

## Separation of judiciary in sight, at last

Interim govt goes for publication of gazette notifications after a landmark move

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The newly appointed caretaker government in a landmark move last night published the gazette notifications of four rules relevant to separating the judiciary from the executive.

The much-expected separation of the judiciary now requires only an amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) as per the 12-point directive of the Supreme Court (SC) given in 1999.

Earlier, President Iajuddin Ahmed, and the newly appointed chief adviser signed the documents of the four rules.

The whole process was done in a hasty move as the Supreme Court (SC) deadline for publishing the gazette notifications of the four

rules ends today.

The rules are, Judicial Service Commission Rule 2002, Bangladesh Judicial Service Pay Commission Rule 2002, Bangladesh Judicial Service (Service Constitution, Composition, Recruitment, Suspension, Dismissal and Removal) Rules 2002, and Bangladesh Judicial Service (Posting, Promotion, Leave, Control, Discipline and other Service Condition) Rules 2001.

If the rules are implemented, the magistrates who work under the executive branch of the government now will come under the authority of the Supreme Court, and the lower court will also be free of government control.

Sources said the law, finance

and establishment secretaries went to the chief adviser's office with all files on the four rules last evening.

Chief Adviser Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed signed the documents and sent them for the president's approval.

Law Secretary Md Alaiddin Sarder last night told The Daily Star that after the president had signed the documents, government officials concerned took them to the BG Press for publishing the gazette notifications.

He said the rules have been formulated absolutely in accordance with the SC judgment.

"We are preparing to amend the CrPC also as per the Supreme Court's direction," he said, adding that the task for preparing its draft

has already been started.

It now depends on the government when it will pass the amendment in parliament, he said.

On January 10, the full bench of the Appellate Division of SC ordered the government to publish four rules on separation of the judiciary from the executive through a gazette notification within a week.

The newly appointed caretaker government asked the concerned ministries to quickly place the documents relevant to the rules before the chief adviser before expiry of the SC deadline, sources said.

Law Adviser Barrister Mainul Hossain told The Daily Star last night that the chief adviser signed

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## Consultant of controversial MRP project to be adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Faiz Khan, who has been selected as one of the new advisers to the caretaker government, served the home ministry as an IT consultant through a controversial appointment allegedly to push through the overpriced Tk 1500 crore machine readable passport (MRP) project to favour the leaders of the 'alternative powerhouse'.

Faiz Khan is a US citizen. Dual citizens are barred from becoming advisers or ministers according to the constitution.

He was given an exceptional tax-free salary for his services to the home ministry because of his US citizenship.

His consultancy failed to make the Tk 1500 crore MRP project successful, as it was so flawed that the cabinet rejected it despite tremendous pressure from the 'alternative powerhouse'.

Reliable home ministry sources told The Daily Star that the young leaders of the alternative powerhouse were seeking huge kickbacks

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## 5 more advisers in CG; 3 sworn in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday appointed five more advisers, completing the reconstitution of the council of advisers to the caretaker government headed by Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed.

Three of the newly appointed advisers—former secretary Ayub Quadri, former inspector general of police Anwarul Iqbal and physi-

cian Maj Gen (retd) Matiur Rahman—were sworn in yesterday, five days after the president administered the oath of office to the chief adviser on January 12.

The president administered the oath of office to the three advisers at the Bangabhaban at 7:10pm.

He will administer the oath of office to two other advisers—Dr Iftekar Ahmed Chowdhury, a career diplomat and currently Bangladesh ambassador to the United Nations, and Fayez Khan, an IT specialist and consultant, later. They could not be sworn in yesterday as they were abroad.

Iftekar Ahmed Chowdhury is a brother-in-law of Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed.

The chief adviser and other advisers, who were appointed on January 13, were present at the oath-taking ceremony.

President Iajuddin Ahmed resigned from the post of chief adviser on the night of January 11, declaring a state of emergency that

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(From L-R) former inspector general of police Anwarul Iqbal, Major Gen (retd) Matiur Rahman and former secretary Ayub Quadri being sworn in as advisers to the caretaker government at Bangabhaban yesterday evening.

## More raids, more arrests

Ex-deputy mayor of Chittagong, port union leader held, block raids in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of district-level leaders of BNP and Awami League (AL) and of their front organisations, and some ward commissioners backed by the two parties were arrested yesterday as the army, police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) continued their anti-crime crackdown across the country, arresting at least 57.

