

Writ petition seeks HC stay on poll schedule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On getting no response to a November 26 legal notice, a Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court seeking a stay on the schedule of the 10th parliamentary election, slated for January 5.

The notice, sent to the chief election commissioner (CEC) and the Cabinet secretary, said the SC directives regarding holding general elections and dissolution of parliament were not followed before the schedule's declaration.

According to the SC's judgment in the case on the 13th constitutional amendment, the parliament was supposed to be dissolved within a reasonable period, which may be 42 days, before the declaration, it added.

With the parliament still in place, CEC Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed had declared the scheduled on November 25.

Eunus Ali Akond submitted the petition as public interest litigation seeking a rule upon the CEC and EC secretaries, Cabinet and law ministry to explain why the schedule should not be cancelled.

Six Juta

FROM PAGE 5

that removal of the VC will not result in any solution, yesterday condemned the confinement and demanded restoration of the academic atmosphere on the campus.

From a rally at JU Shaheed Minar, they raised a six-point demand including release of the pro-VCs, ensuring co-existence of all student bodies, reconstitution of the senate, and holding classes and examinations regularly.

"Violating human rights, they [agitators] have been confining the pro-VCs to their offices. We demand their immediate release and seek the chancellor's intervention to resolve the stalemate on the campus," said Prof Nasim Akhtar Hossain of "Shikkhak Mancha".

Some leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League joined the rally.

Meanwhile, Prof Anwar Hossain yesterday extended his sick leave to December 2 from November 28. Earlier, he extended the leave on November 23.



Several hundred opposition activists clash with police hurling projectiles, petrol bombs and firing guns in AK Khan area of Chittagong city yesterday, the first day of the BNP-led opposition's fresh 72-hour countrywide blockade. The photo was taken around 9:00am.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

PROMOTING MODERN CONTRACEPTION AMONG YOUTH

Govt launches new family planning campaign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a view to promote modern contraceptive methods among the younger generation, the government yesterday launched a new National Family Planning Campaign.

The three-year countrywide campaign (2014-2016) will especially aim to meet the family planning and reproductive health needs of females aged between 15 and 24, the population's biggest reproductive segment.

Launched in a local hotel in the capital, the campaign will be implemented by the Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

The overall fertility rate has reduced to an impressive 2.3 children per woman, said UNFPA representative in Bangladesh Argentina Matavel Piccin.

"However, the performance indicators for family planning needs to improve a lot in Sylhet and Chittagong divisions, where the fertility rate still remains much higher, that is 3.7 and 3.2 respectively," she said.

Stating that there is a large number of married adolescents and teens, she said many of these women, still in their 20s, have already had the number of children they wanted.

"In order to protect these women from unwanted pregnancies, methods that best suit their needs, such as long acting and permanent methods, should be catered to them," she added.

Commenting on the consequences of early pregnancies, she said adolescent mothers often end up with obstetric fistula, lose their babies and sometimes face death.

Secretary to the health and family welfare ministry MM Neaz Uddin said the focus will also be on providing access to family planning services in slums, where the urban poor live and it is harder to reach the services.

Prof Khandoker Mohammad Shefayetullah, director general, Directorate General of Health Services; AKM Amir Hossain, director general, DGFP; and Gregory J Adams, deputy director, USAID; also spoke.

Unite to resist arsonists

Speakers tell Sammilita Sangskritik Jote rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of the civil society yesterday urged people of the country to come together to resist the "evil force" killing people through arson attacks in the name of democratic movements.

Addressing a rally before Dhaka University's Teacher-Student Centre, they also called upon the government to take stern action against such brutality for the sake of protecting public life and property.

The rally and a procession carrying black flags ending in Suhrawardy Uddyan's "Shikha Chironton" afterwards was organised by Sammilita Sangskritik Jote protesting the killings during the opposition's recent blockades and hartals.

The jote President Nasir Uddin Yousuff said this force unleashed countrywide atrocities in the same way the anti-liberation forces burnt houses and people in 1971. "Resist the miscreants with a strong hand," he said.

Noted cultural personality

SEE PAGE 5 COL 7

Election-Related Functions Obstruction to prompt legal action

EC Abu Hafiz tells journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commissioner Abu Hafiz yesterday warned legal action against anyone trying to resist submission of nomination papers or any other election-related function during the opposition's blockade.

The EC announced on November 25 that the 10th parliamentary election will be held on January 5 and the last day for the submission is December 2.

The submission date coincides with the opposition's 72-hour blockade, which

SEE PAGE 5 COL 7

A group of people from different walks of life observing a hunger strike in front of the capital's National Museum yesterday, demanding a stop to bloodshed in political violence. Expressing solidarity, many common citizens off and on joined the 48-hour strike, which began at 7:00am at the initiative of six youths. The photo was taken around 12:30pm.

PHOTO: STAR



HARTAL VIOLENCE

Transport system to collapse if attacks continue

Say owners of trucks, covered-vans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It will be impossible to maintain a functioning transportation system in the country if the current political impasse persists, owners of covered-vans and trucks said yesterday.

They said about 300-400 trucks, covered-vans, mini-trucks and pickups were torched during the last six months of hartals and blockades by the 18-party opposition alliance.

At an urgent meeting, Bangladesh Truck-Covered Van Malik Samity observed that if the government did not compensate the

SEE PAGE 5 COL 7

GENERAL ELECTION

AL nominates five new faces in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Awami League has nominated new candidates in the five constituencies out of 19 of Sylhet division for the upcoming 10th parliamentary elections.

The nominated are Mahbub Ali for Habiganj-4; Mashuk Uddin Ahmed for Sylhet-5; Syed Bazlul Karim, a retired additional IGP, for Moulvibazar-2; Barrister Enamul Kabir Imon for Sunamganj-4; and Dewan Milad Gazi for Habiganj-1.

Former social welfare minister Enamul Haque Mostafa Shahid, lawmakers Hafiz Ahmed Mazumder, Nabab Ali Abbas Khan (from Jatiya Party-Ershad, the then ally of AL-led 14-party), and Matiur Rahman; and Mushfiqur Rahman Chowdhury respectively had contested in the ninth general elections, said Misbah Uddin Siraj, organising secretary of AL for Sylhet division.

Among the five, Hafiz Ahmed did not buy party nomination form this time while the other four did so but did not get nomination, he said.

In the other 14 constituencies, the old candidates have been nominated again, he added.

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Shahed, Elias reelected DRU president, gen secy

UNB, Dhaka

Shahed Chowdhury of the daily Samakal and Elias Khan of the daily Amar Desh were reelected president and general secretary of Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) on Friday.

Shahed bagged 738 votes while his rival Azmal Huq Helal got 237.

Elias polled 543 while his rival Sheikh Mamun got 413.

Of the other office bearers, Rafiqul Azad of the daily Independent was elected as vice president while Shariful Islam joint secretary and Morsalin Noman organising secretary.

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