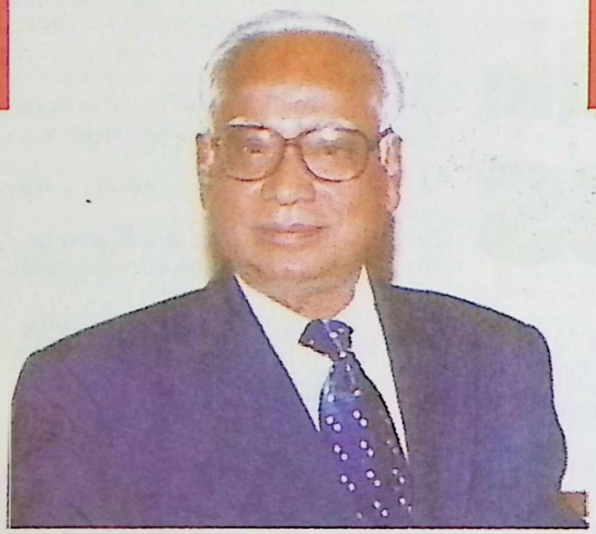
Iajuddin Speaks



PROFESSOR Iajuddin has made many questionable statements since he took over the position of Chief Advisor.

Last Saturday he added to his list of quotable quotes by saying "I'm committed to handing over power to an elected government through holding election in time. I seek cooperation from all in protecting the constitution." This is the same person who flouted the constitution openly as he assumed the role of Chief Advisor. It seems strange that he of all people should champion its cause. He also quoted others at will, reminding everyone of Sheikh Hasina's speech six years ago when he outlined how and why the constitution should be followed to the letter. His ironic usage of Hasina's speech was possibly not the most professional thing to do.

Iajuddin went on to say "I all along have tried to bring all political parties in the election process. But if any political party feels it's a right to withdraw from the race at the eleventh hour of the election process, nothing can be said." When one hears him say that he has tried to bring all the political parties together for the upcoming elections, that should be taken with a very liberal pinch of salt. Because his words do not match up with actions, so far.

He further enraged the public by saying "Being a teacher, I always discharged my responsibility impartially. I had to ignore other parties in accommodating the demands of the agitating parties during the tenure of the caretaker government. Despite that question of my impartiality has been raised with a motive," His respect amongst peers reached new lows when the day after that statement 455 teachers from Dhaka university signed a petition asking him to resign. They demanded a neutral person to be appointed as per the constitution, which he holds to dear.

Last but not least he said "the January 22 election will be held in a free, fair and impartial manner". No comments....

Random Arrests

GOING a step further with violation of human rights, the police forces have been carrying out mass arrests in Dhaka city last week. These random arrests, carried out to attain a terror free land during the times of the choosing of a possible leader for Bangladesh, actually has city dwellers terrified. Ordinary citizens now think twice before going out of their homes, be it for a medical emergency or work. Family members of the random arrestees spend days and nights standing outside the police stations to somehow get them out.

Last week, eight Dhaka metropolitan magistrates granted bail to over 300 people, held as part of the mass arrest drive, in connection with the cases filed against them with different police stations in the capital. Police had forwarded over 383 arrestees to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court, showing them arrested in different criminal cases. The CMM's court had fixed a date last week for hearing the bail petitions of the people arrested on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, although they were produced before the court on different dates after their arrest. The court had even sent them to the Dhaka Central Jail.

The victims were shown arrested in different criminal cases, especially in theft, illegal trespass and criminal intimidation, where most of the cases were nothing but made up by the authorities.



AL leaders claimed that most of the arrested were their leaders and activists. Many innocent day labourers, drivers, rickshawpullers and passers-by also fell victim to the mass arrest.