



**Students selling essentials without profit in Moulvibazar**  
P5



**Israeli strikes on Lebanon's Bekaa Valley kill 60**  
P7



**A radical overhaul of economy can save the planet**  
P8



**How an interim government can be successful**  
P9

## Justice Zubayer leads EC search committee

Gazette in a day or two, says Asif Nazrul

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

In a major development, the interim government yesterday formed a six-member search committee led by Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury, a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, to constitute a new Election Commission.

The other members of the committee are Justice AKM Asaduzzaman, a judge of the High Court Division; Nurul Islam, comptroller and auditor general (CAG); Mobasser Momen, chairman of Bangladesh Public Service Commission; eminent personalities CR Abrar, executive director of the Refugee and Migratory Movement Research Unit, and Prof Zeenatun Nesa Tahmidia Begum, former Dhaka University teacher and ex-PSC chairman, according to government sources.

In line with the Appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Act 2022, two judges were nominated by the chief justice, two eminent personalities by the president, and the CAG and BPS chairman are in the committee because of their job status.

The government may issue a gazette containing the names of the search committee members "once the chief

**The development comes amid BNP and some other parties calling for a roadmap to the 13th national election.**

adviser signs it" in a day or two, Law Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul told reporters after a meeting with Volker Turk, the United Nations high commissioner for human rights, at the Secretariat.

Asif Nazrul said the chief adviser might have even signed the gazette by then.

The development comes amid BNP and some other parties calling for a roadmap to the 13th national election.

Asif Nazrul said, "The interim government has begun its journey towards the next general election. The search committee for constituting a new Election Commission has been formed.

"Previous national elections were fake. So, there is not much to talk about the voter list. The voter list will be updated, and it'll be done through a transparent process. The interim government will hold a proper election."

Asked when the election will be held, he said, "It will depend on a number of factors."

According to the law, once a search committee is formed, it takes no longer than 15 work days to propose to the president the names of 10 individuals, two for each membership of the Election Commission. The president then picks the chief election commissioner and four election commissioners and forms the EC.

The posts of election commissioners fell vacant after chief election commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal and four election commissioners resigned on September 5, just a month after a mass uprising led to the fall of the Hasina-led government.

According to Appointments of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners Act 2022, the president forms a six-member search committee led by an Appellate Division judge nominated by the chief justice.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Students of seven colleges affiliated with Dhaka University demonstrate blocking the Science Lab intersection yesterday demanding transformation of their colleges into a new independent public university. The protest led to heavy traffic congestion in and around the area. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Don't rush into serious decisions

Tarique tells govt best to go slow with constitutional, security matters

UNB, Dhaka

Stating that the government should not make any hasty decisions regarding constitutional matters, BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday called upon all to maintain national unity at any cost to resist any plot by the evil quarters.

Exchanging greetings virtually with the Hindu community members, the BNP leader said there are ongoing discussions among the political parties and also within the government regarding the formation of the interim government. "Some are raising questions about why the interim government has been sworn in under the current constitution or whether it is a revolutionary government."

Tarique, who is staying in London, said such questions could hinder the government's dynamism, which may ultimately lead to a diversion from its objectives.

"So, the BNP thinks it is essential to avoid making hasty decisions on matters directly related to national security or constitutional provisions. Instead, a well-thought-out and well-considered approach should be followed, making it easier to address any future challenges."

The BNP leader said some differences among the political parties have surfaced after the fall of Sheikh Hasina's regime on August 5. "But I believe our goal is the same – establishing a discrimination-free, democratic, and humane Bangladesh. Therefore, BNP does not see any room for misunderstanding among the political parties."

Tarique said he believes that if the people's political and economic



SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Petitions against AL, 10 parties withdrawn

3 student leaders filed those 'without consulting others'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three leaders of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement yesterday withdrew the two writ petitions they had filed against the Awami League and 10 other political parties, and the past three general elections.

Their lawyer Ahsanul Karim withdrew the petitions, which were filed on Monday, from the High Court.

He told the HC bench of Justice Fatema Najib and Justice Sikder Mahmud that his clients would not proceed with the petitions.

The bench then rejected the petitions as "not pressed", meaning they were not presented properly.

