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Your Right to Know

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Ex-secy Nurul Huda new CEC

President also appoints four election commissioners including one woman



KM Nurul Huda

Mahbub Talukder

Md Rafiqul Islam

Kabita Khanam

Shahadat H Chowdhury

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Former secretary KM Nurul Huda has been chosen to lead the next Election Commission.

President Abdul Hamid appointed him chief election commissioner last night in line with a constitutional provision, according to a gazette notification issued around 10:00pm.

The president also appointed four election commissioners who include one woman for the first time. They are Mahbub Talukder, former additional secretary; Md

Rafiqul Islam, ex-secretary; Begum Kabita Khanam, former district and sessions judge; and Brig Gen (retd) Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury.

The oath-taking ceremony of the new EC would take place today or tomorrow, said sources at the Bangabhaban.

In his immediate reaction, the newly appointed CEC said, "I am grateful to the president for appointing me to this important constitutional position. I will try my best to carry out the responsibility impartially in line with the constitution."

Nurul Huda, a freedom fighter, told

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, chief of the search committee for constituting the next Election Commission, handing over the panel's report to President Abdul Hamid at the Bangabhaban yesterday. The other five panel members were also present.

PHOTO: PID

Meet the first female election commissioner

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The country yesterday got its first female election commissioner in Begum Kabita Khanam, a former district and sessions judge.

Different political parties and organisations have long been demanding appointment of a woman as the election commissioner.

President Abdul Hamid decided to appoint a female member in the next EC after holding discussions with 31 political parties. The search committee, formed to recommend names for the posts of chief election commissioner and other commissioners, was asked to recommend two women.

The country already has female prime minister, Speaker and opposition leader of parliament.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

"There is no question about the impartiality of those picked by the president. I hope this commission will hold free and fair elections."

MAHBUBUL ALAM HANIF
AWAMI LEAGUE JOINT GENERAL SECRETARY

"I will try my best to carry out the responsibility impartially... We will sit with the political parties as they are the most important stakeholders."

KM NURUL HUDA
NEW CEC

"BNP will give its formal reaction tomorrow [today] after discussing the issue in the party forum."

ABDULLAH AL NOMAN
BNP VICE CHAIRMAN

Bangladeshi killed in firing by Myanmar border force

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A Bangladeshi fisherman was killed and another injured when Myanmar's border guards opened fire on them at the Teknaf border of Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The dead is Nurul Amin, 32, of Teknaf.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

\$10b fund for big projects

'Sovereign wealth fund' to start with \$2b from foreign currency reserve; govt to use it to invest in long-term projects

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The cabinet yesterday gave the go-ahead for the setting up of a fund with money from the foreign currency reserves, which would be used for government investment in long-term projects.

Sources said the fund, called "sovereign wealth fund", could be set up as soon as this July and be used for investments in seven sectors, including power, energy and in large infrastruc-

ture projects.

"Primarily the fund will start with \$2 billion and it will be raised in phases to \$10 billion in five years," Cabinet Secretary M Shafiqul Alam told reporters after a cabinet meeting at his secretariat office yesterday.

The cabinet secretary said, "If our reserve is \$30 billion or \$32 billion and if \$2 billion is bought from it, there will be no adverse impact on the economy." He said it had been decided in prin-

ciple that a law and a framework would be drafted in this regard for the cabinet's approval.

From the next fiscal year, the sovereign wealth fund would start functioning and there would be allocations for the fund in the budget, said a finance ministry official.

In 2015, the government formed a seven-member team, led by Bangladesh Bank Deputy Governor

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Never a stranger to gun toting

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU from Shahzadpur, Sirajganj

Shahzadpur Mayor Halimul Haque Miru repeatedly breached party's rules of decorum and was expelled twice since joining the Awami League in 1996.

But lobbying some political bigwigs in Dhaka and his district, he returned to the AL and eventually won the 2015 mayoral race in Shahzadpur municipality with the party ticket, say insiders.

A controversial figure all along, he managed his gun licence under freedom fighter's quota although he obtained a freedom fighter's certificate with a fake document, according to Shahzadpur Muktijodha Sangsad.

Police on Sunday detained the mayor in the capital's Shyamoli after he hogged the headlines by firing shots during a factional clash in Shahzadpur upazila on Thursday.

A daily Samakal reporter covering the clash was hit by several bullets and he died from injuries on Friday on his

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

MYANMAR ROHINGYAS HRW asks for int'l probe into sexual violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Myanmar government forces committed rape and other sexual violence against Rohingya women and girls during security operations in northern Rakhine State in late 2016, Human Rights Watch said yesterday.

The international rights watchdog said the Myanmar government should urgently endorse an independent, international investigation into alleged abuses in Rakhine State, including into possible systematic rape against Rohingya women and girls.

Myanmar army and Border Guard Police personnel took part in rape, gang rape, invasive body searches, and sexual assaults in at least nine villages in Maungdaw district between October 9 and mid-December last year, it said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

সবাই মিলে শপথ করি
পরিচ্ছন্ন দেশ গড়ি

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