

## Implement package

FROM PAGE 1  
coordinator Abdul Jaill told a crowded press conference at a city hotel.

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)-led Jatija Oikya Front and Zaker Party also expressed solidarity with the 14-party stance at the press conference.

"If the package offer is not implemented completely and the election is foiled for any reasons, we will blame Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed for it and go for a one-point movement with the 14-party and other parties for his resignation," LDP Secretary General Abdul Mannan said.

Jaill said if the interim government is sincere about holding a free and fair election, it should implement the package proposal in full.

"In the advisers' package offer, there are some specific proposals on reconstitution of the Election Commission (EC), updating of the voter list, rescheduling of the polls schedule and neutralisation of the administration. They (advisers) proposed that they would reconstitute the Election Commission by removing election commissioners SM Zakaria and Modabbir Hossain Chowdhury, and appoint two more commissioners. But they failed to implement their proposals," said the AL general secretary.

Jaill said the 14-party and different other coalitions and parties agreed to the package proposal in the interest of a free and fair election and called for its full implementation. But proper steps are yet to be taken for this, rather the EC took a new stance on its reconstitution, he regretted.

The EC even speaks about its initiatives for correction of the electoral roll as per its earlier stance. Besides, the CG also did not reshuffle the administration properly, he regretted.

The AL leader said although they agreed to rescheduling of the announced polls schedule, the CG has ignored the main issue—reconstitution of the EC—due to lack of interest of the Bangabhaban and opposition from Hawa Bhaban.

Jaill alleged that the CG is misleading the people just rescheduling the polls schedule and is conspiring to hold an election under a 'blue-print' to deprive the nation of free and fair polls.

The AL leader also said lack of full implementation of the package proposal, which is necessary for holding of fair polls, is creating a state of uncertainty and endangering democratic system and constitutional process. He blamed Iajuddin for creating such a situation.

The updating of voter list would not be possible as per the time frame announced by the EC, and finally the move would be an eye-wash, Jaill said. "Holding of election is virtually impossible as per the rearranged polls schedule after completing all the necessary work within this time."

Pointing out that one of the biggest religious festivals of the Hindus – Saraswati Puja – will be observed on January 23, the 14-party coordinator demanded shifting of the polling date on religious ground.

He reiterated the demands for immediate reconstitution of the EC by removing "controversial" persons, updating, correction and publication of voter roll as per the High Court directives, further rescheduling of the announced polls schedule and depoliticisation and neutralisation of the administration at all levels as per the adviser's package proposal for what he said continuation of democracy and constitutional processes.

He said though the CG has brought some changes in secretary level posts, it is yet to remove 'controversial' persons in the intelligence agencies, police and civil administrations. Besides officials related to the election process, including attorney general, directors general of national security intelligence, forces intelligence and Ansars have not yet been changed despite demands from the 14-party since the CG took over, he added.

Leaders present at the press conference included Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Kazi Zafarullah, Abdul Mannan, Rashed Khan Menon, Hasanul Haque Inu, Obaidul Quader, Firoz M Hasan, Mahi B Chowdhury, Syed Sirajul Karim and Nurul Islam.

## Voter list correction

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Around 1.4 lakh enumerators are supposed to correct the list by checking whether any eligible voter is left out or if any fake or duplicate name is on the list.

Washington-based National Democratic Institute (NDI) in its recent survey said the present list contains about 12.2 million excess voters due to duplications of names or other errors.

The decision came following the persistent demand by Awami League-led 14-party coalition that fake voters were enlisted to rig the upcoming elections in favour of BNP-Jamaat alliance.

While visiting section no 6 and 10 in Mirpur area, Maniknagar, Maghbazar, Merajnagar and Hazaribagh, this correspondent found several field level staff of the EC at section no 6 in Mirpur only.

Several field level officials in the city, on condition of anonymity, told The Daily Star that they were not given any proper guideline for inclusion and deletion of names on the voter list.

"The instructions we got were much complex and the voters are not interested to follow the procedure," said an official.

