

## AL to take part in polls if EC reconstituted

### Hasina tells Australian HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL) yesterday reiterated that it would participate in the next parliamentary election only after reconstitution of the Election Commission (EC) and removal of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz.

AL President Sheikh Hasina during a meeting with Australian High Commissioner Douglas Foskett at Sudha Sadan in the city told the envoy that they want a free and fair election and for this they are demanding reconstitution of the EC.

She also told the envoy that the previous government had appointed the CEC on political ground and a free and fair election

is not possible under his supervision.

During the meeting, the AL-led 14-party's 11-point demand and deadline for caretaker government (CG), current political situation and issues relating to international observers came up for discussion.

Briefing newsmen after the lengthy meeting, AL Presidium Member Kazi Zafarullah said, "We want a level playing field before taking part in the next election."

He said they have informed the high commissioner of their concern about the attitude of President-cum-Chief Adviser to the CG Iajuddin Ahmed.

He said it seems that BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is control-

ling the CG from behind the scene.

"We have told the high commissioner that despite our repeated calls and giving times to CG to implement our demands to create a congenial atmosphere for a free and fair election, we have not seen any neutral actions by the chief adviser," Zafarullah said.

Asked about further extension of time to meet their 11-point demand following the reported requests by some foreign diplomats, he said, "Our friendly countries feel that enough time has been given to the caretaker government to meet the demands."

Briefing journalists Foskett said they hope the election would be free, fair and credible.

## Person from tribal community should head CHT affairs: Larma

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Politicians and intellectuals in a statement yesterday demanded that former army chief Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury relinquish the charge of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Affairs ministry.

In the statement, they alleged that Hasan Mashhud, who once served as a brigade chief in the hill tracts, has been made the CHT affairs adviser in violation of the peace accord that ended decades-long unrest in the region.

CHT Regional Council Chairman Santu Larma, who signed the accord with the then government in 1997, said a competent person from the tribal community should head the CHT affairs ministry as mandated by the peace agreement.

Torture and repression are still on in the hills, read the statement.

It also called for removal of former lawmaker of Khagrachhari from the post of CHT Development Board chairman and said the responsibilities should be handed over to Santu Larma.

Communist Party of Bangladesh President Monzurul Ahsan Khan, indigenous leader Sanjeeb Dron, Santal community leader Rabindranath Soren, Professor Ajay Roy, journalists Prafulla Bhakta, Arun Karmakar and Golam Murtaza were among the signatories to the statement.



PHOTO: STAR

Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon speaks at a discussion marking the 23rd death anniversary of MN Larma, a tribal leader, at the National Press Club in the yesterday. On his right is Jyotindra Bodhipriyo Larma, chairman of Regional Council for Chittagong Hill Tracts.

## Youth remains untraced even after 13 days of abduction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are still in the dark about the whereabouts of a youth who was allegedly kidnapped in the city 13 days ago.

Turza Ghosh Rony, son of Jagannath Ghosh and owner of Purabi Jewellers, went missing after he went out of their Dhanmondi showroom riding a motorbike on October 29.

He looked after Dhanmondi branch of Purabi Jewellers. A day after his missing, a man identifying himself as Robin made a phone call to Jagannath from Turza's mobile and demanded Tk 1 crore in ransom.

Later on October 31, the kidnappers again made a phone call to Turza's father and demanded

Tk 10 lakh and 10 tolas gold with the promise that Turza would be set free within one hour of getting the ransom.

But the kidnappers did not free Turza despite getting the money and gold and stopped all sorts of communication with him.

However, the kidnappers again demanded Tk 4 lakh in ransom on Thursday to free him.

Jagannath told The Daily Star that the kidnappers made the fresh demand in a message through his cell phone.

He said they are living in extreme uncertainty as they know nothing about their son.

Meanwhile, Uttara police have taken Hira Lal, former employee of Purabi Jewellers and Azim, a friend of Turza, who were arrested

from Old Dhaka and Uttara on Wednesday, into a 2-day remand on suspicion of their involvement with abduction.

Quoting the arrestees Sub-Inspector (SI) Gias Uddin told The Daily Star that Turza was used to take drugs and had some illicit relation with women.

