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## 4 advisers resign in frustration

### Crisis deepens, Iajuddin moves to bring them back

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The persisting political crisis seems to have deepened further as in an unprecedented move, four advisers to the caretaker government (CG) finally resigned yesterday seething with frustration over President and Chief Adviser (CA) Iajuddin Ahmed's frequent unilateral actions on election issues.

Adviser Dr Akbar Ali Khan, Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury, CM Shafi Sami and Sultana Kamal sent their resignation letters to the president in the morning.

Later they told reporters that despite hectic efforts, they could not contribute anymore to create a congenial atmosphere for holding the next parliamentary election, and decided to resign.

The president, who did not accept the resignation letters until 12:00 last night, however, sent Adviser Dhiraj Kumar Nath to the four advisers to persuade them to reconsider their decision to resign.

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Akbar Ali Khan



Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury



CM Shafi Sami



Sultana Kamal

### No scope for work

#### Reason 4 advisers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Advisers, who yesterday submitted resignation, said they decided to quit as the present circumstances do not allow them to perform their responsibility for creating a congenial atmosphere to hold a free and fair election.

They expressed utter dissatisfaction over the

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### Fair polls far cry

#### Feel former advisers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Advisers to previous caretaker governments yesterday feared the resignation of the four advisers might render the interim government dysfunctional, add to the instability, and diminish the prospects for holding a free, fair and credible election.

The former advisers also said President and Chief

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### President dates with controversy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Iajuddin Ahmed, who assumed the office of chief adviser (CA) to the caretaker government (CG) triggering a constitutional debate, has been giving rise to incessant controversies since then by taking unilateral decisions one after another on electoral issues.

The latest raging presidential controversy over Iajuddin's yet another unilateral decision of deploying the armed forces prompted four of the advisers to the CG to resign.

In the last 44 days, Iajuddin decided unilaterally three times to deploy the armed forces, appointed two election commissioners --- one of whom had been

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## FOUR ADVISERS' RESIGNATION Donors shocked, worried

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh's major development partners were shocked and worried about the functioning of the caretaker government following resignation of four advisers, halfway through the election process.

The US, UK, Germany and Canada appreciated the advisers' hard work to create a positive political climate for the upcoming elections and said their resignation is unfortunate.

A spokesman for the US embassy told the news agency that the advisers' resignation would pose a serious challenge to the concept of neutral and nonparty caretaker government.

"Their decision that they could no longer serve effectively, and that they had no recourse but resignation, is unfortunate and a serious challenge to the concept of a neutral and nonpartisan caretaker government," the spokesman said. He hoped that the chief adviser

would take steps to break the political impasse afflicting the nation.

British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury took it as an unfortunate development that "creates uncertainty over the functioning of the interim administration".

German Ambassador Frank Meyke noted that the resignation of such dedicated patriots showed the seriousness of the situation.

The envoy stressed the need for a democratic solution to the crisis to ensure free and fair elections.

Canadian High Commissioner Barbara Richardson said Canada is concerned to hear of the resignation of four advisers and the stated reasons for this unprecedented action.

She said the advisers accepted a very difficult task at a critical moment and they worked with integrity and diligence to honour that obligation.

Their departure will be a  
SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

## Armed forces may launch arms recovery drive today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The armed forces personnel deployed on Monday across the country may launch illegal arms recovery operations today.

Sources said the commanding officers of the armed forces held meetings with the officers of different law enforcement agencies to determine modus operandi of the

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## Good senses should prevail Prof Yunus hopes

INAM AHMED, from Oslo

Nobel Peace Prize winner Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday hoped that "good sense would prevail" upon every one to come out of the present political crisis in the country.

"I had proposed a way, but  
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## Iajuddin must quit now as chief adviser

### 14-party demands; set to form greater alliance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming President Iajuddin Ahmed the "mastermind" of all crises, the Awami League (AL) led 14-party alliance yesterday once again firmly demanded his immediate resignation from the post of chief

adviser in the interest of holding a free and fair election.

Sources said the alliance will form an even greater alliance with Jatiya Oikya Front, Jatiya Party (Ershad), Islami Oikya Front, Zaker Party and other parties and will launch a movement to press home

their one-point demand--the chief adviser's resignation.

The decision for the one-point movement came from a Presidium meeting of the AL at its Dhanmondi office last night. The meeting was postponed until 6:00pm today.

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## Polls to be held in time

### Says acting CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Acting Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Justice Mahfuzur Rahman yesterday expressed hope that the upcoming general election will be held in time.

Talking live to a private TV channel on the EC premises, he declined to make any comment on resignation of the four advisers and troops deployment.

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## ADVISERS' RESIGNATION BNP hopes they would come back

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has expressed hope that the four advisers, who stepped down yesterday, would join their posts again and carry out their duties once the president and chief adviser has a talk with them.

"I hope they will withdraw their resignations after the president talks to them and continue their activities as advisers to the caretaker government for holding a free and fair election," he said at a press briefing yesterday at the BNP Central Office in Dhaka.

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## 6 advisers not giving up hope of fair polls

### Expect president to ask the four advisers to stay put

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The six advisers to the caretaker government, who are continuing in their jobs, played down the resignations of four of their colleagues yesterday saying it will not create any constitutional crisis nor will it sap the spirit of the government.

They categorically said the upcoming general election will be held on schedule and in a free and fair manner.

They also hoped that the president will request their resigning colleagues to withdraw their resignation letters or will fill the vacant

posts soon by appointing others.

They said deploying the armed forces for domestic police work is within the jurisdiction of the president but not of the caretaker government, yet the president decided to deploy the armed forces after discussing the matter with the council of advisers.

Law Adviser Justice Fazlul Haque said, "If anyone wishes to quit for personal reasons no one can force them to stay."

He said to overcome the problem the president can request the resigning advisers to withdraw

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ই-মেইল: sbiho@bangla.net, সুইফট: SDBLBDDH, www.standardbankbd.com