

CG should do what it thinks right for free, fair polls

Say legal experts, civil society members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rising above all debates, the caretaker government should do what it thinks is right for a free and fair election...

that any attempts to hold the election with the incorrect voter list will bring no good to the nation. Amendments to the electoral laws are a must because election in the country has now become a game of money and arms...

Muzaffer Ahmad said it is possible for the caretaker government to make the administration neutral and active if it now takes initiatives to hold a fair election. Upon recommendations from the EC, the President can enact ordinance to reform electoral laws...

he said. In the long-term plan, some constitutional amendments can be made to enable the President to appoint chiefs of important institutions such as EC and Anti-Corruption Commission...



A delegation of European Commission envoys call on President and Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

\$1.4m Goldman Sachs Foundation grant for AUW

The Asian University for Women (AUW) announced a \$1.4 million grant from The Goldman Sachs Foundation to fund its first academic programme on its new campus being built in Chittagong...



Shujan President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a roundtable on 'Reforms of electoral laws and regulations' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

BANGLADESH SANGLAAP 'Fair election depends on EC reforms'

Panellists at a BBC programme have said the caretaker government can arrange a fair election but much still depend on reforms of the Election Commission (EC)...

Channel i at 8:00pm today. In response to a question, 'Can the reconstruction of EC result in a fair election?' form the audience, Awami League leader Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim said that as long as EC remained a matter of controversy, fair election would not be possible...

Limitations are there and the election should be carried out accepting it. Sheikh Selim argued that the CEC has created the controversy himself. 'People don't want him. Why wouldn't he then resign?'

ADMISSION FORGERY AT DU Three handed over to police

Dhaka University (DU) authorities yesterday handed over three people to police on suspicion of having involvement in admission forgery raising a question about the transparency in admission process.

AL for neutrality in state-run media

Awami League (AL) Joint General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday urged the caretaker government (CG) to ensure neutrality in state-run media to help create an atmosphere favourable for free and fair election.

Sacked BSS staffs demand reinstatement

Thirty-four employees of state-owned news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), who were sacked by the immediate past four-party alliance government immediately after assuming office in 2001, yesterday demanded their reinstatement.

CEC's removal demanded

Samajik Protirodh Committee formed a one-hour human chain in front of the High Court in the city yesterday demanding free and fair general election.

election commissioners, update of voter list, freeing the state-run media from political influence and improvement of law and order situation by arresting the criminals.

'Reform EC to hold free, fair election'

The press conference was organised by Nari Odhikar Bastabayan Kendra (Centre for implementing women's rights) at Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) office in the city. In a written statement Shagufta Yeasmin Emili, general secretary of the centre, said as the head of the caretaker government is a political person and assumed the post by violating the constitution, he had to prove his neutrality but failed.

50 pro-AL docs get bail

ADhaka court yesterday granted bail to 50 pro-Awami League (AL) doctors, including president and secretary general of Swadhinata Chikitshak Parishad, in five cases filed against them for attacking the pro-BNP doctors and ransacking different departments and faculties of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) on October 28.

BSF returns bodies of 3 Bangladeshis

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) returned the bodies of three Bangladesh farmers after a flag meeting at Bewjhari bordering area under Baniadiang upazila of Thakurgaon yesterday, BDR sources said. BSF gunned down the farmers when they went their paddy fields for harvesting yesterday morning near Pillar 37B/2-F of Bewjhari bordering area.

JCD, BCL clash in front of Dhaka College

Activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday locked horns in front of Dhaka College causing damage to around 10 vehicles and traffic disruption for about 30 minutes. Police picked up a BCL worker Bipul Kumar Singh, an MSc student of Mathematics, on charge of vandalism.

70 DAB members join LDA

A group of doctors yesterday joined the Liberal Doctors Association (LDA), a front organisation of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). A total of 70 doctors of the Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) joined the LDA and formed a new association with a 21-member convening committee.



14-party leaders come out of the High Court in the city yesterday after they were granted ad-interim anticipatory bail in a murder case filed by Jamaat-e-Islami.

Mistake rectification not possible for time pressure

FROM PAGE 1 yesterday noon through the secretary of its secretariat. Earlier the president had summoned the EC secretary in the wake of intense anxiety among the advisers over the updated roll, sources said. The council of advisers sits today to discuss the issue. Things got even more complicated after the chief election commissioner (CEC) had refused to step down and the EC declined to initiate any major steps to correct the flaws in the revised list.

make the EC effective and suitable for free and fair conduct of the upcoming polls. Some advisers at Thursday night's meeting questioned the acceptability of the updated voter list citing the unusual rise in the number of voters. They also stressed the need for immediate measures to rectify the mistakes in the voter roll. Referring to the 2001 census report, an adviser told the meeting that the number of voters should not exceed the eight crore mark, whereas it stands at 9.30 crore, adding to the already bitter controversy over the list.

"But it is not possible to send officials from door to door for the purpose," he added. HOW THE EC WASTED TIME CEC MA Aziz had unilaterally decided to prepare a fresh voter list in July last year, ignoring the objections from the then two election commissioners. The EC began the voter-listing job on January 1. Disposing two writ petitions, the High Court (HC) on January 4 directed the commission to revise the electoral roll prepared in 2000.

Death anniversary

Today is the 25th death anniversary of Dr MA Rashid, founder vice-chancellor of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), says a press release. Dr Rashid was elected fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers, a trustee of Asian Institute on Technology. He was awarded the Independence Award (Swadhinata Padak) posthumously.

Mohammad Alam Khan

Today is the 8th death anniversary of Mohammad Alam Khan, father of freedom fighter Abdul Halim of Munshiganj, says a press release. He died on this day in 1998 due to old age complications. On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at his youngest son's residence at Moghbazar in the city.

DHAKA TODAY Media award World Food Programme (WFP) will announce and hand over WFP Media Award 2006. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30am. Discussion Colonel Taher Sangsod will hold a discussion on 'Reform in defence system: Reflections of Colonel Taher'. Venue: TSC, DU. Time: 3:30pm. Freshers' reception A freshers' reception for honours and masters students of Fall-2006 sessions of Stamford University Bangladesh will be held. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 2:30pm.