



COMPLIMENTARY

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## President flies to Singapore for check-up

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed left for Singapore in the early hours yesterday on a five-day visit to undergo medical check-up.

A regular flight of Singapore Airlines, carrying the president and his entourage, took off from Zia International Airport at 00:19am.

Finance Adviser AB Mirza Azizul Islam, Foreign Adviser Iftekhar

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## ACC sues Mirza Abbas, Lobi for plot allotment irregularities

UNB, Dhaka

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a graft case against former minister Mirza Abbas, former MP Ali Asgar Lobi and a government official for their involvement in getting an industrial

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## EC UNVEILS ELECTION ROADMAP

# Voter list by Oct '08, poll by Dec

Parties to register by June, reform dialogue Sept-Nov this year

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday announced its comprehensive plan for holding the next election stipulating that a voter list with photographs will be ready by October 2008 and the parliamentary poll will definitely be held by December of the same year.

"Mid October of 2008 will be the latest for having the voter list ready. The election could be held even before December of that year if the voter list gets ready earlier," Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda told a crowded news briefing disclosing the commission's official roadmap for polls.

"I think the voter list will be ready before October 2008, and the election schedule will be declared anytime between October and December of the same year," said

the CEC.

Accompanied by two other election commissioners, the top poll official also announced that the EC will start holding elections to different local government bodies from next January in the areas where the voter list will be ready.

The announcement of the election roadmap apparently dispelled the doubts and ditherings about the parliamentary election setting 2008 as an election year for the country.

Spelling out the timetables, the CEC also announced that the EC will hold dialogues with political parties on electoral reforms between September and November this year with an aim to complete the reforms by February next year.

"The ban on indoor politics

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Elections Indicative Timeline (2007-2008)											
Activity Name	Oct 1, 2007	Nov 1, 2007	Dec 1, 2007	Jan 1, 2008	Feb 1, 2008	Mar 1, 2008	Apr 1, 2008	May 1, 2008	Jun 1, 2008	Jul 1, 2008	Aug 1, 2008
Reconstitution of EC											
Appointment of Commissioners											
Internal Reorganization											
Electoral Reform											
Legal and Institutional Reforms											
Consultations with CSOs and interest groups											
Consultations with media											
Dialogue with political parties											
Finalization of all legal amendments											
Voter List Preparation											
Design methodologies and technologies											
Preparation and data entry											
Procure and deploy ICT infrastructure											
Others development											
Recruit & deploy field level human resources											
Preparation and data entry											
Printing, posting, and correction of draft lists											
Printing & distribution of final list											
Delineation of constituencies											
Delineation											
Indicative Election Periods											
City Corporations & Municipal Elections											
Union Parishad Elections											
Assembly Elections											
Parliamentary Election Exercise											
Decision for party registration											
Declaration of schedule & timing of elections											



The CEC announces a road map for polls at a press briefing yesterday.

## Roadmap incomplete, says Motia

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League leader Motia Chowdhury yesterday said the Election Commission's roadmap for election is incomplete.

"The chief election commissioner today announced a roadmap to the national polls, but there are uncertainty and ambiguity in every thing," she told reporters at his residence in her reaction

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## Judge Faizee's resignation letter sent to president's office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Controversial High Court (HC) Judge Faisal Mahmud Faizee's letter of resignation was sent to the president's office yesterday.

President Dr Iajuddin Ahmed will decide on the matter on his

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Logs from dead trees are piled up at Osmani Udyan in the capital where a large number of trees died due to too much soil around their trunks. The photo was taken yesterday.

## Upazila polls in Nov-Dec '08

City corporation, municipal, UP elections from January

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The caretaker government has planned to hold the long due elections to upazila parishads simultaneously with the ninth parliamentary elections next year.

In view of this government plan, the Election Commission (EC) yesterday announced that upazila parishad elections, which have not been held for the last 17 years, will be held at any time between November and December next year.

"We will also hold elections to upazila parishads in 2008," Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday said while unveiling the EC roadmap with announcement for polls to other local government bodies like the city corporations, municipalities

and union parishads.

Elections to these local government bodies will begin next January for those areas where the voter list will be ready, he said.

Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussain told The Daily Star last night that holding the upazila parishad elections at the time of national polls is under active consideration.

"We will however decide later whether it is possible or not," Sohul said.

The CEC announced on April 5 that it would not be possible to hold any election before October next year since the EC needs 18 months to prepare the voter list with photographs.

The announcement of the EC roadmap to polls, however,

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## Twin suicide attacks kill 43 in Pakistan

AFP, Peshawar

Suicide bombers killed nearly 70 people in three weekend attacks in Pakistan, police said yesterday, after Islamic militants called for holy war over a deadly army raid on a pro-Taliban mosque.

At least 26 people, including 13 police, were killed Sunday in a blast at a police recruitment centre in North West Frontier Province, an official said.

