

JUDICIARY SEPARATION Govt gets five weeks to complete job

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday granted the government five weeks for completing official formalities to implement separation of judiciary from the executive.

The seven-member full bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin, granted the time following a prayer by the government seeking two months time for completing required administrative process.

On May 7, SC directed the government to complete the process for implementation of separation of judiciary from the executive and to inform the court about its execution by July 19. The court had fixed July 23 for its further order regarding the

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6 British MPs for release of Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six British lawmakers yesterday demanded release of former Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina on bail saying that she poses no 'conceivable' security risk or risk of attempting to evade justice as she has surrendered her passport.

Meanwhile, US Deputy Secretary of State John D. Negroponte and US Congressman Joseph Crowley urged the government to follow due process of law so that 'no one is deprived of justice', New York-based news agency News World reports.

The British MPs from Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties, wrote a letter to a London-based daily The Times expressing their 'grave concern' on, what they termed, the 'undignified' manner of Hasina's arrest.

"We call upon the authorities to release her on bail so that she can prepare her defence. She has

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Govt goes for intense drive amid crime rise

CA expresses concern at recent spate of sensational murders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday ordered the law enforcement agencies to better coordinate and intensify their operations in the wake of deterioration of the law and order marked by the recent spate of high-profile murders.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed gave the directive at a high-level special meeting at his office, which was attended by the cabinet and home secretaries as well as

the heads of law enforcement agencies.

He also ordered the formation a "coordination committee" to better exchange inter-agency information before and during operations.

The law enforcement agencies were also asked to hold regular coordination meetings and take short and long-term measures to curb crimes.

In the two-hour meeting, the CA asked the law enforcement agencies to step up their "physical

presence" in crime-prone areas and public places such as railway stations, bus and launch terminals.

The meeting was called in light of recent incidents such as the murder of Supreme Court lawyer Sayma last week and the murders of law enforcement agency officials and a Bangladesh Bank official.

However, Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad told the meeting that the overall crime rate

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ACC won't care about Hasina's letter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has not accepted a letter from detained Awami League President and former prime minister Sheikh Hasina in which she said the notice served by the ACC asking for her wealth statement is full of errors.

In a press briefing yesterday, ACC Secretary Md Mokhlesur Rahman said the commission did not take the letter into consideration, and there is no scope for asking an explanation (from it).

He said the issue of serving notice on former prime minister Sheikh Hasina has been resolved. "If they do not submit the reports, non-submission cases will be filed against them."

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PHOTO: STAR

An elderly man attends to his ducks on their temporary home on a raft at Matuail near Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra embankment yesterday. Torrential rain during the last few days left his home inundated.

VOTER LIST

EC to knock now on voters' doors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) has finally decided to assign its enumerators to make door-to-door visits for collecting particulars of eligible voters to simultaneously prepare the voter list with photographs, and national identity cards across the country.

Prospective voters however will have to visit voter registration centres to have their photographs taken for the voter list.

An EC announcement said over three lakh remunerators and supervisors will be recruited for voter listing. Besides, monitoring teams comprising more than five lakh locals including present and former representatives to different local government bodies and reputed persons will be engaged to help prepare the electoral roll.

The EC Secretariat on Sunday issued a circular asking election

officials concerned to recruit enumerators and supervisors to start field level tasks for preparing voter list for Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) area next month.

The same procedure will be followed in all other parts of the country, officials at the EC Secretariat said.

Earlier, in May, the EC first announced that it would prepare voter list by setting up voter registration camps, and ask people to visit these camps. In the face of criticism, the CEC then said the EC was actively considering sending its enumerators for door-to-door visits to collect particulars of prospective voters.

Sunday's circular said each enumerator will collect particulars of 300 prospective voters by making door-to-door visits while one supervisor will monitor the task of five enumerators.

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PSC cautious as viva voce of 27th BCS exams starts July 29

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Public Service Commission (PSC) has taken a number of measures for viva voce of the controversial 27th BCS examinations scheduled to begin on July 29.

Members of the viva board will refrain from using cellphone or land phones during the spoken exams, a press note said.

"The board chairman or the members cannot be reached over phone while the viva is on. However, two phone numbers--9114304 and 9117265--will remain open for anyone having urgent messages for the board members," it read.

In case of emergency, a member can leave the board on permission from the chairman, but in that event he won't be allowed to sit the board on that day again.

