

Protest rally in city CEC should quit : AL

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League yesterday said that the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) should step down as he had "unjustly" declared BNP candidate Kazi Salimul Haque Kamal elected in the Magura-2 JS by-election.

At a protest rally chaired by city AL president and DCC mayor Mohammad Hanif, AL central leaders alleged "The CEC had joined hands with the ruling party in declaring the BNP candidate elected ignoring the allegations of rigging in the Magura polls."

The rally was addressed by Mohammad Hanif, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury MP, Amir Hossain Amu, Tofael Ahmed MP, KM Jahangir MP, Abdul Jalil, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Akhtarul Alam, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and Advocate Quamrul Islam.

They declared that the AL would begin an all-out agitation to oust the government with a siege to the Secretariat on April 7.

They said the CEC had lost his neutrality.

"We cannot trust the government and the CEC. The government should resign. We want the next elections to be held under a care-taker government," said Mohammad Hanif.

"The voters could not go to the polling centres in Magura because the government-backed musclemen unleashed a reign of terror. But the polls result shows an astonishing and unbelievable turn-out of

Hospital reorganisation

From Page 1 Col 4

at the meeting.

Presided by Health Secretary Syed Shamim Ahsan, the meeting also decided that the study team should also incorporate the principals of Dhaka Medical College and Sir Salmullah Medical College, the directors of the DMCH, Mitford Hospital and the Institute of Cardio-Vascular Diseases and the joint director of the Institute of Post Graduate Medicine and Research.

It also asked the team to prepare a list of post-graduate doctors in the country along with their present posting and to furnish a posting plan, assuring the proper use of their expertise.

The meeting endorsed the idea of establishing a pilot hospital, with full administrative and financial autonomy, to develop it as a centre of management excellence and decided that the newly constructed Shahid Suhrawardy 300-Bed General Hospital — to be completed in Dhaka by June next — would be actively considered for the purpose.

By April 1995, the programme would then be replicated in 30 out of the 59 existing district hospitals.

The policy for implementation is expected to be finalised by the ministry by mid-April after the study team completes the action plan, the Health Ministry source said.

The report, finalised after incorporating the feedback from a series of workshops with health officials, found that the job descriptions of existing posts in hospitals were not available and known to most hospital staff.

The study also found that the junior doctors at the Thana Health Complex (THC) were posted against the posts of authorised medical, surgical and specialist physicians, which hampers proper service delivery.

In the district or secondary hospitals, it noted the absence of a full-time medical superintendent, overloading the responsibilities of the civil surgeon, inappropriate distribution of staff, absence of a full team of consultants — despite having provisions — resulting in poor patient management, and posting of an anaesthesiologist, pathologists and radiologists without or with inadequate training.

In the tertiary or specialised and medical college hospitals, the study found that the absence of the post of assistant doctors hampers overall supervision and managerial functions of the hospitals, particularly after office hours.

The report suggested that the local hospital authority should collect, circulate and strictly implement existing job descriptions until a new one is available, which the Director General of Health Services is currently preparing.

The reasons identified in the report for poor job satisfaction among the health professionals include: Non-implementation of the pay-scale upgrade of the thana health officers approved in 1989; appointment to higher posts on current charges; absence of a

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11, Road No. 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.



Riot policemen were deployed at the Sayedabad bus terminal in the city to restore order following clashes between two groups of transport workers yesterday that left two people killed. — Star photo

Khaled's condition improves

By Staff Correspondent

The condition of Khaled Hamidul Huq Chowdhury, a director of The Bangladesh Observer, who was attacked Sunday, has improved.

His relatives and doctors said Khaled Chowdhury underwent emergency treatment in the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with severe stab wounds in his head, right hand and back. He is under the treatment of Professor Ata Elahi, a neurosurgeon.

Khaled Chowdhury, the only son of the late Hamidul Huq Chowdhury, founder of The Bangladesh Observer, was attacked at his Green Road house in the early hours of Sunday, reportedly over the ownership of property left behind by his father.

The two persons — Khaled's servant Shahidul Islam and Shahidul's cousin, Moqbul Hossain — arrested for their alleged involvement in the attack, have been sent to the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday.

They were earlier produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, who rejected a police prayer for their remand.

A relative of Khaled said, Shahidul had helped the armed men to enter the house by opening the gate.

A group of armed men entered Khaled's residence and attacked him in a ground floor room. The assailants fled when other members of the house woke up and got down to the ground floor, the relative said.

