



PHOTO: PID  
Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain administers the oath to newly appointed Election Commissioner Brig Gen (Retd) M Sakhawat Hossain at CJ's office in the city yesterday.

# Polls after level playing field for all parties

## Says foreign affairs adviser

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Elections will be held after the completion of all tasks needed to create a level playing field for all parties, said Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhâr Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday.

He said this at a regular briefing when asked about the US State Department's reported plea to hold the elections in the country "as early as possible".

He also said the people of Bangladesh would create their own destiny by solving their problems themselves, not at the dictates of outsiders.

"Bangladesh is in charge of its own destiny," he said.

When asked whether the foreign diplomats are interfering

in internal affairs by making comments on domestic politics frequently, the adviser said they (foreign diplomats) have the right to show their "interest" in Bangladesh but do not have the right to "interfere".

"Bangladeshis are now sitting in the driving seat to build their own destiny," he said with confidence. "We will make our own efforts to resolve the problems we are facing."

About the voting rights of Bangladeshi expatriates, he said it is a longstanding demand placed by the Bangladeshis having dual citizenship, but there are some practical difficulties that need to be worked out.

The adviser informed the diplomatic correspondents that

Prime Minister of Kuwait Naser Mohammad al Ahmed al Jaber al Sabah has warmly congratulated Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed on his appointment as the chief adviser to the caretaker government.

Kuwait Ambassador in Bangladesh Abdullah al-Mawash met Iftekhâr Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday and handed over the felicitation letter. The advisor termed the felicitation letter as "significant".

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan High Commissioner in Dhaka V Krishnamoorthy called on the foreign affairs adviser yesterday morning and appreciated the measures taken by the caretaker government to bring "real democracy" to Bangladesh.

## KILLING OF BCL LEADER Hasina demands arrest of 'BNP criminals'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to those "BNP criminals" who killed Sonagazi Upazila unit Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader Mahfuzul Haque.

Protesting and condemning the killing, Hasina in a statement said the BNP armed carders killed several thousand leaders and workers of AL and its front organisations during the regime of the coalition government.

Local "BNP" carders allegedly attacked Mahfuzul Haque at Sonapur Bazar on February 5, leaving him critically injured. The BCL leader succumbed to his injuries at a private hospital yesterday. His body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

AL Joint General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday placed wreaths at the body at DMCH on behalf of Hasina.

Hasina expressed deep shock at his death and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family. She also prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Hasina in a separate statement also expressed her deep shock at the death of Amatur Rahman Nazul, AL organising secretary of Bajitpur Poura unit in Kishoreganj. She prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

## Book on Bangla language to be launched today

The Society for Environment and Human Development (SEHD) will launch a book titled 'Bangla language, literature and culture movement' in Bengali by Prof Rafiqul Islam at Nazrul Mancha at the Bangla Academy at 5:00pm today, says a press release.

Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman is the chief guest at the launching ceremony. Prof Anisuzzaman and Prof Sakhawat Ali Khan will attend the function as special guest and speaker.