He (Turza) might have been abducted centring illicit affairs, Gias added.

The SI also said they are conducting raids at different areas in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country.

Turza's family filed an abduction case with Uttara Police Station on November 7.

Police recovered the motorbike of Turza from a building at Segun Bagicha recently.



PHOTO: STAR

Australian High Commissioner Douglas Foskett calls on Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence in the city yesterday.

## 3 suspected JMB militants arrested in Ctg

UNB, Chittagong

Three suspected JMB militants were arrested from Bakolia in Chittagong city yesterday afternoon.

The arrested were identified as Wahid, 23, Humayun Kabir, 23, and Abdur Rahim, 26. All of them hail from Barisal district.

Acting on a tip-off, plainclothes police raided a house at Miakhannagar at about 4:30pm and arrested the three.

Sources said they had information that the three suspects who came here three months ago were planning to carry out subversive activities in the area.

## Schoolboy killed in road accident

UNB, Benapole

A schoolboy was killed in a road accident at Bagachhra Beltala in Sharsha upazila yesterday.

The boy was identified as Sabuj Hossain, 13, a student of class VI of Bagachhra Kota High School.

Police said the boy died on the spot when a Jessore-bound bus hit him while he was crossing the road in the afternoon.

Angered by the accident, local people put up a barricade on the road, disrupting traffic movement for about an hour. Later, police brought the situation under control.

A case was filed in this connection.

## Ex-BNP MP Shahidul Islam Passes away

UNB, Dhaka

Chudanga district BNP general secretary and ex-MP Shahidul Islam Biswas passed away at Ibn Sina Clinic in the city last night at the age of 59.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held in front of the BNP central office at 11:00am today.

Another janaza will be held at his village home at Bujuk Gargari in Chudanga. He will be buried at his family graveyard.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan expressed profound shock at the death of Shahidul Islam, also a founder member of Jubo Dal.

They prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

## CPB threatens tough agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday threatened to launch tough agitation programmes across the country if President and Chief Adviser to the caretaker government Iajuddin Ahmed fails to take necessary steps to conduct a free and fair election by today.

At a rally at Mukhtangan in the city, the CPB leaders also demanded reconstitution of the Election Commission (EC) and depoliticisation of the administration

by today. They said that the chief adviser is still following the direction of the BNP-Jamaat alliance, rather than proving himself to be neutral.

He also violated the constitution and his oath by saying that the present form of government has become a presidential form of government, they alleged.

He also ignored other advisers to the caretaker government through such remarks, they added. CPB President Monzurul Ahsan Khan presided over the rally.



PHOTO: STAR

Garment Sramik Federation stages a demonstration at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday demanding declaration of national minimum wage.



## No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain or drizzle is likely at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Barisal, Khulna, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said in a forecast.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 32.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and the lowest of 21.0 degrees at Jessore, Sayerpur and Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:14pm today and rises at 6:11am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in in celsius	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	27.8	23.6	82	80
Chittagong	31.4	23.0	81	76
Rajshahi	25.2	21.8	90	94
Khulna	27.0	22.2	82	91
Barisal	27.4	22.2	93	93
Sylhet	27.5	22.4	89	79
Cox's Bazar	32.5	24.0	79	78

## DU reopens today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Amid apprehension of violence on the campus, Dhaka University (DU) reopens today after month-long Eid and Puja vacation and 11-day unscheduled closure.

The university was scheduled to reopen on October 30, but the authorities had extended the vacation twice due to volatile political situation.

As the political impasse continues, many students, particularly examinees, are worried whether classes and examinations will be held as per schedule.

However, DU administration sources confirmed that the academic activities will resume today.

They added that if the situation on the campus worsens, the authorities may suspend classes and examinations again.

Against the backdrop of present unstable situation, all the examinations of fourth year honours courses under Arts Faculty have been suspended until January.

## Iajuddin

FROM PAGE 1  
November 12, he has failed to do so, Jali said.

Prior to the briefing, the 14-party leaders held an emergency meeting at Jali's residence with AL Presidium Member Abdur Razzak in the chair.

