

Interim govt to hand over power as soon as possible : Shafiqul Alam

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Online Desk : The interim government will hand over power as quickly as possible after the election, Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam said on Thursday, stressing that the current administration will have no role in the next elected government. Speaking at a press conference on Thursday, Shafiqul Alam said that once the elected members of parliament take oath, power will be transferred immediately to their representatives.

He said the entire transition process could be completed within three days of the election. "After MPs are sworn in, the leader of the majority party will be invited to take oath as the new prime minister," he said, adding that the handover could be completed by February 15 or 16 and would not extend beyond February 17 or 18. The press secretary said extrajudicial killings, which he described as having occurred in the past under staged circumstances, have now completely stopped.

Those involved in such incidents in previous periods are being brought under accountability and legal action, he added. He noted that one of the interim government's major responsibilities is to prepare the country for a credible election and initiate reforms in state governance. As part of this effort, a "July Charter" has been drafted and placed before the public through a referendum. "We hope the people of Bangladesh will express their verdict in February 12 vote," he said.

Shafiqul Alam also said that Bangladesh's political culture, once dominated by a handful of individuals, is undergoing significant change. He added that advisers of the interim government would disclose their asset statements before stepping down from office. Describing the election atmosphere, he said campaigning has so far remained largely peaceful and festive across the country, with no major incidents of violence.

Major political parties are behaving in a mature manner, holding rallies and public meetings nationwide. "Millions of people are eagerly waiting for a credible election," he said. Citing police statistics, he said election-related violence claimed 115 lives during 2014 polls, 22 during 2018 election and six during the disputed 2024 election. In contrast, five deaths have been recorded so far in election-related violence this year, indicating a comparatively calm environment.