

Between despair and hope



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A pall of despair set in over the nation when, on October 29, 2006, President Iajuddin Ahmed took over as the chief adviser (CA) of the non-party caretaker government. He couldn't break out of his party adherence and dictates. It became increasingly obvious, the way he started to manage the electoral process, that he was promoting the interest of a particular alliance without regard to national interests and the people's aspirations.

The overhanging cloud kept thickening, with the nation plunging into violent political confrontations. His prime responsibility as the CA was to create the necessary environment for free, fair, and peaceful parliamentary elections. But he failed to take action to remove the stumbling blocks, and the country kept sliding towards an ever-deeper political crisis, with violent street clashes and destruction of lives and property.