

Enable people to cast vote without fear

CA asks officials

UNB, Sylhet

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday urged the field-level government officials to make arrangements so that people could cast their votes in a festive mood without any fear.

"Any kind of laxity or negligence in performing election duties and discharging responsibilities won't be tolerated," he told an opinion

Call to set up memorial to martyred allied force members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday called for setting up a memorial in the capital in memory of around 11,000 allied force members who were martyred during the Liberation War in 1971.

They also called for incorporating a chapter on 'the contribution of the allied force to the liberation war' into secondary level textbooks.

The Citizens Rights Movement placed the demands before the caretaker government and the next political government.

Recalling the contribution of India to the Liberation War, Secretary General of Citizens Rights Movement Tushar Rehman said the government should take necessary steps to establish an 'Allied Force Memorial Complex' as a symbol of gratitude to the Indian government and people.

It is matter of regret that the successive governments did not seriously consider the issue in the last 37 years, he said.

Other speakers also demanded that a city street be named after Indira Gandhi, the then prime minister of India, in recognition of her contribution to the Liberation War.

They also called for formation of a joint commission to curb terrorism in the region.

Syed Marghub Morshed, chief adviser to the Rights Movement, Prof Nim Chandra Bhoomik and Prof Dilwaj Hossain also spoke.

exchange meeting with government officials of Sylhet division at the local Circuit House in the afternoon.

The head of the caretaker government also asked the officials to extend cooperation and take necessary steps so that election observers from home and abroad could properly and fairly monitor the polls.

It was the third meeting with government officials after the first one held in Khulna on December 1 and the second one in Rangpur on December 6.

DCs, SPs UNOs, metropolitan police commissioner, deputy inspector general (DIG) of police, Sylhet Range, senior officials of Rab, BDR and Ansar and intelligence agencies were, among others, present at the meeting.

Home Adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) MA Matin, Cabinet Secretary M Abdul Aziz and Home Secretary Abdul Karim also spoke. Foreign Adviser Iftakhar Ahmed Chowdhury was on the dais.

Zafar Ahmed Khan, divisional commissioner of Sylhet, conducted the meeting.

The CA urged the officials to take a vow to hold the election in a fair, neutral and peaceful manner, and hoped that the transition to a

democratic system and foundation of good governance would get a firm footing through the upcoming elections. "The government will succeed in this toughest test."

Referring to voters' views being reflected in the media, he said the voters want to elect competent candidates of their choice, but terrorists can again raise their heads and commit terrorist acts during the elections.

He asked the government officials to take all necessary measures so that they could present the nation a transparent and peaceful election free from black money, terrorism and muscle power.

He gave a package of guidelines and decisions for the election dividing into three phases - before, during and after the election.

The CA asked the officials to carry out nonstop drive so that terrorists and listed criminals, cannot create chaos during electioneering by the candidates. "A massive election campaign is underway."

He directed the law enforcing agencies to gear up intelligence activities so that the absconding criminals cannot come back and members of the banned outfits and other evil forces cannot make any ill

attempts before the election.

At the same time, he said, BDR and other law enforcing agencies should remain alert so that illegal arms and ammunition cannot enter the country.

The voting should go on its normal course, he said, adding: "Apart from voting, it has to be ensured that the whole process of vote counting and publishing of results are done with hundred percent neutrality, transparency and credibility."

He also asked for taking necessary preparations in advance to prevent possible violence between the supporters of the winning and defeating candidates soon after the announcement of results.

The CA directed the officials to ensure vigilance regarding clash, damage to property, especially attack on female, minority and weak voters, and asked for taking strict measures as per records of previous such incidents.

He expressed his belief that government officials engaged in election duties would carry out their tasks sincerely and impartially.

The CA returned to the capital in the afternoon.



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina introduces Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, the candidate of AL-led grand alliance from Dhaka-11, at an election rally at Karwan Bazar in the city yesterday.

4000 licensed firearms deposited ahead of polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 4,000 licensed firearms and 1,03,693 bullets have been deposited with 35 police stations under Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) ahead of polls.

The home ministry on November 20 asked all to submit their licensed firearms to respective police stations across the country by December 3 in order to keep the ninth parliamentary elections and upazila elections violence free.

The deadline was extended to December 14 in a notification, following the deferment of the general election.

DMP Commissioner Naim Ahmed told The Daily Star, "A total of 2,419 pistols and revolvers and 457 rifles and guns were deposited during the deadline while 1,000 others before the deadline." People found possessing or bearing any firearms after the deadline will be strictly dealt with under the arms act, said the DMP chief.

BOMBINGS AT JUDGES' RESIDENCES HC asks home adviser to submit report by Jan 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed the home adviser and inspector general of police (IGP) to submit to this court by January 5 an investigation report in connection with the bombings at the residences of the HC judges Justice Sharif Uddin Chaklader and Justice Tariq ul Hakim.

