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Caretaker chief should be acceptable to all

Discussants tell AL roundtable; suggest choosing a neutral chief adviser from a range of professions, strengthening EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of different opposition political parties and legal experts at a roundtable yesterday suggested appointment of an acceptable person as the chief adviser of caretaker government through consensus of all parties.

They called for amending the provision of making the immediate past chief justice as head of the caretaker administration and

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KEY PROPOSALS

- The chief advisor has to be appointed through consensus of all.
- Not only the justices, member of other professions can be chief of the caretaker government.
- The EC should have a separate secretariat; it should have financial authority and enough permanent manpower to hold the polls.
- Chief election commissioner and other election commissioners must be acceptable to all.
- The interim government will only discharge 'routine functions' and shall not take any 'policy decision'.
- Charges of the armed forces division should be given upon the chief advisor instead of the president and the armed forces should not have the magistracy power.



Dhaka urged not to fight border fencing

Indian HC in Dhaka requests in a letter

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The Indian High Commission in Dhaka has requested the government to instruct Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) not to resist Border Security Force (BSF) of India from constructing barbed wire fences at some places within 150 yards of the no man's land, a well placed BDR source said.

The request was made in a letter sent to the foreign ministry yesterday.

The letter reads India at a secretary-level meeting between the two countries earlier stated that they need to erect barbed wire fences at some places. So, it requests the government to give directives to the BDR not to oppose the BSF move to

erect fences on the Indian side within 150 yards of the no man's land, the source added.

Sources at the high commission confirmed making the request. When contacted yesterday evening, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan said he did not know anything about it as he was away from the office on official purposes.

Meanwhile, BDR sources said they would not allow India to construct fences and any other installations within 150 yards of the no man's land.

BDR and BSF members exchanged fire in different bordering areas over the last few days as BSF attempted to construct fences.

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AL, BNP lawmakers unite on privileges

Plan contempt provision in new law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Both the ruling and the main opposition party lawmakers plan to incorporate a provision regarding 'contempt of lawmakers' in the upcoming law to increase lawmakers' privileges.

The BNP and Awami League (AL) lawmakers yesterday at a sub-committee meeting of parliamentary standing committee on privileges decided to jointly prepare the draft of the law that will also provide the lawmakers with adequate legal protection.

The high-powered meeting

asked two lawmakers from BNP and AL—Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and Sheikh Fazul Karim Selim—to prepare the draft of the bill in 15 days. The committee will sit again in a month to finalise the draft bill, sources said.

"We have discussed feasibility of contempt suit in case of a lawmaker being disregarded by media or law enforcement agencies," AL lawmaker Sheikh Selim, who attended the meeting as a representative of the Leader of the Opposition, yesterday told The Daily Star. "But we didn't yet take any decision in this

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Mines, SMGs seized in Bandarban

BDNEWS, Cox's Bazar

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday seized seven SMGs, 29 land mines and seven walky-talkies from Naikkhongchhari upazila under

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Fiscal comfort on the rocks

Economy faces new challenges

INAM AHMED

The fiscal comfort enjoyed in the last two years has suddenly come under pressure this year with exports falling, current expenditure shooting up and financing coming under strains.

The situation has also strained the medium-term budgetary framework laid out in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), which now looks unachievable at least in the first year. The PRSP had wanted a gradual reduction in debt-

GDP ratio from 48.3 percent in FY04 to 45.3 percent in FY07. But this assumption crucially depends on the behaviour of a number of other parameters -- revenue, expenditure and financing -- any of which can throw the target off the track, as it looks now.

The revenue-GDP targets have been assumed to increase by 0.5 percentage point every year starting at 10.2 percent. But as it looks today, there has already been a Tk 40 billion shortfall in revenue till February.

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Working women post letters addressed to the prime minister, demanding fixation of minimum wages in consistency with inflation and price hike of essentials, after a rally near GPO in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

SERVING WARRANT ON JUDGE'S CAR

3 policemen face contempt charge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a contempt of court ruling against three traffic police for stopping the car of a HC judge on March 6 to serve a traffic warrant.

Ordering them to appear in person before the court on March 28, the court asked the traffic personnel to reply in two weeks why punitive action should not be taken against them for the contempt.

The court also ordered the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM),

Dhaka to reply by the same period as to why the process of issuing warrants against vehicles would not be cancelled.

