

# B Chowdhury resigns

Fazle Rashid  
and  
Abdur Rab Majumdar

Prof Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury, Minister for Education, apparently not happy with his present assignment, yesterday (Monday) requested Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to relieve him of his duties.

Prof Chowdhury has also resigned from party's standing committee. The decisions on his resignation letters are still awaited.

The exit of Dr Chowdhury will cause some embarrassment to the BNP government.

Prof Chowdhury had been planning to quit the cabinet post for the past few months. He had set his sights on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Badruddoza Chowdhury is, however, no longer interested in any ministerial assignment.

When contacted, the Education

Minister declined to say anything about his resignation from cabinet and the party standing committee, the highest decision making body of the ruling party.

He now wants to be BNP nominee for presidential election which will be held soon. The



selection of party nominee for the office of the President which will be a ceremonial post will exclusively depend upon Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

Prof Chowdhury has written to the Prime Minister suggesting five names for including in the cabinet. The names are Lt Col (Retd) Akbar Hussain, LK Siddiky, Brigadier (Retd) Haman Shah, Lt Gen (Retd) Shawkat Ali and Abdur Rab Chowdhury.

Two of the five persons named by Dr Chowdhury Akbar Hussain and LK Siddiky, both of whom were ministers in Ziaur Rahman government, are almost certain to be made ministers. The fates of the three other persons are hazy.

Begum Khaleda Zia will not risk inclusion of so many retired armed service personnel in the cabinet though they are all elected representatives of the people. There are already four from armed service in the cabinet. They are

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Majedul Huq, Mustafizur Rahman, Oli Ahmed and Abdul Mannan.

There will be a major readjustment of portfolios in the coming cabinet reshuffle. Some ministers will be dropped and a few juniors will be upgraded to cabinet rank.

The cabinet reshuffle will be take place before the presidential elections.

The political circle is now agog with speculation as to who will be the BNP nominee for the office of the President.

Among the silent contenders are Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas, former President Mohammadullah, Law Minister Mirza Ghulam Hafiz and Education Minister Badruddoza Chowdhury.

Exit of Mirza Ghulam Hafiz and Badruddoza Chowdhury will weaken the parliamentary group of the ruling party.

The Opposition Bench on the other will be strengthened by the

return of Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Shah Moazzem Hussain to the parliament. Jamaat-e-Islami no longer lend its support to the Treasury Bench. The friction between Jamaat and BNP has sharpened in recent days.

BNP has, however, nothing to fear because the party has secured absolute majority in the House of 330, four more than the requisite number. The ruling party will however, need a quick witted and dynamic man to confront the opposition blitz which will increase in the coming session.

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