Talks only way to resolve DPRK's N-issue: China

BEIJING, Mar 28: Chinese President Jiang Zemin told his South Korean counterpart Morihiro Hosokawa one week earlier, frustrating hopes that China — North Korea's ally in communism — could persuade the North to open up its nuclear programme where no one else has succeeded.

Last week, both Koreas put their armies on alert, the South revived plans for war games with the United States and the international community discussed sanctions against the North.

South Korean President Kim Young-sam, on a four-day visit to China, had announced in advance his plans to ask Chinese help in resolving the increasingly tense standoff.

But after Kim and Jiang met for two hours, China's Foreign Ministry quoted Jiang as disclaiming any special influence over the North.

"We have made our due efforts. However, China has only a limited role to play," ministry spokesman Shen Guofang told reporters.

4 hacked to death in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Mar 28: Four people, including two brothers, were hacked to death allegedly by members of Purbangar Communist Party in three frontier villages here early today, reports UNB.

US study team to visit Dhaka March 31

A high-level study mission from the United States will visit Bangladesh March 31-April 4 to focus on critical issues of US relations with Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The issues to be studied include prospects for increased trade and investment flows, challenges to regional security and stability, possibility for conflict and cooperation, problems and outlook of governance and economic liberalisation, said a BISS press release yesterday.

Its Dhaka mission is part of the one sponsored by the New York-based Asia Society which is undertaking an ambitious initiative to focus American public attention on South Asia. The mission comprising former policymakers, academics, business leaders, journalists and NGO leaders will also visit India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The team's mission to Dhaka is being sponsored by the Society in collaboration with Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS).

The Dhaka mission will be composed of Executive Vice-President of the Society Dr Marshall M. Bouton, Prof Stephen Cohen of the University of Urbana-Champaign, Prof Anne O. Krueger of the Stanford University and Prof C. Kumar N. Patel of ULCA.

They are scheduled to meet government leaders, business magnates, scholars and representatives of non-government organisations during their fact-finding drive.

Their study in Dhaka will also include subjects like human rights, poverty alleviation, women's issues, environment, resources, education, culture, science and technology.

BISS said a number of seminars are being organised for the benefit of the mission in which local experts will take part to present Bangladesh perspective on relevant themes.

The mission, on return to USA, is expected to prepare a report with recommendations on future American policies toward and relationships with South Asian nations.

The Midnight File

Israeli troops kill 8 Palestinians in Gaza

GAZA CITY, Mar 28: Elite Israeli troops disguised as Arabs shot and killed eight Palestinians and wounded several others in a Gaza Strip refugee camp today, hospital officials said. The troops killed eight residents of the Jabaliya camp, including a child, and wounded at least four others, Palestinian hospital officials said, reports AFP.

Somali gunmen kill 2 Indian peacekeepers

MOGADISHU, Mar 28: Somali gunmen shot dead two Indian UN peacekeepers in Somalia's southern port of Kismayu in what appeared to be a bandit attack, a United Nations military spokesman said today. Major Chris Budge said 12 Somalis attacked a UN civilian vehicle in which the armed Indians were escorting two aid workers. The car was stolen after a firefight but the aid workers were left unharmed, he said, reports Reuters.

Russian diplomat killed in Algeria

PARIS, Mar 28: Suspected Muslim fundamentalists killed a Russian diplomat in Algeria today, the first diplomat to die in the country's two-year-long political violence, the security forces said. The body of Konstantin Koukouchine was found inside an embassy car in Saoula on the outskirts of the capital, said the security forces, quoted by the official news agency APS, reports Reuters.

PM urges Bangladeshis

From Page 1 Col 7

Bangladeshis community that her government would give due consideration to solving their problems.

She said her government, as well as the people of Bangladesh, always had best wishes for their countrymen living abroad.

Another report adds: Begum Zia today said that Bangladesh had no time to waste but to develop through hard work.

Addressing another reception accorded to her by the overseas unit of BNP, Begum Zia said that the BNP government had to, in a short time, devote to institutionalise democracy and at the same time put the national economy on the path of development.

She said that Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, through hard work, earned goodwill and positive reputation for Bangladesh. The Prime Minister said through hard work Bangladesh is once again proving that it is no longer a country of calamities but of potentials and possibilities.

She said that to make democracy meaningful economic prosperity has to be achieved for the nation.

Begum Zia said that for Bangladesh there was no choice but to develop a work culture.

"Now it is time to develop the national economy," she said.

The local BNP representative, Zahidul Huq, also spoke.

Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman, Finance Minister, M Saifur Rahman, Begum Farida Rahman, MP, and State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman were present.