Hours earlier two explosives-packed cars ploughed into an army convoy in the province's Swat Valley, claiming 17 lives.

The previous day, a suicide car bomber killed 24 people in a similar attack on a paramilitary convoy in North Waziristan tribal region, launching the string of attacks that has also left scores wounded.

The death toll was expected to rise further after the latest blast, which left limbs and blood scat-

tered across the police recruitment centre, with at least another dozen people in critical condition in a local hospital.

The bloodshed came amid outrage among hardliners in the mainly Muslim nation over the army's raid last week on Islamabad's Red Mosque, which has saddled President Pervez Musharraf with the worst crisis since he took power in 1999.

The raid which left 86 dead, most of them militants, led al-Qaeda's number two to call for jihad against the government, which has sent thousands of troops into remote tribal areas to try to keep a lid on bubbling public anger.

Interior Minister Aftab Sherpao said that while Saturday's attack in North Waziristan likely stemmed from an older dispute with tribal groups, he conceded that the other two attacks "to some extent ...

could have some linkage with the Red Mosque."

Pro-Taliban militants in North Waziristan Sunday scrapped a controversial peace accord reached with the government last year, in which the tribal groups had promised to hunt down foreign fighters in return for security assurances.

The Taliban Shura (Taliban Council) said in pamphlets that it would refuse all dialogue and cooperation with authorities after the government had failed to meet a Sunday deadline to abandon 25 new military checkpoints.

"We had signed the agreement for the safety and protection of the lives and property of our people," the statement said. "But the government forces continued to launch attacks on the Taliban and have killed a number of people."

Sherpao, speaking on local

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## Adviser defends plan to raise prices of fuel, fertiliser, power

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday came down heavily on the Centre for Policy Dialogue's (CPD) observation on the central bank's monetary policy and said price hike of power, gas, fuel and fertiliser is essential for the economy.

Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam, Energy Adviser Tapan Chowdhury and Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Salehuddin Ahmed denied any influence of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the recently released money policy and the government's plan to hike prices of power, gas, fuel and fertiliser.

On Saturday, Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive director of the CPD, said it would be a wrong to

hike the prices of gas, power, fuel and fertiliser and the government is going to appease the IMF and the World Bank. The CPD also criticised the monetary policy saying it would slow down private sector credit, affecting economic growth.

"This is not correct... We did not make any policy under pressures from the IMF," Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam told reporters when asked about the reported pressures from the IMF. "We did not have any meeting with the IMF recently," he added.

"We are formulating policies on our own. The central bank prepared the monetary policy independently and even the finance ministry did not interfere," he said.

"Everyone has the right to

## Rejoinder to commentary on Speaker

The Speaker yesterday sent a rejoinder to the commentary titled "When a Speaker speaks the unspeakable" published yesterday in The Daily Star.

The rejoinder signed by Md Tarique Mahmood, assistant director of the Public Relations section of the Parliament Secretariat, is as follows:

Attention has been drawn to the Commentary written by the editor Mr Mahfuz Anam himself under caption "When a Speaker speaks the unspeakable - Sircar's personal undertaking proves that he was doubtful about the legality of his own action" published today in your Daily "The Daily Star" at the middle of front page.

Analysis and conclusion about the supremacy of Jatiya Sangsad Sachibalaya Ain, 1994 is legally not sustainable because the Act of Parliament is supreme unless it is

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## Speaker's rejoinder to my write-up

M Hafizuddin Khan

The Honourable Speaker termed my comments of yesterday as "confusing and misconceived." My contention, I again claim, is very clear. As per General Financial Rules no government official or public office holder - high or low, big or small, constitutional, elected or appointed can pass an order which will be to his benefit directly or indirectly. This is one of the fundamental principles on which the whole edifice of financial powers, responsibilities, procedures, control mechanism, delegation of authority, etc. have been built up. If the Honourable Speaker thinks

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## Jalil shifted to Labaid from BSMMU hospital

DIG (Prisons) says the AL leader was supposed to go to S'pore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil who was supposed to be sent to Singapore for better treatment was shifted to Labaid Hospital in the city last night.

"So far I know he [Jalil] was supposed to go to Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore. He has been taken to Labaid Hospital on humanitarian grounds upon his wife's appeal," Deputy Inspector General (DIG Prisons) Major Shamsul Haider Siddiqui told reporters at the hospital.

He said Jalil's wife yesterday appealed to the inspector general of police (prisons) seeking to transfer him to Labaid Hospital for better treatment.

Jalil who had been undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University since June 4 also got a chance to talk to reporters for a few seconds. "I am not well. Please pray for me," he said.

Asked if his mercy petition was his own or imposed by the intelligence agencies, Jalil refused to comment on the matter.

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Unwind yourself with a variety of pastries, coffee and mocktails at 'Treats', our 24-hour deli.

For more information please visit [westin.com/dhaka](http://westin.com/dhaka) or to reserve a table please call 9891988.

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# THE WESTIN

## DHAKA

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