Dhaka, Tuesday, July 11, 1995

Share Market Reform

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman came hard on the DSE management at the Bangladesh Share Investors' Forum (BSIF) meet in the capital on Sunday for its failure to protect the interest of small in-

Rahman's disappointment follows a much-vaunted policy backup the government had earlier extended to the small local investors by introducing a lock-in period for the foreign investors in the share market. The idea was that portfolio foreign investment in the secondary market can be elusive in a volatile climate of investment in the South and East Asian regions so it better be put to a duration test as through a lock-in period and then be welcomed with open arms. In the meanwhile, let the local investment pick up along side foreign direct investment whose proven merits in creating employment and helping transfer of technology are far too convincing to need any elaboration.

When such is the priority coupled with policy protection given by the government to local investment as a means to sustainable capital formation (adding thereby a special quality to the investment) the Finance Minister's reasons for flaying the handling of DSE affairs, that went against the interests of small local investors, are quite understandable. But his threat to the DSE that it has to put up with a rival bourse in Dhaka, in addition to the Chittagong Stock Exchange, should it continually fail to come up to the mark in catering for the local investors will sound empty as long as the issues do not register a definite upswing. So, the ball rolls into the government's court to float shares from its controlling or shared interests. The whole range of public utility services hold out prospects for multiplying the number of issues on their disinvestment. The small share investors look for a second bourse in Dhaka because they seem displeased with the existing one. The message should be read by the DSE's top functionaries.

Saifur Rahman forcefully argues that the brokers have usurped the managerial role of the DSE. They have a field-day in manipulating share prices and creating mini-monopolies through behind-thescene moves. Thus the individual investors who have already staked their savings in scrips are short-changed while new membership to issues is foreclosed.

All this is happening because there is inadequate transparency in the ways the DSE works. Listed companies too have been at fault when many of them resorted to travesty of truth in their prospectuses while floating their shares. It is good to learn from the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission that most companies have now started holding AGMs and giving dividends to share-holders. We wonder how non-functioning companies still remain listed with the DSE and the central bank was kept in the dark about investment transactions on the bourse.

A comprehensive reform law is due for the sake of streamlining the stock market.

Cool Carries the Day

Wimbledon came to a rather predictable close on Sunday evening. Rather, because many had set their store by the colourful Agassi, who just passed out inexplicably after a flying start against Becker. But then, it was great tennis for much the better part of it - and there were patches worth remembering into the new millen-

If the men's final was a disappointment with a spent-out Boris, somewhat a shadow of his earlier winning forms, failing to match the superconductivity cool of Sampras, they both provided high drama and power-tennis at its best enroute to their encounter. Big man Becker at 85 kg and 6 feet and 4, had to pit his everything to cross the Pioline Maginot Line and the Agassi charisma factor. Sampras couldn't possibly have survived his slugfest duel against the spiritely, and shall we say unlucky, Ivanisevic, but for his cool. If the run-up was so good why did the final nearly fizzle. A surfeit of aces and double faults leaves nothing to tennis. Sampras served 27 aces and Becker 16. Sampras double faulted 7 times and Boris 15. This was all there was to the final.

Not so with the women's final. Arantxa fought it to make it look anybody's game till the very last point which Steffi got after a 20minute duel on 5-all deuce with the loser getting six break-points and giving the game and the set and the match and the crown by one netted ball. If any set ever set the famous centre court truly afire this was it.

In more ways than one this Wimbledon was a show of Latin woman's power. Arantxa did not have an easy sailing over compatriot and reigning champion Conchita Martinez. In the second set Arantxa was on doom's path. She recovered in the third only because of an off-form Conchita.

Poor Conchita had, however, given a fiery account of herself when bettering another Latin, the darling of tennis courts around the world, the Argentine Gabriela Sabatini. The score 7-5, 7-6 tells the story well.

In the packed drama at Wimbledon this year the only dear thing missing was Mary Pierce — the grass court novice. Tennis lovers would want to see again and more of her at Wimbledon.

Congrats World Bank

We can be circumspect, celebratory, grateful and critical - all at the same time - about the World Bank's presence and its multidimensional role in Bangladesh for quarter of a Century. In the shifting sands of time World Bank has remained a predictable and steady partner of Bangladesh in her uphill journey towards economic development. The consistency of the IDA's input into our development efforts, regardless of the quality of output, which has not always been satisfactory to both sides, often for different reasons, stands out as a unique feature of our relationship with the World Bank.

