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CEC sticks to his guns

Trashes possibility of resignation, going door to door for updating voter list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz yesterday brushed aside the question of his resignation on grounds of triggering controversy over the preparation of the voter list and apprehension about holding the next election on time.

"There is no fear in our mind about holding the next election on time as no adverse situation prevails," he told reporters at his office.

He, however, still remained rigid on his controversial decision not to visit door to door for updating the existing voter list.

The CEC has been claiming that it is not possible to visit door to door for preparing the voter list since the Supreme Court did not so ordain, but the Election Commission (EC) Secretariat yesterday denied having made the remark.

"It is not true that the judgment of the Appellate Division barred visiting door to door (for preparing the voter list)," the EC Secretariat said in a press release issued upon consulting with the CEC.

"In accordance with the verdict, the EC has initiated the procedure for amendment and deletion of names in the voter list following sub-sections (3) and (4) of rule 20 of the Electoral Rolls Rules, 1982, taking the existing electoral roll into consideration. Besides, anyone can apply in form-7 for inclusion of his name in the voter list," it said.

The sub-sections ask people to come to the district and upazila election offices for inclusion, correction and amendment of names in the voter list.

Ironically, the EC initiative

would require a dead person to apply for deleting their name.

Besides the opposition political parties and electoral experts, a number of senior leaders of ruling BNP also expressed dissatisfaction over the CEC's step for preparing the voter list.

CEC'S RESIGNATION

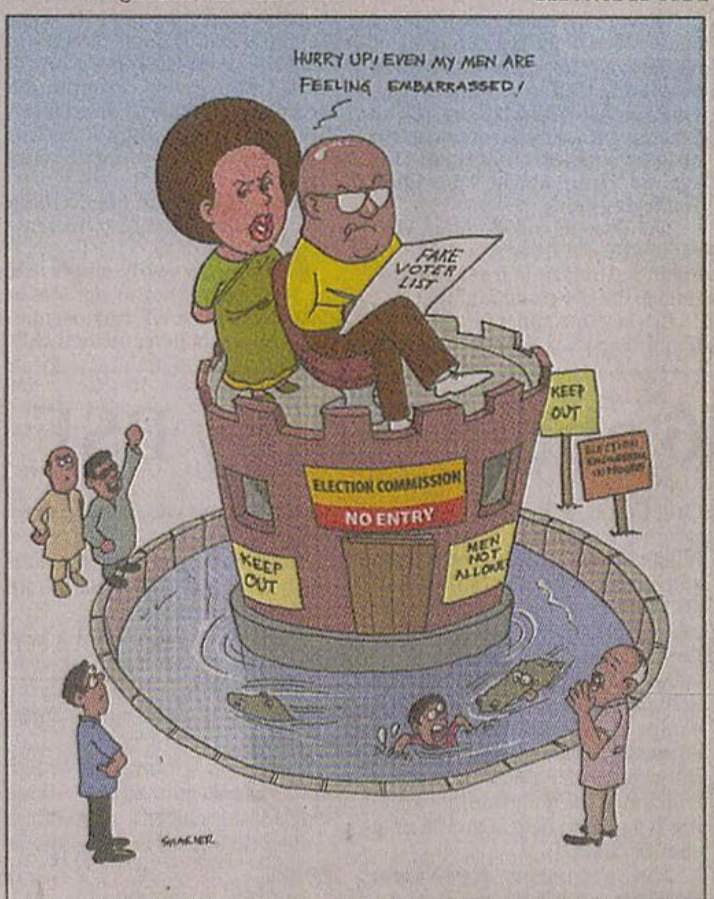
Declining to make any comment on his resignation, the CEC said

asking him whether he will resign is not decent. "It is an unlicensed question. I could not ask anybody such a question," he said.

Asked what if the government removes the "umbrella" over his head, Aziz said, "Then rain and sun will touch my body."

Asked if the president can remove him, he referred to the law

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STATUS OF PRESIDENCY

AL wants JS body to probe problems

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) lawmakers yesterday in the Jatiya Sangsad questioned the present state of the presidency and demanded formation of a parliamentary body to look into what problems President Iajuddin Ahmed is facing in taking his office again.

