

# CG decision to implement judiciary separation hailed

AL, NAP to place common proposals at EC dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Welcoming the caretaker government's decision to implement the separation of the judiciary from the executive, Awami League yesterday called for necessary steps to ensure that common people get justice from the independent judiciary.

"The Awami League government had taken the initiative to separate the judiciary as it believes in the independence of the judiciary. In consequence, this government is going to implement the separation of the judiciary. We welcome the move and thank the government for this initiative," AL presidium member Tofail Ahmed told reporters after a meeting with leaders of the National Awami Party (NAP) that also hailed the decision.

The meeting between the two parties was held as part of AL's series of meetings with the components of the AL-led 14-party combine and other like-minded parties with a view to taking a common stance on the dialogue with the Election Commission (EC) and the issues to be discussed there.

Chaired by NAP President Prof Mozaffar Ahmed, the meeting decided, in principle, that they would place common proposals

based on the 14-party's 31-point reform proposals at the dialogue with the EC.

They also called for creating an environment conducive to free, fair and credible elections free from the influence of black money, muscle power and fundamentalism.

AL leaders Tofail Ahmed, Motia Chowdhury, Syed Ashraful Islam, Abdul Mannan, Akhtarruzzaman, Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed and Abdul Latif Siddiqui and NAP leaders MA Gani, Enamul Haque, Shafiqur Rahman and Amena Ahmed attended the meeting at the residence of the NAP president at Segunbagicha in the city.

Talking to reporters, Prof Mozaffar Ahmed termed the EC's dialogue a childlike step. There was no need to hold dialogues with the political parties over a stretch of three months, he said, adding that the people are wondering whether holding the dialogue is a tactic of wasting time.

Tofail praised Prof Mozaffar Ahmed for his contribution to all democratic movements from 1952 to 1971.

He said they would take part in the dialogue with the EC to help implement the electoral roadmap. Motia Chowdhury said the coun-

trymen are satisfied with the government's decision regarding the separation of the judiciary. "The people now hope that the judges will ensure justice for all," she said.

Workers Party of Bangladesh The Workers Party yesterday also hailed the government's decision to separate the judiciary.

The party leaders also termed the incidents of opposing the decision 'unwarranted'.

At a meeting of the party's politburo, the leaders observed that the main goal of the separation of the judiciary would not be achieved if the executive magistrates are given judicial power in some cases.

"It must, however, be understood that on this or any other negotiations with a particular country, Bangladesh will always seek to protect her perceived national interest," the ministry noted in clarifying its stand.

They also urged the government to take steps to put an end to corruption in the judiciary.

Party leaders Bimal Biswas, Haider Akbar Khan Rano, Anisur Rahman Malik and Fazle Hossain Badsha attended the meeting.

Bangladesh Bar Council Vice Chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council Khandokar Mahbub Hossain in a press statement welcomed the government's decision.

He said the people's aspirations for fair trial free from political influence and corruption would be fulfilled through the separation of the judiciary.

The Dhaka University will build three ten-storyed library buildings equipped with modern library facilities to meet its growing demands.

Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) will provide assistance to build the buildings in three phases.

"KOICA authorities verbally agreed to assist us for the construction of three ten-storyed library buildings. After approval from the Ministry of Education, the project is now waiting for final approval of the KOICA," DU librarian Kh Fazlur Rahman said.

He yesterday submitted the proposal to the Korean Embassy for the approval of KOICA.

"The Korean organisation will construct the buildings of their own supervision and will provide necessary financial support," librarian Kh Fazlur Rahman said.

Kim Chang Sup, resident representative of KOICA Bangladesh office, visited the library and the new construction site and agreed to the 'Construction of a 10 storied L-Type building for the Dhaka University Library' at a cost of about Tk 40 crore.

The university syndicate, the highest decision making authorities also approved the proposal on August 14, a syndicate member said.

After completion of the proposed ten-storyed building, the other two buildings will be constructed demolishing the present library buildings.

## INDO-BANGLA TRAIN SERVICE Dhaka clears position

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka cleared her position on operationalisation of the passenger train service between Bangladesh and India as a question arose in some sections of the press about Bangladesh's 'reluctance'.

