

# Dissolution of CG system to create fresh complication

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former caretaker government advisers, civil society members and eminent citizens yesterday said if the existing provision of caretaker government system is dissolved without a national consensus a fresh complication will crop up centring the election result.

Before the system is dissolved, changes in the political culture and mindset of parties are a must, they said, adding that the decision of scrapping the interim government system must come into effect after the next general election.

The election commission must be strong enough and independent and professionalism and neutrality must be ensured in bureaucracy before cancelling the system.

Otherwise, they cautioned, new problems will surface plunging the democracy into a deeper crisis.

The speakers were addressing a roundtable discussion organised by Sujan, a non-government organisation (NGO), at the National Press Club.

Prof Muzaffer Ahmad chaired the meeting titled "Fresh debate over caretaker government system and citizens' views". Dr Badru Alam Majumder presented the keynote paper at the discussion moderated by ASM Shahjahan.

M Hafizuddin Khan, Sardar Amjad Hossain, Amir-ul-Islam, Inam Ahmed Chowdhury, Syed Abul Maksud, Haidar Akbar Khan Rono, AKM Mozammel Haque MP, Monowar Hossain Chowdhury MP, Rasheda Begum Hira MP, Sanzida Khanam MP, among others, took part in the discussion.

Muzaffer Ahmad said parliament should pass a policy to ensure proper promotion system in the administration, as people want a neutral administration.

"Political parties need to work out a

way to remove crisis of trust. There should be a change in the Electoral College. Elected representatives of union parishad and upazila parishad should also have their say in electing president."

M Hafizuddin Khan said if caretaker government system is changed without any massive change in bureaucracy and judiciary, nothing good will come out of it.

ASM Shahjahan said institutional reforms should be done first and national consensus is a must to bring about any change in the caretaker government system.

Lawmaker Sanzida Khanam said politicisation of administration and lack of neutrality in the election commission had given birth to a crisis of trust.

Inam Ahmed Chowdhury said the caretaker government system couldn't be scrapped before the administration is made a neutral entity.



Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a roundtable at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right is Syed Abul Maksud and on his left is ASM Shahjahan.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Mohius Sunnah Chowdhury commonly known as Sunnah Chowdhury, a tea planter and philanthropist in greater Sylhet region, passed away due to prolonged illness at a private hospital in Sylhet city yesterday at the age of 89.

He left behind his wife, three sons, three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was buried at his family graveyard yesterday at Fulbari village in Golapganj after namaz-e-janaza on the premises of shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA).

He established several educational, social and religious institutions in the greater Sylhet region.

Ayesha Aktar Khanam

BSS, Dhaka

Ayesha Aktar Khanam, former vice-president of Bangladesh Mahila Awami League and head mistress of Hazaribagh Saleha High School and College, passed away at Bangladesh Medical College Hospital in the city yesterday after prolonged illness at the age of 72.

She left behind her one son, one daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

She was mother-in-law of Shahnaz Begum, senior reporter of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS).

She was buried at Azimpur graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Kalabagan Mosque after Zohr prayers.

Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina expressed deep shock at her death.

In a message of condolence, she said the nation will remember forever the role of Ayesha Aktar in the War of Liberation and democratic movements.

She prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

Earlier, Prime Minister's Assistant Personal Secretary Saifuzzaman Shekhar placed wreaths on the coffin of Ayesha Aktar on behalf of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Awami League leaders, including president Mirza Fakidunnahar Laily, MP, Women Affairs Secretary Faridunnahar Laily, MP, and Vice-President Sufia Khatun, MP, paid their last respects to the late leader.

MA Jalil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

MA Jalil, a freedom fighter of Ragna sub-sector under Sector-4 in the Liberation War, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at a private hospital in Sylhet yesterday at the age of 75.

He left behind his wife, son, daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at 12 noon today at Kaminiganj Bazar Baro Masjid Eidgah premises.

Chief whip in the parliament Abdus Shahid and Dewan Farid Gazi, MP, condoled the death.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the 21st death anniversary of MA Jalil, former secretary of the government, says a press release.

His family members requested all to pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.

On the occasion, his son, a doa mafil will be held at his son's residence in Gulshan in the city.

