Many from minorities

seven families out of the 10 were not included in the voter list updated in

Of the remaining three families with four eligible voters on an average, only one or two members of each were listed in the updated voter roll.

According to Dinajpur chapter of the Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh Minorities, members of the minority communities in the town total 2.25 lakh, and 1.5 lakh of them are eligible voters. But around 70 thousand of them were not listed.

EC offices voluntarily to get enrolled as voters since the EC field staffs were unable to cope with listing such a huge number of voters through door to door visits. But many of them had to return frustrated due to acute shortage of voter registration forms. Local EC staff fared they might not be able to list many of the minority people as voters due to lack of forms

MOHAMMADPUR, MIRPUR IN

Following allegations of wholesale registration of madrasa students in the voter roll, The Daily Star correspondents visited Jamia Rahmania Arabia Madrasa at Mohammadpur and found that a student of class VII was included in the updated list.

A teacher of the madrasa, Nazrul Islam, said more than 800 of the the updated list.

staff visited the madrasa for correcting the list. Some students said many of the

fellow students aged under 18 were registered as voters. One such under aged student, Ismail Hossain, said he was enrolled during the previous voter list upating.

At Mirpur, staffs of Shakkyamuni Buddhist Monastery and indigenous community-run Bonoful Adivasi Green Heart School and College, said enumerators had earlier listed only four out of the 30 staffs as voters.

"It is only yesterday (Monday) that the EC staffs gave us the forms to be filled up." said Real Dewan. assistant director of the monastery.

Many of the EC staffs however said they are deleting the names of the voters who moved to other houses in the same areas or to other localities recently. But they could not say if those people were now getting listed as voters at their new addresses.

PALLABI A number of residents of different

areas of Pallabi in the capital, not yet listed as voters, yesterday said EC staffs are yet to visit their houses

"The EC staff are showing utter negligence to listing new voters," alleged Shahabuddin Khokon of DCC Ward No 5. He said he had requested an EC staff to visit a sixstorey house with 12 flats where only five women out of at least 12 were enrolled as voters.

But EC staff Wahabul Islam

refuted the allegation.

However, a number of enumerators said they are often facing humiliation, as they cannot list new voters due to a dearth of forms.

The locals alleged two teachers of Baunia Bandh D Block Alia Madrasa, assigned to correct the voter list, are yet to start work. The teachers were not in the madrasa while this correspondent went there for their comments.

NILPHAMARI

reported severe forms crisis, for which an EC staff could not register 12 voters of three families in ward

Meanwhile, 14-party alliance activists manhandled Azmal Hossain, a Jamaat activist, as he allegedly excluded the names of a few AL supporters from the list.

Around 22,000 stranded Pakistanis out of 62,000 were enrolled as voters earlier at Saidpur upazila of Nilphamari, sources said. **BOGRA**

large number of stranded Pakistanis have been listed as division including Bogra.

admitted that the names of around 1,500 out of 6,000 stranded Pakistanis were entered as voters in Bogra in the previous voter list.

The field level officials faced resistances from the AL-led 14party supporters during the correction work in different areas of the

City AL Joint General Secretary Afsarul Amin alleged though the enumerators are entitled to correct the updated list as per the EC circular, they are working with the voter list of 2000.

field level officials in correcting the voter list.

NETRAKONA

In Netrakona, the BNP and Jamaat so that they could neither include the names of AL supporters nor delete the fake names.

KHULNA

The district election officer Monday withdrew five assistant officers, allegedly aligned to the BNP and Jamaat, for not performing duties properly. The officials are Oliullah Asma Jamila Shima, Shahabuddin, Sonia Akhter and Shamsunnahar

crore, the report claimed.

(Mosaddeque Ali Falu has emerged as one of the leading tycoons of the country within the last few years).

with the comments of the reporter concerned.

In the original Prothom Alo report, the address of the luxurious house belonging to Mosaddeque Ali 5 in Old DOHS, Banani.

The only mistake in the report was the wrong address of the house which was acknowledged by us.

The picture of the house was also published in the Prothom Alo on December 5. Mosaddeque Ali Falu in his protest letter claimed that there is no house in Banani in his name or allocated against him by any organisation. This is an exam-

of the country within a very short time due to government influence and abuse of power during the rule of the immediate past government.

Since the publication of the lished in Prothom Alo.

