



International Crimes Tribunal reconstituted

Trial of those accused of crimes against humanity during uprising to start soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday reconstituted the International Crimes Tribunal by appointing its chairman and two members to start the trials of people who committed crimes against humanity during the July-August uprising.

Justice Md Golam Mortuza Majumdar was made chairman of ICT while Justice Md Shafiul Alam Mahmud and former district and session's judge Md Mohitul Haque Enam Chowdhury were made its members.

Justice Mortuza and Justice Shafiul are among the 23 additional judges appointed to the High Court on October 8.

"The tribunal will be fully active within a day or two," Law Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul told reporters at his ministry.

The tribunal will sit at noon today, Prosecutor Gazi MH Tamim told The Daily Star yesterday.

The step came after the government reconstituted the tribunal's prosecution team and the investigation agency last month to try crimes against humanity and genocide committed during the July-August uprising that toppled the Hasina-led government.

At least 753 people were killed and thousands injured during the uprising. So far, over 60 complaints of crimes against humanity and genocide have been filed against Hasina and her party men with the ICT investigation agency and the prosecution team.

The investigation and prosecution team have already launched probes into the complaints.

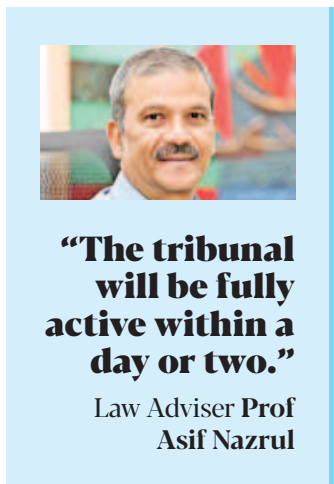
The government has also prepared a draft to amend the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act-1973.

The Hasina-led Awami League government formed the International Crimes Tribunal in March 2010 to try the perpetrators of crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War.

It later formed ICT 2 and at least six Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP leaders were executed following verdicts of the two tribunals.

The tribunal was dormant since mid-June after the then chairman of the tribunal retired.

Prof Nazrul said they have reconstituted the tribunal
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"The tribunal will be fully active within a day or two."

Law Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

People having to use boats even in the immediate vicinity of their houses, as many villages in Khulna's Dumuria upazila remain inundated for two months now. Stagnant for so long, the water has turned murky and dirty, causing the villagers to suffer from various diseases. The Sholmari river, the only channel to drain water out of there, has lost its navigability, resulting in these miseries. The photo was taken at Rangpur Sarabhita village yesterday.

Up to \$1.5b WB loans to be repurposed

Funds from slow-paced projects will be used as budget support

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government has identified a dozen slow-paced projects funded by the World Bank, from which up to \$1.5 billion will be repurposed and utilised as budget support or in other policy-based reform programmes.

A high-ranking official of the finance ministry yesterday said they would finalise in a day or two how much funds from what project will be repurposed.

The official said they were hopeful that the repurposed funds would be available for the new programmes by the end of November this year.

After taking office, the interim government led by Professor Muhammad Yunus sought additional budget support from Bangladesh's development partners, including the World Bank.

The World Bank indicated that it would provide \$3.5 billion to Bangladesh to support the interim

government's reform initiatives.

Of the figure, \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion is expected to be repurposed from existing projects, some of which have not been implemented even in a decade.

An official of the Economic Relations Division (ERD) said they had already identified some projects, most of which started more than five years ago but are unlikely to be completed in the next two years.

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Egg supplies take a hit

Wholesalers in Tejgaon, Ctg halt selling to 'avoid being fined'

SHAHEEN MOLLAH, SUKANTA HALDER and MOHAMMAD SUMAN

The Tejgaon Egg Merchants' Association, which delivers about 15 percent of the daily supply of 1 crore eggs in the capital, stopped sales from Sunday night claiming it was to avoid harassment by the government authorities.

A large number of egg wholesalers in Chattogram city's Pahartuli bazar also halted sales yesterday afternoon, citing the same reason.

Wholesalers in both cities said they are frequently fined by the Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection (DNCRP) for selling eggs at prices higher than those fixed by the government.

Mohammad Amanat Ullah, former president of the Tejgaon Egg Merchants' Association, said they could not sell eggs
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JULY UPRISING Protesters to be shielded from cases

Home ministry issues notification

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry said that no cases can be filed against students and people who actively took part in the mass uprising of July-August.

It has reiterated its position that students and the people will not be arrested or harassed for the events of the uprising.

A notification, signed by Faisal Hasan, senior information officer of the ministry, was issued to this end.

According to the notification, a new journey has begun towards building a discrimination-free new Bangladesh through the fall of the autocratic government on August 5.

"The students and people who actively
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1st Time in Bangladesh

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