It goes to the credit of the Bank that at its insistence we did take some hard decisions early in the day which today form the basis of our macro-economic stability. As the Finance Minister Saifur Rahman says, "we may not have taken up the reform agenda" as quickly on the heels of the onset of the free market trends globally as we did.

The Bretton Woods institutions - World Bank and IMF - have for some time been under pressure from the enlightened circles in the Western world itself to be less commanding or prescriptive and more liberal and sensitive instead to the peculiar needs of various developing countries. The time and cost overruns caused by procedural rigidities delay the process of reaching the benefits of projects quickly enough to the target groups. We do not say all of the pipeline bulge is because of the World Bank when we know our utilisation rates to have been low in many cases. Given the goodwill the Bank enjoys here as the provider and coordinator of foreign aid for Bangladesh, a positive spurt in the interaction should help matters in this area sooner than later.

For our part, we are not to be complacent over the success rating we enjoy over some other countries in terms of carrying forward the reform apenda. Because we cannot rest on our oars till poverty alleviation is achieved through self-reliance and here we have a common denominator with the WB's overall objective.

As we ruminate the Bank's 25 years in Bangladesh, our expectations of a steadier and more fruitful partnership with it grows. We are waiting to benefit from its new thrusts upon sustainable growth based on human resource development with a healthy concern for environment

Terrorism by Americans

Oklahoma Tragedy: Where Lies the 'Rut'?

by A M M Shahabuddin

Today America is more concerned with the rising 'Islamic fundamentalism" as a big challenge, replacing communism. So the anti-communist tirade of the Cold War period has now perhaps turned into a sort of anti-Islamic fundamentalism.

above suspicion" is not always true. Oklahoma has shown it

ERHAPS time has come for

America to review and re

evaluate its age-old thinking of

terrorism vis-a-vis national security.

The past is past, It is now buried

under the debris of Oklahoma

bombing by home-grown terrorism.

However, anachronistic it may

sound, it is a reality. The full-grown

domestic hate-groups are having

their field days. The 'spoilt' children

are out on the street. At least the

Oklahoma tragedy should open the

eyes of the American strategists who

are more concerned with the 'distant

drums' than the back-yard fiddling.

Many ugly things have been thrown up

Whether they like it or not, their

dirty linen is out. They should now

examine thoroughly the difference

between the 'terrorism made in USA'

America put her "blind eve" on the

and "terrorism made abroad." So far

home-front and fixed her other eye

around the world in search of ene

mies, like the proverbial one-eyed

deer. Home-grown terrorism has

proved too costly. A correspondent,

writing in the Time magazine, has

rightly said that "if anything good has

come out of the Oklahoma tragedy.

it has brought to the forefront the

non-government military groups and

their paranoid delusions of a US gov-

riod of over four decades, the corner

stone of the US foreign policy has

been the dread of communism and its

hinterland - the former Soviet

Union. Each has built up its military

strength to its optimum and tried to

extend there areas of influence. So

the US policy was tailored to suit its

world-wide strategy. The most pow-

erful US intelligence network, CIA

also known as the "invisible govern-

ment" — continued during this pe-

riod its overt and covert activities to

contain the sinister move of interna-

makers always took it for granted

that all was well on the home-front.

But the adage that "Caeser's wife is

door. It's a question of few

months only; but a lot of work is still

pending and awaiting disposal. There

are demands from all political and

non-political organisations to frame

electoral code of conduct to facil-

itate a smooth, free and fair election.

But, how to do that? What would be

the methodology to prepare the

same, based on consensus, and

enforce it? It seems that the political

parties do not like to sit jointly with

the Chief Election Commissioner

(CEC) to thrash out the touchy mat-

ter, by addressing the above men-

tioned queries. But, everybody is

submitting memorandum to the Elec-

tion Commission (EC) in his own way,

harping his points! The recent invita-

tion of the CEC to the political par-

ties to sit together with him at the

EC's secretariat to frame the code of

conduct did not produce the desired

result; the mainstream political par-

ties opted not to participate in the

meeting. But, everyday in the morn-

ing when we go through the daily

newspapers, we find reports on the

demands of the political parties, ven-

tilated in their meetings, to control

three Ms, that is, money, muscle and

prehension among the mainstream

political parties could have been

avoided if the ruling party, extended

the courtesy to consult the opposi-

tion before the appointment of the

CEC. Why the government did not

feel it is better known to them! But,

assistance for the 1.2 million Afghan

refugees in Pakistan could lead to an

increase in the already appalling

death and injury toll from landmines.

