



Students who came out successful in the MBBS admission test form a human chain in front of the Chittagong Press Club yesterday urging the authorities not to cancel the test results.

## Reconstitute EC, then declare polls schedule

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not be acceptable to the people without following the rules. The AL leader also asked him to take immediate measures to correct the voter list by excluding the names of 1.40 crore 'fake' voters.

"We have told the president that no election will be free and fair with this 'ghost' voter list," Jalil said, adding that he also told the president that at a free and fair election is not possible keeping SM Zakaria as an election commissioner.

Jalil demanded that the president remove SM Zakaria from the EC and immediately appoint two election commissioners who would be 'non-partisan and neutral'.

"The president/CA informed us that the Election Commission will announce the polls schedules. He assured us of taking measures so that the commission follows the rules

and regulation in this regard," Jalil said.

After a two-hour meeting with the interim government chief at the Bangabhaban, Jalil told reporters that they also asked him to try the officials involved in the "Uttara conspiracy".

"It was a conspiracy against the state and a plot to rig the upcoming parliamentary election. We have asked him [Iajuddin] to punish those officials from secretary to UNO levels and others connected with them in line with the country's laws after a proper 14-party tells Iajuddin not to declare poll schedule before EC reconstitution investigation," Jalil said.

The delegation went to the Bangabhaban a few hours after filing of three writ petitions challenging Iajuddin's holding the position of caretaker government chief and

activities of the Election Commission.

In the evening, the 14-party held a meeting at AL's Dhanmondi office with AL President Member Suranjit Sengupta in the chair.

BNP chairperson's speech that CEC MAAziz might return anytime is a part of their election engineering conspiracy, Abdul Jalil said.

Although publication of voter list is a prerequisite to announcing polls schedules as per the constitution, Khaleda Zia has been making illogical demands for announcement of the schedules, he said.

About Khaleda's claims that the media manipulated the price hike, Jalil said the BNP chairperson told lies.

The AL leader said that price of essentials including the agriculture related materials and education related materials hiked up due to the BNP-Jamaat syndicates.

Khaleda Zia will not be able to escape public wrath by shifting blame on the media over price hike of essentials. The people who have witnessed the price hike will give her a proper answer through ballot in the coming election," he added.

Suranjit Sengupta demanded suspension of the government officials involved in 'conspiracy' with Mahmudur Rahman.

Those present at the briefing included Rokanuddin Mahmud, Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Obaidul Quader, Rashed Khan Menon, Hasanul Haque Inu, Akhteruzzaman, Abdul Mannan, Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed, Abdur Rahman, M Mokammel Haque, Bimal Biswas, Nurul Islam and Pankaj Bhattacharya.

"The way they were hiding their faces gives the impression that they were coming out from a red-light area. I denounce them. I hate them. Those who behaved like that did not have guts. They do not have any idea of the code of conduct of civil servants," Home Secretary ASM Zahirul Islam said.

"Our intelligence is now investigating the matter," he added.

Referring to the media's naming the home secretary as one of the officials involved in 'Uttara conspiracy' meeting, he said, "I denounce the journalists who named me and the inspector general of police. This was a figment of imagination."

"If the home secretary or the IGP makes a visit anywhere, that can not

be hidden," he said, adding, "Besides, why should we go there?"

The 'Uttara conspiracy' meeting attended by quite a few senior government servants became a matter of discussion among the officers and employees at the secretariat yesterday.

Expressing their grievances to the press, several officials said the dubious act of the few has given the administration a bad name.

They termed it the 'end result of politicisation' of the administration and said perhaps selected officials were being used for manipulation of the upcoming elections.

**Folic acid can cut heart attack risk: Experts**

REUTERS, London

Can taking folic acid supplements reduce the risk of heart disease and stroke? British researchers believe it can.

After analysing evidence from earlier studies, a team of scientists in Britain said Friday that there is enough research that shows folic acid lowers levels of the amino acid homocysteine and reduces the odds of cardiovascular disease.

