

Hamid elected 20th president

Likely to take oath Apr 24

Staff Correspondent

THE acting president Abdul Hamid was on Monday elected unopposed the 20th president of republic for a five five-year tenure.

The chief election commissioner, Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, who is also the ex-

officio election officer for the presidential poll, declared the only candidate for presidency, Abdul Hamid, elected the next president shortly after the scrutiny of his nomination paper.

The president-elect is likely to take oath of office on April 24. The cabinet sec-

retary, Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, told New Age that they were making preparations for the oath ceremony.

The chief election commission after the scrutiny of the nomination paper on Monday morning declared Hamid elected as there was

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Abdul Hamid

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no other candidates for presidency. The presidential poll was scheduled for April 29.

Candidates, according to the election schedule, could get till Wednesday to withdraw their candidature.

EC officials said that there was precedence of declaring the only presidential candidate elected after the expiry of the time for withdrawal of candidature and soon after the scrutiny of the nomination paper.

The commission declared Zillur Rahman [the late president] elected after the expiry of the time for withdrawal in 2009. In 2001,

the presidential candidate was declared elected unopposed shortly after the scrutiny,' a senior assistant secretary of the commission said.

As there is no other contestant, I declare Md Abdul Hamid elected in keeping with Section 7 of the President Election Act 1991 and Subsection 6 of Section 12 of the President Election Rules 1991,' the chief election commissioner said at the press conference at the Election Commission secretariat at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

In reply to a question, the chief election commissioner said that the parliamentary seat of Abdul Hamid would

fall vacant when he would take oath of the office of the president.

Shortly after the announcement of the election result, the commission published the gazette declaring Hamid elected as the next president, according to a press statement of the commission.

An eight-member delegation of the ruling Awami League, led by its adviser Tofail Ahmed, submitted the nomination paper of Hamid to the chief election commissioner on Sunday when the submission of nomination closed.

After Hamid's election to

the presidency, the office of the speaker fell vacant and the parliament would need to elect a new speaker in the current session.

Hamid became the acting president on March 14 in keeping with the constitution after Zillur Rahman had fallen sick and been flown to Singapore for treatment.

He was elected lawmaker in 1986, 1991, 2001 and 2008. He was speaker of the parliament twice.

Hamid was elected the youngest member of Pakistan Jatiya Parishad for the Mymensingh 18 constituency in 1970. He later joined the war of independence.