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Govt to probe bureaucrats' secret date with Mahmud

No one other than any offenders hide their faces the way they did, says establishment secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will investigate the Friday night's incident of in-service senior civil servants attending a surreptitious party hosted by former energy adviser Mahmudur Rahman at Uttara in the capital, which created a strong commotion and remained the talk of the town yesterday.

Some advisers to the caretaker government (CG) yesterday expressed astonishment and concern over the participation of government officials in such a secret party at this crucial moment of the nation while different political analysts saw the incident as a part of a possible attempt to election engineering.

"None other than offenders hide their faces the way they did,"



Abdus Sabur, joint secretary at cabinet division, tries to hide his face while leaving ex-energy adviser Mahmudur Rahman's business office in Uttara on Friday night. (More photos on page-3)

Establishment Secretary AFM Solaiman told reporters while talking about the 'partying' bureaucrats' frantic effort to cover their faces as they were fleeing the scene when reporters crowded in front of the venue on information about the secret rendezvous in progress.

If government officials in that secret meeting are found to have been talking about extra legal measures, steps should be taken soon against them, he told reporters when they thronged his office yesterday to inquire about what steps the government is going to take against the in-service government employees who attended the highly questionable 'party'.

It has been learnt that about 20 of the high officials who attended

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Mahmud leads media mauling as Khaleda nods

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of pro-BNP Association of Engineers, Bangladesh (AEB) yesterday accused the media of not writing and telecasting "neutral" and "impartial" reports on the BNP and four-party alliance and its leaders.

In presence of BNP Chairperson and immediate past prime minister Khaleda Zia, the AEB leaders castigated different newspaper editors, television channel authorities and the civil society for not upholding the "good deeds and achievements" of the BNP-led four-party alliance government.

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EC starts sending election materials

Schedule to be announced this week; no step yet to correct voter list

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday started sending election materials across the country in accordance with the EC's plan to announce the schedule for next general election this week without initiating steps to make the updated voter list credible.

Sources in the EC Secretariat said the commission is considering two dates--November 29 or 30--for

announcing the election schedule with the polling day in mid January.

Acting Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Justice Mahfuzur Rahman on Thursday said the election schedule will be announced this month. Rejecting the demands for making the updated voter list credible, the acting CEC also said it is not possible to do anything in this regard now due to time constraint.

The EC will seek allocation of

about Tk 100 crore in a couple of days to meet the expenditure for conducting the election. "We are now making an estimate which will be sent to the government soon," EC Secretary Abdur Rashid Sarkar told The Daily Star yesterday.

The EC Secretariat yesterday sent to district election offices in Rajshahi and Barisal divisions different types of forms related to filing and withdrawal of candidatures, deposit

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Don't bother about anymore demands

Khaleda asks CG about 14-party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday once again asked the caretaker government to announce the election schedule



immediately and not to bother about the demands placed by the Awami League (AL) led 14-party combine.

The immediate past prime minister also said, "The 14-party is placing demands one after another. Enough is enough, now the interim government should not care about those demands."

She was addressing a meeting of Association of Engineers Bangladesh (AEB), an organisation of pro-BNP engineers, on the premises of Engineers Institution in the city.

"A lot has been done. Now declare the election schedule immediately," Khaleda asked the caretaker government.

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More agitation to get 11 tasks done

14-party may meet CA today

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The Awami League (AL)-led 14-party alliance plans to go for a non-stop movement to compel the chief adviser (CA) to the caretaker government (CG) to meet its 11-point demand.

"The chief adviser is conspiring to implement a blue-print of the previous government. So, we will go for a non-stop movement to compel him to carry out our demands," alliance leader Rashed Khan Menon told The Daily Star yesterday.

According to the 14-party's scheduled programmes, the combine along with Jatiya Oikya Front (JOF) and some Islamic parties will stage a sit-in around the

Bangabhaban tomorrow to force the CA to meet its demands and to prove his neutrality.

On Tuesday, the coalition will stage a sit-in around the Election Commission (EC) Secretariat demanding a 'meaningful reconstitution' of the EC.

A delegation of the 14-party led by its coordinator Abdul Jalil is likely to meet the CA today to remind him of their demands, and ask him to accept those by Tuesday.

The coalition also plans to go for legal action against the CA to press home the demands.

Coalition sources said last night they would file at least three cases against the CA accusing him of violating the constitution, taking

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Suspend civil servants in question

14-party asks CG over 'conspiracy' meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL)-led 14-party combine yesterday asked the caretaker government (CG) to suspend those senior civil servants who secretly met former energy adviser Mahmudur Rahman at his business house at Uttara in the capital on Friday night.

They demanded that the CG take necessary action against those 'beneficiary' bureaucrats as per 3(a) clause of the Government

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PHOTO STAR

Materials for the upcoming general elections are being loaded on to a three-wheeler in front of the Bangladesh Government Press in Tejgaon in the capital yesterday. The materials are destined for different parts of the country.

Rejoinder

Four government high officials yesterday protested a report headlined "Secret' meet of admin big wigs at ex-energy adviser's office"

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