

Iajuddin picks 4 advisers

Initiates no step to resolve brewing crisis; new advisers sworn in, they are confident about fair polls



Prof Moinuddin Khan, Shafiqul Haque Choudhury, Maj Gen (ret) Ruhul Alam Chowdhury, Dr Shoeb Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

caused the advisers to quit. Maj Gen (ret) Ruhul Alam Chowdhury, Prof Moinuddin Khan and Shafiqul Haque Choudhury took their oath of office in the afternoon while Dr Shoeb Ahmed was sworn in at night. Their appointment came following the resignation of Dr Akbar Ali Khan, Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury, CM Shafi Sami and Sultana Kamal, who left the caretaker government complaining of the president's unilateral actions. The Awami League-led 14-party combine did not accept the new

appointments while the BNP-led four-party alliance welcomed the new advisers. The council of advisers to the caretaker government will sit today to discuss whether to resume negotiations with the two major political alliances to break the political deadlock. Three of the new advisers expressed optimism about holding free and fair elections on time through the resolution of the present political crisis. Adviser Ruhul Alam told reporters, "The only challenge now before the nation is to hold the next parliamentary election on time in a free and fair manner. I am confident we will be able to face the challenge." Ruhul Alam served as military

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Prothom Alo protests lies by Falu's media

The following rejoinder was sent by Prothom Alo to ntv, Rtv and Amar Desh Monday. Neither the tv channels nor the newspaper broadcast or printed.

PROTHOM ALO'S CLARIFICATION

A report was published in Prothom Alo on December 4, titled 'Koek bosorey shirsha pupjapatider katarare'.

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Many from minorities missing on voter roll

They may not be included due to form shortage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several thousand members of the minority communities in Dinajpur town who were not included in the updated voter list may not be enrolled this time also due to acute shortage of voter registration forms. Besides, the names of many under aged students of a madrasa in the capital's Mohammadpur area, registered as voters earlier, were not deleted from the list till yesterday while correction of it ends on Friday. Filed level Election Commission (EC) staffs continue to show negligence to list people who were not enrolled earlier. Severe shortage of voter registration forms is one of the main reasons for this.

These anomalies were detected during spot visits by a team of The Daily Star correspondents in the capital and different parts of the country yesterday. Our Dinajpur correspondent visited 10 minority families in the district town's Maldahpatti, Fakirpara and Bara Bandar areas only to find that all members of

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No salary for MA Aziz

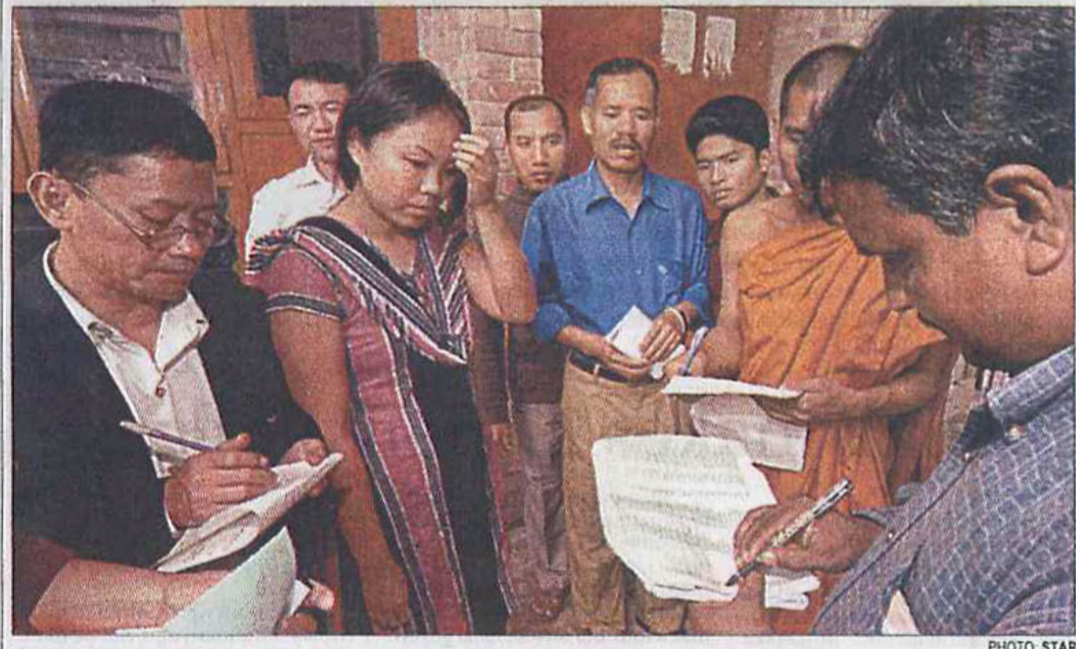
SHAKHAWAT LITON

The office of the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) has refused to pay Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz his last month's salary as the EC Secretariat could not justify his going on a 'three-month paid leave'.

Justice Aziz who was appointed the poll chief on May 23 last year has drawn salary as the CEC only for the month of October. Before that, he had been drawing salary and enjoying privileges as a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, officials in the CGA office said.

As laid out in the financial rules, he has been the CEC for one and a half months [counting from October] and accordingly, has earned so far 11 days' leave, they added.

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Election Commission field staffs enrol as voters indigenous employees of Banaful Adivasi Greenhut School and College in the capital's Mirpur area yesterday.