In a quick response to the opposition lawmakers' criticism, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain said the president is taking rest on physicians' advice and the Speaker is performing as the acting president as per constitutional provi-

sion.

"There is nothing ambiguous and confusing about the status of presidency and there is only one president in the country," said Mosharraf, also ruling BNP's standing committee member. But he did not say anything about the demand for forming the parliamentary body.

Earlier, AL lawmaker Mohammad Nasim on a point of order said Tk 60 lakh was spent from the public exchequer for the president's treatment in Singapore. "He has returned from Singapore after recovering from his illness but he is not taking the

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Ecuadorian forward Carlos Tenorio, left, tries to shoot at the England net as English defender Ashley Cole slides in to block the shot during their World Cup football match at Stuttgart yesterday. England won the match 1-0.

Twin German terrors rule

AFP, Berlin

Germany's youthful attack dogs Lukas Podolski and Miroslav Klose are on the loose with seven goals between them in a young team which has rapidly blossomed in reaching the last eight.

In contrast to Juergen Klinsmann's fresh-faced young guns, who are both Polish-born, quarterfinal rivals Argentina are looking to wily veteran Hernan Crespo, who is determined to take the albiceleste through to a semi-final on the eve of his 31st birthday on July 5.

German assistant coach Oliver Bierhoff says the Germans are firing on all cylinders, with "gold-i-Poldi" Podolski having found the net three times and Klose going one better.

"Miroslav and Podolski have a burning appetite to win. Podolski is a very clever and gifted player. Now he is drawing his reward," said

Bierhoff of the 21-year-old who looked uncomfortable at the start of the tournament before suddenly exploding.

Klose netted twice in the opening match against Costa Rica and

then twice more against Ecuador before Podolski broke his duck with the third goal against the South American minnows.

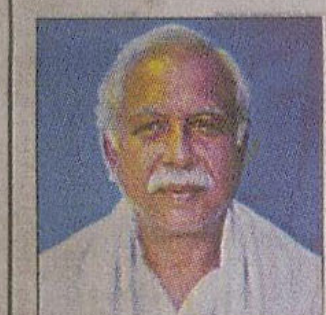
That strike did wonders for the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

TODAY'S MATCHES	TEAM	TIME	VENUE
	Italy v Australia	8:50 pm	Kaiserslautern
	Switzerland v Ukraine	12:50 am (Tuesday)	Cologne

banglalink goal win exciting prizes!! see inside for details

handset partner NOKIA



Minister Akbar passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Veteran freedom fighter also Shipping Minister Lt Col Akbar Hossain (Retd) passed away following a massive cardiac arrest yesterday night. He was 64.

The minister was admitted to ZH Shikder Medical

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HSC exams deferred as teachers stop work

Pry teachers continue their agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Government college teachers yesterday refrained from work across the country forcing the Dhaka Education Board to defer all scheduled Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations.

Meanwhile, the government primary schools and community primary schools across the country remained closed as primary teachers are observing indefinite strike at their work place and hunger strike until death in the capital.

HSC exams of Accounting second paper, Geography second paper and Handicrafts second paper under Dhaka Education

Board were deferred to July 1.

Dhaka Education Board however in a press release said the exams were deferred due to unavoidable circumstances.

Under the banner 'BCS General Education Association', teachers of government colleges, teachers' training colleges and Alia madrasas boycotted classes yesterday demanding making no amendment to the Absorption Rules 2000, ensuring regular promotions, ensuring earned leave and creating new posts.

Masum Rabbani Khan, secretary general of BCS General Education Association told, The Daily Star they will hold a grand

rally on Shikha Bhaban premises

on July 10 with the same demands. Most of the government primary schools and community primary schools across the country remained closed for nine consecutive days due to teachers' strike.

Two groups of government primary school teachers started their hunger strike until death at separate places in the capital from Saturday demanding elimination of wage discrimination and introduction of school-based examination system.

Under the banner 'Bangladesh Primary Teachers Association', over 2,000 government primary

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Allocation for mosque-based edn shot up by 130pc

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Allocation for mosque-based mass education programme has been increased by 130 per cent in the fourth phase of the programme,

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Burnt oil tanker remains submerged

2 crew still missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

The BSC oil tanker MT Banglar Sourabh that caught fire on Saturday remained submerged in the bay at Charley (C) point of the

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