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CJ, 5 other SC judges resign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan and five other judges of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court stepped down yesterday amid student protests for their resignation.

They sent resignation letters to President Mohammed Shahabuddin through the law ministry and he accepted their resignations.

The development comes only two days after the interim government took charge.

The five other judges are: Justice M Enayetur Rahim, Justice Md Abu Zafor Siddique, Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim, Justice Md Shahinur Islam and Justice Kashefa Hussain.

The Appellate Division was left with Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam only.

Media reports last night said Justice Ashfaqul also resigned, but Law Secretary Golam Sarwar told The Daily Star at 10:30pm that he had not received any resignation letter from Justice Ashfaqul.

The president last night appointed Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed as the 25th chief justice.

The proceedings of the Appellate Division and the High Court Division of the Supreme Court have been suspended since July 22, a day after the apex court delivered a landmark verdict downsizing quotas in government jobs.

Several thousand students gathered on the SC premises around 10:30am and started demanding the resignation of the chief justice and other Appellate Division judges.

On Thursday, the full bench of the Appellate Division gave its opinion in favour of forming an interim government and a swearing-in ceremony.

The interim government led by Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus took oath the same day, three days after Sheikh Hasina resigned as the prime minister amid a mass uprising.

On Friday, Justice Obaidul Hassan called for a virtual full court meeting of all the Appellate Division and High Court judges to decide whether the functions of the courts could resume virtually after the weekend, Justice Hassan told this newspaper.

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Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus consoles the mother of slain student protester Abu Sayed at the family's home in Pirganj of Rangpur yesterday while other family members look on.

PHOTO: PID

Sayed every mother's son

Says Yunus after meeting family of slain student protester, urges all to build a new country

STAR REPORT

Chief Adviser to the interim government Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday urged all to come forward to build a new Bangladesh keeping in mind the supreme sacrifice of Abu Sayed and others.

"Abu Sayed is not the child of a single family, he is the child of all families in Bangladesh," he said.

The Nobel laureate made the remarks after meeting the family members of Abu Sayed in Rangpur's Pirganj upazila, report UNB and BSS.

Abu Sayed, a student of English at Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur, was killed in police firing on July 16 during the quota reform protest in Rangpur. He was a key coordinator of the Anti-discrimination Student Movement which culminated in the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government.

Yunus said, "This Bangladesh is the Bangladesh Abu Sayed wanted. There is no discrimination in this Bangladesh. My request to you all is to protect everyone and make sure there is no anarchy."

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Normalising economy is a top priority

Says finance adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government will take action as per the law if any official is involved in any irregularity, but its immediate task is to bring normalcy to the economy, said Salehuddin Ahmed, finance and planning adviser.

"Immediately everything, including the Bangladesh Bank, will be on. Banks and ports will operate. Economic

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Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed appointed chief justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Mohammed Shahabuddin yesterday appointed Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed as the 25th chief justice of Bangladesh.

Justice Refaat was the senior-most judge of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court, Law Secretary Md Golam Sarwar told The Daily Star.

The president has made the appointment under article 95(1) of the constitution.

The law ministry issued a gazette notification, saying the appointment will come into effect from the day he takes oath of office.

The president will administer the oath to the new chief justice at the Bangabhaban around noon today, Sarwar said.

Justice Refaat was born on December 28, 1958. His father Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed was a prominent jurist and an attorney general of Bangladesh. His mother Sufia Ahmed was the first female national professor, a language hero,

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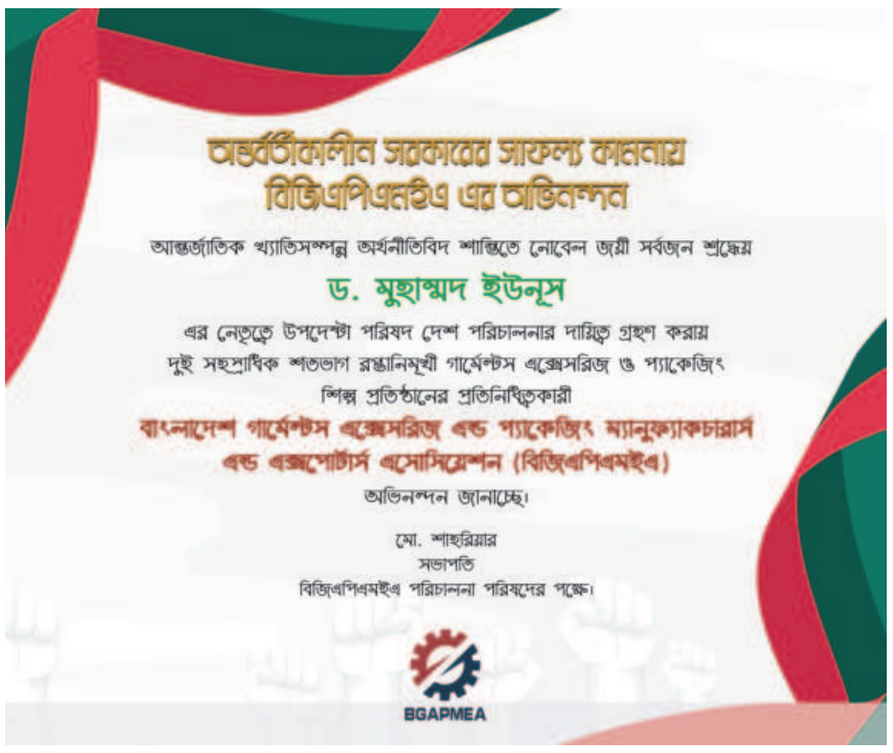

Resignations until now

DU, SUST VCs, Bangla Academy, SEC chiefs quit

DU CORRESPONDENT

The vice-chancellors of Dhaka University, Prof ASM Maksud Kamal, and Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed, resigned yesterday.

On the same day, Bangla Academy director Prof Harun-Ur-Rashid Askari and Noakhali Science and Technology University treasurer Prof Newaz Mohammed Bahadur also handed in their resignation.

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