For example, for new inclusions the voters have been asked to provide documents like birth and educational certificates to prove their age, decreasing the interest of the voters.

For correcting duplications, someone like the landlord of the enlisted person who does not live in the area anymore or some other witness has to fill up form no 7, a process which is quite complicated. Mamunur Rashid, a field level EC staff, who is also a teacher of a school at Mirpur-11, stayed all day in his Mirpur-6 residence instead of going from door-to-door to correct the voter roll, as he did not know what his responsibilities are.

He said his superior official, assistant registration officer, asked him to go to his office today to take further instructions.

Some of the schoolteachers also said they could not start work as the final exam in their schools has not completed yet.

Some officials also showed disinterest in the work saying they are not happy with the amount of their wage. "Earlier we were told that we will be paid Tk 500 for three days but the working period has been extended to eight days, and we are yet to know about the payment for it," said another field staff.

Referring to a house at Mirpur section 6, another field official Abdul Malek said he had cut off the names, who no longer stays there. "I have included the names who got in but I am not sure if it became a duplication."

Meanwhile, resident of Mirpur area Afroza Begum expressed her annoyance saying, "Does it take four times to enrol a name in the voter list? Many like me has lost their interest in inclusion their names."

Some field officials also supporter Afroza saying that many voters had closed their doors seeing them repeatedly for a single task.

The EC in last August completed updating the existing voter list and came up with a list containing a staggering 9.30 crore voters, which triggered a wave of controversy over its correctness. It contained at

least 1.28 crore unaccounted voters following the 2001 census report of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

Despite allegations of leaving out many eligible ones, the number of voters on the updated electoral roll stood at a staggering 9.30 crore as it registered 17 lakh more voters than the nullified draft of the fresh voter list.

In the capital, the percentage of rise in the number of voters is even more astounding. The percentage of fresh registration in Cantonment area is 77.83, in Motijheel 74.26, Pallabi 73.96, Dhamondi 72.66, Mirpur 71.92, and Uttara 68.96. The Kotwali area, however, witnessed only 28.52 per cent rise while other areas witnessed 45-61 per cent rise.

The average percentage of deletion in the capital is 33.62.

### BOGRA

Following orders of a BNP leader, an assistance registration officer (ARO) yesterday enlisted 34 names and cut off several others from the voter list sitting at BNP office, instead of making going door-to-door visits.

ARO Rafiqul Islam enrolled the names following orders of Bogra Town BNP Organizing Secretary Mahabubur Rahman Lulka yesterday morning, reports our senior reporter from Bogra.

Lulka, who is also BNP nominated word commissioner for Bogra Municipality, admitted that he submitted some new names for inclusion and omission.

Rafiqul admitted the matter, for what he was later closed.

### NARAYANGANJ

In Narayanganj, the correction work is yet to start although district election officer Hamidul Haq claimed it 'started in full swing'.

Nobody from the election commission office showed up in any of the houses, said the city dwellers.

Hamidul said 66 AROs and 2,154 employees have been assigned to carry out the task of correction of voter list in the district failing to say clearly where actually the procedure took place.

## Road mishap

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All the four were critically injured and rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where Akkas Ali died at 2.00am and Tushar and Arif at 5.00am.

Family sources said the victims had gone to the airport to receive Tushar's father Firoz Ahmed who returned home from Saudi Arabia at 4:30pm yesterday.

After arriving at his Pallabi residence by a taxicab hired from the airport taxicab counter, Firoz told his family members that he mistakenly left his passport and Tk 4 lakh in the cab. Firoz's brother Akkas and three other victims again went to the airport in search of the taxicab driver.

They met the driver at the taxicab counter, but he denied having got any lost items in his car. Having failed to recover the lost passport and Tk 4 lakh, the four were returning to Pallabi by the autorickshaw, which met with the accident.

Police sized the truck and a case was filed with Uttara Police Station in this connection.

## BNP faces

FROM PAGE 1  
parliamentary board and work together for whoever it will field as its candidate.

