



The Daily Star

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President orders army deployment

Ignores advisers' opposition; all forms of agitation around Bangabhaban banned; 14-party expresses guarded reaction; EC recast move stalled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Disregarding strong objections from the advisory council, President and Chief Adviser (CA) Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday ordered army deployment in aid of the civil administration to maintain law and order ahead of the upcoming general election.

The home ministry issued a notification to that end late last night, without saying exactly when the troops will roll out. But sources in the armed forces said the deployment might start sometime this morning.

Meantime, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has imposed a ban on all kinds of gatherings, meetings

and processions in the Bangabhaban area. Taking effect from Saturday midnight, the ban will be in force until further order.

In a sudden move, the president yesterday summoned the chiefs of the Armed Forces Division and National Security Intelligence (NSI) to the Bangabhaban and signed an order to deploy armed forces across the country.

Since the caretaker government's assumption of office, the president on two occasions had decided to deploy forces but backedtracked in the face of stiff resistance from the advisers.

Later in the day, he passed the order to the advisory council for its consent. But the advisers vehemently opposed it.

The president has decided to deploy troops on his own account, an adviser told The Daily Star last night.

Another adviser said they [advisers] were unanimous in their opposition to the move but Iajuddin did not bother to take notice of it.

In protest at the decision, the advisers who were busy throughout the day trying to break the stalemate over reconstitution of the Election Commission (EC) left the Bangabhaban without ending their last night's meeting with the CA, sources said.

In return for anonymity, an adviser last night told The Daily

Star that they tried all day to prevent the plan to deploy the army. But the president adamantly stuck to his stance.

They felt insulted by his behaviour, the adviser added.

The advisers alleged at the meeting that the favourable atmosphere that they had brought about after days of hectic negotiations is being destroyed due to the president's stance and the situation is becoming volatile again.

According to the package proposals of the advisers, two controversial commissioners - SM Zakaria and Modabir Hossain - are to be sent on leave and new election commissioners to be appointed to

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14-party turns down alternative EC recast offer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL)-led 14-party coalition yesterday rejected an alternative proposal offered by the negotiating team of advisers in the face of an ongoing impasse in implementing the previously negotiated package deal, due to Election Commissioner SM Zakaria's intransigence to going on a leave of absence.

The alternative proposal offered sending of Election Commissioners SM Zakaria and Modabir Hossain Chowdhury on leaves of absence but no appointment of any new election commissioner, according to sources in the coalition.

"We had given a 24-hour ultimatum which already expired. But the caretaker government is rather offering us an alternative proposal.

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REFORMS IN POLLS, POLITICS

Civil society hands over vision paper to BNP, AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two top leaders of main rival political alliances yesterday expressed similar views on curbing the influence of black money, terrorism and corruption in the election process to strengthen democracy.

The two leaders - BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil also agreed with the set of recommendations of the civil society for bringing reforms in the election and politics and stressed the need for reducing the election expenditure.

TOP RECOMMENDATIONS

- Mandatory audit of the political parties' accounts
- Staggering the election over six days in six divisions
- Introducing an electoral college to elect president
- Permitting none to lead a political party for three consecutive terms
- Not allowing the same person to head the government and a political party
- Prohibiting contesting from more than two constituencies

Speaking at the function of Nagorik Forum, a civil society initiative for accountable development, held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, the leaders stressed the need for developing institutions for protecting the democracy and parliament from black money holders and terrorists.

A set of recommendations prepared through 15 dialogues across the country, a vision paper for Bangladesh in 2021 and a draft of ordinance for bringing necessary amendments to the Representative of People Order

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Correction of voter list goes on at snail's pace

5,000 voters in Mohammadpur ward wiped out from roll in 2000; not enrolled this time for lack of forms

RASHIDUL HASAN

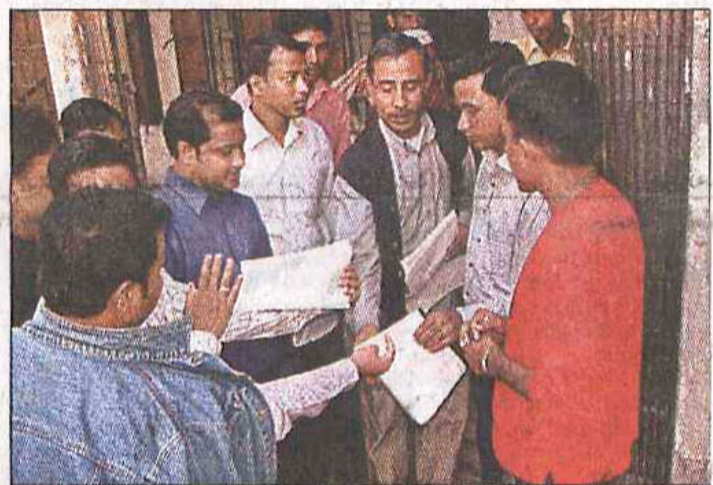
Some major irregularities were found in correcting the updated voter list in the capital on the second day of the massive undertaking which is supposed to be completed in only eight days.

Meanwhile the initiative remained nearly stagnant in other parts of the country, reported our correspondents.

It was revealed yesterday that in ward no 42 of the city's Mohammadpur area some five thousand voters' names had been deleted from the voter list created in 2000, during the much controversial recent updating of the list.