Candidates have been asked not to carry a cellphone as no-one will

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PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

A herd of wild elephants feed in Fashiakhali forest of Mirinja Range under Cox's Bazar Forest Department. A number of local wild elephants usually migrate between Chunoti and Fashiakhali and the border with Myanmar. Experts say 350-400 such elephants are suffering from habitat loss as hills have been cut and villages and towns have been built on their migration paths forcing some herds to stay in isolated pockets.

Rab drive soon to curb price hike

BDR to set up 200 shops of essential items in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) will soon start a drive against those responsible for the soaring prices of vegetables in the retail markets of the capital.

Rab officials said they will monitor prices of vegetables in

wholesale and retail markets of the capital and identify traders who charge exorbitantly. They also said stern actions would be taken against those found responsible for the price hike of vegetables.

High-ranking Rab officials held a views-exchange meeting at Rab

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Ex-Jamaat MP Shakhawat held for extortion

UNB, Jessore

Former Jamaat lawmaker Maulana Shakhawat Hossain was arrested at his residence at Keshabpur upazila headquarters last night on charges of extortion.

The joint forces picked up Shakhawat Hossain at around 7:45pm on charges of extorting Tk 92 lakh from some local people and taking bribe from a number of lecturers who were provided with jobs at Flight Lt Masud College.

The college was named after his

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PWD staff confesses to killing lawyer Sayma

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday afternoon arrested a PWD staff who later admitted to his involvement in the killing of advocate Sayma on July 17.

The arrestee, Faizul Islam, an assistant accountant of public works department (PWD), who was held from Newmarket area, said the lawyer was murdered as she had failed to provide him (Faizul) with the job for which she took Tk

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Faizul Islam

SL clinch ODI series

BISHWAJIT ROY FROM COLOMBO

Bangladesh continued their woeful batting, but for a change it was in trying conditions as Sri Lanka ran out five-wicket victors at the R Premadasa Stadium here yesterday to secure the series 2-0 with a match in hand.

Bangladesh suffered an early setback as they missed the service of pace spearhead Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, ruled out with an ankle injury. His presence might have come handy under the largely overcast skies.

The bowlers, though, did a tidy job but the fact is that a total of 137 was never going to be really defendable under any conditions.

The home team reached 141 with eighteen overs to spare and despite some early hiccups they never really looked in any danger. Chamara Silva top-scored with 36

while openers Upul Tharanga and Sanath Jayasuriya chipped in with 28 and 24 respectively.

Sri Lanka won the first game by 70 runs on Friday.

The match generated very little interest as Mohammad Ashraful's men had already lost their entertainment value in the series, mainly because of their pathetic batting show which was also not an exception in the second one-dayer, but the small crowd who turned up at the big bowl experienced a milestone achievement for their hero Jayasuriya.

After right-arm quick Lasith Malinga's opening burst saw Bangladesh lose their first four wickets for 26 runs, left-arm slow Jayasuriya mopped up the middle order as he captured four wickets to become the first player to score over 12,000 runs and take 300 wickets in the shorter-version of the game.

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BNP divide leaps to fore after Khaleda's outburst

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Trouble brews in the BNP as the ones loyal to Chairperson Khaleda Zia and those campaigning for reforms led by Secretary General Mannan Bhuiyan are poles apart over holding a council.

Khaleda has already hinted that she might expel Bhuiyan for what she said was conspiring to split the party.

On the other hand, the pro-reform leaders have said they would resist the former prime minister taking any action against the secretary general. They have rejected the allegations that Khaleda levelled against them during a teleconference with the BNP Australia chapter Saturday

and likened her speech to 'grasping at straws'.

They also warned the party chief 'not to throw stones living in a house of glass'.

In her latest speech, Khaleda described the ones working towards reforms as betrayers. She said the only agenda of the 'so-called reformists' is to split the party and so they are desperate to hold a council even amid a state of emergency.

Taking a swipe at Bhuiyan, the chairperson said he is not capable of taking the command of the BNP. "He does not even believe in the party's ideology," she quipped.

Asked whether she would expel him, Khaleda said, "Everyone is asking me to do so...let's see."

Meanwhile, some leaders think that the secretary general should meet Khaleda soon to resolve the differences over the proposed reforms and a council.

They said if she could have a teleconference with the leaders and workers abroad then why she does not talk to those at home.

Adviser to the BNP chairperson ASM Hannan Shah, who was released from jail on Saturday, said anyone can talk about the party affairs, but they must do that at the party forum first.

Asked about Khaleda's observations about Bhuiyan, he said, "Of course I support what she has said."

Hannan was talking to reporters

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