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Probe allegations against some SC judges President asks Supreme Judicial Council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Mohammed Shahabuddin has instructed the chief justice-led Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) to investigate various allegations that have surfaced against several Supreme Court judges.

The president has made the decision under article 96(5)(b) of the constitution.

Accordingly, the SJC will start conducting the inquiry next week, according to a notification issued by the Supreme Court yesterday.

In December last year, the three-member SJC led by Chief Justice Syed Reafat Ahmed sent a primary inquiry report about some judges, against whom there were some allegations, to the president for a decision, SC Spokesperson Muajjem Hussain told The Daily Star on December 15.

He, however, could not reveal the contents of the report.

The other members of the SJC are senior judges of the Appellate Division, Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam and Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury.

Eleven High Court judges are currently without benches after over 1,000 students demonstrated on the

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Alex Hales raises his bat after reaching a century for Rangpur Riders against Sylhet Strikers in the first match of the Sylhet phase of Bangladesh Premier League yesterday. The former England opener smashed an unbeaten 113 off 56 deliveries as Rangpur remained on top of the table with four wins from four matches while Sylhet are yet to open their account after two games.

PHOTO: STAR

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Unease at DU campus as some incidents reek of vigilantism

MASHFIQ MIZAN and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

After the Awami League's fall and the ban on Chhatra League, improvement in the overall atmosphere is quite visible at Dhaka University. The notorious "Gonoroom" and incidents of torture are mostly a thing of the past. However, some recent incidents, where students enforced vigilante-style moral policing have brought forth issues like student freedom and safety.

Operating outside the purview of university authorities, they enforce their own brand of morality and order to operate with impunity. Unlike BCL, these groups lack a visible structure, making them harder to identify and hold accountable.

A number of incidents involving these groups have recently been reported at the university.

In one of these incidents, Shimul Kumar Paul, a fine arts student and former president of Chhatra Union's DU unit, and his two companions were assaulted by a group of DU students claimed to be

Only the proctorial team, Ansars, BNCC, and Rover Scouts are authorised to conduct searches and manage traffic.

Saifuddin Ahmed
DU Proctor

controlling the crowd and managing traffic" while entering the campus on a rickshaw through the Nilkhet intersection on New Year's Eve.

Shimul informed them that they too were DU students. The group still dragged Shimul and the others off the rickshaw and began assaulting them, Shimul alleged. The attackers checked their bags and found a can of locally made beer.

The entire incident occurred in front of police officers, who remained silent spectators.

A video of the incident shows a student in a red T-shirt and black shawl grabbing one of Shimul's companions

by the neck and shoving him towards the police. The student then grabbed the victim by the hair and neck. At one point, he slapped Shimul's companion in front of the police.

At least one of the attackers was identified, as MH Mobin, a student of Islamic history and culture and a resident of Sir AF Rahman Hall.

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EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS ICT issues arrest warrants for Hasina, 10 others

DU CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday issued arrest warrants against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, her defence adviser Maj Gen (retd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique, ex-IGP Benazir Ahmed, and eight others.

The warrants are linked to a case involving extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances.



The tribunal, led by Justice Md Golam Mortuza M a j u m d a r , issued the warrants after the prosecution filed a petition seeking the arrest of 11 people.

It also instructed the authorities concerned to submit an investigation report or provide an update on their arrest by February 12.

The prosecution, however, did not disclose the names of eight others, saying that they may flee if their names are revealed.

In another order following a petition submitted by the prosecution, the tribunal asked the jail authorities to produce Maj Gen (retd) Ziaul Ahsan, who

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**JULY UPRISING
Govt to allocate Tk 637.80cr for victims' families
Announces Nahid; Mahfuj says ensuring justice govt's top priority**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government has decided to allocate Tk 637.80 crore for the families of those killed and injured during the July uprising.

Of this amount, Tk 232.60 crore will be provided from the national budget of the current fiscal year, and the rest in FY26.