Upon a writ petition filed as public interest litigation (PIL) by Barrister Fatema S Chowdhury, a Supreme Court (SC) lawyer, an HC bench comprising Justice Md Imman Ali and Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam asked the adviser and IGP to submit the investigation report through the registrar of the SC.

The bench also issued a rule upon the home adviser and the IGP to show cause within two weeks as to why they should not be directed to make an investigation into the incidents and submit a report to this court.

The petitioner stated in the petition that bombs were hurled at Justice Tariq ul

Hakim's residence situated at judges' complex building No-2 on September 15 and another two bombs were thrown at the residence of Justice Sharif Uddin Chaklader situated at judges' complex building No-1 at Kakrail on October 11.

But no progress has been made so far in the investigation let alone identifying and bringing charges against the perpetrators which is extremely surprising considering who the targets were, the petition stated.

She said the incidents of bombings certainly did not preserve, protect or defend the image, authority or dignity of the highest court or its judges.

A transparent, independent and fair investigation had to be conducted and to make its report public, but that has not been done in this case which is apparent from the inaction and silence of the authorities, she added.

Barrister Maşood R Sobhan moved the petition.

Bijoy Sarani linked with Tejgaon

CA opens new road today

HELEMUL ALAM

Road network in the city expands further as the link road between two major thoroughfares - Bijoy Sarani and Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani in Tejgaon - opens today.

The 1114-metre long and 18.29 metre wide road will however be opened to traffic on March 26.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed is expected to inaugurate the link road

today although construction of an overpass at Tejgaon rail crossing and demolition of Rang Bhaban on the road site are yet to be completed.

Demolition of Rang Bhaban will be completed next month while construction of the 679-metre long overpass as part of a Tk 122 crore road project will take three more months to complete, an official of Rajuk said.

On June 24, Rajuk gave the work order for construction of the overpass within six months with an estimated cost of about Tk 39 crore. But the joint venture private firm that got the order later managed to have the time limit extended till March.

Alternative arrangements have been made on a temporary basis at the overpass and Rang Bhaban sites for vehicular movement.

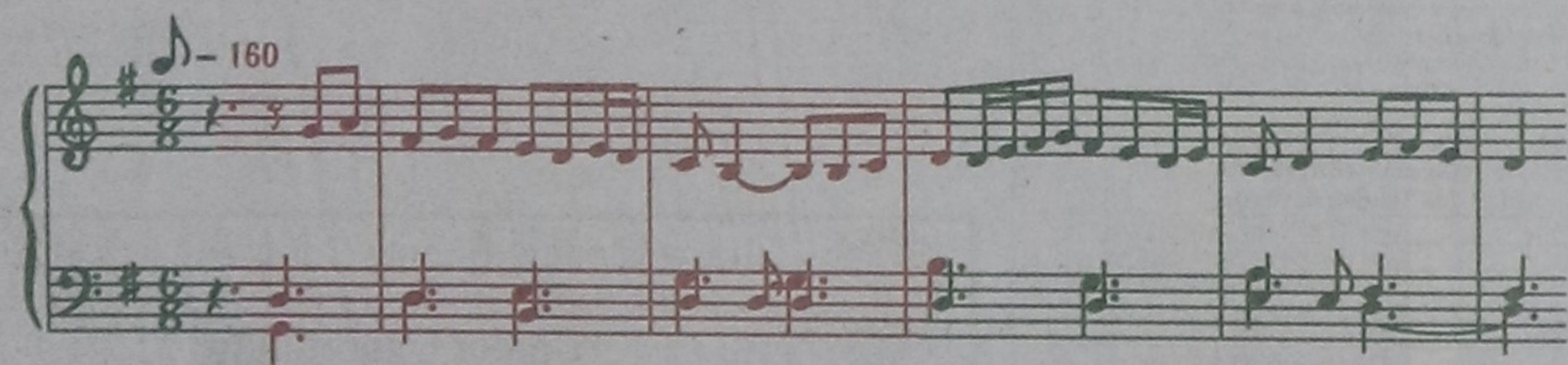
A total of 24 structures including multi-storey Rang Bhaban have come under acquisition for constructing the road that will touch Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani near Nabisco crossing.

Besides, Rajuk demolished 44 illegal structures on the link road site in November last year.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council in August last year approved the project.



Prof Kabir Chowdhury inaugurates a liberation war memorial on the Dhaka Club premises yesterday.



Amar Shonar Bangla Ami Tomay Bhalobashi

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Dhono Dhanne Pushpe Bhora	Samina Chowdhury	01774	Mora Ekti Phulke Bachabo	Patriotic	01943	Choi Choi Choi	Patriotic	03168
Sobkotta Janala	Sabina Yasmin	03746	Purbo Digonte Shurjo Utheche	Patriotic	01944	Ekbar Jete De Na	Abida Sultana	01762

