it will be impossible to hold a free and fair election, he added.

Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, editor of The Bangladesh Observer, called on the President to cancel all contractual appoint-

ments and prepare a new voter list as per the High Court order.

Golam Kuddus, a steering member of the Sammlita Nagorik Andolon, urged the caretaker government to remove 252 election officers who were appointed on political considerations.

Cultural personality Nasiruddin Yusuf said the BTU and Bangladesh Betar are still acting as the mouthpiece of BNP-Jamaat alliance, which is not acceptable at all.

## Minu hits out at civil society members

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu yesterday came down heavily on civil society members and demanded arrest of those who term unconstitutional the President's assumption of office as the chief adviser to the caretaker government.

"There are some lackeys of India and other countries, who are known as civil society members. They are creating anarchy by terming unconstitutional the President's assumption of office as the chief adviser," he said at a BNP rally at Sona Dighi area in the city.

Blaming the Awami League-led 14-party combine for damaging public property during the recent violence in the city, the mayor also called on BNP and Jamaat activists to resist the 'terrorists' of the 14-party.

The 14-party leaders and workers are creating anarchy in the country and killed at least 24 innocent people since the handover of power to the caretaker government, he added.

"We are also ready to face all challenges on the streets," he warned. The mayor also said some civil society members loyal to the AL were opposing the President and Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed.

City Jamaat Amir Ataur Rahman, Islamic Oikya Jote leader Abdus Samad, former BNP organising secretary Mamunur Rashid and Jubo Dal leader Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul also spoke.

They warned their political opponents of retaliation for the killings of party men and vandalism.

## 'President was right to take charge of caretaker chief'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twelve senior lawyers of the Supreme Court yesterday said President Iajuddin Ahmed has rightly taken additional charge of the chief adviser to the caretaker government as per the constitution.

"We think, all sections of Article 58Ga in the constitution are clear regarding appointment of the chief adviser to the caretaker government and the honourable president has followed that properly," the lawyers said in a joint statement.

They also said that some lawyers are propagating the president's taking over as the chief adviser to neutral caretaker government as anti-constitutional.

They said being the conscious citizens of the country they think that such propaganda about provisions in the constitution is creating confusions among people and raising unnecessary questions about the president's additional duties as the chief adviser to the caretaker government in their mind.

The lawyers urged all to restrain themselves from giving confusing explanation of the constitution and to extend all-out cooperation to the president as the chief adviser to the caretaker government for holding free and peaceful general elections.

The signatories to the statement are Justice TH Khan, Justice Habibul Islam Bhuiyan, Advocate Khandaker Mahub Uddin Ahmad, Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Barrister Nazmul Huda, Barrister Mohammad Aminul Haque, Barrister Abdur Razzak, Shah Khashruzzaman, Alhaj Gias Uddin, AK Mujibur Rahman, Alhaj Joynul Abedin and Saidur Rahman.

## 'Bring ex-education minister to book'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of non-government high schools, colleges and madrasas yesterday demanded that the caretaker government should bring immediate past education minister, state minister and secretary to book for illegally approving two private universities and eight new institutes under MPO, ignoring 7000 institutes.

Teachers under National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE) held a rally at Muktangan in the city and brought out a procession demanding immediate arrest of former education minister Osman Faruk, former state minister

Ehsanul Haque Milon and former secretary Shahidul Alam for irregularities and corruption.

Osman Faruk on his last day as education minister on October 29 approved the establishment and operation of two more private universities, ignoring a previous decision not to allow any more private university.

The two private universities that got go-ahead at the fag end of the BNP-led alliance government are East Delta University in Chittagong, owned by former livestock and fisheries minister Abdullah Al Noman and Dhaka-based ASA University, owned by an NGO, ASA.



Communist Party of Bangladesh stages a demonstration at Paltan in the city yesterday demanding realisation of their 53-point, including reforms in the election Commission.

## 'Global Contest to Strengthen Bangladesh'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Center for International Development at Harvard University (CIDHU) is holding an "Annual Global Contest to Strengthen Bangladesh" to seek innovative and practical ideas that would improve the lives of low- and middle- income people of Bangladesh.

The contest is open to any individual in the world and the winner will receive the Anwarul Quadir Prize worth \$25,000, says the CIDHU website.

A committee of Harvard faculty members will choose the winning essay. The Anwarul Quadir Foundation (AQF) has no influence in the selection process.

Any compelling essay that establishes a way to improve the lives of low- and middle-income people in Bangladesh is acceptable for submission. The essays will be rated giving equal weights to a) innovative nature of the idea; b) clarity and cogency of argument and writing; c) ease and practicality of implementation; and d) the size of impact.

Submission deadline is December 31, 2006. Essays should be submitted via email to cid\_events@harvard.edu. For details, visit AQF web page at http://www.quadir.org and CIDHU web page at http://www.cid.harvard.edu/quadir\_prize.

## Work neutrally

Info secretary asks staffs

BSS, Dhaka

Information Secretary Kamal Uddin Ahmed yesterday urged the officials of his ministry and its different wings to work sincerely and neutrally.

The secretary, who joined the information ministry after the caretaker government took over, was talking to officials and heads of the wings at the ministry.

## Invite BJP

Leaders urge Khaleda

Bangladesh Jatiya Party (Nazir) leaders in a meeting with its presidium members, central executive committee and other front organisations urged BNP Chairperson and four-party alliance leader Khaleda Zia to invite BJP representatives to discuss country's recent political condition, says a press release.

At the meeting at its central office BJP leaders called upon its leaders and activists to resist all types of anarchic politics and urged four-party alliance leaders to beef up their activities.

BJP Chairman Nazirul Rahman Manzur chaired.