"The evidence is very persuasive that lowering homocysteine with folic acid will lower your risk of heart attack and stroke by about 10-20 percent," David Wald, of the Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine, Barts and the London, Queen Mary School of Medicine and Dentistry in London, said in an interview.

Folic acid is a synthetic compound of folate, a B vitamin found in green leafy vegetables and liver. Women are advised to take folic acid before conceiving and during the early months of pregnancy to prevent neural tube disorders such as spina bifida.

Homocysteine is thought to increase the risk of cardiovascular disease by damaging the inner lining of arteries.

Wald and his team analysed results of large cohort trials looking at homocysteine and heart attacks and strokes in mainly healthy people and others that tested the effects of lowering levels of the amino acid.

## 'Appoint new CA'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Palli Chikitsak Samity demanded the resignation of President/Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed at a meeting at their central office in the city yesterday, says a press release.

They threatened to forge an all out movement if their demands for appointing a new caretaker chief, reforming Election Commission and annulment of the fake voter

list are not met immediately.

The president/chief adviser actually frustrated the nation through his 'midnight' speech, said the Samity leaders. They also said since patriotism is not a monopoly, they have the right to suggest things for country's betterment and they would strengthen the movement to press home their demands with assistance from the rural people.



Dr Stefan Frowein, head of the Delegation of the EC in Dhaka, speaks at the launching ceremony of EU Election Road Show at the Chittagong Press Club yesterday.

**RU officials observe token hunger strike**

RU CORRESPONDENT

Officials and employees of Rajshahi University (RU) under the banner of 'Officer and Karmachari Oikya Parishad' observed a four hour token hunger strike yesterday in front of the university administrative building demanding realisation of their five-point demand including regularisation of the jobs of 31 employees.

The agitating staff declared that if their demands are not met within November 30, they would observe similar hunger strikes again on December 2 and 3.

And if the authorities do not regularise their jobs within December 9, they would go for a fast-unto-death.

The five-point include extension of the service age from 60 to 65, stopping 20 per cent deduction from the pension, maintaining service quota in the university for their dependants and regularisation of the jobs of 31 employees.

Meanwhile, Rajshahi University Vice Chancellor Prof Altaf Hossain in a written statement explained that the extension of service age is not activated in any public universities of the country, so RU authorities have no plan to increase the service age of the staff.

University authorities have formed a seven-member committee to settle the dispute, he added.

Regarding deduction of 20 per cent of the pension, he explained that the university authorities are consulting the issue with University Grants Commission, education ministry and finance ministry.

## No investigation initiated yet

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The conduct of the officials joining a secret meeting is unbecoming of government servants, Finance Adviser Akbar Ali Khan said, adding, "We are going through a process for election. At this hour we should not keep such controversial officials in election-related duties."

"As a former government employee, I am shocked by their behaviour. Government officers cannot escape like thieves (as newspaper photographs show).

"If they were doing anything good there [Mahmudur Rahman's Uttara office], there was no reason to try to escape like thieves. This has created a deep suspicion.

"If that was a social visit, why did

they turn off light, hide their faces and run away?

"They have tarnished the image of the government and their own. Legal measures should be taken against them," Akbar said.

Housing Ministry Adviser Dhiraj Kumar Nath, who is also a member of the caretaker government's administrative restructuring committee, said he had asked the Cabinet Division and the establishment ministry to take necessary steps in this regard.

"We are looking into it very seriously because neutrality of the administration is very important," Nath said.

"The establishment ministry is under the president. We expect there would be a good action soon," he added.

"Our intelligence is now investigating the matter," he added.

Referring to the media's naming the home secretary as one of the officials involved in 'Uttara conspiracy' meeting, he said, "I denounce the journalists who named me and the inspector general of police. This was a figment of imagination."

"If the home secretary or the IGP makes a visit anywhere, that can not

be hidden," he said, adding, "Besides, why should we go there?"

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Expressing their grievances to the press, several officials said the dubious act of the few has given the administration a bad name.

They termed it the 'end result of politicisation' of the administration and said perhaps selected officials were being used for manipulation of the upcoming elections.

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