

## Iajuddin retains vital

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Chowdhury got the charge of Power and Energy, Food and Disaster Management, Communications and CHT Affairs Ministries.

Adviser CM Shafi Sami was given the charge of Agriculture, Cultural Affairs and Youth and Sports ministries.

Adviser Dhiraj Kumar Nath was given the Ministries of Fisheries and Livestock, Housing and Public Works and Liberation War Affairs.

Adviser Mahbubul Alam was given the charge of Water Resources, Information and Religious Affairs Ministries.

Adviser M Azizul Huq will look after the Ministries of LGRD, Shipping and Civil Aviation.

Adviser Sufia Rahman was given the Ministries of Health and

Family Welfare, Labour and Employment, and Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment.

Adviser Yasmin Morshed was given the Ministries of Women and Children Affairs, Primary and Mass Education and Social Welfare Ministries.

Adviser Sultana Kamal was given the Ministries of Industries,

## 21 die

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25 of Sherpur upazila in Bogra.

The establishment had been admitted to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital, Rayganj Upazila health complex, Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital and different local clinics in Sirajganj and Bogra towns.

The critically injured eight are identified as Shabur, 35, of Bera in Pabna, Dolon, 21, of Dhunot in Bogra, Shimla, 25, and Shahadat, 28, of Sherpur upazila in Bogra, Chan, 23, of Kazipur in Sirajganj, Selim, 25, of Moulovibazar, Biplob, 26, of Dhunot in Bogra and Nurul, 23, of Ullapara in Sirajganj.

Following the accident, vehicular movement on the road was disrupted for three hours. Besides, hundreds of vehicles got stuck on both side of the road creating a long traffic-jam.

Informed, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. They also sent the bodies to Sirajganj General Hospital Morgue for autopsy.

Higher officials of district administration, including deputy director Aminul Chowdhury visited the spot.

## Focus on Paltan rally

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would go for all-out movements.

"If the chief of the caretaker government says that they need time to meet the demands, we will take an alternative decision. But if he doesn't carry out the immediate tasks then we'll have no alternative but to go for an all-out movement. It would be a countrywide indefinite hartal and blockade programme," senior AL presidium member Amir Hossain Arnu told The Daily Star last night.

Echoing the same, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haque Inu said the caretaker government chief would have to take stern measures to create congenial atmosphere for holding fair elections.

He said Chief Election Commissioner MA Aziz and three other election commissioners are the main barriers to hold a fair election. He demanded that the president should reconstitute the

## Call to make

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Terming the government steps taken in this regard 'too insufficient', the committee at a meeting at the Institutions of Engineers in Dhaka demanded that the skilled, competent and meritorious officials and employees and those who were 'tortured' in various ways in the ministries and other departments be transferred to the posts of those who were involved in the politicisation process.

The committee asked the government to make OSD all who were appointed on contract and demanded posting of 'non-partisan and competent' officials to the offices of the caretaker government chief, president, and Election Commission, ministries of establishment, home and finance, and Cabinet Division.

It also demanded making OSD the heads of Desa, Wasa, public works and housing department, Agriculture Research Institute, Rice Research Institute, directorates of health, drug administration, family welfare and livestock, Agriculture Development Corporation, PDB, BTV and Rajuk, and replace them with 'competent and neutral' officials.

It demanded making OSD all the 'politically appointed' officials at the ministries and departments that will be involved with the conducting of elections.

## LDP offers

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Have amassed a huge amount of national assets in the last five years.

Former speaker and LDP Presidium Member Shaikh Razzak Ali, former MP Ali Zinnah and LDP leader Shahadat Hossain Selim were present on the occasion among others.

## US envoy

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impartial role of the caretaker government to ensure fair elections wherein all political parties could participate.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and BNP Chairperson's Adviser M Morshed Khan were present at the meeting.

Briefing reporters, Morshed Khan said the meeting took place at the request of the US ambassador. He said (diplomats) expressed their concern over the recent violence, which, Butenis said, does not match with the tradition of Bangladesh.

Butenis called for united efforts to overcome the situation and extending all cooperation to the caretaker government in accomplishing its mandated task of holding free and fair elections.

Asked about AL-led 14-party combine's demands, Morshed said it is the matter of caretaker government. "If there is any reasonable demand, the caretaker government can do whatever necessary."

## AL mounts

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BNP standing committee members Khandakar Mahbub Uddin Ahmed, Mirza Abbas, Barkat Ullah Bulu, Aman Ullah Aman and Goyeshwar Roy, Jamaat leaders ATM Ahsanul Islam and Abdul Kader Molla, Jatiya Party leader Humayun Kabir and Bangladesh Jatiya Party (Nazir) Secretary General Saifur Rahman addressed the rally among others.

## Political situation

**FROM PAGE 16**  
delays submission of its report, and an administrator is not appointed soon, stagnation in manpower export to Malaysia will continue," said a Baira member who mainly deals with this issue.

Malaysia also wants transparency in the migration process but Bangladesh will count losses if it delays the process, he said seeking anonymity.

Following withdrawal of the ban on hiring workers from Bangladesh after a decade, Malaysia entrusted Baira with managing the migration issue and asked it to open an office in Kuala Lumpur.

Baira President MAH Salim then opened an office with 10 per cent share held by Baira and the rest by three Malaysians. He also took no approval for this from the Baira executive committee nor held any general meeting of the organisation.

There are allegations that Baira charged at least Ringgit 18,000 or Tk 36,000 more than the fixed rate, raising the migration cost to Tk 1.2 lakh to Tk 2 lakh. Some ministers in the immediate past government also allegedly demanded a share of the extra money.