Split into groups, the crack forces carried out block raids on slum and posh areas in the capital, searching vehicles and houses till filing of this report at 1:00am today.

Rab members searched around 20 houses in Banani in a drive of nearly 3 hours.

The security personnel also nabbed criminals and extortionists and recovered firearms and sharp weapons during the raids in a bid to ensure law and order during the upcoming parliamentary election.

According to a home ministry news release, police and Rab arrested over 1,700 people including 44 persons who had already been convicted of crimes, 993 others facing arrest warrants, and 668 accused in different cases in the 24 hours preceding 6:00pm

yesterday.

They recovered 13 firearms, two other weapons, as many shutter guns, a pistol, three locally made guns, an airgun and 61 bullets. Eleven people were charged with illegal possession of firearms.

The army arrested 56 criminals from across the country since January 10, the release added.

In Chittagong, army personnel picked up Dastagir Chowdhury, former deputy mayor of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) who is also a former general secretary (GS) of Chittagong city unit

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School textbooks are being taken to the stores at Banglabazar wholesale market in Dhaka yesterday. There are allegations of printing mistakes, missing pages and other errors in the textbooks.

## Textbooks riddled with errors

Students in a quandary

EMRAN HOSSAIN

Textbooks for classes IX and X published by the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) contain numerous errors and anomalies, including spelling mistakes, faulty chapter and paragraph arrangement, and repetition and omission of articles.

The errors in the textbooks, which were published at different printing presses in the capital and hit the market recently, confused and disappointed students.

Visiting several bookstores and going through the books, The Daily Star found that 30 pages were missing in the Bangla prose book—Madhyamik Bangla Shikshan—for the students of Secondary School Certificate (SSC).

Printed by Harun Printers at Rupchan Lane, Dhaka-1000, the content page of the book shows 145 pages while the book contains only 115 pages. Five stories, including "Lal Shalu" by Syed Waliullah, "Matribhasha" by Munier Chowdhury, and "Khadya O Paribesh" by Abdullah Al Muttalib, which are mentioned in the content—are missing from the book.

Harun Printers printed 28,590 copies of the book that also has "Dui Musafir" by Shawkat Osman and "Dhwanir Byabohar" by Abdul Hai printed twice.

The Singair Offset Printing Press at 34 RM Das Road in Dhaka printed 36,100 copies of the same book with gross spelling mistakes. The name of a story is spelled differently on different pages, creating confusion among the students.

The book also bears numerous other spelling mistakes.

The Shadow Printing and Packaging printed 12,340 copies of the textbook on general science with faulty chapter arrangements.

The chapter on incurable diseases suddenly breaks at page 17 and starts at page 257.

Students complained that the chapter divisions in the book are not done according to topics or issues.

"We do not understand what to do with these faulty books. How can I make preparation for the exam with a textbook in which six stories are missing? And who will give me money to buy a faultless book?" said Nusrat Jahan Lina, a student of Manikganj SK Government Girls' School.

As yet bookstore owners are not aware of the faults.

"The supply of textbooks is not sufficient to meet the demand," complained a bookstore owner at Savar.

The NCTB chairman could not be reached for comments despite repeated attempts.

## BNP beefs up standing body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP high command in a striking move has rewarded a couple of its veterans by appointing them in the National Standing Committee—the party's highest decision-making body.

The move is seen as an attempt by BNP to strengthen and reinvigorate the organisation at a time when it is grappling with the apparent loss of control over the caretaker government following the resignation of President Iajuddin

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## Hold election immediately

AL-led alliance asks interim govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL)-led grand alliance yesterday urged the caretaker government (CG) to take measures for holding a free and fair election immediately.

"We urge the CG to take appropriate steps to hold a free and fair election immediately through

reconstituting the Election Commission, neutralising the administration and preparing an accurate voter list," AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil last night told a press briefing at his Gulshan residence.

He demanded immediate arrests of the criminals, black

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## BDR, BSF trade heavy fire on Joypurhat border

Two Indians killed; BSF kills one Bangladeshi on Dinajpur border

STAR REPORT

A heavy gunfight between Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Border Security Forces (BSF) of India left at least two Indian nationals dead at Hathkola border of Panchbibi upazila in Joypurhat early yesterday morning.

Meanwhile, the BSF killed a Bangladeshi national and picked up another at Enayetpur border of Biral upazila in Dinajpur.

