

# CA seeks more ADB support for agriculture

BSS, Dhaka

Asian Development Bank (ADB) yesterday praised the government's strong commitment to maintain macroeconomic stability and impressive economic progress despite setback caused by flood and cyclone Sitr and global economic recession.

The appreciation came when the Bank's newly appointed Country Director Paul J Heytens paid a courtesy call on Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office.

Fakhruddin sought more ADB support for agriculture, fisheries, livestock, milk production and skilled manpower

development sectors.

The ADB can also expand its support in infrastructure and energy sectors along with construction of coastal embankment to implement adaptation programme in facing natural calamities in the country, he said.

Terming ADB as a good friend of Bangladesh, the chief adviser expressed the hope that the size and volume of ADB's support would be expanded in future for achieving overall development of the country.

Referring to readymade garment (RMG) sector, he told the ADB country director that this sector is playing an

important role in poverty alleviation and women empowerment as a large number of women are working in the vital sector.

He expressed the hope that Bangladesh will turn into a middle-income country within the 50th years of the country's independence if progress is continued in the sector.

The ADB country director said despite flood, cyclone and other national calamities, Bangladesh has achieved progress in different sectors.

He lauded government's initiatives for ensuring good governance as well as institutional reform measures during the last two years. "Reforms

are good for smooth transition to democracy," he added.

Heytens informed the chief adviser that the ADB has made \$370 million resource allocation per year for Bangladesh for the next four years, including \$317 million budget allocations.

He also said 50 projects of Tk 3.5 billion of ADB are now underway in Bangladesh.

ADB, he said, will continue to expand its support for Bangladesh.

The ADB country director appreciated the government for efficient management at Chittagong Port as well as the good governance under the caretaker administration.

## Hasina for polls on Dec 18 with participation of all

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said general elections should be held on December 18 with the participation of all political parties.

"Sheikh Hasina thinks the election should be held on December 18. She also expects that all parties will participate in the polls for the people to cast votes in a pleasant environment," said former Ambassador Mohammad Zamir while briefing reporters on a meeting between Hasina and French Ambassador Charley Causseret.

The French envoy called on Hasina at Sudha Sadan and discussed various matters of Bangladesh's interest. Zamir was present at the hour-long meeting.

France is the current president of the European Council. Zamir said the French ambassador has assured Sheikh Hasina of continuing his government's assistance for rapid development of Bangladesh.

Earlier, Ambassador Causseret told reporters that it would be better for Bangladesh if the elections are arranged soon. "Election is an internal matter of Bangladesh. I should not make any comment. But what I can say about the election is that the sooner,



PHOTO: STAR

French Ambassador Charley Causseret calls on Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence yesterday.

the better."

About the BNP stand on the polls, the French ambassador said it is up to the political parties to decide the date of the polls.

### Australian envoy calls on Hasina

On Wednesday, Australian High Commissioner Douglas Foskett also called on Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence.

During the meeting, the Australian envoy expressed the hope that the elections would be held on December 18 and Bangladesh would get its democracy back.

Hasina's special aide Dr Hasan Mahmud, who was

present at the hour-long meeting, briefed reporters on the meeting.

He said Hasina urged all political parties for full cooperation to ensure a free and fair election on December 18.

Hasina urged the Australian envoy to come up with more investment in Bangladesh and recruit more Bangladeshi workers and students in his country, the special aide said.

Australian High Commissioner Douglas Foskett told reporters that he thinks all preparations for holding the elections in time are in place and Bangladesh will get free and fair elections.

## All parties should take part in nat'l elections

Says Adv Hamid

UNB, Kishoreganj

Awami League leader Advocate Abdul Hamid yesterday said all political parties should take part in the upcoming election for the sake of greater interest of the nation and to safeguard democracy.

"If any party wants to boycott the polls, it would bear the responsibility of strangulating democracy," he said in an obvious reference to BNP that is still undecided about participation in December 18 elections.

Talking to newsmen after filing nomination to contest the polls from Kishoreganj-4, Advocate Hamid said his party expects election will be free, fair and neutral with participation of all parties. "We do not want to net the ball in an empty field."

Hamid, a former speaker, viewed that a bright future is awaiting the nation. He said all political parties should take part in the polls for safeguarding democracy and for greater interest of the nation.

