

Swearing-in ceremony for new ones today

Advisers Mainul, Geeteara, Maturi, Tapan, step down

In a dramatic turn of events, law adviser Mainul Hossain, health adviser ASM Maturi Rahman, power and food adviser Tapan Chowdhury and industry adviser Geeteara Safiya Choudhury resigned on Tuesday, reports bdnews24.com.

The resignations came three days before the anniversary of the 'changeover' by the military-backed government.

The chief adviser's press secretary Syed Fahim Munaim told

bdnews24.com that the advisers cited "personal reasons" for their resignations.

He said the swearing-in ceremony for new advisers would take place today (Wednesday).

Munaim did not name the new advisers, who are meant to fill vacancies on the technocratic government.

Officials said the Cabinet Division started preparations for the swearing-in ceremony for the new advisers.

Geeteara told bdnews24.com that she submitted her resignation letter to the Cabinet Division around 2pm Tuesday. She did not disclose the reason for her resignation.

The resignation of Mainul was confirmed by his wife Sajju Hossain. Mohammad Iqbal Hossain, public relations officer for the power ministry, confirmed the resignation of Tapan.

At 5pm, health adviser ASM Maturi Rahman confirmed the news of his resignation.

"I worked for the nation and am

still working. I will work in full as well. I will keep working well and where I get a chance to do

"In the past, I was in a different place. At present, it is another place. And I will work in full from where I will be assigned to

Asked to explain why it happened, Maturi said: "No power

(See Page 15 Col. 6)



(From Page 1 Col. 8)

permanent."

Earlier at 4pm, Maturi said he did not resign, after he was asked by reporters to comment on media reports on his "resignation".

Later he told bdnews24.com: "What you have heard is true."

Cultural affairs adviser Ayub Quadri was the first to resign his post on the Fakhruddin administration in Dec 26, taking the responsibility for the loss of rare artefacts from Zia International Airport.

The resignation was on "personal grounds", the adviser initially told bdnews24.com by phone. Later, he said: "I made hints of resignation when I talked to reporters the other day."

Quadri had earlier said he must take the responsibility for the lost artefacts as the head of the cultural affairs ministry.

Mainul has often been accused by the media and the public of making outrageous and inconsistent comments on sensitive political topics.

His remarks came at a time when the caretaker administration says it is committed to holding a free and fair election by year-end.

Mainul told a private television station Monday that the Fakhruddin Ahmed-led government would live up to its pledges that include curbing corruption and delivering a flawless democracy through a credible election.

He also said that some vested groups were trying to push the government into trouble, but did not elaborate.

Tapan also drew flak for his recent comment that the government has nothing to do with runaway food prices despite the prices have doubled since the emergency administration took charge in Jan 2007.

Geeteara in Nov last year termed the fertiliser crisis that prompted nationwide protests a