Information and Broadcasting Adviser Nahid Islam yesterday shared this information in a Facebook post.

He said the families of those killed will receive Tk 30 lakh each, while the injured will be provided with financial assistance ranging from Tk 1 lakh to Tk 5 lakh under various categories.

In this process, the family of a martyr will start receiving savings certificates worth Tk 10 lakh this month. The distribution of the remaining Tk 20 lakh in savings certificates will start in July.

Simultaneously, the injured will be provided with cash assistance while their treatment cost will be paid gradually, Nahid said.

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5 cases of HMPV virus confirmed in India

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
New Delhi

Five infants tested positive for the Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat yesterday, the first reported cases of the virus in India.

Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda sought to assuage rising public concerns over the spread of the virus saying the government is closely monitoring the situation and there is no reason to panic as the virus has been circulating throughout the world.

While two babies were infected by the virus in the same hospital in Bengaluru, capital of Karnataka, two other infants tested positive in two hospitals in Chennai and one case was reported from Ahmedabad city in Gujarat.

A 3-month-old female infant, who was diagnosed with HMPV, had been admitted



Despite the government ban on polythene bags (effective in superstores from October 1 and in smaller markets from November 1 last year), the use of the environmentally hazardous product has not yet stopped. In fact, in the capital's Town Hall Market, where this photo was taken yesterday, no jute or eco-friendly bags were seen being carried by any customer.

Hamas, Israel wrangle over ceasefire deal

Palestinian group approves a list of 34 hostages to be returned

REUTERS, Cairo

Israel and Hamas have wrangled over the details of a deal to halt fighting in the Gaza Strip and return hostages home, as Palestinian officials said intensified Israeli bombardments had killed more than 100 people over the weekend.

A Hamas official said the group had approved a list of 34 Israeli hostages to be returned as part of a deal that could eventually lead to a ceasefire. But Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office swiftly issued a statement saying Hamas had not provided a hostage list.

Later yesterday, the Hamas official provided Reuters a copy of the list showing the names of 34 hostages it agreed to set free in any possible ceasefire deal with Israel.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said yesterday that Washington wanted to see a ceasefire deal in Gaza concluded and the hostages brought out in the next two weeks.

A renewed push is under way to reach a ceasefire and return Israeli hostages before US President-elect Donald Trump takes office on January 20.

Meanwhile, three Israelis were killed yesterday and several

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No more 'Aynagar', 'Bhater Hotel' Says home adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday said there will be no secret detention centres known as "Aynagar" or any "Bhater hotel (eatery service)" of the Detective Branch on the DMP office premises on Minto Road.

"I told the DB officials that the pond inside their office must be as clean as an Ayna [mirror], but there will be no Aynagar here," he said while visiting the DB office.

He added, "DB personnel will not make arrests in plain clothes. They must wear jackets and show identification cards during any operation."

About his visit, Jahangir said it was a routine visit focused on improving law and order in the city.

The adviser said DB

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**BDR MASSACRE
Probe body may seek Hasina's extradition
Or it'll visit India to talk to her, says its chief**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Independent Investigation Commission, formed to re-investigate the 2009 BDR massacre, has said it will either seek Sheikh Hasina's extradition from Indian authorities or try to arrange a meeting with her over there.

Maj Gen (retd) ALM Fazlur Rahman, the commission chief and former director general of BGB, disclosed the developments yesterday following a views exchange meeting with the families of victims of the BDR massacre at the Retired Armed Forces Officers' Welfare Association (RAOWA) club.

"Those we suspect, especially Sheikh Hasina, are currently residing in India. We will either request her extradition through the Indian High Commission or send our team over there to question her. We will do whatever is legally permissible, either through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or directly," he said, adding that other people's names that appear on the inquiry commission's list will also be questioned.

He also said that the inquiry commission will give an opinion through investigation about the possible involvement of other countries.

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