AL acting general secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam also filed the nomination for Kishoreganj-1 constituency.

## Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



been suffering from aplastic anaemia, says a press release.

He is now undergoing treatment at Christian Medical College Hospital in Valore of India.

Doctors said Sabuj needs bone marrow transplant which will cost Tk 80 lakh.

But it is not possible for his parents to manage such a big amount of money.

So they have appealed to well-off people of the society for financial assistance to save their beloved son.

Contributions may be sent to Md Liakat Ali, Savings Account NO 72940-4, Agrani Bank, Main branch, Motijheel, Dhaka. Phone: 01718328406.

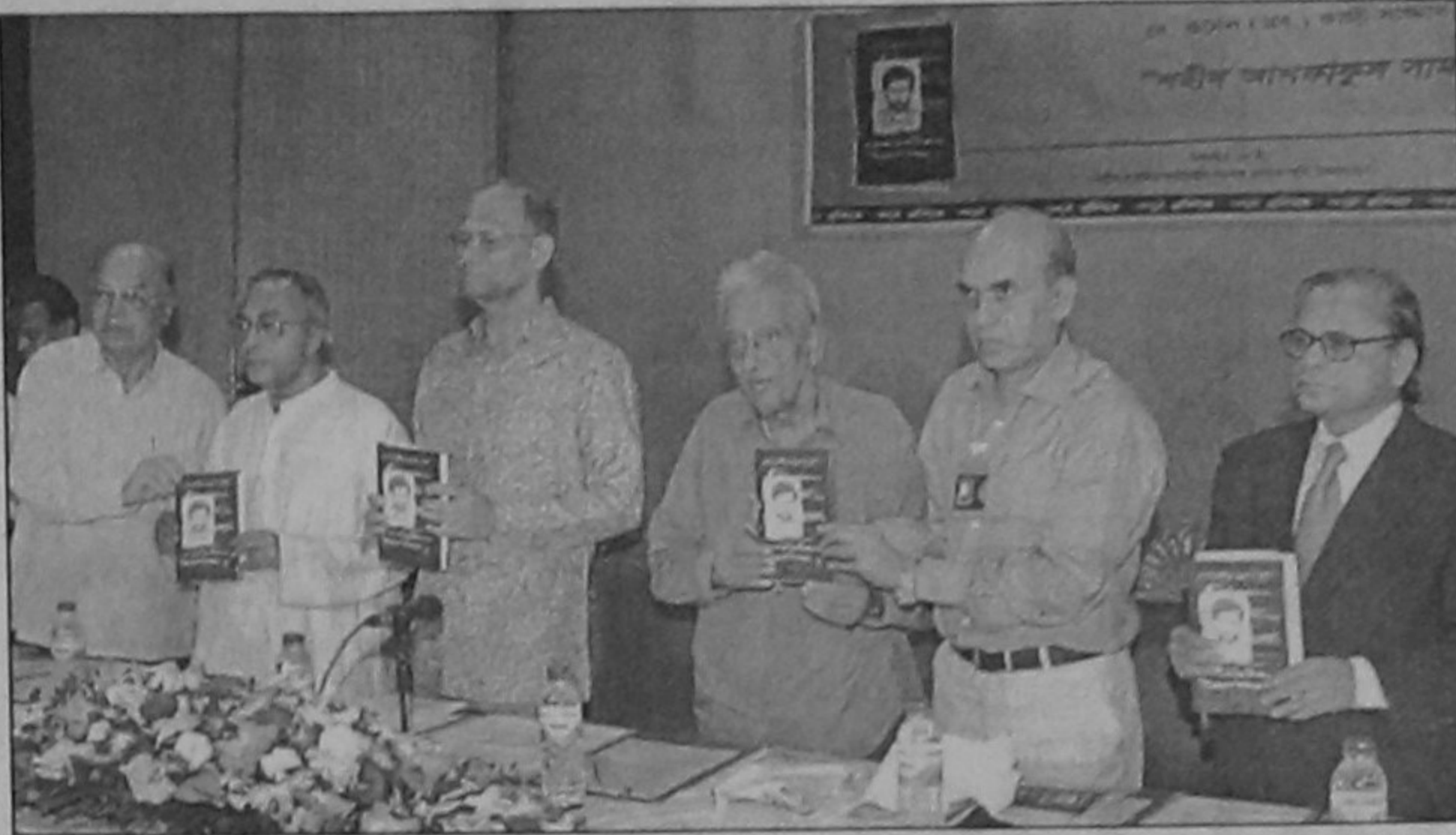


PHOTO: STAR

Language movement veteran Abdul Matin along with other guests launches a book titled 'Shaheed Ashfaq Samad, Biruttam' by Lt Col (retd) Kazi Sazzad Ali Zahir at its publication ceremony at Shawkat Osman Auditorium in the city yesterday.