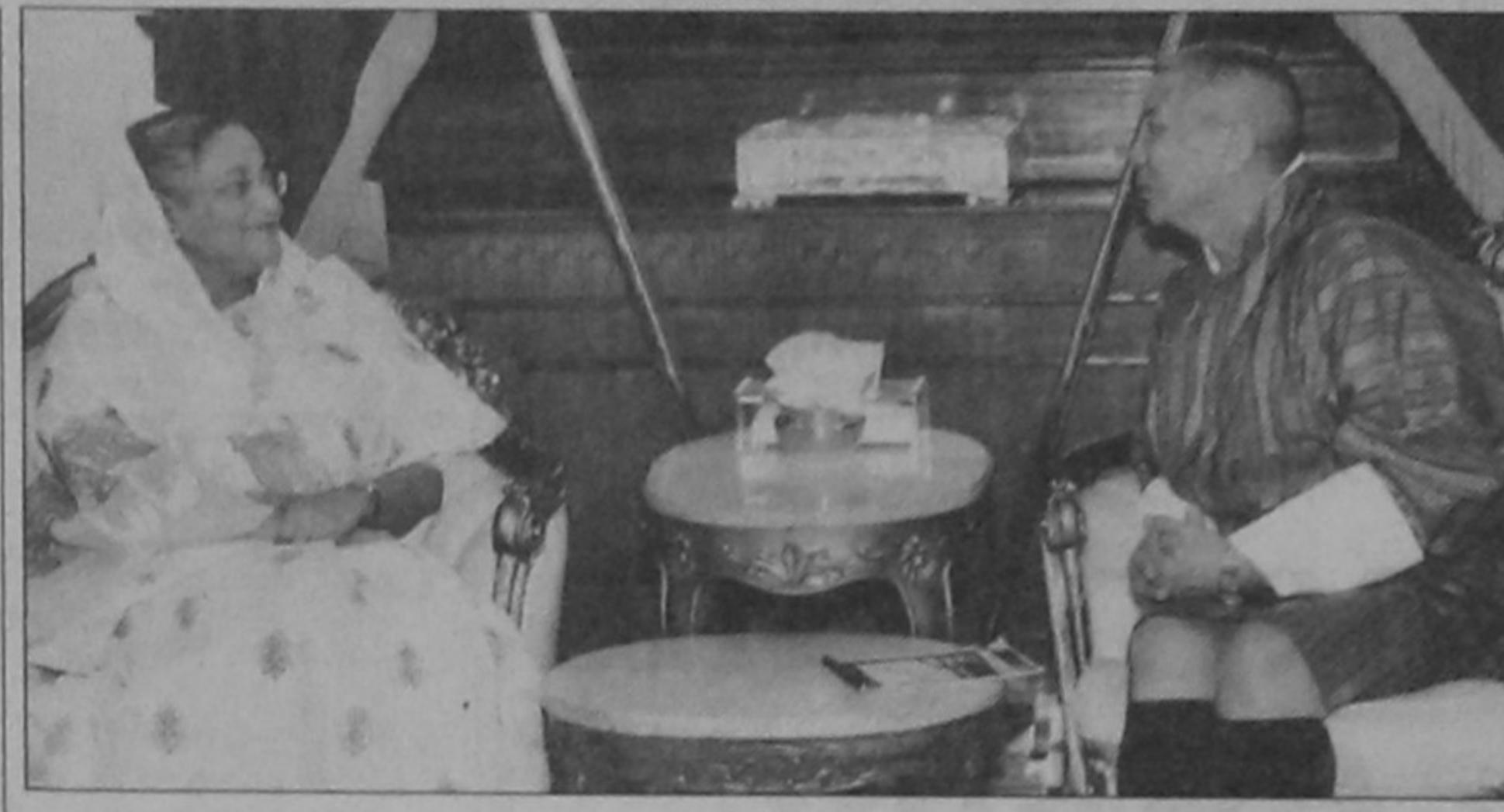


PHOTO: PID  
Bhutanese Minister for Economic Affairs Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Number of swine flu patients rises to 646

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of swine flu patients in the country has risen to 646 since the first case was detected on June 18, the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) confirmed yesterday.

The flu has so far spread to 21 districts across the country, whereas three died till date, said IEDCR Director Prof Mahmudur Rahman at a press briefing at IEDCR auditorium.

The cases were detected under the government's surveillance programme.

Of the total swine flu cases, 52.2 percent were reported in the capital and 47.8 percent in the other parts of the country.

US pledges more aid to combat climate change

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador James F Moriarty yesterday said the US would provide Bangladesh with more assistance to face the impacts of climate change and global warming.

Moriarty said this when he met State Minister for Environment and Forests Hasan Mahmud at the latter's office.

The US is now working for development of the areas affected by climate change under the project Integrated Protected Area Cooperation Management with the assistance of USAID in Bangladesh.

Moriarty assured the state minister that the US assistance would be increased in this regard. The state minister informed the ambassador that Bangladesh needs \$500 million on an emergency basis for reconstruction and rehabilitation in the areas affected by the climate change.