These reports were highly defamatory and malicious. We do not find appropriate language to respond to such yellow journalism. We reject all these false, fabri-

cated, indecent and ill-motivated reports.

It was reported in Amar Desh on December 6, that industrialist Latifur Rahman, the owner of The Daily Star and Prothom Alo, illegally took possession of huge properties and made personal wealth by exploiting the influence of

Our Nilphamari correspondent also

voters in several camps of Rajshahi Bogra district election officer

CHITTAGONG

He also alleged the BNP and Jamaat activists are assisting the

men are threatening the EC officials

"The BNP-Jamaat leaders and activists are visiting the houses of EC staffs at night and threatening them not to include the names of AL supporters and delete fake names," said an assistant registration officer of Khaliajuri upazila seeking ano-

duplicate names, he added. About the allegation of not ncluding the prospective voters, the EC secretary said, they (EC) have given necessary directions for both exclusion and inclusion. "We are putting more emphasis on deleting duplicate names, as the NDI and price of the land was around Tk 20 different quarters raised this issue, We want to clarify that Prothom

CA refused

FROM PAGE 1

But President and Chief Adviser laiuddin Ahmed refused to send any letter of request, arguing that he had already talked to the advisers over the telephone, Dhiraj said.

Dhirai said the new advisers have already taken oaths and the advisory council will sit today to discuss "whether it needs further talks with the political parties" to break the political impasse.

On the new advisers' appointment, Dhiraj said the president has appointed them on his own and he has all jurisdiction to do so.

"The matter does not require endorsement of the advisory council or any other adviser." he said.

Dhirai expressed his frustration over the transfer of his secretary, saying he came to learn about it after the circular had been issued. He said the chief adviser is also the adviser to the establishment ministry, which controls transfers. and can transfer anyone on his own

Dhiraj did not give a direct reply when asked whether he will remain in the office if the army deployment continues or the situation is unchanged. "Time will tell," he said.

Meanwhile, Information Adviser Mahbubul Alam dispelled speculation over his possible resignation. "Speculation is speculation...I cannot comment on it," he told

reporters yesterday evening while leaving his Eskaton residence to attend a function. Mahbub did not attend his office or the oath taking ceremony of the

three new advisers at the Bangabhaban yesterday. "I did not feel well and so I did not

attend the office," he said. On being absent from the oath taking ceremony, Mahbub said, "When I was informed of the function, there was not enough time to make preparations."

lajuddin picks 4 advisers

Dr Shoeb told The Daily Star, "I have taken the charge in an hour of crisis. When I was invited, I was hesitant but I thought the country is ours and somebody must take the responsibility. I will exert my utmost effort to ensure holding of free and fair elections."

advisers on Monday was prompted by differences of opinion with the president and chief adviser on to implement the proposals of the advisory council to resolve the political crisis and the deployment of the armed forces.

The resigning advisers said they decided to guit as they were not allowed to perform their task of creating a congenial atmosphere for the holding of a free and fair election.

Meanwhile, the president and chief adviser failed to initiate any move yesterday to improve the prevailing situation within the council of advisers where other advisers have also expressed their discontent with the president's methods.

appointing new advisers than in back, although he had sent Adviser Dhiraj Kumar Nath to see the four to verbally request their return.

dent accepted the resignation letters of the four advisers. Dhiraj told reporters, "They [the

advisers] wanted an official written invitation from the president for meeting. But the president refused to send a letter. The president

argued that he had talked to the advisers over the telephone.'

Adviser to the president Mokhlesur Rahman Chowdhury claimed that before administering the oath to the new advisers, the president had waited to meet and discuss with the four advisers. "Since they did not turn up by

1:00pm, the president administered the oath to three new advisers in accordance with the constitution," Mokhles told the press. Talking to The Daily Star on condition of anonymity, another

adviser said he was considering a

"drastic decision" if all the major

political parties do not agree to participate in the election. Monday's resignations were the first ever since the institution of the caretaker government was introduced in 1991

PORTFOLIOS The president and chief adviser last night distributed portfolios among the newly appointed advisers.

Dr Shoeb Ahmed replaces Dr Akbar Ali Khan as adviser to the ministries of Finance and Planning, Commerce, and Post and Telecommunications.

Maj Gen (retd) Ruhul Alam replaces Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury as adviser to the ministries of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, Food and Disaster Management, Communications and CHT Affairs.

