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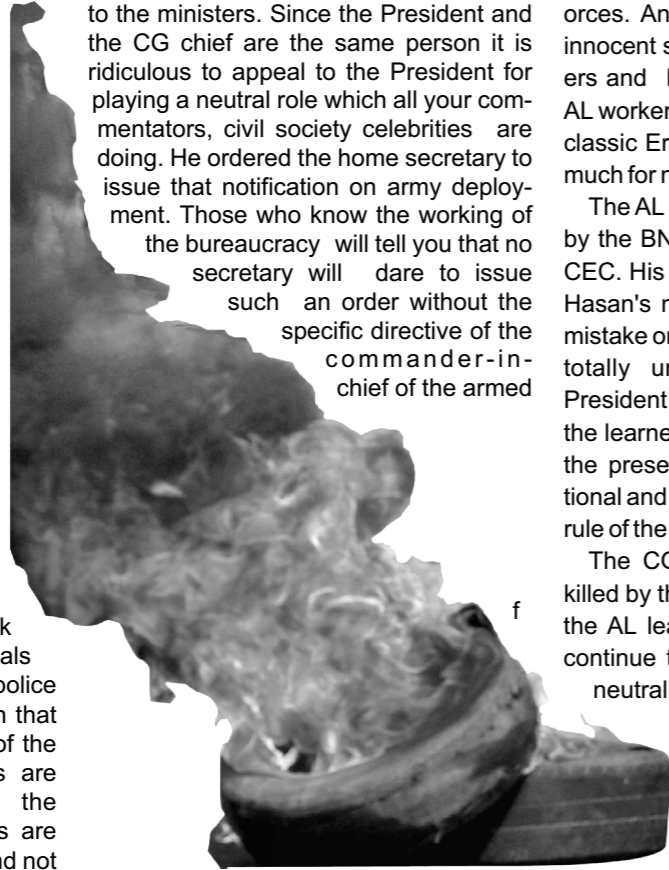
BNP's strategy



Following Shahnur Wahid's lovely piece, I would like to point out that most of the learned commentators of your paper have been wonderfully deceived by the BNP in believing that there is a CG in the country! The President himself candidly declared the reality when he addressed the secretaries the other day which prompted you to write a commentary seeking explanation from the President. Actually he called a spade a spade. Don't you see that it is the President who is running the government single-handedly, the Advisers have no executive power and authority? Therefore it is in fact a Presidential form of government which is running the country.

The elevation of his politically appointed press secretary to the rank of a state minister and all other officials holding crucial positions in civil and police administration are a clear indication that the BNP is still running the affairs of the state through them. The Advisers are unable to remove them as in the Presidential system the secretaries are accountable to the President only and not

to the ministers. Since the President and the CG chief are the same person it is ridiculous to appeal to the President for playing a neutral role which all your commentators, civil society celebrities are doing. He ordered the home secretary to issue that notification on army deployment. Those who know the working of the bureaucracy will tell you that no secretary will dare to issue such an order without the specific directive of the commander-in-chief of the armed



forces. And look how police is arresting innocent slum dwellers, AL women leaders and how they are killing non-violent AL workers by running truck over them in classic Ershadian style with impunity. So much for neutrality!

The AL has again fallen into the trap set by the BNP in clamouring for removal of CEC. His removal will change nothing as Hasan's non-acceptance. It was a great mistake on the part of the AL to accept the totally unconstitutional move of the President to take over as the CG chief. All the learned commentators fail to see that the present so called CG is unconstitutional and therefore has no legality. It is the rule of the President.

The CG system has been effectively killed by the BNP in one masterstroke but the AL leaders and civil society pundits continue to implore the President to act neutrally!

Dark days are ahead for Bangladesh.
Abu Sufiyan
Lalmatia, Dhaka

Flawed voter list

The mistakes identified at the time of publishing voter list are really astounding. The names of the male and female voters have been mixed together. Moreover, there are some errors also in serial number, date of birth, age etc. Unfortunately, the printers were directed to print this erroneous voter list from the Election Commission.

