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Political Play On Presidency

Enters Sircar Exits Badruddoza

Profile of Sircar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Acting President Jamiruddin Sircar was born on December 1, 1931 in a respectable family in Tetulia Upazila in Panchagarh district. He did his MA, LLB in Dhaka and Barrister-at-Law from the Lincon's Inn, London.

Son of late Moulavi Azi Baksh and Late Begum Fakhrunnissa, Sircar was a senior counsel at the Supreme Court.

He was elected MP four times in 1979, 1991, 1996 and 2001. Prior to his becoming the Speaker of the 8th Jatiya Sangsad, he served as state minister for public works and urban department, state minister for land administration and land reforms, state minister for foreign affairs, minister for science and technology, minister for education, minister for law, justice and parliamentary affairs.

During his long political and lawyer career, he was the member of the Bangladesh delegation to the UN.

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STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday took over as acting president following the resignation of President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury.

The speaker will continue to

discharge the functions of the office of president till the Jatiya Sangsad elects a new president in the next 90 days.

"I will carry out my responsibilities as envisaged in the Constitution... I was pledge-bound to discharge the functions of the

office of president, if it falls vacant, the moment I took oath as the Speaker," he said referring to Article 54 of the Constitution.

The article says, the Speaker will discharge the functions of the president's office if it falls vacant.

Asked how he plans to perform his duties at this crucial hour, Sircar said, "I will do it the way a president is supposed to do. It is always a gigantic task... Please pray for me so that Allah gives me the ability to carry out my duties smoothly in accordance with the Constitution."

Earlier, the Speaker accepted President Badruddoza Chowdhury's resignation letter that reached him at about 7pm.

A team from the Bangabhaban, led by military secretary to the president Major General AM Mansur Ahmed, carried the letter to the Speaker's office.

The president's personal secretary Dr Abdul Momen handed over the letter to the Speaker. In his brief resignation letter, the president said he resigned in view of a request from the BNP Parliamentary Party.

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Jamiruddin Sircar

PHOTO: STAR

STAR REPORT

The tenure of the country's 16th president came to an abrupt end after 219 days at 6.30pm yesterday when Professor AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury departed the Bangabhaban.

Amid light drizzles, the motorcade carrying Prof. Chowdhury came out of the ramparts of the presidential mansion to drive him to his Baridhara residence with full official trappings and security for the last time.

Requested by a pack of waiting journalists, the president slowed his car a little away from the gates of the Bangabhaban and lowered the car's window to say he had stepped aside to uphold the democratic process of the country.

Chowdhury said he resigned on the request by the ruling BNP as per article 50(3) of the Constitution. The president's security forces prevented most photographers and newsmen from reaching the car and manhandled several media men.

A delegation led by the secretary to the president met Speaker

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Professor AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury waves to the waiting journalists after leaving the Bangabhaban on resignation as president yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

How he irked BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Within a month of his assuming the presidency on November 14, 2001, certain actions by former president AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury had irked BNP leaders and their workers.

As president, Badruddoza violated the norms by visiting the prime minister's residence a few days after his assumption of office. However, this did not trigger any criticism in the ruling BNP, but in the opposition.

This violation led to the opposi

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'B Chy's ditching unconstitutional'

STAR REPORT

Constitution experts and eminent lawyers have termed unconstitutional the ruling party's move that compelled President A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury to step down.

They said the move is unprecedented in the country's history, and also extra-constitutional. There was a threat by the ruling party to impeach him, they noted.

"There is no such article in the Constitution that says a president

has to resign as per the resolution of a parliamentary party", eminent lawyer Barrister Istiaq Ahmed told The daily Star yesterday.

He was asked whether the ruling party's parliamentary party can ask the president to step down.

"Can you show any article in the Constitution where it is written that the president must resign as per the resolution of the party? No. So the decision was totally unconstitutional," Istiaq said.

"A party can bring a 'no confidence' motion in parliament for

president's removal, which is a legal process.

"Even if there is a 'no confidence' move, it has to be within the limit of the Constitution and I don't see any reason why the president should resign just because a party has demanded his resignation," he said.

However, Barrister Istiaq declined to comment when asked whether the move by the BNP parliamentary party was justified.

"I don't want to comment on this; but again, just because a resolu

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AL terms it a national crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League has said the ruling BNP's 'forcing' the president to quit has created a 'national crisis' which might 'jeopardise' parliamentary democracy in the country.