Shafiqual Haque replaces CM Shafi Sami in the ministries of Agriculture, Cultural Affairs, and Youth and Sports.

Prof Moinuddin replaces Sultana Kamal in the ministries of Industries, Science and ICT, and

Plot to hold

BNP-Jamaat alliance's "plot to stagemanage the upcoming election", they observed. Following resignation of the four

"honest advisers" and appointment of three new "pro-BNP persons" as advisers, the caretaker government has been reduced to a body unflinchingly loyal to BNP-Jamaat, said the "Advisers to the caretaker government had initiated a package of proposals with a view to creating an

atmosphere suitable for free and fair election. But they did not succeed because of lajuddin's unilateral actions," AL Presidium Member Tofail Ahmed said He also said the AL-led coalition cannot participate in an election 'designed to be rigged by Khaleda-

AL leader Motia Chowdhury said the four advisers have been forced to resign, as laiuddin did not bother to carry out their proposals.

"Our movement for a fair election is not against any person. It is rather to resist irregularities and conspiracy to rig the election," AL leader Amir Hossain Amusaid. Abdur Razzak, another senior AL

leader, said the four advisers have resigned from the interim government, following dictates of their consciences They already knew that they would not be allowed to contribute to fair conduct of the next election, he added.

Hasanul Haq Inu, president of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, said BNP-Jamaat alliance is trying to have their scheme for vote rigging implemented through lajuddin.

Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya presided over the rally addressed among others by Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon Gono Forum leader Pankai Bhattacharva and Gonotontri Party leader Nurul Islam.

Meanwhile, several crackers were blasted at the Paltan intersection at about 4:15pm when an AL procession led by Advocate Sahara Khatun was crossing the area.

None was reported injured.

As soon as the procession reached the crossing, at least four handmade bombs were hurled at it from a nearby tower, said Abdul Awal, a traffic police who was on duty in the area at that

demonstrators ran for cover as smoke spiralled upward, said witnesses. Earlier in the day, the police recov-

ered eight handmade bombs from Muktangan area.

crackers abandoned in a polythene bag and informed Paltan police of those at about 12:30pm. Police said those were not powerful.

JP won't take part

FROM PAGE 16

day without disclosing which alliance his party would join.

tions. If the 14-party boycotts the elections, then the JP might launch simultaneous movements with the 14-party in a bid to ensure free and fair elections, they added. Sources said after finalising the party candidates for the elections.

the JP chairman might negotiate with the 14-party about his party's candidates representing the alli-

Members of the parliamentary board -- Roushan Ershad, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, ABM Ruhul Amin

as well for the Mymensingh-3 con-Dhaka-9, Professor Sobita Begum for Kishoreganj-3, Syed Abu Hossain Babla for Dhaka-4 and Mainuddin Bhuiyan for Narshingdi-

Meanwhile, Golam Mostafa, central leader of Jatiya Party (Manju faction) joined JP by handing over a floral bouquet to the party chairman. Party central leaders including Secretary General Ruhul Amin Hawlader were present during the

'The 14-party has created the

unrest and everything will calm

The interview of BNP nomination-

seekers resumed yesterday after a

Natore, Pabna and Sirajganj dis-

tricts of Rajshahi division were

interviewed by the parliamentary

hoard at 11:00am at Hawa Bhaban

According to the party sources,

for 14 constituencies out of 16.

reserved for Jamaat.

A total of 73 candidates from

INTERVIEW OF NOMINATION

down if they make it calm.

SEEKERS

three-day break.

Bhuiyan says

atmosphere suitable for election now. "Nice atmosphere to hold the election exists in the country now and I hope the election will be free

advisers, Bhuiyan said, "We hoped that the four advisers would return, but they did not withdraw their resignations upon the president's request.'

Explaining the president's reasons behind the appointment of the new advisers, Bhuiyan said only 10 advisers responsible for 8 to 10 ministries each assist the chief adviser and one vacant adviser post could create difficulties in the coun-

Mannan Bhuiyan said there is no alternative to an election and it must be held in due time as there are constitutional obligations.

"We want participation of the 14party and we also want a fair election. Those winning the election would form the government," he said adding that the election process could not be stopped as it would create a constitutional crisis.

