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HASINA CASE
ICT probe report by this month
Says a prosecutor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The investigation into the case filed against Sheikh Hasina over alleged crimes against humanity during the July uprising is nearing completion, and the probe report will be submitted "very soon", said a prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) yesterday.

ICT Prosecutor Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim told reporters that the case against Hasina is "the biggest investigation ever" conducted by the tribunal's agency.

"Hopefully, the investigation agency will submit its report within a short time," he said while talking to reporters at the tribunal premises.

When asked for clarification, Tamim told

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Volunteers hold up signs saying "Honking not allowed" and "Please don't honk" while vehicles wait at the Gulshan-2 intersection. Under a new initiative from the environment ministry, volunteers from several green organisations are raising awareness at traffic signals in various areas of the capital. The aim is to reduce noise pollution by informing drivers that unnecessary use of horns is not allowed. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

CONSENSUS COMMISSION

IAB opposes gender quota in parliament

Nagorik Oikya disagrees with 50% civil society representation in upper House

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Andolan Bangladesh (IAB) yesterday stressed the restoration of "absolute trust and faith in Almighty Allah" in place of the proposed principle of pluralism in the constitution during a meeting with the National Consensus Commission (NCC).

The 11-member delegation, led by Secretary General Hafez Maulana Yunus Ahmad Sheikh, presented the party's detailed reform proposals at the meet held at the LD Hall of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

IAB proposed that both chambers of the suggested bicameral parliament be elected through proportional representation. It opposed gender quotas in elections, advocating instead for equal competition between men and women.

They recommended direct presidential elections with a two term limit and proposed that no one simultaneously hold



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Govt to scrap Tk 5,651cr haor road project

Points at environmental concerns, cost effectiveness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Road Transport and Bridges Ministry has decided to cancel a Tk 5,651 crore project for building a 15.31-kilometre elevated road in the haor region of Kishoreganj.

The decision was made due to environmental concerns and questions about the project's cost-effectiveness, said Mohammad Abdur Rouf, secretary of the Bridges Division, at a programme yesterday.

He said the project was still in its early stages, with only Tk 150 crore disbursed for land acquisition, which could be recovered.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) approved the project in January 2023.

It aimed to construct a road from Mithamoin upazila headquarters to Karimganj upazila in Kishoreganj, establishing direct road links between the district and Dhaka, Sylhet, and other parts of the country, ensuring smooth, all-weather communication.

Rouf said the ministry made the decision after reviewing various aspects of the project following the assumption of office by the interim government after the July uprising.

"The process to formally cancel the project

is underway," he added.

He was speaking at a views-exchange meeting at the Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA), attended by Sheikh Moinuddin, special assistant to the chief adviser for the Road Transport and Bridges Ministry; heads of different agencies under the ministry; and members of Reporters for Rail and Road -- a journalist platform covering the transport sector.

FOCUS ON BETTER COORDINATION

Moinuddin pointed out long-standing coordination gaps among agencies under the ministry, with little data-sharing or collaboration.

This has persisted for decades, but they now intend to initiate positive changes, he said.

To address various issues, weekly meetings will be held with top officials of the agencies concerned.

Representatives from the Dhaka city corporations and other road management bodies will also participate, said the special assistant.

He also said a website will be launched to host details of all transport-related projects, allowing agencies to easily access information

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'Reinstate us or restore our pension benefits'

Urges group of dismissed armed forces personnel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of armed forces personnel dismissed under the previous government yesterday called for reinstatement or the restoration of their pension benefits.

At a press briefing at Dhaka Reporters Unity, former personnel from the army, navy, and air force urged their respective service chiefs to consider their plea for a general amnesty and fair treatment.

They said if their demands were not met within the next seven working days, they would be compelled to go on a hunger strike along with their families.

The speakers alleged that under the previous government, many officers and employees from different government agencies lost their jobs due to internal power struggles and political favouritism.

They claimed they were among those unjustly dismissed as a result of such circumstances.

"We respectfully appeal to our respective chiefs to grant a general pardon for past mistakes and reinstate us in service or at least provide due pension benefits," said Md Hanzala, a former soldier at the army.

Speakers mentioned that on September 15, 2024, they submitted formal applications, outlining their

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Several unauthorized U-turns have been created on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway by cutting through the road dividers. Risking a collision, a three-wheeler, which is not allowed to ply the highway, uses one such U-turn at Kumira area in Sitakunda upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

HC verdict on Ramna Batamul attack today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court is set to deliver its verdict on the death references and appeals of the 2001 Ramna Batamul blast case today.

The HC bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice Nasreen Akter on April 30 fixed today for delivery of the judgement.

The bench on February 18 kept the death references (trial court documents for confirmation of death sentences), and the appeals, filed by the convicted accused in the cases, as curia avisari vult (meaning the verdict will be delivered any day), after concluding hearing on those.

On April 14, 2001, two bombs went off during 1408 Pahela Baishakh celebrations organised by Chhayanaut at the capital's Ramna Batamul. The bomb blasts left 10 people dead

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Tarique, NCP call for restraint amid regional tensions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman has condemned the military attacks in the region and expressed condolences to the victims' families.

In a post on his verified Facebook page at 7:27pm yesterday, Tarique wrote, "We condemn the military attacks and extend condolences to the victim families."

Urging all stakeholders to exercise restraint, he called for taking steps towards a peaceful solution to the conflict.



A stable and peaceful region, built on shared interests and aspirations, is in the best interest of all.

TARIQUE RAHMAN, BNP acting chairman

"A stable and peaceful region, built on shared interests and aspirations, is in the best interest of all," the post read.

In another development, the National Citizen Party (NCP) expressed concern over the missile strike by India on Pakistan, stating that the attack has further escalated tensions between the two countries and pushed them to the brink of war.

"This development has dealt a direct blow to regional

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'75% people want polls right now' Says BNP leader Farroque



UNB, Dhaka

Claiming that about 75 percent of the people want the election to be held now, BNP Chairperson's advisory council member Zainul Abedin Farroque yesterday urged the chief adviser to take steps in this regard instead of "wasting time in the name of reform".

"About 75 percent of the people want elections right now," he told a token sit-in programme.

Bangladesh Jatiya Nagorik Parishad organised the programme in front of the Jatiya Press Club, demanding a roadmap for the parliamentary election, and the arrest of those of the Awami League regime who used illegal weapons on people and their trial before the polls.

Farroque, also a former opposition chief whip in parliament, said the government's reform initiative is almost at its final stage.

He urged the interim government not to take any such reform agenda that could delay the election through a 1/11-style conspiracy.

The BNP leader urged the chief adviser to take the final decision on holding the election by December this year. "Please make arrangements for that," he said.

Opposing the government's decision to provide a corridor for Myanmar's Rakhine, he called upon the chief adviser to leave the matter to the party that will come to power and form the government through the election under him.

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