



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

Plus Rising Stars



COMMITTED TO People's Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVII No. 350

DHAKA THURSDAY JANUARY 10, 2008

www.thedailystar.net

POUSH 27, 1414 BS

ZILHAJI 30, 1428 HIJRI

20 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS PRICE: Tk 10.00

## Five new advisers take oath

### Portfolio to be distributed today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five new advisers to the caretaker government were sworn in yesterday evening at Bangabhaban to replace the advisers who resigned in the last few days.

The new advisers are AMM Shawkat Ali, former agriculture secretary, AF Hassan Ariff, former attorney general, Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairman of Power and Participation Research Centre, Major General (retd) Ghulam Quader, former director general of National Security Intelligence, and Rasheda K Choudhury, chief executive officer of Campaign for Popular Education.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed is likely to distribute today the portfolios of over 16 ministries among the newly appointed advisers, sources in the cabinet division said.

Six to seven assistants will also be appointed in a couple of days to assist the administration as it failed earlier to expand the advisory council because of the constitutional obligation not to have more than 11 advisers including the chief adviser, sources said.

The five advisers were appointed a day after the resignation of four advisers for poor performance and controversy over running the administration. Another adviser had resigned earlier over artefacts fiasco.

President Iajuddin Ahmed appointed the new advisers upon the chief adviser's advice. With these appointments, the president so far appointed 30

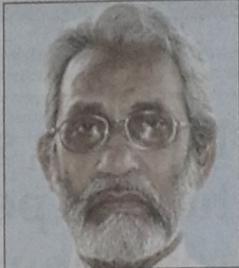
advisers, including one chief adviser, to two caretaker governments formed since dissolution of the eighth parliament on October 27, 2006.

This has also made the number of advisers appointed to a single caretaker government highest since the system was introduced in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



AMM Shawkat Ali



AF Hassan Ariff



Rasheda K Choudhury

### New advisers to focus on poll roadmap

Hope AL, BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Awami League (AL) and BNP yesterday expressed their hope that the newly appointed advisers would concentrate on implementing the electoral roadmap and ending crises of food

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



Maj Gen (retd) Ghulam Quader



Hossain Zillur Rahman

## Nov inflation hits highest in 17 years

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON

The inflation rate on a point-to-point basis reached 11.21 percent in November last year, the highest in 17 years, while inflation in food items was 13.80 percent, mainly affecting people in low-income groups.

The surge in prices came during a period when income growth was very low, exacerbating the plight of consumers.

According to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the inflation on average has seen a steady rise over the last few years

and it reached the two-digit figure in July last year.

In October 2007, the inflation rate was 10.06 percent and it reached 11.21 in November with an increase of 1.15 percentage points.

The inflation on food items also increased in that month by 2.07 percentage points from October's 11.73 percent, according to the BBS data.

The inflation rate on food items crossed the 11 percent mark in July last year and showed a steady rise until October. Then it had a big increase in November.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## WB projects 5.5pc GDP growth for '08

UNB, Dhaka

The World Bank (WB) has projected a 5.5 percent economic growth for Bangladesh in 2008, lower than domestic estimates, due to political tensions, flooding and Cyclone 'Sidr'.

High inflation, potential threat to exports, increase in the food and energy prices, and pressure on external balance would have an adverse impact on the economy, according to WB's Global Economic Prospects 2008 (GEP 2008) released yesterday.

Bangladesh Bank as well as independent domestic researchers

estimated that the GDP growth would be over 6 percent in 2008.

According to the GER South Asia's regional GDP was vibrant at 8.4 percent growth in 2007, easing only moderately from the 8.8 percent of 2006.

The regional growth is expected to pick up to 8.1 percent by 2009, as recovering growth in the OECD firms up external demand and as receding oil prices ease pressures on the import bill.

In 2008, global growth is expected to be 3.3 percent.

"Heightened political tensions

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## CA reasserts polls before end-2008

### Tells AI chief no reason to doubt it

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said his government and the Election Commission are proceeding towards holding the general election before end of this year (2008) and there is no reason for doubt about it.

The head of the caretaker government said this when the visiting Amnesty International Secretary General Irene Khan paid a courtesy call on him at the CA's office.

He said the main objective of the government is to hold a free, fair and credible election within the targeted timeframe and the Election Commission is working to this end following its announced roadmap.

Withdrawal of restrictions imposed under state of emergency, election, human rights, Right to Information Act, reform of the Police Act and trial of war criminals came up for discussion.

On trial of war criminals, the CA said the present government mainly focused on reforms and election. He however said political parties could include the issue in their next election manifesto.

On trial of corruption suspects, he said they have been tried in normal process under the existing law of the land. "No one is above the law."

Irene Khan said they will submit some recommendations to the government for expediting reforms. Similarly, they will give recommendations to the political parties.