109 candidates from Barisal division for 23 seats started at 3:00pm. The interviews of 171 aspirants from Khulna division for 31 seats will begin tomorrow (Wednesday). The

aspirants from Meherpur, Kushtia and Chuadanga districts will be interviewed from 11:00am while the remaining districts of the division from 3:00pm, he added Interviews of nomination-

seekers from Dhaka division will be held on December 14, 17 and 18.

MA Aziz

FROM PAGE 1
At the end of November, the CGA office had requested the EC Secretariat for documents clarifying the CEC's leave that took effect from November 22, said sources. It also informed the EC

Secretariat that it would not disburse Aziz's salary for November until it receives the documents. On request from the CGA office the EC secretary had asked the secretariat officials to certify that the CEC was on a three-month

leave with pay. But the officials

concerned could not do so as they

did not have any relevant documents at their disposal, the sources "We cannot give a clearance to disburse his salary unless we receive documents rationalising his leave with pay," a senior official in the CGA office told The Daily Star

yesterday.

Former comptroller and auditor general M Hafizuddin Khan said according to the laws regarding SC judges' remuneration and privieges, Aziz does not qualify for a three-month leave with pay.

Currently, the remuneration and privileges for the EC members are regulated in line with the rules regarding those of the SC judges.

The existing laws will have to be amended to grant Justice Aziz salary during his leave," he added. When contacted, EC Secretary

Abdur Rashid Sarkar yesterday told The Daily Star that the EC Secretariat will soon issue a circular seeking to ensure the CEC gets his salary.

MA Aziz went on leave in the

wake of a volatile political situation. President and Chief Adviser laiuddin Ahmed in his late-night address to the nation on November 22 made an announcement to that Aziz agreed to take time off work on conditions that during the time

he will stay in the country and will

remain entitled to full security from the government and all other privi-

Rejoinder FROM PAGE 1

Development Board in the rank of

additional secretary prior to his appointment as secretary of the Power Division. He had also served as the chief

engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board in the National Pay Grade-II, the pay grade of additional secretaries to the government. **OUR REPLY**

Our sources reconfirmed that an

official from the president's office had visited the Power Division. collected the said documents and directed the officials concerned to maintain secrecy. We stand by our

Sami reasons FROM PAGE 16

one of its components," Sami said adding they decided to step down because they felt they could not or there is no scope to contribute towards creating an atmosphere for

a credible election. Asked why the package proposal failed. Sami said. "I don't know why the package failed and who is responsible for this. The goalpost has been shifted and I certainly didn't do that."

Apart from the failure of the package proposal for resolving the political impasse, Sami said, the army deployment despite opposition from all the advisers was also a reason behind his resignation from the caretaker government. "In principle, I'm not opposed to army deployment, but the problem is with the timing for that."

He said with a mandate given by an unanimous decision of the Council of Advisers he and his colleagues tried hard to have a consensus of the parties on holding the elections within 90 days, updating the voter list, rescheduling the election, reshuffling the administration and reconstitution of the

Election Commission. About the other advisers still in the government, Sami said, "I hope and pray they will be able to create an environment for a free and fair election with their wisdom.

On the neutrality of the President and chief of the caretaker government, the former diplomat said it would not right for him to comment at this time. "I pray and urge him to take decisions boldly and quickly. If it can be done, there is still a possibility of getting out of the crisis.

Asked about the initiative to bring him back to the government, he said once a decision has been made it cannot be altered. Sought comments on the new

advisors, he hoped they would take decisions and implement them

EC keeps eye

FROM PAGE 16 Bangladesh for a free, fair and peaceful election are fulfilled," a spokesperson for the EC Delegation told the news agency yesterday.

The spokesperson said, "The two seats in Pabna have been imminent deployment of the EU's Election Observation Mission BNP office secretary Nazrul (EOM) is one focus of our concerns Islam Khan said the interviews of and we trust that our election mission stands as a strong indicator of the EU's commitment to a free and fair electoral process in Bangladesh.' A 10-member core group of the

> 15. The European Union will deploy some 200 observers to monitor the .January 23 general elections. Of them, 150 will be coming from outside Bangladesh as long and short-term

EOM will arrive here on December

Israel has atom bomb

"nuclear slip" of the tongue. Aides to Prime Minister Ehud Olmert deny any change in policy

Either way, Israel's decadeslong position of nuclear weapons ambiguity appears to have crumbled after Olmert implied the Jewish state has the Middle East's only nuclear arsenal in an nterview broadcast on German television.

