

**Hassan issue may remain thorny even when PM, Hasina return**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A resolution of the dispute over Justice KM Hasan heading the next caretaker government is unlikely even immediately after the return home of Prime Minister and BNP chief Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition and Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina due to their rigid stance on the issue.

The BNP and AL's opposite stand over the Hasan issue might lead to lingering of the present political impasse till October 28, the day of handover of power to a caretaker government on expiry of the present government's tenure, sources in the ruling and opposition parties hinted.

The ongoing general secretary level dialogue between the BNP and AL could not resolve the difference of views of the two sides about Hasan even in five rounds of talks in the last two weeks as both stuck to their stance. The ruling party favours Hasan's takeover as caretaker government chief while the main opposition party firmly opposes this.

On expiry of the present government's tenure, the president will invite Justice Hasan to take oath as chief of the caretaker government

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## Caretaker govt to face time dearth challenge

**SHIAKHAWAT LITON**

The next caretaker government, which is likely to be formed hurriedly in the wake of impasse over the appointment of chief adviser, will face challenges to create a level-playing field for free and fair polls within a short time.

Officially, the caretaker government has a 90-day tenure, but it will have only 58 workdays to complete the massive task of creating a peaceful atmosphere for the election besides running day-to-day routine work.

With the formation of the next non-party interim government close at hand, nothing however is certain yet due to the prevailing political impasse over the possible chief of the caretaker government.

Former Chief Justice KM Hasan is supposed to be the next caretaker chief, but his path is not so smooth like his predecessor Justice Latifur Rahman as there has been a political deadlock over his assuming the post.

Justice Latifur Rahman, who led the previous caretaker government in 2001, had over four months' time to complete the groundwork to lead the interim government. He

prepared himself as well as finalised the names of his ten advisers and made them prepared mentally before assuming office in July 2001.

But, the scene is totally different this time as both the ruling and opposition alliances are at loggerheads over Justice Hasan's becoming the chief adviser.

There is also little possibility that the stalemate will break before the present government's tenure expires on October 27 despite the ongoing dialogue between ruling BNP and main opposition Awami League (AL).

**TIME CONSTRAINT**  
Even if the caretaker government is formed on October 28, it will have only 58 working days after deducting 24 weekly holidays, six days of two Eid vacations, and one day each for Victory Day and November 7.

During this short time it will have to create a level playing field and assist the Election Commission (EC) before announcing the polls schedule. It will also have to settle the existing disputes over the updated voter list and the EC.

The caretaker government will also have to depoliticise the civil

and police administration and maintain law and order besides the day-to-day routine work and facing economic challenge.

It should be noted here, the EC keeps at least 40 days' gap between the announcement of election schedules and polling day in accordance with electoral laws. This means the caretaker administration will have a very short time before announcing the election schedules.

Amid such situation, those who will be the caretaker government chief and other advisers will have little time to get themselves prepared about the mode of work before assuming office.

The advisers to the immediate past caretaker government were informed of their possible appointment at least a month before taking oath. A number of them told The Daily Star that the then would-be chief adviser asked them to get prepared mentally for the caretaker government posts.

"Justice Latifur Rahman even informed me of my portfolio around three weeks ago, so that I could chalk up my plans," a former adviser, who ran a few very crucial

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## PM seeks IDB fund for power projects

**UNB, Dhaka**

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has sought support from the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for new power projects in Bangladesh to meet the growing demand for electricity.

She made the request when IDB President Dr Ahmed Mohammad Ali made a courtesy call on the prime minister at Jeddah Conference Palace on Monday, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

In response, the IDB president expressed willingness to provide technical cooperation for conducting feasibility study on new power projects.

The prime minister also requested the bank to increase trade-financing loan to \$1.25 billion to import fuels.

The IDB president said it is reasonable to increase IDB's trade-financing credit in view of the

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A young boy with his bicycle goes door to door in the alleys near Farmgate in the capital selling large candles yesterday as the country continues to reel under severe power crisis raising the demand for candles.

## Top criminal Sweden Aslam acquitted in murder case

**COURT CORRESPONDENT**

A Dhaka court yesterday acquitted two top criminals including Sweden Aslam and sentenced six others to life for killing Mohammad Ali, a resident of Tejgaon area in March 1996.

Earlier on November 5, 2003, another Dhaka court sentenced Aslam to life in jail for possessing illegal firearms and ammunition. Fourteen other criminal cases are also pending against him with different courts in the city, court sources said.

Judge SM Mujibur Rahman of the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court handed down the sentence in presence of Aslam and three others at a packed

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## Yunus not willing to be caretaker chief

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus last night explicitly said he is not willing to become the chief adviser to the caretaker government, putting a brewing rumour of last few months to rest.

"The caretaker chief should be neutral. I am not a neutral person since I am involved with the campaign for clean and competent candidates in the national elections," he said.

If need be, he will form a political party to strengthen the campaign, the microcredit guru told

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## Nat'l reception to Yunus Nov. 4

**DCC plans another Nov 3**  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank will be accorded a national reception on November 4.