## BOOK ON SHAHEED ASHFAQ LAUNCHED

## 'Write objective history of liberation war'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a book publication ceremony yesterday called on freedom fighters to write an objective history of the liberation war.

The nation is yet to get a complete history on the nine month of war and that it will lose the glorious history in the absence of it, they added.

The publication ceremony of the book titled 'Shaheed Ashfaq Samad Bir Uttam' by Lt Col (retd) Kazi Sazzad Ali Zahir was held at Shawkat Osman auditorium at the Central Public Library in the city.

Language movement veteran Abdul Matin unveiled

the cover of the book where Maj Gen (retd) Mainul Hossain Chowdhury and Dr Abdul Quayum were present.

On this day in 1971, Shaheed Ashfaq embraced martyrdom in a face-to-face war with the Pakistani occupation forces.

The speakers said the freedom fighters are being used as commodities and, even worse, for political dividends. Now people recall the liberation war but hesitate to respect the freedom fighters.

Prof Syed Anwar Hossain said the state has the duty to let countrymen know about the history of liberation war and the freedom fighters.

Senior journalist and adviser of the daily Amar Desh Ataus Samad said his nephew Ashfaq was a courageous person. He returned to Dhaka with arms and ammunition when his residents were leaving the city.

The writer has been able to portray the severity of the war through his book, he said, urging the freedom fighters to make a list of the martyrs.

Lt Col (retd) Kazi Sazzad Ali Zahir said that historically, Ashfaq was not given proper respect. So, he had an urge to write a book on him.

Ashfaq took part in the liberation war, refusing a scholarship from the USA.

## Armed Forces Day today

UNB, Dhaka

The Armed Forces Day will be observed today with due enthusiasm and solemnity, marking the inception of the national military in war field during the liberation war.

The day's programmes begin with special prayers in mosques of all cantonments, naval outposts and establishments and air-force outposts after Fazr prayers seeking divine blessing for country's welfare and progress and continued development and progress of the Armed Forces.

Bangladesh Armed Forces comprising army, navy and air force came into being and launched an all-out attack on the occupation forces on this day during the Liberation War in 1971. Hence, the Days observed as Armed Forces Day every year.

President Iajuddin Ahmed would place wreaths on Shikha Anirban at Dhaka Cantonment in the morning to pay homage to the members of the Armed Forces who had sacrificed their lives in 1971.

Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed, Chief of Naval Staff Vice-Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam and Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman will also place wreaths on the Shikha Anirban on behalf of their respective forces.

The chiefs of the three services will pay a courtesy call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at his Armed Forces Division office.

President Iajuddin Ahmed will accord a reception at the Armed Forces Division in Dhaka Cantonment in honour of the valiant freedom fighters and their family members.

The chiefs of the three services will also accord a similar reception.

In the evening, President Iajuddin Ahmed will accord a reception at Senakunja in Dhaka Cantonment. Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, Speaker, Chief Justice, former presidents, incumbent advisers and advisers, incumbent advisers, diplomats, chief election commissioner and election commissioners are

expected to attend the function. Similar programmes will also be held at Savar, Bogra, Chittagong, Ghatail, Comilla, Jessore, Rangpur and Rajshahi cantonments.

Various programmes have also been taken up to observe the day at army garrisons, naval ships and establishments and outposts of the air force outside the capital.

Specially decorated ships of navy at Dhaka (Sadarghat), Narayanganj, Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal and Mongla will remain open to public from 2:00pm to 4:30pm.

BTB, Bangladesh Betar and private TV channels will telecast special programmes and newspapers will publish special supplements.

