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## JUDICIAL POWER TO MAGISTRATES SC asked to check if it conflicts law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Adviser Mainul Hossain yesterday requested the Supreme Court (SC) to check whether giving the executive magistrates some judicial power conflicts with the law, sources said.

Mainul specifically wanted to know whether giving the executive magistrates the power to hold summary trials and operate mobile courts for anti-adulteration and eviction drives goes against the existing laws in any way, they added.

He made the request during a meeting with the SC registrar Ikhtakar Ahmed at his office at the law ministry yesterday afternoon.

The adviser asked the SC registrar to see "whether anything can be done" to meet the executive magistrates' demand, sources said.

Law Secretary Kazi Habibul Awal and other high officials were also present during the meeting.

"We discussed whether there is

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## Rokon Ud-Doula says sorry for his reaction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Metropolitan Magistrate Rokon Ud-Doula yesterday sought apology from the chief justice, the government and others concerned for the broadside he had fired Sunday at the separation of judiciary.

"I make sincere apology to all of them for my impolite conduct while expressing our grievances created because of some discriminatory rules in the process of separation of the judiciary," Rokon told journalists at his court chamber.

He said he will be obedient to the government as he has always been.

Rokon, who has become a hero for his recent drives against adulterated food, said he has always been in favour of the separation of the judiciary. They only demanded that the dignity of the executive magistrates be upheld, he added.

He said the executive magistrates now do not have any grievance against the government as he has realised the

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## GATCO CASE Hearing on Koko's remand prayer adjourned

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Hearing on the seven-day remand prayer to interrogate detained former prime minister Khaleda Zia's younger son Arafat Rahman Koko in the Gatco graft case was not held yesterday due to his illness.

Meantime, a Dhaka court yesterday closed recording deposition of witnesses in another graft case against Khaleda's political secretary Harris Chowdhury.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mizanur Rahman adjourned hearing, as jail authorities could not produce Koko before the court due to his illness.

The court re-fixed October 29 for next hearing subject to Koko's recovery.

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## Arrest warrant issued against Rehana

Her property to be attached in extortion case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

An arrest warrant was issued yesterday against Sheikh Rehana, sister of detained Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina, along with an order to attach all her properties in connection with a Tk 2.99 crore extortion case.

After scrutinising the case docket and other relevant documents, Metropolitan Magistrate ABM Abdul Fattah accepted the charge sheet of the case and passed the order.

The court issued the order following a prayer submitted by the investigation officer (IO) of the case showing Rehana fugitive.

Meanwhile, while commenting on the order, Sheikh Rehana, who is currently in the UK, told BBC Radio Bangla Service, "I'm really disappointed and disheartened at such a false case against me -- the arrest



Sheikh Rehana

warrant and the attachment of my wealth. What's the reason for this? This is just to humiliate me and this is evil-intentioned."

Azam J Chowdhury, managing director of Eastcoast Trading Pvt Ltd, filed the case on June 13 against former prime minister

Hasina and her cousin Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim with Gulshan Police Station, accusing them of extorting Tk 2.99 crore from him.

Rehana's name was later included in the charge sheet as the IO found her involvement in the extortion during investigation. The other two accused, Hasina and Sheikh Selim, were arrested earlier and are currently detained in different prisons.

Joint forces arrested the AL chief in connection with the case on July 16 and produced her before a magistrate's court that sent her to a sub-jail custody.

The defence lawyers of the case submitted a petition seeking time for adjournment of the order on the acceptance of the charge sheet, but the court rejected the defence plea for adjournment of the order on it.

Defence lawyers in their petition

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## BSF chief in city as border talks begin today

BSS, Dhaka

The director general of India's Border Security Force (BSF), Ashish Kumar Mitra, arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a six-day tour to review cross-border crime and discuss outstanding border issues with his Bangladesh counterpart.

Director General of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed received the 17-member Indian delegation, comprising BSF's frontier inspector generals and India's home and foreign ministry officials, at Zia International Airport.

The BDR chief will lead an 18-member Bangladesh delegation, comprising BDR and other officials concerned, at talks at BDR headquarters from today.