It is less than a week since incoming US Secretary of Defence Robert Gates, speculating at a Senate confirmation hearing on Iran's possible motives for trying to build nuclear arms, suggested that Israel had the bomb.

Olmert's remarks led Israeli news bulletins on Tuesday.

Both mass circulation Hebrewlanguage newspapers had front page headlines: "Olmert's page headlines: nuclear slip of the tongue.' Speaking in English in the nterview, Olmert said:

publicly threatens to wipe Israel off the map. Can you say that this is the same level, when they are aspiring to have nuclear weapons, as America, France, Israel, Russia?" Arch-foe Iran, whose president

"Iran, openly, explicitly and

has called for the elimination of the "Zionist regime," has denied seeking nuclear arms. It says its nuclear programme is for civilian Israel has long declined to

policy that it says fends off numerically superior Árab enemies. This reticence is a major irritant for Arabs and Iran, which see a double standard in ÚS policy in

confirm or deny having the bomb

as part of a "strategic ambiguity"

the region. By not declaring itself to be nuclear armed, Israel skirts a US ban on funding countries that proliferate weapons of mass destruction. It can thus enjoy more than \$2 billion in annual military and other aid from

Opposition politicians in Israel

Election mood

FROM PAGE 16

On the possibility of the two controversial election commissioners' going on leave, Saiful said, "In the high-ranking post like election commissioner, the person concerned himself takes the decision whether to take leave or not. If he takes leave, he informs his higher authority about it." Saiful, however, admitted the

January 23 coincided with Saraswati puja, a festival of the Hindus. The EC on November 27 set the poll date on January 21, which was later revised. He said, "We had no calendar for the year 2007 when we were fixing

mistake on the Election

Commission's (EC's) part that it did

not check whether the election date

the date." He. however, hinted that the poll date might be changed as it coincides with the religious occa-

Annan

FROM PAGE 16 everyone, including the most powerful is subject to legal restraint. "Its current moment of world supremacy gives it a priceless opportunity to entrench the same

principles at the global level." Though he neither mentioned Irag, nor the Bush administration by name, his remarks appeared to include criticism of the US drive to war to topple Saddam Hussein in 2003, and the Bush doctrine of preemptive action.

But in a question and answer session following the speech, Annan denied targeting the Bush administration. "Nothing could be further than

the truth," Annan said. "To appeal for

cooperation and leadership should never be seen as an attack. In the speech, Annan also argued that states who used military force must convince other countries it was legitimate and for shared

weapons of mass destruction and health threats like Sars, requires nations to stand together. "Against such threats as these, no nation can make itself secure by seeking supremacy over all others.

An age of terrorists seeking

We share the responsibility for each other's security," he said. "None of our global institutions can accomplish much when the US remains aloof," he said, adding he prayed for "far-sighted American leadership."

from global states with "military muscle" to stop the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, and called for action on climate change, an area where the Bush administration has also attracted stiff criticism. He also said the world needed leadership to break the deadlock in

Annan also demanded action

UN Security Council to better reflect the distribution of global power. Annan's remarks came less than week after he was feted at a White House dinner by Bush to mark his

the stalled global trade negotiations,

and called for an expansion of the

retirement on December 31. Bush spokesman Tony Snow said last week the event for Annan, who recently raised hackles among US officials for branding the conflict in Iraq a 'civil war,' showed "the president is somebody who does not think that, because you disagree

their service.' Annan will step down after 10 years as the world's top diplomat and be replaced by South Korea's Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon.

with somebody, you can't be hospi-

table to them and thank them for

on Tuesday rounded on Olmert, who has seen his personal approval rating plummet since

he summer war against Lebanon's Hezbollah guerrillas. 'This causes great harm to Israel. We are in the midst of a huge (diplomatic) onslaught against Iran's attempts to make a nuclear bomb," former Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom, a mem-

said on Army Radio. "We always face the same question which our enemies ask Why is Israel allowed to (have a

ber of the right-wing Likud party,

bomb) and not Iran?' Yossi Beilin of the left-wing Meretz Party, which is also in opposition, questioned Olmert's

ness to lead. 'The prime minister's amazing statement regarding nuclear capability indicates a lack of caution bordering on irresponsi-bility," the Yedioth Ahronoth news-

paper quoted Beilin as saying. Olmert's aides have gone into frantic damage control.

minister on a trip to Germany said he did not mean to say that Israel possessed or wanted to acquire nuclear weapons. 'No he wasn't saying anything like that," she said. Writing in Yedioth Ahronoth,

Israeli security analyst Ronen Bergman asked whether Olmert

His spokeswoman, Miri Eisin,

who accompanied the prime

deliberately dispelled the policy of ambiguity or just made a mistáke. "It could be that Olmert wanted to hint at Israel's capability as part of the aggressive statements he has recently been making, with he goal of warning the West that

f they don't take care of Iran.