The BDR and BSF also exchanged bullets in Chuadanga and in Sakthira yesterday.

At Hathkola border, locals said fighting broke out when BSF killed two Indian cattle smugglers around 5:30am after they entered Bangladesh territory with cows, our Bogra correspondent reports.

One of the dead was identified as Subhas, 45, while the other body could not be identified. The BDR held Ranjit Mohanta, an Indian national, when he intruded into Bangladesh territory and jumped into a pond for safety as the BSF was chasing him, UNB reports.

Operations section of the BDR headquarters told The Daily Star

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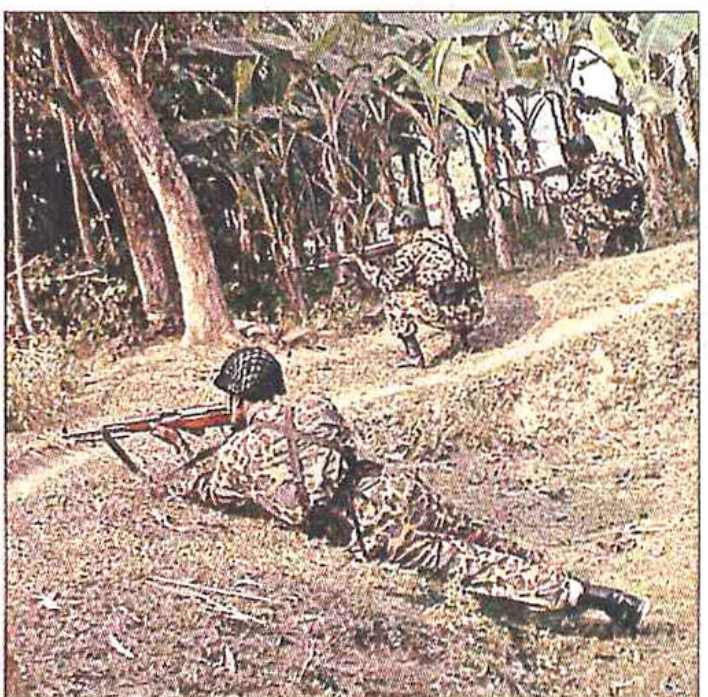


PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

BDR personnel on high alert in Hathkola border area in Joypurhat yesterday following their firefight with Border Security Force (BSF) of India.

## No plan to probe EC's flawed voter list

ACC asked only to investigate Tk 140cr voter ID card scam

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The caretaker government has not yet planned any investigation of the Election Commission's (EC's) making of the grossly flawed voter list, which stands as one of the key reasons for the ongoing intense political crisis and cancellation of the January 22 election.

But the new caretaker government already asked the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) to probe into the Tk 140 crore Voter Identity Card scam, which had

begun by the end of BNP's 1991-96 rule and ended during Awami League's (AL) 1996-2001 regime.

One of the strongest voices in the anti-corruption and good governance campaign in the country, Prof Muzaffer Ahmed, however believes that there should be a probe into the spending for the flawed list as well.

While declaring the state of emergency on January 11, President Iajuddin Ahmed in his speech told the nation, "The prerequisite for a free and fair election

is making of a flawless voter list before the electoral process starts. Constitutionally this responsibility lies with the Election Commission. When the voter list was being corrected and updated for the upcoming election, it was found to be full of various types of mistakes and its acceptability became questionable."

Iajuddin added that the harsh reality is that holding of the election within the 90-day timeframe since the dissolution of the last

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## EC moves to 'revive' voter ID card project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) is now looking into the abandoned voter ID card project, six years into its cancellation, following the new caretaker government's initiative in this regard.

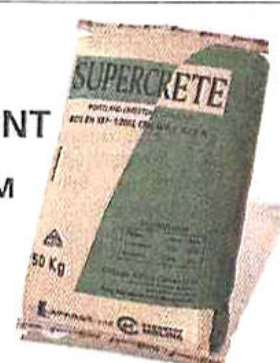
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## OBITUARY



We mourn the sudden and untimely demise of Mr. Anindya Majumder, Director of Jamuna Bank Limited who died on Monday, the 15th January 2007 at the age of 31 at Mount Elizabeth Hospital, Singapore.

We pray for the salvation of the departed soul & express our heartfelt grief to the members of the bereaved family.

Board of Directors  
&  
All Employees  
of  
**Jamuna Bank Limited**