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Constitutional crisis

In Search of a Way Out



In today's instalment of the Daily Star interview series on the current political deadlock, Advocate Sudhansu Shekhar Halder, a prominent lawyer and parliamentarian, feels that the existing political crisis, created over the question of holding elections under a caretaker government, can only be solved through 'changing constitutional provisions in a proper way'.

Details on page 5
 We request our readers to send in their suggestions towards resolving the crisis.

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NEWS BRIEFS

ALCWC meets today

An emergency meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) will be held at its Dhanmondi office today at 6 pm. Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman has requested all concerned to attend the meeting, reports UNB.

2 Sarbahara men arrested

SIRAJGANJ, July 28: Police arrested two leaders of the outlawed Sarbahara Party along with some arms and ammunition from Kamarkhand and Sadar thanas of the district last night. The arrested are - Rubel, 35, of Ghatail in Tangail district and Bablu, 32, of village Bahuli under Sadar thana, reports UNB.

Indian fish seized

JESSORE, July 28: The Task Force seized 10 metric tons of Indian rufi fish worth about Taka 10 lakh at Lauzani check post on Jessore-Banapole road today. BDR sources said that these fish were brought illegally along with the legally imported fish. However, the Task Force released six trucks of fish imported from India on production of legal documents, reports BSS.

Gazette notification shortly, says Speaker
Seats of absentee MPs stand vacated from June 20

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali yesterday indicated that the seats of the Opposition MPs whose absence from the House crossed the 90-day constitutional limit will be considered vacated from June 20 last, reports UNB.

The boycotting lawmakers of the Awami League, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, NDP and the Workers Party completed the absence for 90 consecutive sitting days on June 19.

Talking to reporters at his official residence yesterday evening, the Speaker said a

Gazette notification would be made to this effect in a couple of days.

Razzak Ali said he would inform the House of the matter when Parliament will be in session.

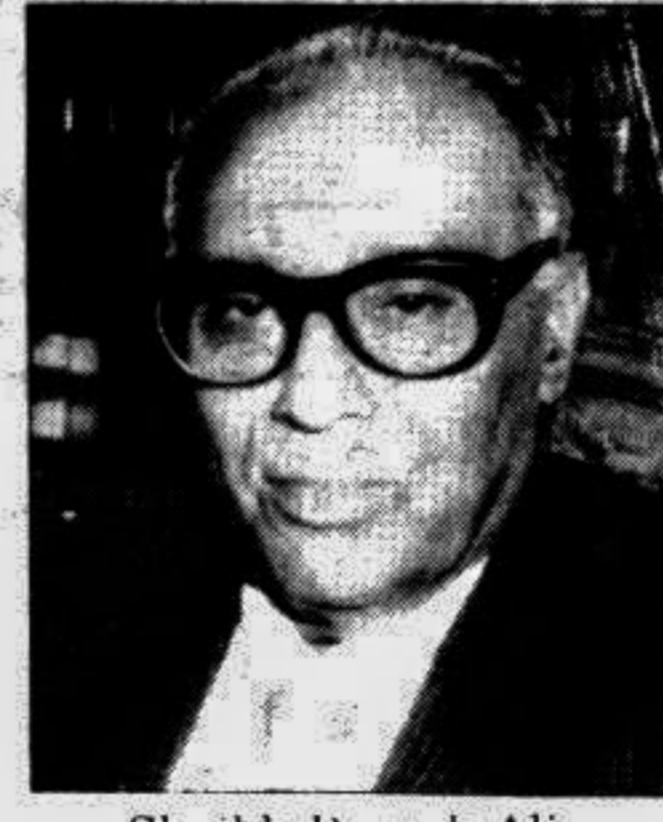
The Speaker's statement came a day after the Supreme Court declared that the Opposition's walkout from and boycott of Parliament should be construed as absence.

He quoted Article 123 (4) of the Constitution which says an election to fill the seat of a member of

Parliament which falls vacant otherwise than by reason of dissolution of Parliament shall be held within 90 days of the occurrence of the vacancy.

About the procedure of declaring the seats vacant, he referred to Rule 178 (4) that says the Secretary shall cause a notification to that effect to be published in the Gazette and forward a copy of the notification to the member concerned and also to the Election Commission for taking steps to fill the vacancy.

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Shaikh Razzak Ali

SAARC women's affairs ministers meet today

The SAARC Ministerial Meeting on Women begins in the capital today, aiming to promote socio-economic condition of women in the region, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the two-day conference at the International Conference Centre (ICC).

The conference, first of its kind, will be participated by all the seven-member countries of the SAARC. It will adopt a 'Dhaka Resolution' upholding women's rights in all spheres of society, particularly in the

social and economic sectors.

Officials said the 'Dhaka Resolution' is expected to provide guidelines for involving women in nation building as well as financial activities.

Women's development, being one of the 13 areas of cooperation of the SAARC, is a core element of the action programmes of the 10-year-old association.

SAARC was formally launched in Dhaka in 1985 for the promotion of socio-economic condition of more than one billion people in the region, about 50 per cent of

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New formula for caretaker government

Noted jurist Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed yesterday gave a formula for the formation of a caretaker government to end the current political stalemate, reports UNB.

Taking part in a roundtable discussion at Jatiya Press Club, he said some 10 individuals or more will form an interim government within the constitutional framework to conduct the election.

They will be nominated on political consensus and elected through by-election from the vacated seats of the MPs, Barrister Ishtiaq said.

At a roundtable on 'Free, Fair and Impartial Election in

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Abahani custodian Dulal Hossain Dhanu thwarting a Brothers Union move in yesterday's match of the Lifebuoy Premier football league at the Dhaka Stadium. Abahani won 1-0. (Story on page 10) — Star photo

Bangla-Nepal JEC meet begins today

Nepalese Minister for Finance and Supplies Bharat Mohan Adhikari arrived in Dhaka yesterday to attend the 9th meeting of the Bangladesh-Nepal Joint Economic Commission (JEC) which begins in the capital today, reports UNB.