BDR officials said Bangladesh will ask New Delhi to hand over a demarcated land on north-western Naogaon border and exchange suspected criminals hiding in each

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## No more govt of money, by money, for money: CA

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said his interim government is working tirelessly for a government truly of the people, by the people and for the people.

"We no longer want to endure governments 'of the money, by the money and for the money'," the CA told a function marking the United Nations Day at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.

Bangladesh became 136th member of the UN on September 17, 1974. Now 192 countries are the members of the United Nations.

Video footage of the historic moment of Bangladesh's membership of the global body was screened at the function.

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed

Chowdhury and noted jurist Dr Kamal Hossain, who was present as foreign minister at the historical moment of Bangladesh's joining the UN through endorsement by the UN General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York in 1974, also spoke on the occasion.

UN Resident Coordinator Renata Dessallien addressed the function and read out the special message of UN Secretary General Ban-ki Moon conveyed on the occasion of UN Day celebration in Bangladesh, as elsewhere in the world.

The CA said Bangladesh's democratic ethos resonates with the collective will and aspirations of global citizens, which transcends national boundaries and parochial politics. "We share a unity of purpose with the global community

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## Govt approves urgent import of urea

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The advisers' committee on purchase yesterday approved import of 1,37,500 tonne of urea on an urgent basis to avoid any possible crisis of fertiliser ahead of the Irrigation season.

Besides, Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday issued a circular to all commercial banks, asking them to extend all-out cooperation to traders importing triple super phosphate (TSP) and muriate of potash (MOP).

Chaired by Law and Information Adviser Mainul Hossain, the advisers' committee meeting approved purchase of 75,000 tonne of bagged urea at a cost of Tk 194 crore and 62,500 tonne of granular urea at a cost of Tk 169 crore.

The committee also approved import of 50,000 tonne of phosphoric acid as raw material at a cost of Tk 132 crore for producing urea in the country.

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## EC ELECTORAL TALKS Chaos in AL over including new names in dialogue team

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The Awami League (AL) has had disputes within the party in the last two days about inclusion of fresh names in its committee for dialogue with the Election Commission (EC) over electoral reforms.

At the meeting of the AL Central Working Committee on October 22, the party formed a 16-member committee headed by Presidium Member Tofail Ahmed although the EC had sought 10 representatives for the talks scheduled for November 4.

At the central committee meeting it was decided that the party would form a 15-member committee and urge the EC to increase the number of AL representatives for the dialogue. The meeting, however, did not decide on who will be

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## 10 interrogated over Gatco graft case

Charge sheet against Mamun, wife; ACC sues former additional IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday quizzed 10 people including an assistant director of the planning ministry, and an incumbent and a former secretary of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) over the Gatco graft case.

The ACC also submitted charge sheet against BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman's closest aide businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun and his wife Shahina Yeasmin for illegally accumulating Tk 110.97 crore during the five-year rule of BNP-led four-party alliance.

Besides, it filed a case against former additional inspector general of police (AIGP) Shahidullah Khan and his wife for accumulating wealth beyond known sources of income and hiding information in the wealth statements submitted to the ACC.

The 10 people interrogated yesterday include Meer Ahmed Tarique Omar, assistant director of Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) of the planning ministry, Abdul Hye, project manager of Global Agro Trade (Pvt) Co Ltd (Gatco) and Faisal Haider, a director of Gatco.

Former prime minister Khaleda Zia's principal secretary

Kamaluddin Siddique, now in UK, sent a written statement to the ACC on the Gatco case.

The ACC on October 23 asked the 10 people to appear before it yesterday.

The commission filed the case on September 2 accusing Khaleda and 12 others. It already questioned a former IMED secretary and several Gatco officials in connection with the case.

CHARGE SHEET AGAINST MAMUN AND HIS WIFE Investigation officer Tahsinul Haque submitted charge sheet against Mamun and his wife

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## 4 murdered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four people including a leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), BNP's student wing, were murdered yesterday in separate incidents in the capital.

The deceased were identified as Anwarul Haque, general secretary of JCD's Sabujbagh unit, Mohammed Azizul, 22, a school van driver of Viharunissa Noon School, Shaheen Bepari, 26, a rickshaw puller, and Zamauluddin, 30.