Particularly in Chittagong and Khulna divisions, the party might face a serious problem due to LDP Executive President Oli Ahmed and former speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali. Oli holds sway over greater Chittagong while Razzak is a very popular and influential leader in Khulna.

Former minister Abdullah AL Noman, however, on Thursday told reporters that Oli will not be a problem at all for the BNP.

Khulna City Mayor Sheikh Tayabur Rahman and Majedul Islam might join the LDP or stand as independent candidate if they fail to be on the BNP ticket for the election slated for January 23.

At a press briefing last week, Tayabur said he might have to look to alternatives in case of his failing to win nomination. For the same seat, former whip Ashraf Hossain is the other strong contender for nomination.

Meanwhile, top leaders of three thana units of Khulna BNP have demanded nomination for central Publication Secretary Majedul Islam and said otherwise they will quit the party.

The immediate past ruling party will have trouble in Comilla district as well as former lawmaker and minister Redwan Ahmed who has joined LDP says he will contest from at least three constituencies. Many local BNP leaders have already joined LDP.

Besides, former lawmaker from Comilla-10 Col (retired) Anwarul Azim might have trouble getting nomination this time as another former lawmaker ATM Alamgir and three more others want nomination for the same constituency.

Former chief whip Khandaker Delowar Hossain has been declared 'unwanted' by his party men in his constituency. On December 3, local leaders and activists brought out a procession against him. They keep calling for the party high command not to nominate him as the four-party candidate.

Eight leaders including former lawmaker Shammil Sher are adamantly opposed to former minister Harunur Rashid Khan Munnu's running for Manikganj-3. Recently, at a press conference they have announced that no matter what it takes they will resist Munnu.

In Cox's Bazar, district Jamaat-e-Islami has demanded nomination for their leader Shahjalal Chowdhury instead of former lawmaker and BNP leader Shahjahan Chowdhury. The civil society members in the constituency of former lawmaker Mahfuzullah Farid have urged the political parties not to field him as a candidate in the upcoming general election.

Former lawmaker Zoinal Abedin Farukh and local BNP leader kazi Mofizur Rahman have been trying to secure nomination for the same seat in Noakhali and both the leaders said they will not make any concession in this regard.

While at least six candidates including former lawmaker Elen Bhutto submitting nomination form to the party for party ticket to contest in Jhalokhati-2 constituency.

At least eight people including former upazila chairman Tamiujuddin and former lawmaker Sultana Ahmed are lobbying the party high command to win nomination for Dhaka-13, as former lawmaker from the seat, barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan, has joined the LDP.

Salahuddin Ahmed and Nabi Ullah Nabi of Demra Thana BNP are competing hard to win the party ticket for Dhaka-4.

BNP leaders and workers of Siraganj-6 last Wednesday burnt an effigy of former lawmaker Major (retired) Manjur Quader. The local leaders have also declared him "unwanted". Chowhali thana BNP at a meeting on December 1 decided that they will not allow Manjur in the area. At least 11 leaders including former lawmaker Reza Ahmed Bachchu Molla want nomination from the party.

For the first time in its history, the King and the Queen of Norway will attend the banquet.

The following day, Prof Yunus will attend a concert planned to celebrate this year's Peace Prize laureates. Hollywood luminaries Sharon Stone and Anjelica Huston will present the concert that will feature among others Yusuf Islam (the former Cat Stevens), Lionel Richie, Simply Red, Monica Yunus and Nriyanchal.

Bangladeshi expatriates in Norway will also organise a programme where the award ceremony will be screened live for the audience who will not be able to attend the ceremony.

Dr Yunus will also travel to Sweden and Denmark. In addition, he will visit England and France to attend a number of receptions in his honour including by the ones by Prince Charles on December 14 and French President Jacques Chirac on December 16.

Yunus has a hectic schedule till Dec 19. Besides meeting kings, presidents and prime ministers in Europe, he will deliver lectures and give interviews, seeking to focus on the rural credit system that he has pioneered and give the Europeans a view of the developing world.