Hasan Mahmud said Bangladesh would demand \$5 billion as compensation to meet the need in the Copenhagen Conference.

He thinks money should be allocated to the countries on proportional basis of risk and population from Multi Donor Trust Fund in the Copenhagen Conference.

The developed countries should play a positive role to ensure universality and easy availability of technology so that technology does not go to the developed countries in the name of patent rights.

Following the meeting, Hasan Mahmud told newsmen that the present government is determined to ensure development of the country maintaining ecological balance.

Besides allocating Tk 700 crore in the last budget for environment sector, the government has made a special allocation of Tk 200 crore through Bangladesh Bank, he said.

DHAKA TODAY

Launching ceremony  
The launching ceremony of UNDP's Global Human Development Report 2009 will be held. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 11:00am.

Seminar

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) in collaboration with Diakonia Bangladesh will organise 'Asia Regional Seminar on Gender and Human Rights' beginning today. Venue: Brac Centre Inn. Time: 8:30am.

Award giving ceremony

BSB Foundation will give away BSB Foundation Award 2009. Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre. Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

Kendriya Kachi Kanchar Mela will hold a discussion to mark its 53rd founding anniversary. Venue: Kachi Kancha auditorium. Time: 6:30pm.

Award giving ceremony

University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh will hold the 4th UGC Award Ceremony for 2006-2007. Venue: UGC auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

# 38 bundles of Rajshahi Rly tender documents seized

## Chief engineer's peon caught

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Railway Security Forces (RSF) yesterday seized 38 bundles of tender documents while being stealthily shifted from the chief engineer's office in Rajshahi Rail Bhaban to elsewhere.

The documents were seized while Abul Kashem, a peon of the chief engineer's office, was taking the documents out of Rajshahi Rail

Bhaban in two rickshaw-vans.

Kashem claimed he was taking documents out to store at the godown near the office of the Inspector of Works, but he failed to show any legal documents for shifting the documents, said Inspector Mofakkharul Islam Mamun of RSF.

A three-member inquiry committee headed by chief personnel officer MA Awal has been formed to look into the matter, said Mushfikur Rahman, general manager of

# Militants attack Afghan outposts, kill 8 US troops

AP, Kabul

Militant fighters streaming from a village and a mosque attacked a pair of remote outposts near the Pakistan border, killing eight American soldiers and as many as seven Afghan forces in one of the fiercest gunbattles of the eight-year war.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the deadliest attack for coalition forces since a similar raid in July 2008 killed nine American soldiers in the same mountainous region known as a haven for al-Qaeda militants. The US has already said it plans to leave the remote area to focus on Afghan population centres.

Fighting began around dawn Saturday and lasted several hours, said Jamaludin Badar, governor of Nuristan province. Badar said the two outposts were on a hill one near the top and one at the foot of the slope flanked by the village on one side and the mosque on the other.

Nearly 300 militant fighters flooded the lower, Afghan outpost yesterday and swept around it to reach the American station on higher ground from both directions, said Mohammad Qasim Jangulbagh, the provincial police chief. The US military statement said the Americans and Afghans repelled the attack by tribal fighters and "inflicted heavy casualties."

Jangulbagh said that the gunbattle was punctuated by US airstrikes and that 15 Afghan police were captured by the Taliban, including the local police chief and his deputy. Afghan forces were reinforcements, but Jangulbagh said all communications to the district, Kamdesh, were severed and

he had no way of knowing how they were faring Sunday.

"This was a complex attack in a difficult area," Col Randy George, the area commander, said in the US statement. "Both the US and Afghan soldiers fought bravely together."

Nuristan, bordering Pakistan, was where a militant raid on another outpost in July 2008 claimed the lives of nine American soldiers and led to allegations of negligence by their senior commanders. Army Gen. David Petraeus last week ordered a new investigation into that firefight, in which some 200 militants armed with machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars pushed their way into the base, which is no longer operating.

Badar said he had sought more security forces for Kamdesh district, and said Taliban fighters had fled to Nuristan and neighbouring Kunar province after Pakistani forces drove many extremists from the Swat Valley earlier this year.

"When there are few security forces, this is what happens," he said.

He also complained about a lack of coordination between international forces and Afghans.

A Taliban spokesman, Zabiullah Mujahid, claimed responsibility and said a council would decide the fates of the captured police.

The US statement said the attack would not change previously announced plans to leave the area.

Afghanistan's northeastern Nuristan and Kunar provinces are home to al-Qaeda bases as well as those of wanted terrorist Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, whose military

They also called upon all progressive-minded people to take stand against the threat.