UN's mine clearance programme in

Afghanistan, points out that " a major

repatriation movement" could occur

this year as a result of the ending of most aid from the world body's

warns, "if de-mining operations are

the fall of President Mohammed

Najibullah's Soviet-backed govern-

ment in 1992 triggered a mass return

of refugees, the number of mine in-

juries treated in red Cross hospitals in

Pakistan and Afghanistan increased

lion a year programme is financed not

from the regular UN budget but from

voluntary contributions and in 1993 it

last year, and contributions or

Fortunately donations resumed

In addition, Mansfields \$ 25 mil-

by about ten times.

ran out of money.

not continued at a parallel level."

"This could be hazardous," he

He has reason for concern: after

refugee agency in September.

Ian Mansfield, manager of the

EARS have been voiced by a

United Nations official that

the imminent scaling down of

No doubt, the prevailing misap-

During this period, the US policy-

LECTION to the Sixth

Parliament is knocking at the

tional Communism.

In fact, during the Cold War pe

ernment take over by the UN."

through the 'lava' at Oklahoma.

Change in World Scenario

There has been a big change in the world scenario since the fall of the other Superpower — the Soviet Union, and with it the demise of international Communism. But very little has changed with the CIA operation world-wide. Nor the US administration could find time to look at their own backyard where so many poisonous snakes are hissing. In the changed circumstances, the future role of the CIA came under a heavy scrutiny. Some opined that in the present context, it is an 'anachronism' and should be merged with the state department. But the advocates were in a poor minority. There were more strong and powerful voice not to cut its size. The former CIA chief, Robert Gates, on the eve of his exit from the organisation, before the induction of the Clinton Administration made a fervent appeal "not to cut CIA budget", as, according to him, "not too much has changed with the end of the Cold War". He raised a new bogey. saying that "the threats to the US have been not in Moscow, but in the Third World," so the CIA seems to have got a new, rather more strength ened, lease of life, with greater attention on the Third World, without caring to look at what is cooking in its own backvard.

In fact, during the current century, since the end of the World War II, America has not fought a single

BNP was quite aware of the contin-

ued boycott of the opposition from

the end of 13th session of the Parlia-

ment and resignation of 147 MPs

from 28th December '94 to realise

their demand for a free and fair elec-

tion under neutral caretaker govern-

ment. It would have been in the fit-

ness of things to make such consulta-

tion when the mutual confidence be-

tween the party-in-power and oppo-

sition is at the lowest ebb. The op-

position parties have also mentioned

that they are not opposed to the per-

son appointed as CEC; but the

method of appointment, without any

consultation with the opposition, is

not to their liking. It seems that the

opposition would have consented to

the present incumbent Justice Sadek,

if a simple call emanated from the

government to the opposition. It was

not without reason that the opposi-

tion parties were thoroughly dis-

gusted with the out-going CEC Jus-

tice Rouf; which is still continuing in

one form or the other in the precincts

of Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

Such cases have been reported in the

newspapers, since his return to

Supreme Court on 20th April '95. But,

the position is quite different with

Justice Sadek. His reputation of fair-

ness and neutrality is beyond dispute.

It is said that his predecessor has left

the EC, keeping it in a haphazard

condition and a long list of pending

electoral matters. After the joining of

new CEC, the registration of voters

for preparation of electoral rolls and

ID cards have been taken up; and de-

limitation of the constituencies have

war against its arch rival, the former Soviet Union. But it has fought directly with three poor Third World countries - Korea, Vietnam and Iraq. Of course, it has fought against Soviet Union through a 'proxy war' in Afghanistan during the eighties. And in this war against Soviet Union. America used Pakistan as its base and the Afghan Mujahideen as human canon in a scenario - Islam versus Communism. And the irony of the whole episode is that the so-called "Islamic fundamentalist cleric," who is now rotting in the US jail along with some of his followers on charges of bombing the World Trade Centre in New York, had worked in Afghanistan during the eighties as a CIA agent to mobilise Islamic forces against Soviet Union. What a tragedy! Although America, for that matter the West, received fullest support from the Muslims, as seen in Afghanistan, the Muslims, rather Islamism fell from the grace of America with the fall of the Soviet Union and demise of its Communist regime.