On restrictions under the state of emergency, the CA said if the government felt necessary, it would lift restrictions gradually, according to the CA's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim.

The AI secretary general appreciated government's various reform measures and steps, including separation of the judiciary and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## OMS BEGINS Mad rush for rice, many return empty-handed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Open Market Sale (OMS) of rice witnessed a huge demand on the first day of its operation across the country yesterday, with many consumers returning empty-handed as the outlets ran out of stock fast.

A large number of people from the low and fixed-income groups thronged the OMS shops to buy rice at Tk 25 per kg. The initiative has alleviated their sufferings to an extent, they said, as prices of the staple had soared in the recent times.

As many people had to go back disappointed, the dealers said that allocation of 850 kg rice every other day was scarce considering the demand.

Many alleged that it was difficult for people living in remote areas to travel long distances to buy only

three kilogram (kg) of rice as the OMS shops are located in the city corporation and municipality areas and at upazila headquarters.

The dealers said that the cost of transporting rice, labour and other necessary logistics were so high that only Tk 1 difference between the buying and selling prices of the OMS rice is not profitable for them.

Meanwhile, the price of coarse rice remained almost unchanged at Tk 30 to 33 with Tk 1 to Tk 2 decrease in some markets of the country.

The price would gradually come down further as soon as the imported rice arrives in the retail markets, the retailers observed.

The government on Sunday decided to introduce OMS programme to sell 25,372 tonnes of rice in one month through 1,990 dealers, with 450 dealers in the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Class boycott, sit-in, human chain at DU

### Demand for release of teachers, students

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University teachers and students yesterday staged a sit-in, boycotted classes and formed a human chain demanding release of their detained colleagues and classmates.

Wearing black badges and holding posters, some 80 teachers took part in the silent sit-in from 11:00am to 12:00noon in front of the Aparajeyo Bangla.

Several hundred students also gathered around the Aparajeyo Bangla and many witnessed the programme from the balconies of the Arts Building.

The demonstrators demanded release of the detainees immediately for the sake of maintaining a congenial academic atmosphere in the university.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, former president of

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



Teachers of Dhaka University stage a sit-in at the Aparajeyo Bangla on the campus yesterday demanding release of arrested DU students and teachers.

## Tarique claims torture during remand, seeks security

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Detained BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman yesterday appealed to a Dhaka court to ensure his security claiming he was "inhumanly tortured" in the name of interrogation while he was on remand in connection with a corruption case.

Meanwhile, detained former BNP lawmaker Mosaddak Ali Falu was granted bail in a theft case and detained Awami League leader engineer Mosharraf Hossain was shown arrested in a corruption case.

"I was blindfolded and taken to an unknown place from Dhaka

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## France sends back 42 artefacts next month

PINAKI ROY and KAILASH SARKAR

The 42 artefacts sent to Guimet museum in Paris on December 1 would come back by next month, ministry sources said.

"France government has already agreed to send the artefacts back. Now we're looking forward to receiving those, possibly within next month," said Sharful Alam, newly appointed secretary to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

The sources said the foreign ministry has already written to its counterpart in France regarding the artefacts. The France government is now consulting with Guimet museum authorities about the procedures of sending them back.

A high official of the ministry

termed the present situation "concrete development".

The sources said initially the French authorities proposed to pack and hand the artefacts over to the Bangladesh Embassy in Paris but the Bangladesh government did not agree to it.

"We've told them to get the artefacts back to our Museum gate as per the agreement," a source from the ministry said.

An inter-ministerial meeting will be held next week to discuss the issue, the sources said.

The cultural ministry might arrange a press conference following the meeting to make public all information about developments in stolen Vishnu statues and return of the artefacts, they added.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## win the business while winning the round

Working with others doesn't always happen in the workplace. Especially when you don't want it to. And it's more than possible when you have the connectivity of Nokia Eseries. Showcase your team's presentation on the brilliant screen. After you tee-off, receive support from the office via teleconference. Then send an email back to your co-workers that you just won the round, and the account.

Work together. Smarter. [www.nokiaforbusiness.com/apac/eseries](http://www.nokiaforbusiness.com/apac/eseries)

**NOKIA Eseries**

Nokia E90 Communicator MRP Tk. 56,200  
 Nokia E61i MRP Tk. 27,600  
 Nokia E65 MRP Tk. 23,700  
 Nokia E51 MRP Tk. 20,100

## 18<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary

DATE: 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 1990

We deeply mourn the death of our beloved mother Late "Masuda Begum" wife of late Mr. Abul Khair, founder of Abul Khair Group (Abul Co.). Today with due respect, we remember her works, ideals and memories and pray to Almighty for his divine blessings.

We request all our relatives and well-wishers to pray for her eternal peace.

BELOVED SONS & DAUGHTERS.