Angry voters, whose names had been deleted, laid siege to the office of the district election officer

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Locals harass an enumerator in Bandar Tilla area of Chittagong city yesterday as he went there with only the voter list of 2000 and without the updated one.

Political leaders slow to change Says Nobel hero

INAM AHMED, from Oslo

Nobel laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday said the current state of politics in Bangladesh shows the political leaders are slow to change while the young generation is changing fast.

The generation that controls the power is way behind the new generation and this is creating a lot of tension, he added.

"A society moves at one speed not in two speeds. I believe that democracy will be threatened more and more because of the two speeds at which the two generations are moving," Yunus observed.

Stressing the need for finding clean candidates in elections, he said otherwise the corrupt will be elected and the nation will have no chance, as corruption will multiply.

"As a citizens' move is going on to find out clean candidates, politicians challenge it by saying you have no right to do so. If you want to do so, then go and float a political party. If needed, may be I shall form a party, but this will not happen right tomorrow," he smiled.

Prof Yunus outlines social business goal

Receives Nobel Peace Prize today; Channel i to air live coverage

INAM AHMED, from Oslo

As Nobel Peace Prize winner Prof Muhammad Yunus today receives the prestigious award at a ceremony in Oslo, the Grameen Bank founder yesterday outlined his future task - popularising the new concept of 'social business' where the motivation for entrepreneurs will be beyond making profits in favour of changing lives of the poor.

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Prof Muhammad Yunus

GRAMEENPHONE Yunus, Telenor boss talk controlling share

INAM AHMED, from Oslo

Prof Muhammad Yunus, whose Grameen Telecom is embroiled in a tussle over Grameenphone's controlling share with its joint venture partner Norwegian telecoms company Telenor, yesterday had a discussion with Telenor President and CEO Jon Fredrik Baksaas over the contentious issue.

When asked to comment on the matter at a press conference at Oslo, Yunus said: "We have outstanding issues and we will continue to talk with them (Telenor). We have wonderful relationship

with Telenor in Bangladesh. Telenor went out of the way to come to Bangladesh and joined hands with Grameen where Grameen provided the philosophy and Telenor the technology."

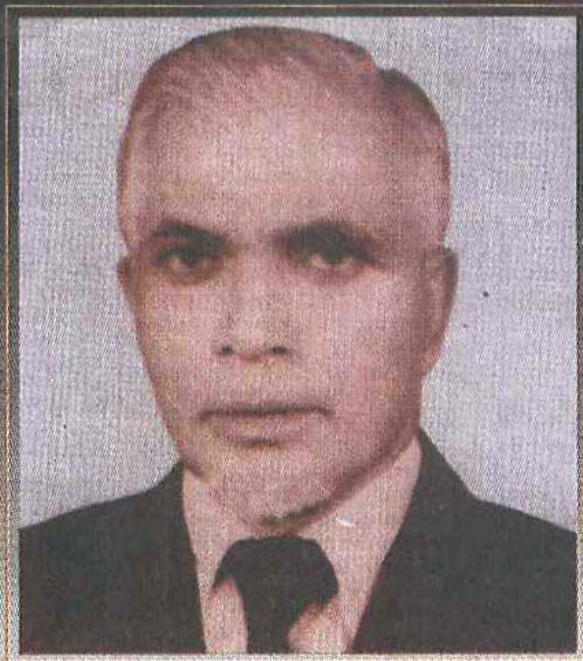
"Professor Yunus and I had a good dialogue this morning regarding the future of Grameenphone," said Baksaas, the president and CEO of Telenor, after the morning meeting at the Telenor head office.

"Given the size and impact of the company, the questions that have arisen deserve a thorough

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Our sincerest Admiration to Late Mostafizur Rahman

The Founder-Chairman of Mostafa Group



On the occasion of the
First Death Anniversary
of our respected Chairman, today, 10 December 2006,
we pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of his departed soul....



Members of the bereaved family, all employees and associates of Mostafa Group

War heroes offer 10 proposals to stabilise political system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven surviving liberation war heroes concerned over the current state of affairs in Bangladesh yesterday placed a 10-point proposal to the caretaker government and all political parties with a view to deterring anarchy and stabilising the political system.

Formation of an independent

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HR commission bill gathers dust Nation observes human rights day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Human Rights Day is being observed in the country today while formation of a human rights commission witnessed a little progress during the last five years.

The immediate past 4-party alliance government in its election manifesto in 2001 pledged to establish a National Human Rights

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ZIA on alert over Indian tip on plane hijack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Zia International Airport (ZIA) authorities yesterday issued a high alert following information that an Indian plane may be hijacked and brought to Dhaka for landing.

Security officials at the ZIA said they tightened security and intensified vigil at the entry points to the

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Our Country

Our Bank

DBBL'S
35th Branch Opens today

Fahim Landmark, Rani Bazar, Bata More, Rajshahi

The following Branches will be opened soon

Savar Bazar Branch A-38, Savar Bazar Road Savar, Dhaka	Gazipur Chowrasta Branch Reaz Tower, Gazipur Chowrasta Gazipur	Naya Bazar Branch English Road, Tanti Bazar Square Dhaka
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