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Iajuddin makes U-turn

Orders army to stay on stand-by at camps, consents to send Zakaria, Mudabbir on leave; advisers eye end of crisis in 3 days

SHAKHAWAT LITON

In a major reversal, President and Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday ordered the armed forces to remain on 'stand by' but not to actively engage in law enforcement, pledging he would reinitiate moves to send two 'controversial' election commissioners on

The decision came within two days of the resignation of four advisers to the caretaker government over their differences of opinion with the president regarding deployment of troops and his

Election Commission (EC) in line with the package proposal finalised by the council of advisers.

With the president and chief adviser's approval, a full council of advisers' meeting last night decided to re-initiate implementation of the package proposal for ending the political crisis by sending Election Commissioners SM Zakaria and Modabbir Hossain Chowdhury on leave.

"We will negotiate with the political parties and expect to see a solution to the crisis within the next three days," newly appointed

unwillingness to recast the Adviser Shafiqual Haque Choudhury told The Daily Star, adding that they will re-negotiate the old package instead of looking for a new formula.

The president, consulting the council of advisers, decided that the armed forces will remain on 'stand by' at places of their deployment and the regular law enforcement agencies will work to maintain law and order.

"The armed forces will not be used now to maintain law and order and they will take rest. Rather, the police and Bangladesh Rifles will work to maintain law and

order," Shafiqual, the acting official spokesman of the council of advisers, told reporters emerging form the council meeting.

The armed forces will start to do something in cases of severe violence and casualties, he said.

But the home ministry in a late night circular on December 9 said the president and chief adviser had ordered the deployment of the armed forces as its necessity had been felt for protecting lives and properties of the people, to keep alive the economic activities, to seize illegal weapons and to thwart SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Government Shafiqual Haque

Choudhury yesterday supported

President and Chief Adviser (CA)

Iajuddin Ahmed's decision to

deploy the army saying the police

had failed to adequately maintain

told reporters on his first day at

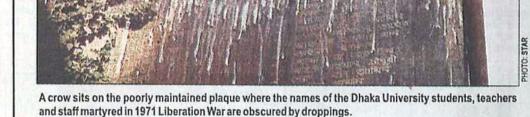
LDP demands polls date to be deferred

Blames CG for failure in creating atmosphere STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President Badruddoza Chowdhury and Executive President Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed yesterday demanded to defer the election date.

They also blamed President and Chief Adviser Iajuddin for the four advisers' resignation.

Addressing a press conference at Bairdhara LDP office, Oli Ahmed said, "The caretaker government (CG) has failed to create a congenial atmosphere for a fair election even after 45 days of the caretaker government has gone by, Election SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



MARTYRED INTELLECTUALS DAY

Nation recalls today their supreme sacrifice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation observes the Martyred Intellectuals Day today, recalling the supreme sacrifice of the illustrious sons of the land to free the mother-

land, and pledging afresh to realise their dream of a society free of exploitation and injus-

Being sure of defeat, the Pakistani occupation army and their collaborators -- Razakar

Al-Badr and Al-Shams (mostly leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student front) -- kidnapped frontline Bengali intellectuals and professionals on December 14, 1971 and killed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

ELECTION DAY

AL wants it to be delayed, BNP for moving it forward

But both parties ask EC to extend time for voter list correction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL) yesterday asked the Election Commission (EC) to defer the election date by 46 days wasted by "one person" while the BNP suggested moving the date forward by a day or two because of

The AL advised the EC to go to the Supreme Court for seeking the additional time beyond the 90-day constitutional confines.

EC Secretary Abdur Rashid Sarkar, however, said there is little scope to hold the election beyond

the constitution stipulated time of 90 days for the caretaker government even if all political parties reach a consensus in this regard.

Two delegations of the AL and BNP sat with the EC yesterday and placed their suggestions and SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

law and order. "The police were not sufficiently doing their job to maintain law and order, and our army was sitting idle. So what is the problem in putting them to work," Shafiqual

work in the secretariat yesterday. "We have to see if the army is Newly appointed Agriculture intervening in anything or doing anything bad," he added.