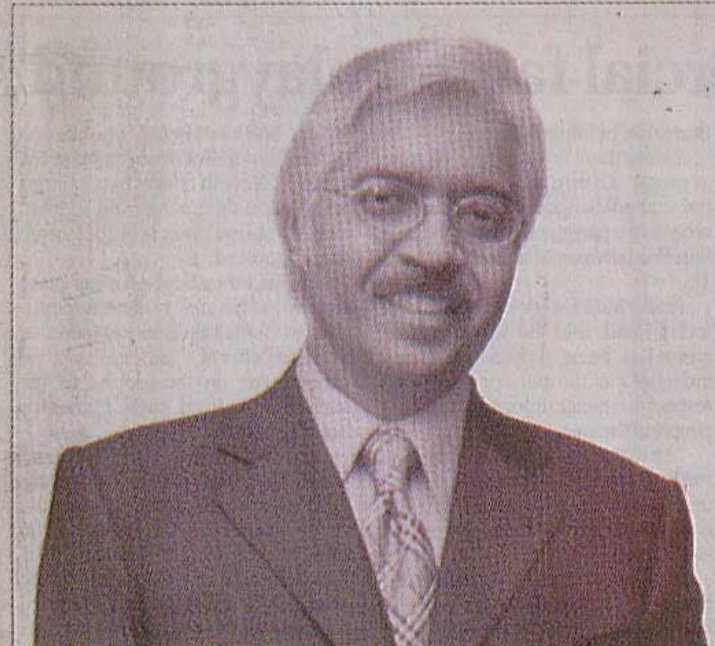
The HC bench comprising Justice SK Sinha and Justice Shamim Hasnain issued the rules on sergeant ATM Iqbal, in-charge of warrant section of the office of Deputy Commissioner (DC), Traffic (South) Mozammel Haq and traffic constable Shahidul Islam.

The ruling came after Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Traffic

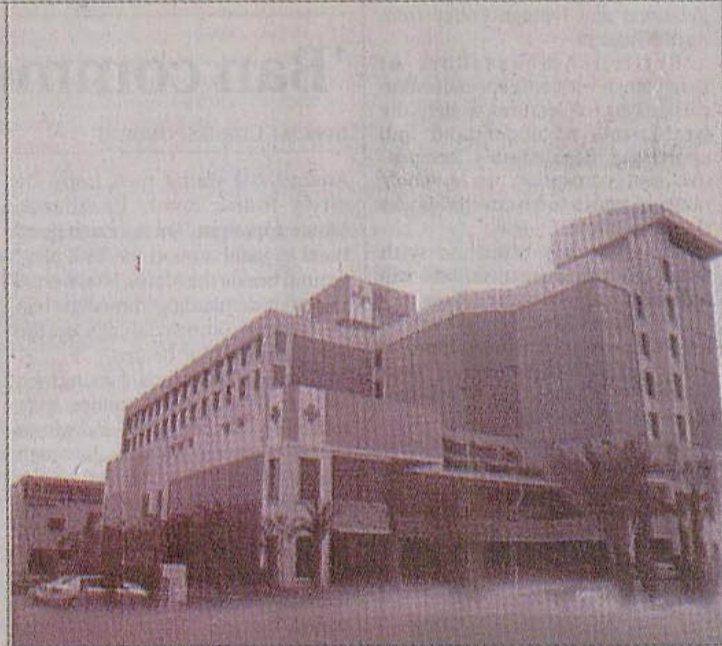
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Announcement

The Daily Star brings a few changes in its pagination for keeping consistency in the display of news and for convenience of readers. From today, the readers will find news on page 2, 3, 4 and 15 from Saturday to Thursday. Page 10 and 11 will be for editorial and point-counter point. In Friday's issue, page 2, 3, 4, 5 and 19 will be for news.



Dr. Ashok Seth
Chairman and Chief Cardiologist



Max Devki Devi Heart & Vascular Institute

Dr. Ashok Seth has now moved to Max Heart & Vascular Institute as Chairman & Chief Cardiologist.

Dr. Ashok Seth, formerly the Chief of Interventional Cardiology at Escorts is now heading Max Heart & Vascular Institute, a world-class cardiac facility located in Saket, New Delhi.

The Max Heart & Vascular Institute (MHVI) is a new ultra-modern 200-bed state-of-the-art cardiac facility dealing with all forms of diseases of the heart and blood vessels. It has a team of cardiologists and cardiac surgeons of national repute whose expertise and compassionate care has been appreciated by patients for many years.

Services Offered

The Institute provides comprehensive cardiac care with facilities spanning all forms of angiographies, angioplasties, electrophysiology and pacemaker implantation, and all forms of cardiac and vascular surgery including advanced paediatric cardiac surgeries, aortic aneurysm surgery and beating heart bypass surgeries. A 24-hour on-site Consultant Cardiology cover for "RAPID" management of Heart Attacks is available in case of emergencies. The Vascular Programme is equipped to handle any and all forms of Vascular diseases. All this is supported by advanced diagnostic and preventive cardiac facilities.

Commitment to Patient Care

Max Heart and Vascular Institute is an organisation committed to delivering 'total patient care' in an affordable, ethical and open environment. All the institute's processes and systems are geared to ensure that the patient's care and comfort takes precedence over everything else. All this in process collaboration with Singapore General Hospital.

Max Devki Devi
Heart & Vascular Institute
Caring for you... for life

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