Meanwhile, President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed in separate messages hailed the members of the Armed Forces and prayed for peace of the departed souls of those who laid down their lives in 1971.

President Iajuddin prayed for salvation of the martyrs of the Armed Forces who had laid down their lives for country's independence and sovereignty.

He also conveyed his sympathy to the members of the martyrs and war-maimed freedom fighters.

The president expressed the hope that the members of the Armed Forces would "uphold their glory through diligent exercise, professional skill, dutifulness and patriotism".

In another message, Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed said the Armed Forces "earned appreciation from all by preparing voters' list with photograph and national ID card within a short time" and introducing automation process at Chittagong Customs House.

"Members of the Armed Forces are extending active assistance to the government in anti-corruption and anti-terrorism drives and relief and rehabilitation operations for flood victims," said the chief adviser.

He expressed his conviction

## HC asks govt to allow Mayor Mohiuddin to go to S Arabia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the government to allow Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury to go to Saudi Arabia for performing Hajj.

In response to a writ petition filed by Mohiuddin, the HC bench of Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Quamrul Islam Siddiqui also ordered on corruption charges but released on bail recently, to return after the pilgrimage.

The court also stayed a government order refusing to permit Mohiuddin to go to Saudi Arabia.

It also issued a rule upon the government to explain why the order should not be declared illegal.

Advocate Hari Sadhan Deb Brahman, counsel for the petitioner, told reporters that Mohiuddin will go to Saudi Arabia on November 22 and return on December 14.

## 70pc repair of Meghna Bridge complete

BSS, Dhaka

Seventy percent repair work of Meghna Bridge on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway has already been completed and the remaining work will be finished within the stipulated time, says an official handout yesterday.

It said high officials of the communications ministry and roads and highways department are inspecting the repair work regularly to ensure high standard of the work.

They also asked the concerned authorities to complete the work within the timeframe by maintaining quality.

## Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Chowdhury Mohammad Kutubuddin Jalal, son of late Aminul Islam Chowdhury, passed away at his Rajuk project residence at Merul in the city on Sunday at the age of 68.

He left behind his wife, three sons and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death, says a press release.

His kulkhwani will be held today at his residence (Road-8, House-46, 'Rajuk Project' at Merul) after Asr prayers.

## Tofazzal Hossain Tofa

BSS, Rangpur

Tofazzal Hossain Tofa, a freedom fighter and one of the organisers of the Liberation War, passed away due to heart attack at his residence at Mahiganj in the town on Wednesday at the age of 85.

He left behind his wife, six sons, four daughters, grandchildren and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried with state honour at Mahiganj graveyard on Wednesday.

## Chehlum

METRO DESK



held today at his village home at Fulgazi upazila in Feni.

Relatives, friends and admirers are request to attend the programme.

## BOU SSC results published

UNB, Dhaka

The final results of SSC first and second year examination-2007 under Bangladesh Open University (BOU) were published yesterday.

A total of 1,38,940 learners were enrolled in the SSC programme. Of them, 59,604 appeared in the second year exams while 77,886 in first year exams.

## ACC to sue

FROM PAGE 16 charge sheets against eight people including former Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Gazi Nazrul Islam in connection with concealing wealth information from the commission, amassing wealth by illegal means, bribery and embezzlement.

Meanwhile, the ACC forwarded 40 cases to the Truth and Accountability Commission (TAC) after receiving applications for making voluntary disclosures of ill-gotten wealth.

With yesterday's forwarding, the ACC has so far forwarded 269 cases to TAC. The ACC still has 25 such cases to be forwarded to the TAC in a couple of days.

ACC Director General (admin) Col Hanif Iqbal informed the press about the decisions during a routine briefing at the ACC headquarters yesterday.

Nilufa Zafarullah, who won AL nomination to contest from Faridpur-4 constituency in the upcoming elections, will be charged with amassing wealth worth about Tk 3.6 crore beyond her known sources of income.

In another case, Kazi Omar Zafar will be accused of earning wealth worth about Tk 88.87 lakh illegally and hiding information of wealth worth about Tk 44 lakh from the commission.

Bangladesh Steel Corporation (BSC) Chairman Sultan Ahmed Sikder in another case will be accused of acquiring wealth worth about Tk 3.07 crore illegally and concealing information about wealth worth about Tk 1.55 crore from the commission.

