

# CA says if possible polls will be held before Dec '08 Ban on indoor politics lifted

## No new list of suspected corrupt after September

of voters' list with photos, the government will extend all-out cooperation to the Election Commission in holding the polls at the quickest," he assured the nation.

The Election Commission, in accordance with its July 15 roadmap, is scheduled to open a stage-wise dialogue with parties on September 12 on its proposed reforms in election rules and regulations. The dialogue will continue through November this year.

The Chief Advisor hoped all parties would participate in the discussions with the Election Commission that will finalize its draft on reform in consultations with political parties.

Dr Ahmed reaffirmed his commitment to transfer power to elected public representatives after arranging the elections within the set timeline.

(See Page 15 Col. 6)



Chief Advisor Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed addressing the nation on Sunday night.

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## Ban on politics

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"Our endeavour will continue to set up a solid foundation of democracy and good governance and create condition free from corruption and misuse of power so our future journey along the path of building a progressive and democratic society is not impeded."

The Chief Advisor categorically stated that the objective of his government—which took office amid a crumbling democratic order—is not only to hold a fair election but also to build a sustainable democracy. "Our final goal is to make democracy sustainable forever as democracy is the best way for people's emancipation and progress."

His government has waged war on corruption since its assumption of office on January 12, herding up high-profile corruption suspects like former rulers, lawmakers, business tycoons, bureaucrats and their likes.

He said a section of corrupt persons looted thousands of crores of money under their names or pseudonyms using power and influence.

"Although general people are to bear the burden of this, only a handful of people enjoyed its benefit. Therefore, the government has strengthened the Anti-Corruption Commission to take effective steps to stop corruption," he said.

The Chief Advisor informed that different persons returned Tk 820 crore earned through corruption and dishonesty to government exchequer following its coordinated efforts.

However, Dr Ahmed said, the Anti-corruption National Task Force would not publish any new list of suspected corrupt after this month.

He said different government agencies would carry on anti-corruption drives in accordance with rules and regulations.

"You must admit that it is not possible for government alone to

Referring to the unfortunate incident that took place on Dhaka University campus recently, he said, although the government has fulfilled the demands of the students, but unfortunately a rowdy group were indulged in destructive activities in Dhaka and other places of the country.

He said at one stage, the government has to impose curfew in divisional towns and closed down all public universities and colleges as the anarchic activities were not stopped.

He said the government has withdrawn the curfew as the situation calmed down and a one-member judicial committee was constituted with a retired judge to probe the incident.

Elaborating the situation, the Chief Advisor said, after the unexpected incident, FIR (First Information Report) was filed against several thousand unidentified persons.

After investigation under the existing laws, police filed cases against 36 persons including four university teachers of Dhaka University, he said adding, the final report was submitted giving amnesty to the rest of the unidentified persons.

He assured all that no case would be lodged against anyone and nobody would be harassed in this connection.

Dr Fakhruddin called upon all concerned including teachers and students to maintain peace and discipline on the campus for the sake of ensuring congenial academic atmosphere.

Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed said the government has undertaken a number of steps to rehabilitate the hawkers in the capital and they also have the opportunity to run their businesses in some other venues also.

The district and the upazila administrations have been directed to take necessary measures so that the small traders can run their business without any hassle, he added.

The chief advisor said steps have also been taken so that people can go to markets for Eid shopping in a festive mood during the month of holy Ramadan.

Dr Fakhruddin said the government has taken initiatives for smoothly running the 18 nationalised mills and also decided in principle to make the closed up mills and factories operational.

In India there are 100 Catering Institutes that are able to maintain the British Government since the UK economy is recognized by the huge contribution of BCA. The huge contribution of BCA 90,000 employees, he added.

He also said, the Bangladesh restaurant industry is now a victim of envy by the neighboring countries. In 1960 that started working in UK in 1960 around 50-year old industry millinerizing Bangladesh's identity. He added, the industry would have to incur an irreparable loss. Early as possible, the industry vacant posts are not filled up as was taken to change concept of restaurant sector and said, if the 25000 skilled workers in the UK present the industry requires Bazzur Rashid Chowdhury the shortage of skilled manpower, expressing deep concern over

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