The lawyer, however, did not disclose the reasons behind the withdrawal.

"My clients have instructed me not to proceed with the petitions before the court. I don't know the reason behind the decision," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

On Monday, Abul Hasnat aka Hasnat Abdullah, convener of the movement; Sarjis Alam, one of its key coordinators who is now the general secretary of the July Martyrs Memorial Foundation; and Hasibul Islam, an assistant coordinator, submitted two

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## New voter list to take 10 months

Yunus briefed on pre-polls process

BAHARAM KHAN

The Election Commission Secretariat has informed Muhammad Yunus, the chief adviser to the interim government, earlier this month about the preparations needed to hold a free and fair election as political parties' calls for polls grow louder.

Usually, the process starts with the chief election commissioner informing the president. Given the absence of a functioning EC, the Chief Adviser's Office was informed about the process. The Daily Star has learnt from people involved with the proceedings.

It was conveyed to Yunus that the first step to holding a credible election would be a comprehensive voter list and preparing one could take nine to 10 months.

If the EC is reconstituted by December, a voter list could be ready by the end of 2025.

It would take at least one month for data collection, SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



## Historic chance for genuine democracy

Says Volker Turk; OHCHR to open office in Dhaka soon

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN rights boss Volker Turk has said Bangladesh has an historic opportunity to renew and revitalise a genuine democracy after the student-led mass uprising.

The United Nations high commissioner for human rights made the remarks in his speech addressing students at Dhaka University on the first day of his two-day visit to Bangladesh yesterday.

He said youths seized the moment to put the country on a different pathway after struggling with divisive politics for decades.

"Bangladesh now has an historic opportunity to renew and revitalise a genuine democracy. To deliver deep reform,"

Through this, the country can start a "process of truth, justice and healing" and ensure that the benefits of development are enjoyed by all people.

This is also an opportunity to rebuild the country on a "foundation of equality – where every voice is heard and valued, irrespective of class, gender, race, political ideology or religion".

He offered some observations in his speech. First, a human rights approach calls for truth, justice, and healing for recent events and past human rights violations.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



## ISSUE OF PRESIDENT

### We will urge govt to form all-party council for advice

Say student movement leaders, Nagorik Committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The student movement against discrimination and Jatiya Nagorik Committee yesterday said it would urge the government to form an all-party council, which would advise the interim government about who should be the president.

"The parties will decide who will be the president and in what procedure after reaching a consensus," said Nasiruddin Patwari, convener of the Jatiya Nagorik Committee.

Two student leaders and four members of the committee met leaders of the Left Democratic Alliance to discuss their proposal.

"We believe all political parties should collectively decide who should be the president. Our only concern is the person assuming the role should not have a fascist agenda," Patwari told reporters after the meeting.

Masud Rana, coordinator of the LDA, said, "One of the critical tasks of this government is to hold discussions with political parties and determine necessary reforms... We don't morally

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Traders have set up makeshift used furniture shops on the footpath right underneath the footbridge near Ideal School and College in the capital's Motijheel, making it difficult for pedestrians to pass. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Info ministry asks BFIU to probe 28 journalists

20 lose press accreditation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The information ministry has asked the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit to probe 28 journalists.

The journalists include nine editors, former editors, and organisational heads.

The BFIU has already sent out correspondences seeking the bank account details of these journalists, according to sources in the unit.

A letter from the information ministry was sent to the BFIU chief on October 22.

The nine current and former editors and organisational heads named in the letter are Naem Nizam, editor of Bangladesh Pratidin, Zahirul Islam Mamun, chief executive officer of ATN News, Syed Borhan Kabir, editor of Bangla Insider, Alamgir Hossain, editor of Samakal, Rezaul Karim Lotus, editor of The Daily Sun, Sheikh Jamal Hossain, editor of Dainik Mukhpatro, Subhash Chandra Singh Roy, editor of ABN News24, Santosh Sharma, editor and publisher of Kalbela, and Rafiqul Islam Ratan, former editor of Swadesh Pratidin.

The list also includes Farida Yasmin, former president of the Jatiya Press Club and Shaban Mahmud, the former government's press minister in New Delhi.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4