A national committee -- Nobel Prize Winner Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank Reception Committee -- has been formed in this regard with former chief of caretaker government Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman as the chairman.

A preparatory committee was also formed with Khandoker Ibrahim Khaled, former deputy managing of Bangladesh Bank and Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) are the top three loan defaulters on the list of 20.

Banking sources said the government has taken little initiative to reschedule the loans of its various entities but a number of private loan defaulters among the top 20 have recently taken some move to

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Two deaf children, one aged four years and the other four months, sleep on a mat on the pavement of Suhrawardy Uddyan in the capital yesterday. Their mother, who is also deaf, sleeps on a bench close to them. The father of the children, a day labourer, is also deaf. The parents met each other in the park nearly seven years ago and the got married three and a half years back. The mother is a rag picker and sometimes cleans rooms in Dhaka University girls' dormitories. Security guards and workers of the park gladly look after the children when the parents are away at work.

## Outlaw killed in 'shootout' with Rab

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia**

A gangster belonging to an organised group of violent criminals -- Lachad Bahini -- was killed in a 'shootout' between Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and the gang at Charsadipur under Daylatpur upazila early morning yesterday.

The dead was identified as Majnu Mia, 35, son of Bidi Khan of Charsadipur under Daulatpur upazila.

Majnu was an infamous armed activist of Lachad Bahini, who was also known as a loyal hit man of local BNP lawmaker Reza Ahmed Bachchu Mollah.

According to the Rab 12 statement, a Rab team arrested Majnu from his house at Charsadipur, 45 kilometres off Kushtia town, on

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## 20 TOP DEFAULTERS Govt entities possess 85pc classified loans

**REJAUL KARIM BYRON**

Different government entities share 85 per cent of the total classified loans of 20 top defaulters in the banking system and there is little initiative for rescheduling the defaulted loans.

Bangladesh Bank (BB) sources said the total outstanding bank loans of the 20 top defaulters as of June 30 this year was Tk 8,574 crore while Tk 5,698 crore or 66 per cent of the amount was classified (defaulted).

Of the 20 top defaulters, seven government entities share Tk 4,871 crore of the classified loans, and the rest is in the private sector, according to statistics prepared by the BB recently.

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) and Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) are the top three loan defaulters on the list of 20.

Banking sources said the government has taken little initiative to reschedule the loans of its various entities but a number of private loan defaulters among the top 20 have recently taken some move to

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## AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK Sircar tells Inter-Parliamentary Union not to ask about probe status

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

As the inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is repeatedly seeking to know the actual status of investigation into the August 21 grenade attack case, Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar continues accusing the Awami League (AL) of non-cooperation with the probe.

Sircar has even asked the IPU not to continue examining the August 2004 grenade attack case regarding the assassination attempt on Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina to let the legal proceedings go unhindered, sources said.

"It would not be wise to proceed with this matter any further in this forum. With heartfelt thanks in anticipation of dropping the matter," he said in his reply to the July 20, 2006 letter of the IPU, the international organisation of Parliaments of sovereign States.

The 14-party opposition combine held a one-and-a-half-hour long meeting at Jallil's Gulshan residence last night to discuss the

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## Opposition urges PM to keep army out of controversy

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Awami League (AL)-led 14-party opposition combine yesterday expressed grave concern over prime minister's seeking support from the army to keep continuity of the BNP-Jamaat alliance government and thus making the institution "controversial".

"Prior to handing over power, the prime minister has been repeatedly calling darbar meeting of the army and seeking its support to keep continuity of the alliance government," 14-party Coordinator Abdul Jalil told reporters at a press briefing at his residence in the capital last night.

"The prime minister is thus trying to influence the army politically and making them controversial," Jalil said, describing the act as against the norms of democratic process.

The 14-party opposition combine will hold meetings with the leaders of all its thana and ward units on October 19 and the front organisations of the alliance

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বিশিষ্টাধারিত রাহমানের বাইম

অতীত জায়ে এবং শিখা আত্মজাতিক বিশেষ ব্যপারে বিশিষ্টা, হালী, ক্যাম্প সঙ্গত আত্মজাত এলাকা...

**আশিয়ান সিটি**

আপনার অভিজাত রিকবনা

কেবলমাত্র কুমিল্লায়

**শাড়ী, গহনা, খেদের বাজার হী!!!**

একটি গুট কিনলেই উপহার ১০,০০০/- টাকার শপিং ডাউনচার...

ফেনা মাফে:

- হুগলী
- নদন
- ভায়াসো
- বাবোর বেলা

(সকল শাখায়)

আশিয়ান ব্যান্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট লিঃ

ইউনিকর্প প্রাজা (৬ত তলা), DHL - এর বিপরীতে, ৪০/২, এডিন্ডি, গুলশান-২, ঢাকা-১২১২  
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প্রতি সাইজের ২.৫, ৩ এবং ৫ কাটা  
কাটা প্রতি বুকিং মাত্র ১০,০০০ টাকা