The adviser stressed more on working together as a team for the objective.

## Pro-BNP

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Station on October 31.

It was mentioned in the cases that the accused made the arson attack on the office room of BSMU Biochemistry Department Chairman and Parishad Secretary General Dr M Iqbal Arslan, and injured a large number of pro-AL doctors.

**JAMAAT CASE**

Another Dhaka court rejected the bail petition of AL activists Shahin and Omar Faruq, arrested in connection with the killings of six Jamaat-e-Islami activists.

The two AL men were sent to the Dhaka Central Jail when they were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka.

Metropolitan Magistrate Abdur Rouf Khan passed the order when Paltan police brought them on completion of their one-day remand.

A Jamaat leader filed the case against AL General Secretary Abdul Jall and 39 others for killing their six activists.

## Jamaat

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second time from another place."

District Election Officer Nurul Hasan Bhuiyan simply said it might have happened due to the data collector's mistake. He however could not say if the mistake could be corrected now.

Data Collector from Ramgarh Munju Prava Dey declined to make any comments.

## Yunus

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Bank head office at Mirpur.

The Nobel laureate returned home Tuesday after a two-week visit to South Korea, China and Japan.

"They handed over the felicitations from their governments and also sought time from me to visit their countries," Yunus told The Daily Star.

About the controversy of President Iajuddin Ahmed's assuming the office of the Chief Adviser, Prof Yunus said, "Since there was no objection from anyone while being sworn in as the chief adviser of the caretaker government, Prof Iajuddin Ahmed has got the endorsement. ...That was good for the country."

"Now there is no time to gossip about the caretaker government appointment. We want a free and fair election in a festive mood," said Yunus.

Prof Yunus is scheduled to visit Sweden and Denmark from December 12 to 13, UK from 14 to 15 and finally France on December 16, informed Yunus.

## Agitation if Iajuddin

**FROM PAGE 1**  
service charge of every item was increased at that time.

"But that time the service charge has not increased on any item--only the user fee rates have been re-fixed while new fees have been fixed on new instruments and facilities such as CT scan, MRI, air-conditioned cabin and other similar items," Mosharraf said.

Health Secretary KM Zafarullah told The Daily Star yesterday, "The orders were circulated 15-20 days ago. But the hospitals delayed declaring it."

However, the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) authorities said they received the circular on Tuesday and they launched the new charges yesterday without any prior notice.

"We still don't know the conditions" for North Korea's return to the talks, Foreign Minister Taro Aso told a parliamentary committee.

"We can't welcome the resumption of the six-way talks with open arms. Basically we will continue with the sanctions," he said.

North Korea said Wednesday it would return to the disarmament talks with South Korea, China, the United States, Japan and Russia on the condition that the issue of lifting US financial sanctions is settled during the negotiations.

The decision came just three weeks after the communist state stunned the world with its first atomic test.

Employees at the Pathology Department of DMCH said they will introduce the new charges from today. Most pathological tests were free for the outdoor and free-bed patients earlier.

**INCREASED CHARGES**

The cost of X-ray imaging for the outdoor and free-bed patients has been increased to Tk 70 for big films and Tk 55 for small ones. The facility was free earlier. The facility will cost the paying bed patients Tk 55 and Tk 45.

Five patients who went for emergency X-ray during 12:00-4:00pm yesterday had to pay for the service was free earlier.

Rahazuddin, 80, admitted in ward No. 22 yesterday, found it difficult to manage Tk 180 for three X-ray imaging of chest and throat.

Ultrasonography, which was free for the free-bed patients, will now cost Tk 110 and Tk 220.

The cost of both single-channel and three-channel ECG tests has been increased to Tk 80 from Tk 66 and Tk 76.

The charge for an air-conditioned cabin, which was Tk 615 per day, has increased to Tk 800.

The price of ticket for first aid, which would cost Tk 5 earlier, has increased to Tk 5.50, while the price of admission form has increased to Tk 11 from Tk 5.50.

Advocate Sultana Kamal said, "We have a tough time ahead, we will have to work with great speed."

Adviser Lt General (retd) Hasan Mashud Chowdhury told reporters that they will start working from today after distribution of portfolios. "We discussed some matters today. You (reporters) will come to know about our activities in time."

The advisers, who were sworn in on Tuesday night, are expected to start working from today after receiving their portfolios.

Talking to The Daily Star last night,

## Medicare

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Monday, reportedly suggested to the cabinet in Jerusalem that Israel apply tactics used by the Russian army in Chechnya, to Gaza.

Israel has repeatedly said it has no intention of reoccupying Gaza, from which it withdrew troops and settlers last year after a 38-year presence.

He also objected to specifying a deadline for the caretaker government to prove its neutrality. "These kind of statements are very bad for the country," he said.

## Japan to keep North Korea sanctions despite nuke talks

**AFP, Tokyo**

Japan will keep up its sanctions against North Korea despite the communist state's decision to return to six-nation talks on nuclear disarmament, senior ministers said yesterday.

They said Japan would only lift the measures, which include a ban on all North Korean imports, if Pyongyang abandons its nuclear programme completely.

"The announced return could be a means of earning time. North Korea is a diplomatically savvy country," Nakagawa told a news conference.

"North Korea is likely to say it is participating in the six-party talks as a nuclear power, but we can't accept that argument," said Nakagawa, who is among the politicians who has called for a debate on whether Japan should develop its own nuclear weapons in response to Pyongyang's test.</