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## CASE AGAINST ZIAUL, 7 EX-COPS

# Complete probe by December 19

### ICT asks the prosecution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) gave the prosecution one month to complete investigation into the case filed against Major General (retired) Ziaul Ahsan, former head of National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre; Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun, former inspector general of police; and six others.

The probe report will have to be prepared and presented before the court by December 19, said the ICT bench, led by Justice Golam Mortuza Mozumder. Members of the bench included Justice Md Shafiqul Alam Mahmood and Judge M Mohitul Hoque Anam Chawdhury.



Ziaul

Mamun

The six other accused are Abdullahel Kafi, an additional superintendent of police; Mohammad Jasim Uddin Mollah, former deputy commissioner (Mirpur zone); Mohammad Shahidur Islam, former additional SP; Abul Hasan, former officer-in-charge of Jatrabari Police Station; Mohammad Mazharul Haque, former OC of Gulshan Police Station; and Arafat Hossain, former DB inspector.

All of them were accused of planning, executing, aiding, abetting, inciting and being directly responsible for the killing of protesters

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Spanish superstar Rafael Nadal waves during a tribute to his glittering career after the Netherlands eliminated Spain in the Davis Cup Finals quarterfinals in Malaga yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## 'Eternal' Nadal exits stage

AFP, Malaga

Rafael Nadal said early yesterday he had left a sporting and personal 'legacy' after retiring from professional tennis, as tributes flooded in for the 22-time Grand Slam winner.

The 38-year-old's glittering and historic career came to a close as Netherlands defeated Spain in the Davis Cup and Nadal gave an emotional speech that ran over 10 minutes long to more than 10,000 fans in Malaga.

After 23 years in the game and many struggles with injury, Nadal retires as the second-most successful men's singles player of all time.

"I leave with the peace of mind that I have left a legacy, which I really feel is not just a sporting one but a personal one," Nadal said at his retirement ceremony.

Nadal said he hoped

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## ARMED FORCES DAY

# Khaleda to attend event today, first time in 12yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is set to make her first public appearance in six years today at a programme in Dhaka Cantonment to commemorate Armed Forces Day.

"The BNP chairperson will go to Senakanja tomorrow [today] to participate in a function on the occasion of Armed Forces Day," said Shairul Kabir Khan, a member of BNP's media wing, quoting ABM Abdus Sattar, personal secretary to the party chief.

The 79-year-old former prime minister has not been seen in public since her imprisonment in February 2018 in a

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## No new unabated coal-power plants

### 25 countries pledge at COP29; rich nations urged to commit up to \$900b at talks

AFP, Baku

Twenty-five countries at the COP29 climate summit yesterday pledged not to build any new unabated coal-power plants, in a push to accelerate the phase-out of the highly polluting fossil fuel.

The United Kingdom, Canada, France, Germany and major coal producer Australia were among the list of mainly wealthy developed economies to sign the voluntary pledge in Azerbaijan.

It commits nations to submit national climate plans early next year that reflect no new unabated coal in their energy systems.

Unabated refers to coal burned without any measures to reduce its emissions, such as carbon capture and storage, technologies criticised as unproven at a large scale.

Many of the world's biggest coal-power generators – including China, India and the United States – did not sign the "call to action" launched in Baku.

Meanwhile, negotiators said yesterday that rich countries have been urged to commit as much as \$900 billion per year



Many of the world's biggest coal-power generators did not sign the "call to action" launched in Baku

to help poorer nations take action against global warming.

Australian climate minister Chris Bowen, one of two envoys mediating the finance negotiations, said three different figures were suggested for the money that would come from the budgets of developed nations: \$440 billion, \$600 billion and \$900 billion.

"Many parties told us they need to see certain building blocks in place before they can put forward their suggested number," Bowen told COP29 delegates.

Delegates from several countries told AFP the figures were not proposed by developed nations.

Bowen said some countries had drawn a "red line" over the type of money, insisting it come "from a wide range of sources and instruments".

Bolivia's chief negotiator, Diego Pacheco, said there was a "steadily receding hope of getting an ambitious" deal on climate finance.