On December 12, he will leave

## Crimes on rise

FROM PAGE 16  
the law enforcers are engaged in tackling political programmes," Director General of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) SM Mizanur Rahman told The Daily Star. He however said they would take necessary measures to contain crime.

According to the police headquarters, robbery incidents rose to 141 in November from 124 in October. Fighting and clashes also rose from 97 incidents in October to 132 in November. However, the number of murders dropped to 392 in November from 474 in October.

Expressing his frustration, a top official at the police headquarters said they had a plan for a massive crackdown on criminals after the CG assumed power. But it did not happen, as the interim government did not give them any stern directives.

He also said law and order situation slid down recently as they were bogged down trying to contain political unrests. Taking the opportunity of the political unrest the criminals are carrying out murders, robberies and muggings, he added.

A business leader of Mirpur area told The Daily Star that the extent of extortion rose to a new height in the area during the last 15 days. "Over 100 traders from Mirpur-1 informed me that unknown telephone callers, claiming themselves to be the men of criminal Shahadat's gang, are demanding tolls from them," the leader said wishing not to be named.

Traders in Karwan Bazar said at least 10 sidekicks of infamous criminal Pichchi Hannan, who was killed in "crossfire" during a "shoot-out" while in Rab custody couple of years back, are roaming around the city's largest wholesale market and forcing them to provide tolls.

However, businessmen in Naya Paltan area are stricken with muggings as over 50 such incidents took place in the area in the last 15 to 20 days. "We don't have to pay any tolls, but muggings rose to an unbearable level in the area," said Kayum Talukder Moni, president of Pulwei Super Market Shop Owners' Association.

A number of the gruesome killings include shooting down of an engineer inside his house on Indira Road on November 28, killing of a Tejgaon College student at Elephant Road in the city on November 1, killing of a trader of Pulwei Super Market at Naya Paltan on December 2 and shooting down of a construction contractor at Badda last week.

Besides, robbers killed one and injured three others with sharp weapons at Badda, robbers raided a house of a retired army official at the New DOHS in Baridhara and looted Tk 12.5 lakh in cash and valuables on November 6, robbers raided the house of a businessman at Shaheed Nagar in Shyampur on

November 2 and looted Tk 16.37 lakh in gold and cash, in a daring robbery at Holland Centre shopping complex at North Badda on last Sunday, robbers took gold ornaments, cash and other valuables worth Tk 86 lakh. Traders of the shopping complex kept their shops closed in the market yesterday in protest.

Kidnappers abducted Turza Ghosh Rony, son of a jeweller on October 29 as he was on his way to the Dhannoddi branch of their jewellery shop from Uttara. "We have already paid Tk 10 lakh and gave them 10 tolas of gold as ransom, but my son is yet to be released," Turza's aggrieved father told The Daily Star.

## Correction

FROM PAGE 1  
headlined "Spoke put in advisers' EC recast wheel" in yesterday's issue of The Daily Star.

In fact he said, "The president may appoint a new election commissioner on two conditions. Firstly, Awami League will have to give an assurance that it will participate in the election after the appointment and secondly the new election commissioner's position will be the sixth in the EC. So, there is no scope for making the new appointee acting CEC."

We regret the mistake.

## Zakaria issue

FROM PAGE 1  
been halted due to the SM Zakaria issue, said a source.

Adviser Sultana Kamal yesterday told a private television channel that she is hopeful of resolving the crisis within a couple of days.

"The Election Commission is an independent body and we have no jurisdiction to interfere there. But people in the Election Commission have got messages from different quarters and now it is their turn to take decision," she told the channel.

At a press conference yesterday, the 14-party alliance leaders said it is the advisers' responsibility to implement the entire package deal on which both of the two major political alliances agreed.

The 14-party leaders threw a 24-hour ultimatum asking the caretaker government to implement all the proposals described in the package. The 14-party and its allies declared that they would participate in the election only after implementation of all the proposals in the package deal, which they said is essential to bring a level playing field for a free and fair election.