Adhikari leads his country's 9-member delegation to the JEC meeting that will discuss ways of boosting bilateral trade and the prospect of setting up joint venture industries.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman received his Nepalese counterpart at the airport. Bangladesh Ambassador to Nepal Syed Muhammad Hossain and Nepalese Ambassador in Bangladesh Lok Bahadur Shrestha were also present.

Talking to newsmen at the airport, the Nepalese Finance Minister hoped that the JEC meeting would help further strengthen the ties between the two countries,

particularly in trade and economic fields.

Adhikari said that he was carrying a letter from his Prime Minister for Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Saifur Rahman will lead a 12-member home team to the meeting. The team includes members from various ministries, agencies and the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

The meeting will, among other things, review the decisions of the last JEC meeting held in Kathmandu in September, 1991 and progress of other bilateral issues.

It will also discuss bilateral trade and joint venture industries and the programme for scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries.

Adhikari is expected to discuss cooperation between FBCCI and FNCCI.

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No scope for by-polls, says K S Nabi

K S Nabi, Bar-at-Law, yesterday said the government has no alternative to declare general elections as there is no scope to hold by-election within the 90-day time-frame prescribed in the Constitution, reports UNB.

Referring to the opinion rendered by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, he said, the seats of the opposition members of Parliament shall stand vacated with effect from June 19, 1995 and under the Article 123 (3) (4), elections must be held within 90 days from the date of such vacancy.

"The government is left with only 46 days to hold by-election and the remaining days will be reduced due to the period required to summon the Parliament," said K S Nabi, who is also the Law Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League, in a statement.

The remaining 46 days would again be reduced at

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Croats capture two Serb-held towns

SARAJEVO, July 28: Heavily armed Croat troops captured the Serb-held towns of Grahovo and Glamoc in western Bosnia today, forcing 5,000 Serb civilians to flee an artillery bombardment and dealing a major blow to Serb forces, reports Reuters.

Bosnian Croat soldiers, backed by thousands of regular Croatian army troops and armour, entered Grahovo after a four-day offensive, Serb and Croatian media reported.

Croatian television showed scores of Croat soldiers roaming deserted streets.

The Croatian advance is a serious defeat for the separatist Serbs. It cuts the main supply route linking Serb-held territory in Croatia and Bosnia.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic proclaimed martial law and ordered full mobilisation in his self-styled republic in an attempt to reverse the losses in the west.

Rajko Lezajic, a rebel Croatian Serb leader, con-

firmed Croat forces had entered Grahovo, the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported.

After Grahovo, this afternoon at 1800 hours Croatian forces following fierce fighting with Serb units defending the town, occupied Glamoc," one Bosnian Serb army

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Bangladesh troops in Bihac need protection, says US Senator

WASHINGTON, July 28: A senior US senator Hank Brown has expressed sympathy with the 1200 Bangladeshi peacekeepers in Bihac enclave in war-torn Bosnia and said, "They need protection from the savage attacks by the Serbs," reports BSS.

The Colorado Senator, who is an influential member of the Senate budget and ju-

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Two taken back to Tanbazar

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, July 28: Two of the six underaged girls rescued from the Tanbazar 'red light' area by the Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) had to return to the area within 24 hours of their freedom.

Hashi of Chatmahar, Pabna and Nazu of Bhaderganj, Faridpur were released on bail after they were produced before the court today.

Some agents of the Tanbazar 'red light' area secured their bail from the court posing as relatives and took them back to the brothel, according to sources.

While being rescued Tuesday, Hashi and Nazu were carrying a baby each, claiming the babies to be theirs. But according to sources in the brothel yesterday, the babies were deliberately put on their laps and they were forced to pre-

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DSE trading improves further
Tk 44 cr gains in market capitalisation

Trading at the Dhaka Stock Exchange last week improved further resulting in a Tk 44 crore gain in market capitalisation.

The daily average value of trading rose to Tk 2.68 crore from Tk 1.70 crore of the previous week.

The daily average number of trading of shares and debentures last week increased to 1.30 lakh from the previous week's 1.07 lakh.

However, at the closing of the week Thursday, the volume of trading declined to 48,595 shares.

The all share price index rose by 0.92 per cent or 7.11 points to 770.16 at the closing of the week Thursday from the previous week's 763.04. The index improved steadily over the week.

By Sharier Khan

This indicates the market has gained its strength after the months-long bearish trend," a market operator said, adding the small investors were playing the key role in the past few weeks.

The number of issues making loss and those gaining remained very close last week. The average number of issues making gains decreased to 36.50 from 40.83 of the previous week while the number of loss-making issues declined to 36.83 from 38 of the previous week.

Random sampling of share prices of 12 frequently traded issues showed that prices of seven issues declined from those in the previous week, five gained and two remained static — indicating share prices declined in majority

cases.

The share price of Eastern Housing declined to Tk 140 at the closing of last week from 142 of the previous week. Beximco Pharmaceutical declined to Tk 81.62 from 83.92. Mag Paper to Tk 151 from 152. Ashraf Textiles to Tk 31.54 from 33.63. Apex Weaving to Tk 141 from 142 and GQ Ball Pen to Tk 139 from 141.

In contrast, the share prices of Bangladesh Lamps rose by Tk 693 to Tk 4314 from 3621. Singer to Tk 4868 from 4669. Beximco Textiles to 130 from 125. BOC Bangladesh to Tk 176 from 174 and loss-making Shine Pukur to Tk 82 from 65.25.

A total of 7,85,910 shares

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