Furthermore, the organisations that have got the tender for printing voter list are incompetent and inexperienced. It can be presumed that these inexperienced organisations have received the work through an underhand dealing supported by the Election Commissioner. The question normally arises how a flawless voter list can be published through this corrupt and unlawful process.

The Election Commission has already tainted its image because of the incorporation of false voters, minors, Rohingyas in the list. In addition, there is an accusation of giving orders to enlist false voters against the Election Commission. All these incidents clearly imply the

failure of the Election Commission to prepare a voter list properly. But the most important prerequisite of free and fair election is a flawless voter list.

The election is imminent but the printing of a flawless voter list is yet to start. In this situation how the Election Commission will manage a free and fair election is not at all clear. The caretaker government is now thinking about reforming the Election Commission. The government should also pay heed to the correction of the voter list. Time is running out. Therefore, correction of voter list should be started immediately.

Naomi & Robida
Dept of Law, DU

Competent candidates

The election is in the offing. The political parties will again give nominations to their so-called competent candidates whose eligibility has been questioned by all. Will the people of Bangladesh never get a chance to elect honest candidates? No, this kind of a situa-

tion cannot be endured and the ultimate solution is a movement for electing honest and educated candidates. The glory of Bangladesh Dr. Yunus is at the forefront of this movement where he represents the 15 crore people. We express our gratitude towards him for this initiative. He is like a rainbow in the darkness. But his individual initiative is not enough. People must come forward to support him.

Can't we find out 400-500 eligible persons out of the 15 crore people who will free us from captivity and secure democracy.
Jui, Dept of Law, DU

If I were Justice Abdul Aziz

If I were Justice Abdul Aziz I would have written the following Open Letter to the nation:

My dear countrymen,
Today the whole nation is bleeding for one main reason: Some political parties are demanding my resignation and I am adamant not to resign.

All of a sudden, I find myself holding a powerful key, which I don't

deserve at all. Well, if someone can convince me that my departure will open a road to a safer society I am ready to resign.

So, here I am expressing my intention to resign from the position of CEC, if all our political parties meet the following conditions, meant for betterment of the nation:

01. All political parties will offer written commitments to the President that they will never call any "Hartal", -- or any campaign on roads, highways, railways, ports etc. that may directly or indirectly hamper normal flow of commerce and normal life of the citizens-- and the President will issue an ordinance in this regard to be passed in the first session of the next parliament.

02. Written commitments from all political parties that they will never demand resignation of any personality from any constitutional position unless decreed by the court of law.

Maswood Alam Khan
On e-mail

Is UN effective?

The frank answer to this question is NO. The why behind the "NO" is the power of veto. This is reserved primarily by the powers that won the World War sixty years ago! Is this democratic? The answer is again NO! The misuse of this power to veto is nothing but the worst autocratic authority that is exercised with selfish interests only! The Security Council of the UN is the seat of this naked autocracy. The power of veto is the absolute ruling that can be exercised by any one of the countries that won World War II and have set up the UN. It is not to attain world peace but to demonstrate their absolute authority regardless of what is right or wrong.

It is time that apart from being a debating club, the UN's charter should abolish this totally unreasonable and undemocratic concept of veto. Today we see Israel, the world's only terrorist state, that is nurtured, protected and unashamedly encouraged by the umbrella of veto. It allows them to do whatever they desire, to destroy, plunder and kill! In mathematical expression, Israel today is nothing but equal or superior to Nazi Germany, in terms of plunder, cruelty and killings. Israel and its veto-wielding partner (USA) represent the autocratic combination of the worst type of tyranny, terrorism and uncontrolled violence. They represent the greatest threat to peace, with disregard to human rights or any civilized rule of law.

Perhaps some day China may contain these two as the rest of the countries are either toothless or subservient to the USA that demonstrates an uncontrolled show of autocracy and nothing else. In this "democratic" format, UN is doomed.

It can do nothing to contain the autocratic duo of USA and Israel. In the garb of righteousness and democracy, they represent only ruthlessness and destruction. When will this end? That possibly is an unanswered question for all peace loving people the world over.
S. A. Mansoor, Gulshan, Dhaka



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