



# Schedule for twin votes this evening

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and AHMED DEEPTO

The Election Commission will unveil the schedule this evening for the country's first-ever twin polls -- the national election and the July charter referendum -- to be held on the same day in mid-February.

Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin will announce the timetable in a televised address at 6:00pm today, recorded yesterday afternoon, EC Secretary Akhtar Ahmed told reporters.

Following tradition, the commission met President Mohammed Shahabuddin at Bangabhaban in the afternoon yesterday. Earlier, it met Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed on Tuesday and held talks with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus on Sunday.

The CEC and four commissioners briefed the president on preparations for the 13th national parliamentary

With the schedule, the electoral code of conduct will come into force. Advisers and senior officials will be barred from using government facilities for campaigns. The government will also be not allowed to approve or inaugurate development projects that may influence voters.

election and the referendum. The president sought detailed explanations on arrangements for holding two votes on the same day, including ballot designs, mock voting experience, and counting procedures.

"After being briefed, the president expressed satisfaction," Akhtar said.

Asked whether the schedule could face legal hurdles following the Supreme Court's directive on boundaries of constituencies of Bagerhat, the EC secretary said no court order had yet reached the commission.

"The schedule will be announced for 300 constituencies. If any correction is required later, that can be done accordingly," he said.

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court

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A blockade by mobile phone traders and their employees at Sonargaon hotel intersection created severe gridlocks that spread across the city yesterday evening, causing immense suffering to commuters after office hours. The demonstrators protested against the government decision to deactivate unauthorised handsets.

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PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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## Khaleda is 'responding to treatment'

Says her doctor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is receiving treatment in the intensive care unit of Evercare Hospital, and she is getting the care her condition requires, said her personal physician Dr Zahid Hossain last night.

The former prime minister is under the highest level of medical supervision, and she is

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## NCP unveils 125 candidates

14 female leaders and activists picked so far

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Citizen Party yesterday announced nominees in 125 constituencies, setting the stage for competitive contests in Dhaka where its top leaders will go head-to-head with rivals from the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami in the upcoming national election.

According to the preliminary list of candidates, NCP Convener Nahid Islam will be contesting from Dhaka-II, a seat for which BNP fielded MA Qaiyum, microcredit affairs secretary to the party's National Executive Committee. Jamaat has primarily nominated advocate

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Fifty-three years after independence, countless stories of the Liberation War still lie hidden in the folds of memory. Part 6 of this series turns to Chattogram, a city where guerrilla fighters stitched fear into the occupiers' ranks through swift, coordinated blows.

## Chattogram's guerrilla warfare for freedom



TALES OF FREEDOM

AHMAD ISTIAK

Chattogram woke before dawn to the roar of fire and shuddering steel -- an electric transformer here, a petrol pump there -- until, within an hour, it became a city of explosions.

It was December 6, 1971. Between 3:00am and 4:00am, guerrilla fighters struck 85

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