Gazi Nazrul Islam will be charge-sheeted in a case filed in connection with acquiring wealth worth about Tk 21.39 lakh beyond his known sources of income and concealing information of wealth worth about Tk 18.65 lakh from the commission.

## 27TH BCS EXAMS

## Govt considering options to appoint candidates: Adviser

DU CORRESPONDENT

The government is considering three options to appoint candidates who passed the 27th BCS exams at first but were dropped from the list of successful candidates as per its second phase result, Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman said last night.

The options are -- creating new posts, giving them non-cadre gazetted posts and allowing them to take part in the 29th BCS examinations, he said after a meeting with Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Fiaz at his office.

Several deans and syndicate members of the university attended the meeting.

Earlier at around 9:30pm,

the adviser arrived at the Central Shaheed Minar and persuaded the candidates who have been on hunger strike since November 1 to withdraw their programme.

After getting assurance from the adviser, the candidates called off their hunger strike.

Hossain Zillur told reporters that a special committee of the advisers led by the chief adviser held a meeting and considered the issue of the BCS candidates.

The guardians and students broke into tears when the adviser arrived at the Shaheed Minar. A freedom fighter and guardian of a candidate embraced the adviser and said, "Save my child's life."



## Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 24 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 32.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and the lowest of 14.9 degrees at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:11pm today and rises at 6:18am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	29.5	18.5
Chittagong	30.8	18.5
Rajshahi	29.7	16.4
Khulna	29.7	18.8
Barisal	30.7	17.0
Sylhet	30.1	18.0
Cox's Bazar	32.2	21.5
	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	54	53
Chittagong	72	68
Rajshahi	77	77
Khulna	71	58
Barisal	76	81
Sylhet	67	71
Cox's Bazar	74	68



## Police women's network

The launching ceremony of the Bangladesh Police Women's Network will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 3:30pm.

## Roundtable

Citizens Rights Movement organises a roundtable on expectation of people to the lawmakers and role of speaker and president. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

## Discussion

A discussion will be held on river and river route. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

## Dress exhibition

Adena Fashionwear organises a dress exhibition. Venue: Adena Fashionwear, House-504, Raod-9 East Street, Baridhara DOHS.

## 10-day delay on if BNP joins polls

FROM PAGE 1

election from December 18 to December 28 if they [four-party] decide to participate."

He added that if the parliamentary election is held on December 28, the upazila polls will be held either on January 7 or 9.

M. Sakawat Hussain, another election commissioner, told reporters at his office that the polls must be held by the year-end since the Supreme Court has the commission committed to doing so.

"We still hope all political parties will take part in the election," he observed.

Earlier on Wednesday night, the EC extended the time limit by three days for filing candidacy applications in both the polls.

According to the fresh

timetables, the last date for filing applications in the parliamentary and upazila elections is November 23, changed from November 20.

Secretary to the EC Secretariat Humayun Kabir announced the latest changes at a press briefing at his office.

He said the commission has set November 25-26 for scrutiny of applications in the national election and November 27-29 in the upazila polls.

The closing date for candidates to withdraw from the parliamentary race is December 1 and upazila is December 4.

Humayun said the schedules have been readjusted to allow the prospective candidates some more time to submit nominations.

It is for the second time that the EC has changed dates in the polls schedules unveiled on November 2.

According to the original timetables, the last date for submitting nomination papers for the parliamentary election was November 13, scrutiny November 16-17 and withdrawing candidacy November 24.

In the first change that came on November 9, the deadline for filing candidacy applications was stretched till November 20 for both the polls.

The dates for scrutiny were set at November 23 and 24 and withdrawal at November 29.

Scrutiny of nomination papers in the upazila polls was rearranged at November 25-27 and withdrawal at December 3.

## NDI CRITICISED

Election Commissioner Sakawat yesterday criticised the National Democratic Institute's remarks on deployment of army and police at polling stations.

NDI on Wednesday said the caretaker government should not deploy police or military personnel in the polling stations or in a manner that appears intimidating to voters or that interferes with the electoral process.

"Their (NDI) remarks are unacceptable and interfering," Sakawat said adding that the EC and political parties will decide whether to deploy the army and police at polling stations.

"They should refrain from making such comments," the election commissioner said.