The dead bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

According to police, a gang of 7 to 8 unidentified criminals shot Anwar near Kadamtola bridge under Sabujbagh area at about 7:30pm while he was standing with two of his accomplices.

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## 4 held with 425 Yaba tablets 6 youths being quizzed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested four Yaba traders including two women with 425 tablets, but narrowly failed to hold a key person who Rab believes smuggles the drugs into Bangladesh.

Meantime, the Task Force for Interrogation (TFI) has started grilling six youths of well-off families held with 16 Yaba tablets, 24 pornography CDs and two luxurious vehicles on October 18 about details of people running the illegal business in the posh areas, Rab officials said.

A Rab-1 team posing as buyers went to Badda in the city and cap-

tured Yaba carrier Anisur Rahman, 25, with 300 tablets.

Squeezing information out of him, Rab picked up Yaba trader Al Amin, 30, and carriers Baby, 20, and Prema, 25, from a nearby house of his employer.

"Waliur Rahman, who visits different countries frequently and smuggled Yaba into Bangladesh, fled minutes before our raid," said Maj Saiful Islam who led the operation at 12:45am.

He said Waliur frequently visits Nepal, India, China and the UAE.

During a search at Waliur's rented house the elite force members seized 125 Yaba tablets, three

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## VOTER LISTING EC to train up 16,000 teachers in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) will train up around 16,000 school and college level teachers who take part in field level voter registration process in the capital from December 1.

"As many as 15,855 teachers will receive the training in the capital in seven phases from October 29 to November 19. For this purpose, 90 educational institutions will be used as training centres," said Education Additional Secretary Abdul Awal Mujumdar yesterday after holding a meeting with teachers and EC representatives at the education ministry.

He also said the training will run in two shifts -- morning shift from 9:30am to 12:30pm and evening shift from 2:00pm to 5:00pm -- so

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## Gen Moeen answers questions from Joy

If Hasina is released from prison after proving her innocence, it will be good news for everyone, army chief says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Everyone would be happy if Hasina was released after being proven innocent, said Army chief General Moeen U Ahmed yesterday to Sajeeb Wazed Joy, son of detained former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

Gen Moeen said this to Joy when the two met at a seminar at Ash Institute of Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts, reports US-based NewsWorld.

"My respect and support for the former prime minister and Bangabandhu daughter is no less than anyone else. If she is released from prison after proving her innocence, it will be good news for everyone," said Gen Moeen.

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## HOME MINISTERS' MEET Delhi to press more for extradition issue

ASHFAQ WARES KHAN

Dhaka is in two minds about signing the Saarc mutual legal assistance (MLA) treaty on criminal matters as it is likely to reopen the discussion on a similar bilateral deal with India that includes a clause for extradition between the two neighbours.

If Dhaka signs the Saarc MLA treaty, foreign ministry officials told The Daily Star that they anticipate it might allow India to reopen the bilateral deal in which New Delhi has included clauses on extradition and executing requests on search and seizure.

The Saarc MLA treaty, which aims at synchronising legal frameworks in the eight member states to tackle cross-border crimes, is likely to be high on the agenda of the ongoing meet of the Saarc home ministers in New Delhi.

Despite recent exchanges of criminals between the two neighbouring countries and cooperation on other security matters, the extradition clause will particularly be a key sticking point for Dhaka in any future negotiation with New Delhi.

New Delhi also has two more proposals to sit on with Dhaka--separate deals on extradition and combating terrorism and drugs.

Diplomatic sources said Dhaka's decision to sign the MLA treaty, which does not include such clauses, will depend on its compatibility with Bangladeshi legislation and procedures of dealing with cross-border and internal criminal matters.

There is also the Bimstec MLA treaty, which is likely to be inked in the next summit of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral

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PHOTO: STAR

Employees of Dhaka City Corporation and visitors registering their names and time of entry yesterday as army-led task force members supervise it.

Advertorial

First to Fly A380

Customers benefit from yet another First with Singapore Airlines

Singapore Airlines received delivery of the first A380 in Toulouse, France, on the 15 October 2007. This super-jumbo then landed on the island of Singapore on the evening of 17 October with much aplomb and excitement.

The A380 is scheduled to fly

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