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## New deadline for 'virtual' separation of judiciary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The full bench of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday gave the government a fresh May 30 deadline to implement its 12-point directives for virtual separation of the judiciary from the executive wing.

In case of failure to meet the deadline, the government has been asked to inform the court about persons responsible for non-implementation of the directives with their names, designations and addresses.

"It must also be remembered that it is the constitutional obligation of

the person (at) the helm of affairs to implement the directives as required under Article 102 and 112 of the constitution," said the court order.

Since December 2, 1999, when the Appellate Division issued a 12-point directive for virtual separation of the judiciary, the government

several times asked for rescheduling of the deadline.

The last deadline ended on March 17. The chief justice had earlier said that there would be no further change of deadline after the one ending on March 17.

Instead of complying with the 12-

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## Nasim may be quizzed in jail officer's chamber: HC

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday directed the investigating authority that Bahauddin Nasim who faces sedition charge may be interrogated in an officer's chamber inside the jail for securing more information.

The court further directed not to take Nasim to police remand outside the Dhaka Central Jail.

Division bench comprising Justice Hamidul Haq and Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana passed the order after hearing an application filed by Dr Sharmin Sultana Rita, wife of Nasim.

After the writ petition filed on March 10, the court had issued rule upon the government to show cause why Nasim should not be produced

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## 4-party mayoral candidates

NAZRUL ISLAM

The four-party ruling alliance has nominated city BNP president and Fisheries and Livestock Minister Sadeq Hossain Khoka as its mayoral candidate in the election of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

According to a press release issued by BNP Secretary General

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday, the alliance also nominated Sheikh Tayebur Rahman and Mizanur Rahman Minu to contest the polls for the posts of mayor of Khulna and Rajshahi city corporations respectively.

The election in the three city corporations will be held on April 25. Today is the last date for submit-

ting nomination papers for the polls.

The election is virtually going to be an uncontested one with the main opposition Awami League determined to keep off the fray.

The AL and some smaller opposition parties are boycotting the election. "We are not participating in city corporation elections as there

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



Sadeq Hossain Khoka



Mizanur Rahman Minu



Sheikh Tayebur Rahman



PHOTO: A KM MOHSIN

Sisum (Shishu) trees on the bank of the river Padma in Rajshahi are dying due to an 'unknown' disease. The trees were planted to stop erosion of the river bank.

## 5.2 revised growth rate for 2000-1

STAR REPORT

The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) now puts the gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate for fiscal 2000-01 at 5.2 in sharp contrast to what was mentioned in the current financial year's budget document.

The BBS did the revised provi-

sional estimate in February.

Immediate past finance minister SAMS Kibria, while presenting the budget for fiscal 2001-02, had said that the GDP in constant prices (base year 1995-96) grew at the rate of 6.04 per cent in fiscal 2000-01.

Quoting BBS statistics,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4