"The factual position is that discussions are ongoing on and a draft of the agreement on the passenger train service has been transmitted to the Indian authorities from the Bangladesh side," said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday.

A release issued by the ministry further said a response is awaited from the Indian side in this regard.

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## 3 ten-storyed library bldgs to be set up at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

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## Arms smuggler, drug peddler arrested

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

An arms smuggler was arrested with a forged made pistol, a bullet and a dagger from Gatipara village in Benapole yesterday morning.

Acting on a tip-off, the police arrested Jamal Hossain Mintu, 35, from his house. Jamal had been smuggling arms from India and selling them in different parts of the country, police said.

A case has been filed with Benapole Port Police Station.

Meanwhile, Detective Branch (DB) of police picked up a drug peddler with 500 grams of heroin from Gazipur village in Benapole.

Acting on a tip-off, the police raided the house of Delwar and found the narcotic drug worth about Tk 50 lakh.

## Three jailed in Ctg for keeping illegal arms

BSS, Chittagong

The Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge Court yesterday sentenced two people to seven years' rigorous imprisonment each and another to 10 years imprisonment for keeping illegal arms.

Judge Mohammad Ekramul Hoq Chowdhury delivered the verdict. The convicts are Mohammad Robin alias Rafique, son of Abdul Kader of Gaibandha, Nazrul Islam, son of Anwar Hossain of Bagerhat and Sumon Das, son of Baba Das of Raozan upazila of Chittagong.

Of the convicts, Robin was awarded 10 years rigorous imprisonment, court sources said.

According to the prosecution story in brief that the convicts snatched a sum of Tk 1.8 lakh on August 10 last from four owners of fish farms at Kherjuria under Dakop upazila of Khulna district.

The judgement was delivered yesterday by Metropolitan Magistrate Md Kamal Hossain who tries cases of Khulna Speedy Trial Court.

The convicts are Kamrul Islam alias Angul Kata Kamrul, Firoze Chokdar, Delwar Howlader and Ruhul Amin.

Kamrul, owner of a shrimp enclosure, was a Dakop upazila correspondent of the now-defunct Ajker Kagoj.

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One of the victims Shafiqul Islam lodged a case with Khulna Speedy Trial Court as complainant on August 13.

Sub-Inspector GM Shamsun Noor of Dakop Police Station, who investigated the case, pressed a charge sheet to the court against all the four FIR-named accused on August 21.

The accused were tried in absentia.

Field Engineer Mafizur Rahman of the contractor firm for computer

## Road accidents kill 4

STAR REPORT

At least four people were killed in accident road accidents in Chittagong, Noakhali and Sirajganj yesterday and on Tuesday night.

BSS from Chittagong adds: Two pedestrians were killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Barolia area under Sitakundu upazila in the district on Tuesday night.

The accident occurred when a Chittagong-bound truck knocked the victims, police and hospital sources said.

One of the dead was identified as Amzad Hossain, 35, of Shaluvata village.

Police and witnesses said the accident took place near Kalyandi bazar area at about 1:00pm, killing an unidentified passenger of the three-wheeler, aged about 19, on the spot.

The injured were rushed to hospital.

Our correspondent from Sirajganj adds: A man was killed and two others were injured in a road accident on Sirajganj-Kazipur Road in the district yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Amzad Hossain, 35, of Shaluvata village.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred at around 3:00 pm when a Sirajganj-bound bus from Kazipur hit him from behind leaving him dead on the spot and injuring two other pedestrians.

The injured were admitted to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital.

Police recovered the body and sent it to the hospital for post mortem.

A case was filed with Sadar Police Station in this connection.

UNB from Noakhali adds: A bus rammed into a CNG-run autorickshaw in Senbagh upazila on Choumuni-Feni road yesterday, killing one and injuring

two others.

Local sources said the accident took place near Kalyandi bazar area at about 1:00pm, killing an unidentified passenger of the three-wheeler, aged about 19, on the spot.

The injured were rushed to hospital.

Our correspondent from Sirajganj adds: A man was killed and two others were injured in a road accident on Sirajganj-Kazipur Road in the district yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Amzad Hossain, 35, of Shaluvata village.

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