



CONSENSUS TALKS

Parties differ on how to appoint chief adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political parties yesterday reached a consensus on reinstating the caretaker government system but remained divided over its jurisdiction and the method of appointing the chief adviser.

On the eighth day of the second round of talks with the National Consensus Commission, the parties also agreed to form a specialised committee to assist the Election Commission in demarcating electoral constituencies.

The BNP and its allied parties, and the National Citizen Party (NCP), opposed involving the judiciary in the appointment of the chief adviser.

The Jamaat-e-Islami supported a role for the judiciary during the discussions at the Foreign Service Academy.

The NCP and several other parties strongly opposed the idea of the president assuming the role of chief adviser under any circumstances. The BNP did not clearly state its



The commission does not wish to push any single idea [about CA's appointment], but rather seeks a durable, organic solution through consensus.



PROF ALI RIAZ
vice-president, consensus commission

position on this issue.

The NCP proposed that the chief adviser be appointed by an All-Party Parliamentary Committee comprising members from both the treasury and opposition benches. The Jamaat and NCP also proposed that local government elections be held under the caretaker government, which the BNP, its like-minded parties, and leftist groups opposed.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Prof Ali Riaz, vice-president of the consensus commission, said the parties agreed on restoring the caretaker government system and forming a committee to assist in redrawing parliamentary boundaries.

"Various opinions were shared, and discussions also took place on the process of appointing the chief adviser. Political parties are now very close in their positions. The discussions have been very positive," Riaz said.

The commission floated discussions on redrawing electoral boundaries and the president's power of clemency, but the latter was not addressed yesterday.

For the chief adviser's appointment, three options were proposed. The first is following the procedure outlined in the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. The others are appointment through parliament, or through a National Constitutional Council.

Riaz mentioned two proposals on the caretaker
SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Bangladesh women's football team's poster girl Ritu Porna Chakma is joined by Monika Chakma (L) and Maria Manda, two of the mainstays of the national team, during their celebration following one of the two goals in a historic 2-1 win against Myanmar in their AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers in Yangon yesterday. The victory ensured a first-ever berth for Bangladesh in the Women's Asian Cup, to be held in Australia in March next year.

PHOTO: BFF

Women's football scales new height

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh women's team's fairytale journey in international football took a giant leap at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday as Ritu Porna Chakma's stunning brace earned them a 2-1 win against Myanmar, eventually helping the team qualify for the AFC Women's Asian Cup for the very first time, set to be held in Australia in March next year.

The win put the women in red and green top of Group C with six points from two games, with pre-campaign favourites Myanmar in second position with three points, followed by Bahrain and Turkmenistan, who have a point each after playing out a 2-2 draw in a match held later in the day.

The result of the day's
SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

CONTEMPT OF COURT

Hasina jailed for 6 months

In its first verdict against the ex-PM, ICT observes she intimidated July victims, prosecutors, judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday sentenced ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina to six months' simple imprisonment for contempt of court over remarks she made during a phone conversation with a local leader, which the tribunal deemed obstruction to justice.

A three-member tribunal, led by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, handed down the verdict after hearing arguments from the prosecution, defence, and amicus curiae.

Shakil Akanda Bulbul, the local leader, was sentenced to two months in prison for his role in the conversation with Hasina.

The sentence will take effect once the convicts surrender before the court or are arrested by law enforcers.

Since Hasina fled the country, this was the first punishment handed down against her.



SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Help counter fake news, uphold ethics

Yunus urges UN

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday urged the United Nations to establish an effective mechanism to combat disinformation and to support the media in upholding ethical standards.

He made the call when Susan Vize, head of office and UNESCO representative to Bangladesh, and Mehdi Benchelah, senior
SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



THE JULY THAT ROCKED BANGLADESH

JULY 3, 2024

Anti-quota protests spill beyond campuses

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

The student movement against the reinstatement of the quota system in public service recruitment escalated on July 3, 2024, as demonstrations expanded beyond university campuses to major highways and key city intersections, mounting pressure on the government.

At Dhaka University, students began gathering in front of the Central Library from around 1:30pm. By 2:30pm, under the banner of Boishommo Birodhi Chhatra Andolon (Anti-Discrimination Student Movement), they launched their protest march, chanting slogans like "Jegechhe re jegechhe, chhatrasamaj jegechhe" and "Quota na medha, medha medha." The procession passed through Shikha Chirantan, TSC, and Doyel Chatar before reaching the Shahbagh intersection at 3:45pm.

There, they blocked the key junction for the second straight day. A heavy police presence was observed in and around Shahbagh ahead of the protesters' arrival, though no clashes were reported.

Hasib Al Islam, one of the protest organisers, stated, "The High Court recently declared the 2018 circular cancelling the quota system illegal. The government has filed a writ petition, and a verdict
SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Vehicles remain stranded as activists of Students Against Discrimination (SAD) block the Cox's Bazar-Chattoogram highway yesterday, demanding the removal of the Patiya Police Station officer-in-charge. The protest followed Tuesday night's clashes between SAD activists and police. The photo was taken at Indropole in Chattogram's Patiya upazila around 5:00pm.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

Four top NBR officials sent into retirement

They reportedly supported NBR protests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The finance ministry yesterday sent four top officials of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) into retirement on 'public interest'.

The officials are Hossain Ahmed, member for customs policy and ICT; Md Alamgir Hossain, member; Md Abdur Rouf, member for VAT policy; and Md Shabbir Ahmed, commissioner of taxes of Barishal.

The four had completed 25 years of service and the government considered it necessary to send them into retirement in public interest, said the internal resources division in four separate notifications.

The development comes a day after it suspended Md Zakir Hossain, commissioner of Chattogram Custom House, for allegedly disrupting official activities by participating in the recent shutdown observed by NBR officials.

The four officials reportedly supported the recent protest by the NBR
SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

CLASH AT PATIYA

NCP, SAD block Ctg-Cox's Bazar highway for 8hrs

Patiya OC withdrawn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Members of the National Citizen Party (NCP) and Students Against Discrimination (SAD) yesterday withdrew their eight-hour blockade on the Cox's Bazar-Chattoogram highway following police assurance that the officer-in-charge (OC) of Patiya Police Station would be withdrawn.

The protest was sparked by a
SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

CITIZENS BANK
TODAY - TOMORROW - TOGETHER

2 YEARS TOGETHER GROWING STRONGER

On our 3rd anniversary, Citizens Bank salutes the stakeholders, who made it possible. Thank you for your trust on us – the journey continues.

www.citizensbankbd.com

Call 16757