EC hearing

From Page 1 Col 3

the CEC had already come up with the verdict regarding the opposition allegation.

"A judge cannot rescind his own decision on a certain issue," the AL lawyer observed and added that it would now be a sheer wastage of time to appear at the hearing.

ALCWC resolution

A UNB report adds: The Awami League Monday rejected the official result of the by-election in Magura-2 and said the Chief Election Commissioner had lost his moral right to continue in his office by bowing to pressure of the ruling party.

The CEC had avoided his constitutional responsibility by saying that he had no alternative to announcing the result on the basis of written reports of the presiding and returning officers, said a resolution adopted at an emergency meeting of the party's working committee (ALWC).

The meeting remarked that the CEC had made himself controversial by announcing the result of an election marked by "vote dacoity".

The meeting held at the official residence of Sheikh Hasina, was presided over by Syeda Zohra Tajuddin. It called upon all to launch a united agitation to force the government to resign and pave the way for holding elections under a neutral, caretaker government.

It reviewed the situation following the announcement of the by-election results and discussed the future course of action to press for re-election in the Magura constituency.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 4

Rejecting the official result of the March 20 Magura by-election, she said that the opposition would have to think whether to sit in a Parliament with an MP elected through a rigged election.

Hasina also warned that her party would launch an all out agitation to oust this government with the staging of a siege on the Secretariat on April 7 if the Magura by-election result is not cancelled. She urged the people to join the planned siege.

22 AIDS patients in country

KHULNA, Mar 28: The number of AIDS patients detected in the country has gone up to 25 from the nine reported till the end of last year, reports UNB.

Five of them are women. Three of the victims of the dreaded disease are already dead.

The disclosure came from Deputy Leader of the House Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, also chairman of the National AIDS Committee, while inaugurating the country's sixth AIDS pathology division at the 50-bed hospital here today. A training course for the AIDS technologists was also arranged on the occasion.

Presided over by the Principal of Khulna Medical College Prof M Zayed, the function was also addressed by city mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman, Syeda Nargis Ali MP and WHO representative Myo Thwe.

Prof Chowdhury said the young generation is the worst victim of the disease.



Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali administered the oath to Kazi Saleemul Huq who was elected MP from the Magura-2 constituency in the by-election March 20 at a simple ceremony at the Sangsad Bhavan yesterday. — PID photo

JP asks CEC to resign

The Jatiya Party yesterday asked the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) to resign for his alleged failure to ensure impartial voting in Magura-2 parliamentary by-election, reports UNB.

At a Presidium meeting it rejected the official result of the by-election announced by the Election Commission and demanded general election under a neutral caretaker government.

Jamaat rejects Magura polls

The Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday rejected the official result of Magura-2 parliamentary by-election, saying that the announcement of the polls result had pushed the nation into a deep crisis, reports UNB.

In a statement the party's Secretary General Matiuur Rahman Nizami said that the BNP by allowing the entry in Parliament the image of national Parliament which was formed in a free and fair election under a caretaker government in 1991.

Oil, gas workers threaten agitation

Trade unions of oil and gas sectors will go for an all-out agitation against government move to privatise the sectors and private import of oil, reports UNB.

Benazir renews call for talks on Kashmir

MUSCAT (Oman), Mar 28: Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Monday renewed her call for a peacefully negotiated end to the conflict in Jammu-Kashmir, reports AP.

Bhutto, addressing a press conference before winding up a 48-hour official visit to Oman, said her government had "rattled" New Delhi on the issue as no other previous government had done.

"When we speak out on Jammu and Kashmir, we speak out through conviction. We speak out because we truly desire peace and stability in our subcontinent and we believe that it is high time that India and Pakistan resolved the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the wishes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir through the expression of their right of self-determination," Bhutto said.

"It is our duty not to allow this wound to fester between the two... and to subject yet another generation to a life of tension and hostility."

The best way to resolve the issue was through internationally accepted laws, she affirmed.

Ms Bhutto said that during her meeting in Salalah on Sunday with the ruler of Oman, Sultan Qaboos, she requested that he intervene with India to help reduce the tensions.

800 phone lines to be snapped in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Mar 28: About 800 telephone lines — both government and private connections — are going to be disconnected in Barisal town tomorrow due to non-payment of telephone bills.

According to Divisional Engineer, Telephones (DET), Barisal Division, the defaulters telephone subscribers have been served with notices to clear the arrear bills.

The T & T revenue office takes such step from time to time to the release outstanding bills.

Collection of arrear bills through such disconnection drive is more or less satisfactory — a T&T revenue source said.