



Caretaker govt system must be made sustainable: CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed yesterday said the Supreme Court wants issues regarding the caretaker government system to be resolved in a manner that ensures a workable and sustainable framework for democracy, so that no future political crisis arises.



He asked if the caretaker government system is revived, when would it become effective.

The chief justice was presiding over a seven-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC during the hearing on the review petitions against the apex court verdict that scrapped the non-party caretaker government system.

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ABU SAYED MURDER Father watches son's final moments as trial begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seventy-six year-old Mokbul Hossain walked slowly into the International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday, his eyes heavy with grief. He went there to witness the trial of those accused of killing his son, Abu Sayed, during last year's July uprising.

The tribunal was set to hear the prosecution's opening statement and begin cross-examination of witnesses in the case filed over the killing of Rangpur Begum Rokeya University (BRUR) student Sayed.

As Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam

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Following pressure from the district administration, stone thieves return the stones by truckloads and employ people to load them on boats so that those could be properly deposited. The photo was taken at Bhologanj Zero Point in Sylhet yesterday. Related story on page 3.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Israeli tanks close in on Gaza City

32 more Palestinians killed in strikes; Trump to chair meeting on post-war Gaza

AGENCIES

Israeli tanks pushed into a new area on the edge of Gaza City, destroying houses and prompting residents to flee, witnesses said, ahead of an expected meeting on the offensive chaired by US President Donald Trump yesterday.

Tanks late on Tuesday entered into the Ebad-Alrahman neighbourhood on the northern edge of Gaza City and shelled houses, wounding several people and forcing many others, who had been taken by surprise, to move deeper into Gaza's largest city, residents said.

"All of a sudden, we heard that the tanks pushed into Ebad-Alrahman, the sounds of explosions became louder, and louder, and we saw people escaping towards our area," said Saad Abed, 60, a former construction worker.

- » 10 more Palestinian deaths reported due to famine
- » IDF launches ops in West Bank's Nablus
- » Church leaders in Gaza City refuse to evacuate

"If no truce is reached, we will see the tanks outside our homes," he told Reuters via a chat app from his house in Jala Street in Gaza City, around one kilometre (0.6 mile) from the Ebad-Alrahman neighbourhood.

Israel has said it is preparing to launch a new offensive in Gaza City, which it

describes as Hamas' last bastion. Around half of the enclave's two million people are currently living there and Israel has said they will be told to evacuate.

Thousands have already left, but church leaders in the city said yesterday they were staying put, as leaving Gaza City and "trying to flee to the south would be nothing less than a death sentence".

Israeli tanks retreated from the edge of Gaza City later yesterday to the Jabalia area, where they have been operating for months, although bombardments on three of the city's eastern suburbs - Shejaia, Zeitoun and Sabra - continued.

Gaza health authorities said Israeli fire had killed at least 32 people, including a four-year-old girl, across the enclave since dawn yesterday.

The health ministry has recorded 10

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New demands a plot to derail polls: Fakhrul

Warns about efforts to erase 1971

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that a certain political quarter is deliberately trying to prevent pro-democracy forces from assuming power.

He said these forces were raising new demands only to disrupt the electoral process.

"We fought a war in 1971. We have not forgotten it -- and it is not possible to forget. Yet, efforts are being made to erase it from people's memory," he said, adding that those who collaborated with the occupying forces back then have once again become vocal.

"We must remain alert and careful. If we think we have won and everything is fine, then it will be a big mistake."

Fakhrul made the remarks at a programme at the Jatiya Press Club, marking the 10th death anniversary of veteran politician Kazi Zafar Ahmed.



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Japanese climber, 102, sets Mount Fuji record

AFP, Tokyo

A 102-year-old Japanese man with a serious heart condition has been certified as the oldest person to climb Mount Fuji -- but still shrugged off the feat as nothing special.



Kokichi Akuzawa, who was born in 1923, summited Japan's highest peak after climbing a mountain on an almost weekly basis as part of his training. His achievement in early August was recognised by Guinness World Records.

"I am six years older than the last time I climbed," Akuzawa told AFP, referring to his hike up the 3,776-metre (12,388 feet) peak at the age of 96.

"I have been there and seen the view many times, it wasn't anything special," he said. "I reached the summit last time too."

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Palestinian women and children wait to receive food from a charity kitchen in Khan Yunis, southern Gaza Strip, yesterday. The UN officially declared a famine in Gaza on August 22, citing the "systematic obstruction" of humanitarian aid by Israel during more than 22 months of military operations. The IPC reported that famine conditions were affecting over 500,000 people in the Gaza Governorate.

PHOTO: AFP

Trump's doubling of tariffs hits India

Damages ties; Delhi plans to cushion blow

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump's doubling of tariffs on imports from India to as much as 50 percent took effect as scheduled yesterday, dealing a serious blow to ties between the two countries that became strategic partners after the turn of this century.

A punitive 25 percent tariff imposed due to India's purchases of Russian oil adds to Trump's prior 25 percent tariff on many imports from the South Asian nation and is expected to hurt growth in the world's fastest growing major economy.

India's trade ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. But an Indian government source said New Delhi hoped the US would review the extra 25 percent tariff, adding that the government plans steps to help cushion its impact.

The US move takes total duties to as high as 50 percent for goods such as garments, gems and jewellery, footwear, sporting goods, furniture and

chemicals - among the highest imposed by the US and on par with Brazil.

The new tariffs also threaten thousands of small exporters and jobs, including in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state of Gujarat.

The Indian government source said the government is holding talks with exporters to increase shipments of textiles, leather, gems and jewellery to other countries, and is likely to provide financial assistance to affected businesses.

India's existing trade agreements with the UK, Australia, the United Arab Emirates and other European countries offer opportunities to boost Indian exports, particularly textiles, the source added.

Washington says India's purchase of Russian oil helps fund Moscow's war in Ukraine and that New Delhi also profits from it. India has rejected the accusation as double standards, pointing at US and European trade links with Russia.

Commenting on the punishing levy,

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Maldives revokes shark fishing ban after decades


AFP, Malé

The Maldives, a luxury holiday destination and top diving spot in the Indian Ocean, will lift a decades-old ban on shark fishing, the president's office said yesterday.

Sharks were once the second most important catch for the Maldives after tuna -- which remains the main export earner for the nation of about half a million people.

However, authorities banned shark fishing after revenue from divers visiting the archipelago proved greater than earnings from shark oil, according to media reports at the time.

The Maldives imposed a total ban on shark fishing in March 2010, following severe restrictions that had been in place since 1998.




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২৫.০৮.২৫

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