America's Main

Concern Today America is more concerned with the rising "Islamic fundamentalism" as a big challenge, replacing tirade of the Cold War period has now perhaps turned into a sort of anti-Islamic fundamentalism. The entire western media, particularly the US media, is now carrying on a sustained and orchestrated campaign against the so-called Islamic funda-

mentalism or 'militant Islam," without caring to know what actually is meant by such nearly-coined jargons. Today. in almost every continent whether in Asia, Africa, Europe or Latin America, some explosive movement is going on, either against a totalitarian regime, or struggle for independence from colonial rule, or even against attempts to thwart a democratic process by the vested quarters. But the tragedy is that when it occurs in a Muslim country, particularly an Arab or a ME country, it is dubbed by the western media as the work of the 'fundamentalists' or militant Islamists. This is sheer nonsense as well as ridiculous. But a joker is a joker and he won't remove his make-up until the show is over.

Emerging Islamic Republics

The worries of the West seem to have been further accentuated by the break-up of the Soviet Union and particularly by the emergence of about half a dozen or so newly independent Central Asian republics which, accidentally, happen to be Muslim majority states. A recent example shows which way the West is directing its long march. The former NATO Secretary Mr. Woerner, during a visit to Moscow, said, without any ambiguity, that "the Islamic fundamentalists are increasingly getting strong in Central Asia and this devel opment does not meet the needs of NATO." What a noble confession on the part of an honest diplomat! So for the West, the issue today is not Islam

itself, but its political expression which scares them. An analyst has aptly said in an article in the Hong Kong-based "the Far Eastern Economic Review, that "Islamic fundamentalism has replaced Communism as the West's bug-bear'.

Distorted Image

The Western and the US media.

both print and electronic, have now launched a campaign to educate its audience with a distorted, wrong and negative image of the Muslims, par ticularly the Arab Muslims. The CIA now must be over active in these Third World countries where Islam is showing its rather "ugly face." Per haps the US, films and cartoons are also playing a 'commendable' role in this respect. For instance take the case of "faceless, inhuman Arab terrorists' who appear again and again in different movies "to be cut down by the American marines," as said in a Canadian daily. I don't like to multiply the examples due to space constraints. But I cannot resist the temptation of giving one more example. A US-syndicated Cross Word Puzzle created an uproar among the Canadian Arabs when it was carried in a Canadian daily. In the puzzle, the clue was "Street Urchin" and the four-letter answer was given as 'ARAB' However, the syndicate had to withdraw the said Puzzle due to strong protests voiced by the Canadian Arabs.

The above analysis has been made to show the biased rather jaundiced behaviour of the US Administration

Education and Training (3) Electronic

the CIA, towards emerging Islam. The latest instance is the CIA report about the supply of important components of missile system to two Muslim countries - Iran and Pakistan, and the US government is getting ready to impose economic sanctions against China for violating the international missile accord. It seems if CIA allegations are proved, the whole world has been 'cleansed' of the missile and of nuclear threats! The US Administration and the

and its most powerful instrument -

(IA should now turn their attention homeward and examine how they can meet the growing challenge of the private organisations like the "Michigan Militia" and the National Rifles Association (NRA). The private militia groups had the guts to say recently before a senate committee that it is the FBI agents who are 'terrorists' and not the Militia members. And the NRA showed its "tough as bullets" attitude at their recent annual convention at Phoenix, Arizona. This NRA. an organisation of over 120 years old. has a membership of 3.5 million, and its annual revenue stood at 148 million US dollars in 1994!

Constitution Second Amendment: Irrevocable!

But what actually has tied the hands of the US Administration and the CIA to take any action against such hate-groups? There stands a big hurdle where the administration and the CIA just huff and puff but fail to cross it. It is the US constitution's Second Amendment which guarantees each individual US citizen "to own and carry guns" (and form militial) But that does not mean that the Second Amendment is "Gospel truth" and is irrevocable. That's not the fact, perhaps. However controversial the Second Amendment may appear, it needs to be cut to size to meet greater national security needs. Until that is achieved, the tussle between the pro and anti-gun lobbyists will continue. Only future will show who

Code of Conduct — an Integral Part of Electoral Law

by Muhammad Quamrul Islam

been made, which could have been done earlier in an easy and systematic way. In that case, the present shortcomings in delimitation, as reported in terms of number of voter, being unequal from constituency to constituency, and physical inconveniences etc, could have been wiped out. However, EC has finalised the delimitation, after due hearing. We will have to be contented with it, un der the circumstances, particularly because of the time-constraint.