Israel will," Bergman wrote. "On the other hand, this may have been a slip of the tongue." Israel's main atomic reactor. officially for civilian use, became

operational in the early 1960s. Most AL leaders

FROM PAGE 1 adjourned until yesterday evening

when they sat again at the same venue to finalise strategies. The meeting however failed to reach a unanimous decision of not to participate in any election under lajuddin Ahmed, and decided instead to discuss the issue with the central working committee, and with the leaders of all front organisations

and district and upazila level units of the party. Sources said Adviser to the AL Chief Salman F Rahman, and Presidium Member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim took a stand against refraining from the election.

The meeting was highly critical of the CA's hurried move to appoint four new advisers. The meeting observed that lajuddin appointed 'completely' partisan persons as new advisers.

General Secretary Obaidul Quader said the CA has blocked all the ways of holding a free and fair election in the country. So no election can be held under his leadership, he firmly said adding that there is no alternative to resignation of the CA before

Talking to the Daily Star AL Joint

holding of any fair poll in the country. At the news briefing Jalil announced programmes of laving siege to all district and upazila election offices tomorrow to press home the demand for a corrected

Suicide bomber

led invasion.

FROM PAGE 16 A new poll has shown that most Americans support a quick withdrawal of US troops, putting Bush under strong pressure to shift course in Iraq, where 2,931 US troops have died since the 2003 US-

not appear to be warming to some of its major conclusions as he prepared his own plan. He will hold a video teleconference on Tuesday with US military commanders in Baghdad then meet Iraqi Vice President Tareq

A week after the bipartisan Iraq

Study Group gave Bush 79 recom-

mendations for changing direction

in the unpopular Iraq war, Bush did

al-Hashemi, a Sunni. He visits the Pentagon on Wednesday. The bipartisan report called for direct talks with Iran and Syria and for US combat troops to be out of Iraq by early 2008, but Bush has

declined to embrace either recom-

He has not ruled out a regional conference to help Iraq, involving Iran and Svria, but the White House indicated Iraq would have to set it A new USA TODAY/Gallup poll

mendation.

cent of the respondents wanted most US troops withdrawn within a year, but only 18 percent believed that would happen. A record high 62 percent said the war in Iraq was not "worth it," and a record low 16 percent said the

published on Monday said 55 per-

United States was winning, USA Today said. Bush met Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and other top officials at the State Department on Monday, with an eye to announcing a change of course to sceptical Americans next week.

Maliki, whose coalition government of Shias, Sunni Arabs and Kurds has failed to curb the violence, will hold a national reconciliation conference on Saturday, and has announced plans to call a meeting of Iraq's neighbours.

Many people were visiting the

1,500 students and teachers are on Until yesterday afternoon, no EC

Prothom Alo protests

After the news was published, Alhaj Mosaddeque Ali Falu sent a rejoinder explaining the allegations made against him. This was published in Prothom Alo on December 5, at an appropriate place along

Falu was published incorrectly. The actual address was House 68. Road

The main focus of the Prothom Alo report was that Mr Falu became one of the leading tycoons

Prothom Alo report, the electronic media, ntv, Rtv and the Bengali daily Amar Desh, all of which belong to Mr Falu, have been publishing a series of false and fabricated reports against Prothom Alo, The Daily Star and Latifur Rahman and the other businesses Mr Rahman is involved with. These have continued even after Mr Falu's rejoinder was pub-

It was also stated that Mediaworld purchased a piece of land at the heart of the city for Tk 6 crore without tendering. The actual

that company. Investigation reveals that the land was purchased through open tender made through public advertisement in accordance with all rules and regulations. Therefore, we also protest this heinous and outright lie against The Daily Star. The allegation against Latifur

Rahman of possessing huge illegal

property through the influence of

these two dailies is ridiculous and

laughable. He and his family mem-

Alo does not belong to Mediaworld.