But BNP and its allies opposed the proposal of sending SM Zakaria on leave and President and Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed echoed the same voice.

## Yunus leaves for Oslo

FROM PAGE 1  
share this year's Peace Prize. They have been awarded for their "efforts to create economic and social development from below".

Dr Yunus, who has pioneered the use of microcredit in combating poverty, is leading a 79-member team including six grassroots level women who have successfully utilised the loans taken from the Grameen Bank.

Bangladesh Television (BTV) and Channel i will telecast the official Nobel Peace Prize Award Ceremony live from the Oslo City Hall, Norway between 6:00pm and 7:25pm Bangladesh time. The ceremony will also be webcast live at nobelprize.org.

The founder of Grameen Bank, Yunus will deliver his Nobel Lecture at a ceremony to be attended by current and former heads of state and global political leaders. Later in the evening, the delegates will join him at the banquet to be hosted by the Norwegian Nobel Committee in honour of the Peace Prize laureates.

For the first time in its history, the King and the Queen of Norway will attend the banquet.

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## Fiji suspended from C'wealth after coup

AFP, London

Fiji is to be immediately suspended from the Commonwealth following a military coup there earlier this week, ministers at an emergency meeting of the grouping in London announced yesterday.

"Fiji's military regime should forthwith be suspended from the Councils of the Commonwealth pending the restoration of democracy and the rule of law in that country," foreign ministers from nine member countries said.

The suspension bars the Pacific nation from all inter-governmental Commonwealth meetings and other activities with immediate effect, but existing technical assistance would continue, they added.

The grouping's secretary-general Don McKinnon had indicated earlier this week after army chief Voreqe Bainimarama seized power in a bloodless coup on Tuesday that the likelihood of Fiji being suspended was "very high".

## Bangladesh

### FROM PAGE 16

Shahadat Hossain operated the new ball brilliantly to justify skipper Habibul Bashar's decision to field on a brand new pitch and then the left-arm spinners once again proved too good as Zimbabwe were bundled out for 146 in 47.2 overs with Elton Chigumbura (32) and Keith Dabengwa (32) making some contribution.

Leading paceman Mashrafe was the most successful Bangladeshi bowler with three for 14 in 6.2 overs while his new ball partner Shahadat captured two wickets conceding 36 runs in his 10 overs.

Left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak and Sakib Al Hasan chipped in with two wickets each.

Dashing Aftab Ahmed made the target look very small with a blistering 58 not out off 69 balls after another confident start from the opening pair of Shaahriar Nafees (34 off 39 balls) and Mehrah Hossain (13) who put on 43 runs as Bangladesh romped to 147 for two in 32.2 overs.

Pacer Gary Brent dismissed both the Bangladesh opener in quick succession but man-of-the-match Aftab took the charge to smash four big sixes and three fours during his ninth ODI fifty. Sakib Al Hasan contributed an unbeaten 65-ball 31.

## Ctg port

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Following the incident, the magistrate court ordered the director general (DG) of shipping to cancel the token as well as to take legal action against the offenders. The department cancelled the token but no action was taken against the surveyor.

According to the sources, the accused surveyor is very powerful and the department had failed to take actions against him earlier even after a number of such cases of violation of rules against him.

On March 19 this year, an inland vessel, MV Altaf, sank near Hatia, which had a Bay crossing permit issued by the same surveyor without the endorsement of the Department of Shipping. Later, an investigation found that the vessel was not even fit for plying the inland waters.

In another case, a token was issued for MV Al-MIM from Barisal while the ship was in Chittagong. The master of the vessel later confessed to the magistrate court that the ship never went to Barisal but he received the token with the surveyor's endorsement.

In another incident, an inland ship, MV Shumi, sank in the outer anchorage of Chittagong Port due to a very weak hull. The token for the ship was also issued by the same surveyor from Barisal in February 2006.

## King pays tax

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came from Austria in the crown prince's name, he said.