We know that the EC is fully aware of the necessity to update and consolidate the electoral laws. So far, the Representation of the People Order, 1972, has been amended from time to time and notifications issued according to exigencies. There is widespread allegations that the limit of Tk 3 lakh for election expenses has been exceeded by many in the last Parliament election. Quite a few political parties are vociferous to press their demand for a law to ban the black money holders and defaulters of loans to contest in election. Simi larly, the government servants should not be allowed to contest the election, immediately on retirement There is a heartening news that the EC has already been asked to debar government officials from contesting election for two years from the date of retirement. 'Nirmul Committee' has also moved the EC and the Speaker for disqualifying the killers and collaborators of '71. All these necessitate updating the electoral law, by accommodating reasonable demands

raised till date, and for this the EC needs unanimity of the mainstream political parties on these burning issues. Precisely, it is the responsibility of the Law Ministry, to respond to the demands of the quarters concerned and advice of the EC, to draft the relevant laws and get it enacted.

We feel that due to bureaucratic tangle the election machinery, from the Secretariat to the field, virtually does not function to meet the democratic aspirations of the voters. It is high time that all electoral personnel, irrespective of rank and status, are placed under the full administrative control of the CEC. Such re-organization of EC is overdue to implement meaningfully Article 118 (4) of the Constitution. The Head Office of EC may be functionally reorganised to assign specific jobs to each Division and hold them responsible, instead of enabling the officers to shift the responsibility upwards and downwards, remaining obsessed with rank and status. In accordance with the letter and spirit of part VII of the Constitution, the functional areas may be clearly delineated at headquarters and field, dispensing with too many bureaucratic layers and red tapism. At headquarters, steps may be reduced and responsibility clearly identified by placing each functional area/division, under the charge of EC or Deputy Election Commissioner. Considering the known present workload of EC, the functional ar eas/division would be: (1) Administration and Coordination, (2) Law,

Data Processing. Job description of each personnel under respective func tional area be laid down to facilitate smooth work and also to recruit right man in the right place. Headquarters will define the job of the field officers and cut down unnecessary steps to effect speedy communication and disposal of electoral works. It may not be out of place to mention that it is the Registration Officers and staff, Presiding Officers and Polling staff. who are hired on short term basis, do perform the main job in the electoral process. The regular officers and staff, borne in the Revenue Budget, are to support, train and provide technical assistance on the spot. The secretariat type of bureaucracy is out of tune with the requirement of democratic elections to ensure free and fairness in polls; which has been proved beyond doubt in recent his-

knowledgeable and dedicated personnel, with clear line of duties and responsibilities, under the full administrative control of CEC, are necessary on continuous basis. To support the process, the code of conduct is to be annexed with electoral law. In our context, the code of conduct may contain the following, among

Staffing the headquarters with

(1) All political parties shall respect the interpretation given in Article 152 of the Constitution about "political party"; and abolish the student front, as enunciated in the Martial Law Regulation of 1976.

(2) All political parties shall disseminate their political ideas and principles, and respect the right and freedom of all other parties to cam-

calls the shots.

(3) Intimidation, in whatever form, vote buying, and possession and use of any weapon of any kind, at any meeting, march or demonstration shall be prohibited. Parties' instructions and orders shall reinforce these prohibitions.

(4) All parties shall establish effective communication with one another at the national and district levels; and shall appoint personnel to maintain liaison with EC at headquar ters, Dhaka, and district election officers to deal with any problem arising during registration and issuing of ID cards, the campaign or the polling.

Who doesn't want free and fair election, and for this to happen an updated electoral law with code of conduct is obviously a pre-requisite. Time is running out! We will urge the political parties, the government and the CEC to clear the above agenda immediately, in anticipation of a neutral caretaker government. It's a matter of great regret that no progress has been achieved in electoral system, to increase confidence of voters and parties in the electoral authorities, after Election '91. Can't we proceed, which brooks no further delay? We have no other alternative but to expect strong initiative of the

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Chief Election Commissioner.

'Blind Terrorism' Threatens the Home-comers Tariq Butt writes from Islamabad

Landmines continue to kill and maim civilians in Afghanistan three years after the defeat of the Soviet-backed government in Kabul. Now there is a fear that a cutback in UN aid for refugees will result in thousands more stepping into the minefields.

pledges for 1995 have been made by Austria, Britain, Canada Denmark, the European Union, Finland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United States.

