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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 re-initiate moves to send two 'controversial' election commissioners on leave.

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 unwillingness to recast the 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 Mudabbir 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

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 Bairdihara 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



A crow sits on the poorly maintained plaque where the names of the Dhaka University students, teachers and staff martyred in 1971 Liberation War are obscured by droppings.

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 injustice.

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

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

Saraswati Puja.

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

New advisers hopeful of amicable settlement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newly appointed Agriculture Adviser to the Caretaker Government Shafiqul Haque Chowdhury yesterday supported President and Chief Adviser (CA) Iajuddin Ahmed's decision to deploy the army saying the police had failed to adequately maintain 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," Shafiqul told reporters on his first day at

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 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

The Daily 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 it in full.

"In a blatant misuse of the media, two television channels, ntv, Rtv 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 own-

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



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 with correcting the list.

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 properly.

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 Moulvibazar 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

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