Reacting to the president's Thursday speech that equated the present government with the presidential one, Jali said the non-party caretaker government is the outcome of a parliamentary system.

The chief adviser enjoys the powers and privileges of the prime minister and his main responsibility is to oversee elections within 90 days and hand over power to an elected government.

Demanding immediate action against the president, Jali, who is also AL general secretary, said Iajuddin is conspiring to demolish the hard-earned parliamentary form of government to establish dictatorship in the country only to implement the political agenda of BNP-Jamaat alliance.

He said the president assumed the office of the chief adviser violating the constitution and concentrated all powers in his hand by merging the offices of the president and the chief adviser.

Instead of creating a neutral environment for a free and fair election, the president is implementing the BNP-Jamaat's agenda, the AL stalwart said, adding that BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia sent MK Anwar to ask the chief election commissioner to remain adamant not to resign so that a 'blue-print' election can be held.

Making a flashback to the history of political treachery, the AL leader said the time has come for the president to play either the role of Nawab Sirajuddowla or that of Mir Zafar.

If the 14-party demands are not met by the deadline to create a neutral environment for a free and fair election, downtown Dhaka will be made isolated from other parts of the country, district and upazila headquarters will be brought to a standstill and all ports will be shut off, Jali said.

Among others, senior 14-party leaders Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Motia Chowdhury, Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Obaidul Quader, Rashed Khan Menon, Hasanul Haque Inu, Abdur Rahman, Pankaj Bhattacharya, Nurul Islam and Dilip Barua were present at the press briefing.



PHOTO: STAR

BNP stages a demonstration in front of its party office at Naya Paltan in the city yesterday protesting countrywide 'killing and anarchy'.

## PMO handled admin with eyes on polls

FROM PAGE 1

were also superseded in giving promotions.

Sources said an officer who was in the 122nd position on the combined merit list of the 1979 batch got promoted as a secretary superseding at least six officers whose positions were among the first 30 on the list prepared by the Public Service Commission (PSC) and who had all the prerequisites for promotions.

The present secretary to the Election Commission (EC), Abdur Rashid Sarker, superseded many competent officers in getting the promotion while his position was 52nd on the combined merit list.

Citing examples of violating promotion rules, a source said Dr M Fouzul Kabir Khan and Dr M Zahid Hossain did not get promotions despite fulfilling all requirements and having good positions on the combined merit list. "Dr Fouzul Kabir Khan was in the second position while Dr M Zahid Hossain in the sixth on the merit list for promotions," the source said.

The source also said both Dr Fouzul Kabir Khan and Dr Zahid Hossain are prominent economists. "Financing Big Projects, a book written by Dr Khan has been selected as a text in Stanford University of the United States and he is now working on lien for Asian Development Bank," the source added.

On January 10, 2005, the law ministry in its report stated that both Dr Fouzul Kabir Khan and Dr Zahid Hossain were eligible to get promotions along with other officials of their batch. Later, the SSB also recommended them for promotions as additional secretaries and immediate past prime minister Khaleda Zia approved it on February 22, 2005. But, till date the order has not

been activated. Both the officials are now working on lien and think that it is better to be where they are rather than getting back to the civil service since officers junior to them will be their bosses now.

Another officer of the administration cadre M Quddus Khan was also not given a due promotion when his position was the eighth on the combined merit list of the 1979 batch.

Widely known as an honest officer of the same batch Badiur Rahman also was deprived of a due promotion, while the last government promoted Syed Mohammad Zobayer, an officer junior to him, to the post of a secretary. "Badiur Rahman took a leave of absence since officers junior to him had been promoted by superseding him," said a relative of Badiur adding, "This is a protest."

"A syndicate in the Prime Minister's Office tested political leanings of government officials before giving promotions and deprived the officials whom it disliked or who could not prove their political loyalty, or who did not bribe the syndicate," said a high-ranking bureaucrat, who is now an OSD allegedly for political reasons.

In an alleged bid to axe officers of the 1973 batch, the four-party alliance government introduced the promotion rules 2002. But, despite having all requirements, as stated in the new promotion rules, at least eight officers eligible to be promoted to posts of secretaries and 20 officers eligible for posts of additional secretaries have yet to get the promotions.

