



Govt asked to place CrPC ordinance to SC by tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday asked the government to place the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance 2007 by tomorrow to complete the legal process of separation of the judiciary from the executive.

The order came after Attorney General Fida M Kamal sought time for submitting the gazette book on the amended CrPC.

Earlier, the apex court on February 1 ordered the government to come up with an amended CrPC within February 12.

The attorney general told the court that the president has promulgated the ordinance and that it was already in the press for printing. He said the gazette would be placed before the SC as soon as the printing is done.

He then produced a document in favour of the president's signature on the ordinance. "The Supreme Court will have to issue a notification for implementation of the ordinance," added the chief law officer of the state.

President Iajuddin Ahmed signed the CrPC (Amendment) Ordinance 2007 on Sunday night.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

AL scraps fatwa deal with bigots

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) yesterday cancelled the controversial five-point Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) over issuance of fatwas with Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis (BKM).

AL also cancelled all deals, agreements and seat sharing with different political parties in the grand alliance including 14-party coalition, which had been made prior to the cancellation of January 22 parliamentary polls.

"We had made some deals and agreements with some parties as part of our election strategy centring the January 22 poll. Since the election was cancelled, those deals and agreements have automatically been cancelled," AL Acting General Secretary Obaidul Quader told The Daily Star yesterday.

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil signed the MoU going to the Azimpur residence of BKM Chairman Azizul Haque on December 23 last year, which stipulated that certified alem (Islamic clerics) would have the authority to issue fatwas in the

country if the grand electoral alliance could come to power.

The other points of the MoU included promises to impose a ban on enacting any law that would go against Quranic values, initiation of steps for proper implementation of the government initiative to recognise the degrees awarded by Qaumi Madrasas, and a ban on criticisms of Prophet Muhammad.

With AL signing the deal to bring BKM into the fold of the grand alliance, it faced severe criticisms from different national and international quarters and even from inside the party.

The deal also gave rise to grievances and frustrations inside AL and other components of the grand alliance, and disappointed many other political parties, socio-cultural organisations and people of all walks of life.

At the time the AL general secretary repeatedly criticised the media saying that they misinterpreted the deal and claiming that the deal was not against the concept of secularism.

Quader, who spoke as an AL spokesman yesterday, however

said the political unity among the components of the grand alliance will continue.

"But all the written deals or agreements and seat sharing with all the parties have been cancelled," said the AL leader adding that they will think afresh about signing deals or reaching agreements with the grand alliance partners in a new situation when a fresh schedule for the upcoming parliamentary polls will be announced.

Asked whether they will sign the MoU again with BKM, the AL leader brushed aside the possibility and said they have not thought of it yet. As the election was cancelled, their strategies will change in the new situation, he said.

Asked when the decision of cancelling the MoU was taken, Quader declined to comment.

But sources said AL President Sheikh Hasina instructed Quader yesterday morning to issue a media statement about the cancellation of the MoU.

Asked whether AL informed BKM about the cancellation of the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Execution of militant Saifullah stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday stayed execution of condemned militant Khaled Saifullah until February 19.

Chairman judge of the appellate division of the SC Justice Amjul Kabir Chowdhury delivered the order following a review petition of Khaled Saifullah for reconsidering the death sentence against him.

The court also directed for hearing the matter at the full bench of the SC.

On November 29 last year, the full bench of the SC headed by Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain rejected the petitions of six of the seven sentenced to death Islamist militants including Saifullah seeking permission to appeal against a High Court (HC) judgement upholding the sentences.

The seven had been convicted

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Detained political leaders shifted to different prisons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The jail authorities last night shifted the detained political leaders to different jails from Dhaka Central Jail, where the joint forces had arrested since the declaration of state of emergency on charges of corruption and for patronising criminals.

The high profile detainees were taken out of Dhaka Central Jail after 8:15pm and the 10 microbuses

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

FLOATING PARTY Yunus getting people's views on his plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus is getting people's responses after writing an open letter on Sunday seeking views on his plan to float a political party.

Staffs of Centre for Development Communications (CDC) at Moghazar in Dhaka received people's opinions

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Falu shown arrested in govt property misuse case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Detained former BNP lawmaker and businessman Mosaddak Ali Falu was shown arrested yesterday in a case filed against him for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around Tk 20 crore went down the drain as members of the 8th parliament did not attend the sessions in time leading to quorum crisis while the House failed to resolve audit objections involving over Tk 12,500 crore.

The findings came out in a Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) research into the activities of the 8th Jatiya Sangsad.

Of Tk 13,154 crore audit objections concerning 15 ministries, the communications ministry alone had

Tk 12,775 crore. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) could realise only Tk 12 crore from it and left the rest for the government to deal with.

TIB Research Officer Tanvir Mahmud published the findings at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. Prof Muzaffar Ahmad, chairman of TIB board of trustees, spoke on the research outcome.

Throughout the tenure, the assembly had no sincere discussion on corruption, power crisis and terrorism. They were rather busy playing party politics in

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

stations in Kushtia yesterday.

The joint forces also arrested Sylhet district AL General Secretary (GS) Iftekhar Hossain Shamim, Dupchanchia upazila BNP GS and municipality chairman Mohammad Jahangir Alam.

Meantime, the home ministry yesterday said members of the armed forces, police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested 1,596 people across the country in 24 hours till 6:00am yesterday.

Of them, 67, including 41 criminals, were arrested in army operations and were handed over to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

US team says polls critical for future

UNB, Dhaka

A US delegation yesterday observed that elections are critical for the future of Bangladesh and expressed their interest in providing support in this regard.

"Obviously, the elections are critical for the future of this country and we look forward to supporting whatever and wherever we can," head of the two-member team Daudous McCullough told reporters after their meeting with the newly appointed Chief election commissioner (CEC).

They met CEC ATM Shamsul Huda at his office and discussed the reconstituted Election Commission's expectations and challenges ahead.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakha demolishes an illegally built market at Azampur in Uttra in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

TITAS GAS LEAKAGE
Experts for quick step to avert blow-out

SHARIER KHAN

A group of eight experts recommended immediate remedial action to stop uncontrolled gas leakage from the country's biggest gas field Titas to avert a blow-out or similar disaster, a competent source said.

In their primary study into the gas leakage spreading over an area of about 1,000 acres of land in Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila, the experts expressed their belief that the gas leakage originated from the main Titas gas field reservoir near location number three, an area in the Sadar upazila.

The study submitted on Sunday to Petrobangla noted that it

Yunus for Dhaka-Delhi-Islamabad highway link

 PALLAB BHATTACHARYA,
 from Kolkata

Prof Muhammad Yunus has suggested building a highway network connecting India, Pakistan and Bangladesh and introducing "Saarc passports" for people of the member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

The Nobel laureate, now in Kolkata to receive Sherpa Bangali (Best Bengali) award, made the suggestion addressing a press conference yesterday. He also called for introduction of "Saarc scholarships" at the universities of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Double blow for a father in penury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abul Sharif, a day labourer, probably had no idea that poverty would force him to do the unthinkable, until he had to hand over his 10-year-old daughter's body to a charity organisa-

tion for burial declaring it 'unclaimed'.

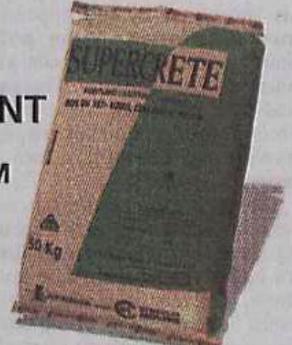
He did not have the money to take his daughter's body to their village home in Bhola for a

burial. The curse of poverty felt even

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

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