RETURN TO GOVT CA refused to make written request to 4 advisers: Dhiraj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Housing and Public Works Adviser Dhiraj Kumar Nath yesterday said the president refused to make a written request to the four advisers who resigned asking them to return to the caretaker government. "I went to the residences of the four advisers with the president's message for their return, but they wanted a letter from the president," Dhiraj told reporters at his office.

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Most AL leaders say no to polls under Iajuddin

14-party, allies to announce decision from common platform soon

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

Most of the top policy makers of Awami League (AL) yesterday took a strong stance against participating in the upcoming parliamentary election under Iajuddin Ahmed's government, while a small group of leaders wanted to negotiate further to find a solution to the electoral crisis, according to party insiders. The minority group wants to negotiate sending of Election Commissioners SM Zakaria and Modabbir Hossain Chowdhury on leaves of absence to pave their way to the election, which they are ready to consider as a victory also. But the majority of policy makers feel that sending only two controversial commissioners on leave will not adequately reconstitute the Election Commission (EC) as a neutral institute. Moreover, they feel that there is no assurance that Iajuddin will not keep acting as a 'partisan of BNP-Jammat alliance' since he already proved himself, in every step of the way so far, as 'biased towards the immediate past ruling alliance'. They also feel if AL goes to election under the government led by Iajuddin then the four resigned advisers' statement that the current situation is not conducive to holding a fair election, will be rendered unsubstantiated. Following the resignations of the four erstwhile advisers to the CG and appointments of four new ones, the CG has now turned into a 'complete' partisan government, said the leaders of the majority group expressing their firm determination not to take part in the next election under a government led by the current chief adviser. "The chief adviser is the main obstacle to creating a congenial atmosphere for a free and fair election. Without his resignation from the post no fair election can be held in the country," said Abdul Jalil, general secretary of AL, at a news briefing in its Dhanmondi office in the capital following a presidium meeting of the party. "It is not possible to take part in the election under Iajuddin Ahmed as he has made the caretaker government, Election Commission and the administration partisan to BNP-Jammat alliance and has been working to implement their agenda," AL Presidium Member Amir Hossain Amu told The Daily Star. Amu also said the election will be held in the country if the president resigns from the post of the CA and appoint a non-partisan person in accordance with the constitution.

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EC may extend time for voter list correction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) may give a few more days' time for correcting the updated voter roll if needed. "The time for correcting the voter list might be extended if necessary," EC Secretary Abdur Rashid Sarker said yesterday. He was talking to the reporters after a meeting with a three-member Awami League (AL) delegation at his office. Led by MA Mannan, the AL team talked about the follow-ups of their demands and suggestions placed to the EC secretary on December 10 regarding amendments to the updated voter list, when they also handed over a letter of the AL general secretary to him.

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Hasina makes 27 poll pledges

Assures AmCham leaders of making up for the losses caused by agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday made 27 electoral pledges including controlling price hikes, solving the crisis of power supply, curbing corruption and militancy, and separation of the judiciary from the executive branch of the government. "We would like to constitute a government that will push Bangladesh forward on the path of good governance. If we are voted to power, we will bring the price level within the people's reach and will keep it in check, we will set up a price regulatory authority to monitor the market," said the AL chief while addressing a monthly luncheon meeting of the local American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in a hotel in the capital. Hasina, who was present at the event as the chief guest, pointed out to the business leaders various

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Boycott won't affect holding credible polls

Bhuiyan says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday dismissed the perception that election would not be credible if any party boycotts the election. Bhuiyan, however, urged all political parties to join the election process while speaking at a press briefing at Hawa Bhaban last evening. "Although we want an election with the participation of all parties, the election process cannot be stopped only because a party is unwilling to join the election." He also said, "I will request the president to hold discussion with them (Awami League-led 14-party alliance) and bring them in election." The BNP secretary general ruled out the 14-party alliance's claim of the country's not having an

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Rejoinder, our reply

The Power Division of the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources in a rejoinder to The Daily Star report headlined "Meghnaghat-3 Project: Move on to revive controversial bid" published on December 8 said that no official from the president's office had visited Power Division recently to collect any documents. The rejoinder claimed that the summary of Meghnaghat-3 project does not contain any misleading information. It said ANH Akhtar Hossain was the chairman of Bangladesh Power

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Warning Notice regarding Sale/Purchase/Transfer/Construction of Plot No. CWN (B)-34 (New Plot No. 113) of Gulshan Residential Model Town, Dhaka.

This is for information of all that our client, Mr. M. A. Hashem, Chairman, Partex Group filed Title Suit No. 51 of 2004 in the 1st Court of Joint District Judge, Dhaka for decree of Specific Performance of Contract with regard to the property mentioned above. Out of the said suit Civil Revision No. 358 of 2004 arose in the Court of District Judge, Dhaka and in the High Court Division Civil Revision No. 4608 of 2004 arose. At present the said suit is pending in the 1st Court of Joint District Judge, Dhaka.

Mention may be made that with regard to the said property Title Suit No. 81 of 2006 was filed in the 1st Court of Joint District Judge, Dhaka, out of which F.M.A.T. No. 362 of 2006 and Civil Rule No. 519 (F.M)/2006 arose and in the said Civil Rule, order of status-quo is pending.

In view of pendency of the aforementioned suits and cases, all are requested to refrain from selling/purchasing/transferring/making construction thereon.

SCHEDULE

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