

JUDICIARY SEPARATION
SC asks govt
to correct flaws
in CrPC rules
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday asked the government to correct a number of flaws in the four newly framed rules and the amendments to Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) related to the separation of the judiciary from the executive.

The court, in its directive to the Attorney General's Office (AGO), said it found a number of mistakes in the rules and the amendments that the government promulgated in January.

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Detention of
ex-MP Kamal
Majumder
declared illegal
UNB, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday declared illegal the detention order against former Awami League MP Kamal Majumder and three others under the Special Powers Act.

A Division Bench comprising Justice MA Wahhab Mian and Justice M Emdadul Huq passed the order after a legal battle on whether the High Court can exercise its

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Prayer Timing		
February 27		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-05	6-10
Esha	7-30	8-00
Source: Islamic Foundation		

AL high-ups wary
of 'unwanted' deals

Agree to decide important matters thru' discussion

HASAN JAHI D TUSHER

The Awami League (AL) high-ups have reached a consensus that every important decision should be taken after discussion with all high-ranking leaders to avert incidents like signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish.

At a closed door meeting attended by party President Sheikh Hasina on Sunday night, most of the top leaders candidly expressed their views on the 'problems' inside the party.

At the meeting called as part of

the AL's move to bring reforms in the party, they pointed out many irregularities and activities contrary to the party constitution, said sources in the AL seeking anonymity.

Severely criticising the issue of AL's signing the MoU with a fundamentalist party, AL presidium members Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta and Kazi Zafarullah told the meeting that the incident was against the constitution of the party.

Moreover, the top leaders had not been informed before taking such a crucial decision, they said at the meeting.

Signing of the deal came as a blow to the AL's fundamental principles including its secular stand, Suranjit said.

Tofail said he was not informed about the signing of MoU despite being a top leader of the party.

Razzak and Zafarullah also echoed the same view and questioned the rationale for making a written deal on such a matter.

The four top leaders came down heavily on party General Secretary Abdul Jalil for signing the deal, sources said.

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Six tonnes of rotten
fish destroyed

Fake electronics factories fined

STAR REPORT

Joint forces destroyed around six tonnes of rotten fishes at Mohipur in Patuakhali yesterday while a mobile court in the capital unearthed three electronics factories producing fake goods and fined them Tk 5 lakh.

In the sudden drive, the joint forces raided eight fish godowns at Mohipur, locally known as "fish port," near Kuakata sea beach and seized at least 161 maunds or around six tonnes (a maund =37.5kg approx) of rotten fishes,

our correspondent from Patuakhali reports.

They later threw away the rotten fishes into a local river after treating those with kerosene.

Three workers were also detained by the joint forces from the spot. They are -- Abdul Bareq, 40, Abul Kalam, 32 and Sanjoy, 45.

In capital, a mobile court led by Metropolitan Magistrate Rokonud-Doula raided three factories at Sifat Abdullah Market in Nawabpur Road who have been manufacturing electronics accessories and marketing those by putting stickers of

different established brands.

Semel Electronics had been manufacturing and marketing sockets by putting the labels of MK brand of Singapore on those. The joint forces arrested 5 people, including the manager, and fined each Tk 1 lakh or one year imprisonment. They are -- Utpal Biswas, Ashim Kumar Barua, Abdul Alim, Mahbub and Milon.

The court also issued a warrant against the owner Montu Kumar Ray.

The mobile court found Electric

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Discrepancies
in two wealth
statements of
Hafiz Ibrahim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several changes and omissions have been detected in the second wealth statement of former BNP lawmaker Hafiz Ibrahim, which he submitted to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on Sunday.

Ibrahim, also a brother of controversial businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun, showed 14-katha land in Tejgaon owned by his wife in his first wealth statement submitted via his representatives on February 20, but this property was not mentioned in his second statement that he submitted in person.

Besides, he also excluded the information on the price of gold that he and his wife own in the second statement papers. In his

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RELIEF CASE
Falu's bail
petition
withdrawn

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Defence lawyers of detained businessman and former BNP lawmaker Mossaddak Ali Falu yesterday withdrew the bail petition submitted earlier to a Dhaka court in a criminal case filed in connection with misappropriating government relief material.

Judge Mohamamd Rafiqul Islam of the District and Sessions Judge's Court granted the withdrawal petition and disposed of it as the lawyers showed apathy in taking part in the hearing on the issue.

On February 19, the defence

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Credible voter list
still a big hurdle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) is facing difficulties in improvising ways for the preparation of a credible voter list while it has no alternative but to update the electoral rolls of 2000 again to comply with the court's verdict.

In last year, the EC had failed to maintain accuracy in the task of updating the voter list prepared seven years ago and the demand for a correct voter list acted as a factor behind the suspension of the ninth parliamentary election scheduled for January 22.

The draft of the fresh voter list prepared in May last year witnessed 9.13 crore voters but it triggered enormous controversy as it reportedly contained over one crore

excess names.

Following Supreme Court's upholding of a High Court judgement that had instructed updating the voter list prepared in 2000, the EC prepared an updated voter list in last August.

But it also became controversial as the updated list came up with 9.30 crore voters, a number higher by 17 lakh voters than in the nullified draft of the fresh voter list.

While preparing the updated list, additional names could not be deleted due to various reasons including 'lack of interest' of people concerned.

Officials at the EC Secretariat said they will have to face the same problems once they go for updating the voter list taking the list

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70 acres of
grabbed safari
park freed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Forest department recovered around 70 acres of its land from encroachers in a three-day drive ending yesterday in Dulahazra Safari Park area of Chakoria upazila in Cox's Bazar.

An eviction team of forest department staff assisted by joint forces demolished hundreds of illegal structures along both sides of the approach road leading to the safari park to reclaim the government land, sources said.

Divisional Forest Officer and Project Director of the park Dr Tapan Kumar Dey, Chakoria Upazila Nirbahi Officer M Shah Alam, Assistant Commissioner (land) Saiful Islam and park in-charge BA Kalam led the drive.

During the last few years, many

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HC stays graft
case against
ex-PMO secy
Nurul Islam

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday stayed for three months the further proceedings of a graft case filed against former secretary at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) AHM Nurul Islam.

The case is now pending with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

Earlier on February 18, the HC issued a rule upon the government following a petition to explain why the corruption case filed under the Official Secrets Act against Islam should not be declared unlawful.

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Prof Muhammad Yunus