"Palace officials took away the parcel after paying the amount Wednesday. We imposed the tax according to the law," said Regmi.

The Nepal government also plans to seize lands owned by King Gyanendra and other royal family members and distribute them to the poor.

The monarch, traditionally revered as the incarnation of a Hindu god, seized power in 2005 in what he said was a bid to end a deadly decade-old Maoist revolt.

Earlier this year he restored parliament after political parties and Maoists formed an alliance and staged huge pro-democracy demonstrations. Since then, the king has been relieved of many powers, including control of the army.

The Maoists are now set to enter mainstream politics under a peace deal with the ruling political coalition that provides for an elected special assembly to write a new constitution deciding the monarchy's fate, among other things.

He will return to Dhaka on December 19.

## US Congress

FROM PAGE 16  
from some of the requirements of the US Atomic Energy Act, which currently prohibits nuclear sales to non-NPT signatories.

In addition, US weapons experts warned forging such an agreement with non-NPT member India could make it harder to enforce rules against nuclear renegade North Korea and set a dangerous precedent for other nations with nuclear ambitions.

Singh and US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice personally lobbied US lawmakers to remove "problematic" provisions seen as going against the spirit of the nuclear agreement signed by Bush and the Indian prime minister in July last year.

India on Friday welcomed American lawmakers' endorsement of a plan that allows the United States to ship civilian nuclear fuel and technology to India, news reports said.

Both chambers must now vote again on the bill before sending it to President Bush to sign into law. The House was expected to consider the bill Friday, and the Senate after that.

While India had pushed hard for the deal, which it urgently needs to help meet its rapidly growing energy needs, there were concerns here that the final version would stray from the original intent and limit the military's nuclear programme.

There were also concerns about language in the Senate version that would have required Bush to determine that India was cooperating with US-led efforts to confront Iran about its nuclear ambitions.

That language was watered down in the final bill. As written now, the bill would require the president

to provide Congress with an annual report detailing India's efforts on Iran.

India's NDTV reported Friday that New Delhi was pleased with the softer stance on Iran and quoted an unnamed official as saying "essentially the bill gives India the substance of what it wants."

C Uday Bhaskar, a defence analyst with the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, said both sides should be pleased with the bill because "it allows India to retain its strategic capabilities while being sensitive to US concerns on nuclear nonproliferation."

The deal reverses decades of US anti-proliferation policy by allowing civilian nuclear trade with India in exchange for Indian safeguards and inspections at its 14 civilian nuclear plants. Eight Indian military plants would be off-limits to inspectors.

Critics say the cooperation plan could boost India's nuclear arsenal and set off a nuclear arms race with rival Pakistan. India developed its nuclear weapons outside the international Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which it has refused to sign.

## Oli

FROM PAGE 16  
conspiracy of Jamaat. "I'm going to fight from the same constituency again and I'll win."

Chaired by former vice-president of Chittagong South District BNP AGM Shahjahan, the meeting was addressed, among others, by LDP Joint Secretary Shahdat Hossain Selim and ex-president of Chittagong City BNP Salimullah.

## Garos celebrate

FROM PAGE 16  
making it a multi-cultural gathering.

Most of the Garos, who were at the Wangala yesterday, are no longer farmers, neither do the rural communities celebrate the festival at this time of the year, but the urban Garos had no other choice.

The celebration usually takes place in the month of Ashwin of the Bangla calendar which falls in October of the Gregorian calendar, but the organisers did not get a suitable place for the event on time, said leaders of Wangala 2006 Celebration Committee.

On the other hand, 98 per cent of the Garos have been converted to Christianity, who no longer follow the traditional Sangsarek religion, said Tapan Marak, who was the nakma of 1999 Wangala Committee.

"The celebration in the city gives us a scope to reminisce about our traditional culture, a chance to get together regardless of religion and denominations of Christianity, and a means to introduce the next generation to their heritage as well," said Pradip Gabriel Sku, nakma and president of 2006 Wangala Committee.