Mansfield reckons that clearance will take another three years if the current level of funding is maintained. Even if this money is forthcom-

ing, the toll of deaths and injuries will continue. Sayed Aga of the Mine-Clearing Planning Agency, an Afghan non-government organisation (NGO), says "there are 20-25 mine incidents involving civilians every day, or 8,000 a

Half the victims die from lack of medical attention and the other 4,000 lose limbs, eyes or other parts of their

bodies. About one victim in three is a child under 12 years old. The indiscriminate effect of mines, which can not differentiate between a soldier, a farmer or a child, has earned the description "Blind terrorism."

The British-based Mines Advisory Group estimates the cumulative toll since the Soviet invasion in 1979 at 200,000 civilian deaths and 400,000 disabled.

The financial cost is also enormous. One NGO puts the average cost of treatment and rehabilitation where it is available - at \$5,000 per

victim. Aga hopes that information collected in a survey by his organisation will 'assist international campaigns

seeking a ban on he production, ex-

the world every day, long after the conflict that has caused their use has ended." Clearance is hampered by continued fighting between Mujahideen

port, licensing and use of landmines-

"In order to be safe from the problems created by hostilities between various parties and tribes, says Kefayatullah Eblagh of Afghan Technical Consultants, one of eight NGOs involved in mine-clearing," we have been striving to maintain absolute neutrality in dealing with all segments of Afghan society by demonstrating the benefits of the mineclearing programme."

Afghanistan is one of the world's most mine-affected countries. During the 13-year civil war between Najibullah's government and US-supported Mujahideen guerrillas, up to 10 million mines may have been usedone-tenth the total number of mines spread throughout the world.

The mines are everywhere, not just around military targets. As part top of the Soviet strategy of depopulating villages to prevent support for the Mujahideen, they were also laid in and around homes, roads and irrigation systems, and on agricultural land and grazing areas.

The presence of mines and the factional fighting, says Mansfield, are the major reasons for the lack of initiative on the part of refugees to

As well as removing and defusing

gramme whose base has been removed from Kabul to Pakistan because of the continuing insecurity in Afghanistan - provides awareness training to civilians. It says it has briefed 2.5 million people on the hazards of mines, and plans to provide information to another 900,000 this - GEMINI NEWS

TARIQ BUTT is on the staff of The News, Islamabad.



Tax on house property income

Sir, I fully endorse the views ex pressed by Mr Q A Hakim of Banani Dhaka in the letter column of your esteemed daily date 30.6.95 on the above subject for keeping in force the existing system of 20 per cent tax-free house property income on repairs and maintenance and also to allow the 25 per cent income rebate

to those house owners who can produce the valid records of expenditures to the assessing officers. It is a fact that the house owners had so long been enjoying the benefit of deducting of 20 per cent of their annual house rent income without any production of expenditure records but now if they are to produce the payment vouchers of their annual

house repairs and maintenance works

then, I feel, it would create a lot of

trouble for both the house owners

and the assessing officers in respect

of their validity. Even, sometimes, no

receipts are taken from the workers

after a day's work when payments are made at the end of the day. Hence the hon'ble Finance

Minister is requested through your esteemed daily to keep the existing system of 20 per cent annual tax-free income in force and also to grant 25 per cent income rebate to those house owners who can produce valid expenditure records to the assessing officers.

Firoze Ahmed Free School Street, Dhaka-

Six points of caretaker government

Sir, We are exhausted and tired of unabated political impasse in the country. May we, therefore, through these columns of your esteemed daily, request AL Chief Sheikh Hasina, Gano Forum Leader Dr Kamal Hossain, Barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed, Barrister Moinul Huq, Barrister Amirul Islam, Barrister Moudud Ahmed,

Mizanur Rahman Choudhury of JP and Matiur Rahman Nizami of JI to kindly enlighten us on the following six points of caretaker government in the national interest? 1) What would be the modus

operandi of caretaker government? ii) Who would elect or select a caretaker government and under what authority or mandate? iii) To whom the caretaker gov-

ernment would be responsible and accountable and under what law? iv) What is the guarantee that the caretaker government would hold

free and fair general elections? v) If the caretaker government fails to perform its duties and responsibilities entrusted to it, who would take disciplinary or punitive

action against caretaker government

vi) If a referendum is held on the issue of caretaker government, under whose supervision it would take

O H Kabir Dhaka-1203

lives and safety of hundreds of innocent men, women and children around

factions which fought Soviet intervention but are now struggling with each other for power.

A UN report says mines laid by Soviet forces were generally catalogued according to military procedures but most of those planted by the Mujahideen were not recorded or laid to any specific pattern.

and under what rules or regulations? go back to Afghanistan."

mines, the UN-backed clearing pro-