It is The Daily Star that is owned by

bers have been renowned, reputed and highly successful businessmen for three generations. The extent of his business is well known. He did not need to, and never used, any influence to expand his business at any time. Besides, Latifur Rahman was a well known entrepreneur-businessman in the country long before the publication

of the Daily Prothom Alo and The

from any government. Rather, he

was victimised by governments

several times and his business

suffered due to the courageous

He has never taken any favour

Daily Star.

reporting of the two dailies. Breaching minimum journalistic ethics, the reporters of ntv, Rtv and Amar Desh did not feel the necessity of talking to Latifur Rahman to gain his versions for their reports. In contrast, Prothom Alo had published the views of both Mr. Falu and his business partner Enayetur

The Prothom Alo reiterates its

commitment to carry on its work

fabricated news will deter Prothom

Alo from carrying out its mission.

against corruption, extortion, abuse of power and any other type of crime. This is why readers love Prothom Alo and have made it the largest newspaper in the country. No amount of intimidation through

B Chowdhury FROM PAGE 16 advisers of the caretaker government as the resignation of four advisers yesterday [Monday] has

Muhammad Aminul Islam of BNP,

Prof Emdadul Haque Mukul of

Bangladesh Jatiya Party and

Delwar Hossain Khan of Jatiya

Party -- along with more than 500

leaders and activists including

former chief engineer of Roads and

government to arrest the corrupt

political leaders and the terrorists

with the help of the army within

seven days to prove that the deci-

sion of deploying the military was

welcomed the newcomers to the

party and said, "The name BNP will

not exist in the political history of

Bangladesh if the current trend of

leaders of BNP jointing the LDP

(retd) Oli Ahmed, Secretary

Genéral Major (retd) Abdul

Mannan, presidium members

Sheikh Razzak Ali, Redwan

Ahmed, Abdul Karim Abbasi, Joint

Secretaries General Nurul Amin

Col Oli hailed the four advisers

who resigned yesterday and said

they had in fact realised that this

caretaker government is com-

pletely ineffective to hold a free, fair

and acceptable election in the

have done a great mistake by

joining the caretaker government

as two-third political parties are

saving that the chief adviser has

miserably failed to create a conge-

nial atmosphere for a credible

election in Bangladesh," he added.

EC may extend

They also made some more sug-

gestions yesterday, along with

complaints and demanded exten-

sion of time for carrying out the

the activities of the EC so far in this

shortage of inclusion forms in differ-

ent areas." MA Mannan said alleg-

ing that there are plenty of voter

forms at the EC storehouses, but

not in the hands of these officials.

The delegation also alleged that as

there is no clear direction about

inclusion of the eligible voters in the

EC's circular, the field level officials

these problems and assured us of

taking proper steps in this regard."

Mannan said adding that the secre-

tary also assured them of extending

time for one or two more days for the

ongoing process of correcting the

voter list. They also suggested the

EC secretary to list the voters who

have been left out, including the

newly eligible ones and to delete the

"The EC secretary has admitted

are leaving out many of them.

The AL team, however, hailed

"We got complaints about severe

corrections in the voter roll.

"The newly appointed advisers

Benari and Shadat Hossain Selim

were also present.

country.

FROM PAGE 1

regard.

LDP Executive President Col

The former president heartily

Badruddoza urged the caretaker

Highways Division, joined the LDP.

community centre.

proved the total failure of Prof lajuddin Ahmed in running the governance," he said while speakng at a joining function at a local Three former lawmakers --

> The resignation of the four several issues, including the failure

Bangabhaban sources said the president was more interested in bringing the resigning advisers

As the move failed, the presi-

Panicked, the pedestrians and

A pedestrian first spotted the

might join the Awami League-led 14-party alliance before the elec-

The party parliamentary board yesterday interviewed 407 nomination aspirants, 131 from Sylhet and 276 from Dhaka division.

Hawlader, Anisul Islam Mahmud, MA Sattar and Kazi Firoje Rashid -were present during the interviews. Jatiya Party Presidium Member Roushan Ershad had her interview stituency. Kazi Firoie Rashid for

and fair where everyone can vote." About the resignation of four

In reply to a question, Abdul

Bhuiyan also blamed the 14party alliance for the political unrest. JP chairman told reporters yester-Party sources, however, said JP