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## CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, GENOCIDE

# Arrest warrants for Hasina, 45 others

### ICT begins proceedings in July uprising case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday issued an arrest warrant for former prime minister Sheikh Hasina in connection with her alleged role in crimes against humanity and genocide during the July-August uprising.

This is the first time an arrest warrant has been issued for Hasina after the fall of her government on August 5.

The tribunal also issued arrest warrants for 45 others, including Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy and several of her former cabinet members in connection with another case over similar charges.

The three-member tribunal, led by its

chairman Justice Md Golam Mortuza Majumdar, issued the warrants after the prosecution filed two petitions.

The two other members of the tribunal are Justice Shafiul and Judge Mohitul Haque Enam Chowdhury.

The court ordered the authorities concerned to arrest the suspects and produce them before the tribunal by November 18, Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam told reporters after yesterday's proceedings.

Apart from Hasina and Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, Tajul did not disclose the names of the accused.

He, however, mentioned some names

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Logs are being illegally burnt inside makeshift furnaces to produce charcoal in Jabusa village of Khulna's Rupsha upazila, leading to environment pollution. The logs are sourced from neighbouring villages, where tree felling is contributing to significant ecological harm. The charcoal is used by potters, blacksmiths, and brick kilns. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

**Dhaka to take steps to bring back Hasina**  
Says Touhid; Delhi confirms ex-PM still in India

STAR REPORT

The government will take necessary steps to bring ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina back to the country following the arrest warrant issued by the International Crimes Tribunal for her yesterday.

"We [foreign ministry] have just received the news ... We will certainly take necessary steps to repatriate her," Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain told reporters at his ministry.

He said, "We have one month's time, and we will take necessary steps [by this time] to this end," reports BSS.

Asked about Hasina's whereabouts, the foreign adviser said unofficial sources indicated that the former premier is still in New Delhi.

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## Govt forms 4 more commissions

They will work on reforms to mass media, health, labour rights and women affairs



Kamal Ahmed

AK Azad Khan

Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed

Shireen Parveen Haque

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has announced the formation of four new commissions to carry out reforms in the areas of mass media, health, labour rights, and women affairs.

Journalist and columnist Kamal Ahmed will head the commission on mass media while National Professor Dr AK Azad Khan will lead the commission on health affairs.

Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, executive director of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies, will oversee the commission on labour

rights, and Shireen Parveen Haque, executive council member of Nari Paksha, will head the commission on women affairs.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan shared the decision of the advisory council at a briefing at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday.

"We hope we will be able to inform you [journalists] about all the members of the four commissions within the next seven to 10 days," she said.

The commission chiefs have been

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**Shakib's homecoming takes a U-turn**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shakib Al Hasan's homecoming took a complete U-turn yesterday as the all-rounder chose not to return to Bangladesh to play his farewell Test, seemingly heading the advice of the Youth and Sports Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuiyan.

Shakib was expected to arrive in Dhaka yesterday night and join his teammates in a practice session today at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium

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## Rural electricity returns after govt assurance

Palli Bidyut Samiti workers go for blackout in 13 districts over 'unfair dismissals'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Officials of at least 22 Palli Bidyut Samitis (PBS) in 13 districts have demonstrated in front of their respective offices after switching off the power supply across the country, leaving hundreds of thousands of customers out of electricity for up to seven hours yesterday.

The protests were in response to the "illegal job cuts" of their 20 officials.

There are around 80 samitis (associations) across the country, which supply more than 75 percent of rural electricity.

Yesterday, the national supply dropped by about 50 percent due to the closure of the substations operated by the samitis under the Bangladesh Rural Electricity

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## BUSINESS

### Govt cuts import tax of three essentials

In the face of public outcry over the high prices of essential food items, the National Board of Revenue yesterday slashed customs taxes on imports of egg, edible oil and refined sugar. The move is designed to encourage businesses to purchase the items from the international market and bring down prices in the domestic market.

Inflation in Bangladesh has been hovering above 9 percent since March of 2023 while food inflation has remained above 10 percent since April this year.

STORY ON B1

## Clarification, our reply

Summit Communications has sent a clarification to our report titled "BTRC's curious U-turn on Summit Communications" published on September 3.

In the clarification, Summit Communications denies receiving any special favour from the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission regarding the issuance of shares.

According to Clause 13 of Circular No.14.32.0000.007.56.002.17.2519 dated January 10, 2021, licensees must pay a fee of 5.5 percent of the selling price for share transfers or the sale of network equipment.

Our understanding is that this fee does not apply to the issuance of new shares. However, Summit Communications made the payment as soon as the demand was received, which was on August 15.

The issuance of the new shares was critical to the operations of the company, the clarification said.

Summit Communications is one of

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South Africa's Anneke Bosch (L) and Chloe Tryon celebrate their commanding eight-wicket win over six-time champions Australia in the first semifinal of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in Dubai yesterday, avenging last year's heartbreak in the final. After restricting Australia to 134 for five in 20 overs, Bosch's blistering 48-ball 74 powered South Africa to the target with 16 balls to spare.

PHOTO: AFP

## PROTESTS ON SC PREMISES

# Legal experts call it intimidating, a threat to judiciary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The protests on Supreme Court premises and the subsequent bar on 12 judges are a threat to the judiciary's independence, legal experts said.

Supreme Court lawyer Sara Hossain said Wednesday's incidents put both lawyers and judges at unease.

"Judges will be in fear when issuing verdicts and lawyers when handling cases," she told The Daily Star.

On Tuesday, Hasnat Abdullah and Sarjis Alam, two key coordinators of the student movement against discrimination, urged their followers to gather on the Supreme Court premises and demand the resignations of "Awami League's fascist judges".

The next morning, over a thousand people, mostly students, and a group of lawyers began demonstrating on the SC premises, calling for the resignation of "corrupt and biased" judges.

In the afternoon, Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed barred 12 High Court judges from participating in judicial activities.

"If there were specific allegations against the judges, a fair and transparent process should have been followed. We are entitled to know what the allegations are... the details should have been made public," Sara said.

Senior lawyer ZI Khan Panna said the protesters' demand for resignation of 12 judges by Sunday was a threat to the judiciary.

"They even manhandled a lawyer. They claim they want an independent judiciary, but we understand what sort of 'independent judiciary' they seek," he added.

The government should have done something when they made the Facebook posts, he said.

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