"We are also hearing in the corridors figures of 200 billion being offered by our partners" on climate finance which

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## Baharul Alam made IGP

### Sazzat Ali new DMP chief



Baharul

Sazzat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday appointed retired deputy inspector general Baharul Alam as the inspector general of police.

In another development, former additional inspector general of police Sk Md Sazzat Ali was made the new Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner.

The changes in the two top posts of the police administration came over three months after new IGP and DMP commissioner were picked following the ouster of the Awami League government on August 5.

The public administration ministry yesterday issued two circulars on the appointments of Baharul and Sazzat for two years on contract.

Baharul, an 84 BCS batch cadre officer, replaced Mainul Islam while Sazzat succeeded Mainul Hasan.

Mainul Islam, a 12th BCS police cadre officer, and Mainul Hasan, a 17th BCS police cadre officer, were appointed IGP and DMP commissioner on August 7.

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## US 'doing everything' to prolong war

### Says Kremlin as Biden approves anti-personnel land mines for Ukraine

AFP, Moscow

Russia yesterday accused the US of prolonging the "war in Ukraine" by stepping up weapons deliveries to Kyiv ahead of Donald Trump entering the White House.

The US will soon provide Ukraine with anti-personnel land mines to shore up its defences against Russian forces, a US official said late Tuesday, the latest step-up in military supplies announced by the administration of US President Joe Biden following Trump's election victory.

"If you look at the trends of the outgoing US administration, they are fully committed to continuing the war in Ukraine and are doing everything they can to do so," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

Washington has sought commitments from Ukraine to use the mines on its own territory and only in areas that are not populated in order to decrease the risk they pose to civilians.

The US embassy in Kyiv yesterday warned of a "potential significant air attack" and shuttered its doors, following Russia's vow to respond after Ukraine fired longer-range US missiles at its territory for the first time.

Greece, Hungary, Italy and Spain – all Nato members – followed the suit, announcing the closures of their diplomatic premises in the capital.

Ukrainian officials criticised the rare move and called on its allies not to spread yet more fear among Ukrainian society. President Volodymyr

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- US, some Nato allies shut Kyiv embassy over fears of air attack
- Ukraine will lose if US pulls funding: Zelensky
- Kremlin rejects suggestions Russia cut Baltic Sea cables

## Imran gets bail in state gifts case

REUTERS, Islamabad

A court in Pakistan has granted bail to jailed former prime minister Imran Khan in a case relating to the illegal sale of state gifts, his party said yesterday.

Khan, 71, has been in prison since August last year, but it was not immediately clear if the embattled politician would be released given that he faces a number of other cases too, including inciting violence against the state.

"If the official order is received today [Wednesday], his family and supporters will approach the authorities for his release," one of his party's lawyers, Salman Safdar, told journalists, adding that, to his knowledge, Khan has been granted bail or acquitted in all the cases he faces.

The case in which he was granted bail yesterday

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As sunlight seeps through a canopy of trees, a group of day labourers set out to look for work in the Arangghata area on Khulna city's Bypass Road early yesterday. Hundreds of workers leave home early in the morning in search of the day's work, which fetches them between Tk 450-700.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## Magritte painting nets auction record of \$121m

AFP, New York

A painting by Rene Magritte shattered an auction record for the surrealist artist on Tuesday, selling for more than \$121 million at Christie's in New York.

The seminal 1954 painting had been valued at \$95 million, and the previous record for a work by Magritte (1898-1967) was \$79 million, set in 2022.

After a nearly 10-minute bidding war on Tuesday, "Empire of Light" ("L'Empire des lumieres") was sold for \$121,160,000, "achieving a world-record price for the artist and for a surrealist work of art at auction", according to auction house Christie's.

The painting – depicting a house at night, illuminated by a lamp post, while under a bright, blue sky – is one of a series by the Belgian artist showing the interplay of shadow and light.

"Empire of Light" was part of the private collection of Mica Ertegun, an interior designer who fled communist Romania to settle in the United States where she became an influential figure in the arts world.