New advisers hopeful of

amicable settlement

The three other newly appointed advisers also spent their first day at work yesterday after they had been assigned their respective portfolios, replacing the four advisers who had resigned last Monday after their fall out with the

Three of the new advisers, including Shafiqual, said no election would be credible without the participation of a major political SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

The Baily Star exposes lies by Falu's media

The Daily Star and Mediaworld sent the following rejoinder to the Amar Desh, ntv, Rtv in response to their false reporting. We reproduce

"In a blatant misuse of the media, two television channels, nty, Rty in the news programme on December 5 and 6, 2006 and daily Amar Desh on December 6, 2006 launched a false and vicious campaign against the reputation and goodwill of The Daily Star, its owning company, Mediaworld Ltd, and one of it directors, Latifur Rahman (He will reply separately). Prothom Alo was also a target of this cam-

The TV channels for two days (December 5 & 6, 2006) and the newspaper on December 6, 2006, ran a report about the Mediaworld Ltd owned land at 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka near

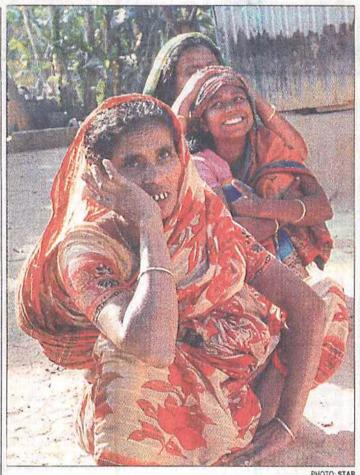
Appointment of new advisers unacceptable

Says Ershad STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad yesterday said that the political crisis would deepen further with the appointment of the new advisers, as the president, also the chief adviser, did not appoint them in an acceptable manner.

"Political situation has become more complex due to the resignation

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Women of Akran village under Savar upazila remain in the dark about the ongoing voter list updating as they have yet to meet any officials charged

Entire Savar village unaware of voter list correction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Many slum dwellers, members of ethnic and religious minorities and entire villages have so far been excluded from the updating of the voters list, amid allegations that field level election officers are failing to carry out their task prop-

It is claimed that in areas of Dhaka and Savar enumerators are not visiting door to door while in areas of Chittagong they do not have the forms to enlist new voters. Another problem that has surfaced in Moulovibazar has been the removal from the list of some names belonging to religious or ethnic minorities.

At different slum areas in the capital, slum dwellers allege that field officers have not been seen. Visiting slums at Karwan Bazar railway track and the Dhaka flood protection embankment near Mohammedpur and Rayerbazar, The Daily Star was informed that most of the residents had not been checked against the list.

Beauty Begum, a slum dweller

at Karwan Bazar said. "In the last week nobody came here to see me and my husband's name is not included on the voter list." SAVAR

Hundreds of inhabitants living in the remote areas under different unions in Savar know nothing about the correction of the voter list as field level election commission staff have completed their job without going from door to door. Instead much of the work in remote areas has been based on assumption or information gained in neighbouring villages. This has allowed the officials to already submit the corrected voter list, reports our JU Correspondent.

Correcting the voter list does not need so much time as I know who has recently died or got married in my area. Eleven names were excluded during the process due to death and marriage. So going from door to door is not necessary for me," said Shahida Akter of Golden Child Pre-Caddette school, who is working as a field level EC official.

In a visit to Jinjira, Aitor, Arkan SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

AL prepares for polls despite grave doubts

Party's parliamentary board formed; grand rally in Dhaka on Dec 18

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The Awami League (AL) is making all-out preparations for the upcoming parliamentary elections although almost all its top leaders are against contesting the polls under the caretaker government led by President and Chief Adviser Iaiuddin Ahmed

In a quick move, the AL formed a 15-member parliamentary board yesterday to give nomination to

party candidates for contesting the upcoming general elections.

The AL parliamentary board headed by party chief Sheikh Hasina will meet today to finalise the dates for distributing nomination forms and interviewing the aspirants. The AL and its allies--11-party,

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, and National Awami Party--will hold a grand rally in the capital on December 18 where Hasina will

make a formal announce over the election.

AL President Sheikh Hasina vesterday sat with her party's joint and organising secretaries at Sudha Sadan and instructed them to make all-out preparations for the election alongside the ongoing movements for a free and fair poll.

"No unilateral election will be allowed to hold in the country. There is confusion whether or not

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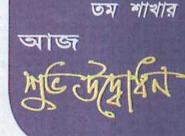
December 14, 2006 (It appears as a matter of record only)





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