The main objective of the new promotion rules was to axe the 1973 batch and bolster the 1979 batch, sources said adding that the new promotion rules did not define

specifically the meanings of merit, competence and seniority.

One source cited from the new rules and said it allocated 25 marks out of 100 for educational qualifications gained prior to joining the service. But, no mark was allocated for in-service trainings, higher degrees, researches, publications and professional examinations.

A total of 113 officers of the 1981 batch were listed on the basis of merit positions for promotions to posts of additional secretaries. Sources said at least 12 officers of the first 40 on the list did not get promotions while the last person (113th) on the merit list was promoted.

Jamil Osman, who was in the third position on the merit list for promotion as an additional secretary and in the first position among other officers of his own cadre (Taxers) did not get the promotion although the SSB recommended him for the post. Similarly, ATM Fazlul Karim (9th) and Rokeya Sultana (12th) were also deprived of due promotions.

MAK Mahmood, an officer of the 1978 batch in the foreign service, is another example of deprivation who has been an OSD for the last three years. He had been the director general of the foreign ministry before being made an OSD in September, 2003. Prior to that position, Mahmood was the consul general of the Bangladesh Mission in the US. Meanwhile, many officials junior to him have been promoted causing frustration for him.

## Constitutional recognition of hill people demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday paid tributes to Manabendra Narayan Larma, a veteran tribal leader popularly known as MN Larma.

They also called for constitutional recognition of hill people and said it is the time to have this recognition.

The discussion was organised by Bangladesh Adibashi Forum and Bangladesh Adibashi Adhikar at the National Press Club in the city on the occasion of the 23rd death anniversary of MN Larma.

The speakers said MN Larma was the pioneer of Jhoom nationalism.

The Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Agreement was his brainchild, they added.

MN Larma dreamt a new lifestyle for hill people based on changed reality, said Jyotindra Bodhipriyo Larma, alias Shantu Larma, chairman of Regional Council for Chittagong Hill Tracts.

If MN Larma were alive, things would have been different in the hills, Shantu added.

Communist Party of Bangladesh President Manjurul Ahsan Khan said the fate of tribal people will not change unless their exploitations end.

Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon criticised both Awami League and BNP governments for not implementing the peace agreement.

JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu, Gono Forum leader Pankaj Bhattacharya, Ajoy Roy, Sanjib Dron, Rabindranath Soren, Nirmal Chakrabarty and Golam Mortaza also spoke.

## Prof Shamsul Haque new NUB VC

BSS, Dhaka

Former Treasurer of Dhaka University Prof M Shamsul Haque has been appointed as Vice-Chancellor of Northern University Bangladesh (NUB).

Outgoing Vice-Chancellor of NUB Prof Mohammad Ali handed over charges to Prof Shamsul Haque at a simple ceremony yesterday.

Prof Shamsul Haque was also the director of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) of DU and Vice-Chancellor of City University.



## Birth centenary of Qazi Md Idris today

Today is the centenary of the birth of Qazi Mohammad Idris, an eminent journalist, litterateur, teacher and organiser, says a press release.

He was born on this day in 1906 at Munshipara in Rangpur.

On the occasion, Qazi Mohammad Idris Birth Centenary Observance Council will hold a discussion and a cultural programme at Sufia Kamal Auditorium at the National Museum in the city at 4:00pm tomorrow. Prof Kabir Chowdhury will chair the programme.

## DHAKA TODAY

**Roundtable**  
The Forum of Engineers and Architects, Bangladesh will hold a roundtable titled 'Want a corruption-free, non-partisan, free and fair election'. Venue: Engineers' Institution. Time: 2:30pm.

**CD launch**  
Foundation for Education Research and Innovation (Feri) will launch an animation CD titled 'Shohoje Gani'. Venue: Teachers' Training College auditorium. Time: 3:30pm.

**Roundtable**  
Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad will hold a roundtable titled 'The responsibilities of freedom fighters in the prevailing political crisis of the nation'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

**Rotary Dhaka Central**  
Regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.