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**CRR 4158 of 2025
With
IA No. CRAN 3 of 2026**

**Aajkal Publishers Private Limited & Ors.
-vs-
The State of West Bengal & Anr.**

Mr. Sourav Chatterjee
Mr. Pratim Priya Dasgupta
Mr. Amit Dey
Ms. Preksha Manot ... for the petitioners.

Mr. Ayan Bhattacharjee, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Arindam Chatterjee
Mr. Apalak Basu
Ms. Sanghamitra Mridha ... for the O.P. no. 2

Mr. Debasish Roy
Ms. Sonali Das
Mr. Aniket Mitra ... for the State

Re: CRAN 3 of 2026

This is an application wherein the petitioners have prayed for vacating the interim order dated 16.10.2025 passed by this High Court whereby this court was pleased to stay all further proceedings being Bowbazar Police Station case no. 171 of 2025 dated 1.9.2025 (G.R (NS) case no. 561 of 2025).

Being aggrieved by the aforesaid order, learned counsel for the petitioners submits that the investigation has been stalled and thereby it causes prejudice to the complainant/opposite party.

Learned counsel for the opposite party/petitioner submits that the complainant has failed to make out any case since the dispute is purely civil in nature and therefore, no criminality attracts and therefore, the order passed by this

court in staying all further proceedings is justified and does not call for interference.

Having heard learned counsel for both the parties, the interim order passed vide order dated 16.10.2025 is modified to that extent *“The investigation shall continue but the Investigating Officer shall not take any coercive step against the petitioners for a period of twelve weeks or until further order, whichever is earlier”*.

CRAN 3 of 2026 is accordingly disposed of.

Re : CRR 4158 of 2025

Learned counsel for the opposite party seeks to file affidavit-in-opposition. Let the same be filed within three weeks and reply, if any, be filed within one week thereafter.

Let the matter appear on 27th March, 2026 under the heading **“Contested Application”**.

(Dr. Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee, J.)