The party presidium at a meeting yesterday also expressed deep concern at the development and termed it a 'consequence of the brute majority' gained through an 'illegal election'.

The meeting was chaired by Leader of the Opposition in parliament and AL chief Sheikh Hasina and held at her Dhanmondi residence in the morning.

Later, at a party programme at the party's Dhanmondi office in the afternoon, Hasina said, "They (BNP) do not believe in democracy. Within eight months (in power) they have pushed the nation into a serious crisis. They took a resolution to remove a president elected by themselves." This has made the people deeply concerned about the future of parliamentary

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'Placing wreath not only way to show respect'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The immediate past president AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said that there are many ways of showing respect to a person other than placing wreath at his grave.

Referring to the grievances of the BNP Parliamentary Party that he did not visit BNP founder and ex-president Ziaur Rahman's

grave on May 30, Chowdhury told reporters, "Placing wreaths is not the only way to show respect...there are many ways."

Professor Chowdhury said he would quit politics because of age and spend the rest of his life as a physician. He will write books and spend some time on farming, he said.

The former president briefed

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Brazil blow England out

REUTERS, Shizuoka

Forward Ronaldinho made one goal and scored a stunning second before being controversially sent off as Brazil came from behind against England to win 2-1 and reach the World Cup semifinals.

The result establishes Brazil as firm favourites to win the World Cup final in Yokohama on June 30. The four-times champions now play either Senegal or Turkey who meet on Saturday.

In an eagerly-awaited replay of their 1970 World Cup classic which Brazil won 1-0, England took a 23rd minute lead through Michael Owen after a mistake by defender Lucio. Rivaldo equalised in first-half injury time -- his fifth goal in five games -- and Ronaldinho curled a fantastic free-kick over goalkeeper David Seaman from 35 metres in the 50th minute.

Seven minutes after his goal, the Brazilian forward was sent off for fouling Danny Mills, a harsh decision in what was generally a clean game.

Every time they have played England in the World Cup previously -- in 1958, 1962 and 1970 -- Brazil have gone on to win the tournament.

Brazil, who have come back from a goal down to win more matches than any other team in World Cup history, fully deserved to do it for the 13th time after showing more attacking flair and silencing critics who said they could not defend.

On the final whistle, Seaman,

who clearly blamed himself for Brazil's second, burst into tears and had to be consoled by England captain David Beckham who, like the rest of his team, failed to find his usual inspiration.

It is the second time in his career that a long-range shot has beaten Seaman in an important match. In the 1995 European Cup Winners' Cup final, Nayim scored a last minute winner for Real Zaragoza against Arsenal from close to the halfway line.

England pushed hard for an equaliser against 10 men after Ronaldinho's 57th minute dismissal but failed to create any clearcut chances and were simply beaten by a better team.

Brazil had started out the more threatening with a deflected drive from Roberto Carlos and Ronaldo's neat one-two with Rivaldo setting up a low shot straight at David Seaman.

But the match burst into life when Lucio miscued his interception of striker Emile Heskey's ball upfield, Owen burst into the penalty area and hammered an unstoppable shot past Marcos.

England clung on until the second minute of injury time before a move that started with Beckham jumping over a two-man tackle.

Ronaldinho collected the pass and shrugged off Ashley Cole's challenge before flicking the ball wide to an unmarked Rivaldo,

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PHOTO: AFP

Caught cold...English keeper David Seaman (R) fails to catch Brazilian Ronaldinho's (not pictured) ball during yesterday's quarterfinal clash.

Last letter to Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

Just minutes before leaving the office, President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury wrote a letter to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia with some words of explanation.

It was learnt that the letter began with the salutation 'Respected Prime Minister' and ended with 'Yours (Aapander) Badruddoza Chowdhury', sources said.

The President recalled his deep relationship with the late President

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BNP leaders puzzled at Badruddoza's forced exit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Majority of the BNP leaders and activists are surprised at the sudden move to force former president AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury to quit.

Most of the top ranking leaders were tight-lipped and refrained from making any comment as they were still baffled about the action. Many, however, said they did not know anything about such a major development even before the BNP Parliamentary Party meeting on

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
June 22		6-49 pm
June 23	5-17 am	

Prayer Timings		
June 22		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-53	6-57
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Grameen Match Report

DHL Spec Report