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Question will arise if advisers use power in electoral field
Says Rizvi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday said that if advisers use their power to create an electoral field to their own advantage, questions will arise regarding the neutrality of the interim government.

“One adviser instructed the Superintendent of Police in Cumilla, which is his own area, to arrest BNP leaders. An adviser’s duty is to act impartially. How will they ensure a free and fair election?” he said.

Rizvi made the remarks at a discussion organised by the Bangladesh Jatiotabadi Mohila Dal at the Jatiya Press

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People from all walks of life and socio-political organisations placed wreaths at the grave of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam on the Dhaka University campus yesterday, marking his 126th birth anniversary.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Nine killed in road accidents in four dists

STAR REPORT

At least nine persons were killed and several others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Jashore, Jamalpur and Netrokona districts yesterday and the day before, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Dhaka, two motorcyclists died on the spot after a concrete mixer truck ran them over in Banani area at around 9:00am yesterday morning.

The deceased are: Ashfaque Rahman Asif, 24, a student of Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University hailing from Kushtia; and Asif Mahmud Sompod, 21, a student of Bangladesh Marine Academy hailing from Magura.

The accident took place near Kakoli Bus Stand when the motorcycle was heading towards Mohakhali, said Rassel Sarwar, officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station.

Mehedi Hasan, warehouse inspector at Kurmitola Fire Station, said the motorcycle skidded on the road before a truck ran them over.

Police seized the truck and detained the driver’s assistant, but the driver managed to flee the scene, the OC added.

In Jashore, four persons were killed and five injured in separate road accidents in past two days.

Asif Hossain, 22, a student of Jashore Polytechnic Institute and resident of Sadar upazila, died after losing control of motorbike and hitting a truck at Tentultala intersection on Jashore-Jhenaidah highway at around 2:30pm yesterday.

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MURDER CASE
Ivy placed on 2-day remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A Narayanganj court yesterday placed former Narayanganj City Corporation mayor Salina Hayat Ivy on a two-day remand in connection with a murder case filed with Siddhirganj Police Station.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Md Nour Mohsin passed the order after police produced her before the court with a seven-day remand prayer in a case filed over the killing of garment worker Minarul Islam during the July uprising, confirmed Court Inspector Kaifum Khan.

Following a hearing, the court granted a two-day remand, the official added.

Ivy, who joined the hearing virtually from

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Will Dhaka’s cattle markets be ready before Eid?

City corporations yet to finalise leases

HELEMUL ALAM and DIPAN NANDY

With only 12 days left before Eid-ul-Azha, both the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) and Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) have yet to complete the tender process for temporary cattle markets in the capital.

According to the two city corporations, 20 cattle markets – including the permanent one at Gabtali – are scheduled to be set up across Dhaka this year.

In previous years, both city corporations would have completed the leasing process for cattle markets by this time.

Eid-ul-Azha is likely to be observed on June 7, subject to moon sighting, leaving very limited time for preparations.

DSCC is particularly lagging behind the schedule, as ongoing protests demanding the swearing-in of BNP leader Ishraque Hossain as the city corporation’s mayor have severely disrupted DSCC’s

operations.

Due to the protests that have shut down Nagar Bhaban, no lease has been finalised in the DSCC areas this year.

Cattle traders, who usually arrive early to secure prime spots at the market, are facing uncertainty.

We haven’t been able to provide any services for several days. We can’t even access our files. Due to the blockade, we can’t finalise cattle market leases or issue work orders.

Shahjahan Mia
DSCC Administrator

City corporations typically invite tenders for market leases and re-tenders if bids are unsatisfactory. But time is running out for DSCC as the protests continue.

According to the DSCC officials,

of the 11 designated cattle markets under their jurisdiction this year, the one at Aftabnagar has been cancelled due to a boundary dispute with DNCC, while the Meradia market is not being set up due to legal complications.

Of the remaining nine, none of the tenders have been finalised due to the administrative shutdown.

An official from DSCC’s Estate Department said 80 percent of the leasing process is complete for five markets, with only the work orders pending. These markets are the open space beside Maitree Sangha Club in North Shahjahanpur, the riverbank west of the Postogola cremation ground, Rahmatganj Club open space, north of Amulia Aligarh Model College, and east of the Institute of Leather Technology in Hazaribagh.

For three other markets – east of Dania College, near Chan Tek Women’s Madrasa, and Sadeque Hossain Khoka Playground in

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Papia gets four years’ jail for money laundering

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Expelled Jubo Mohila League leader Shamima Nur Papia was sentenced to four years’ imprisonment yesterday in a case filed over laundering Tk 3.23 crore.

Judge Md Monjurul Hossain of the Special Judge’s Court-8 delivered the verdict in her absence at the courtroom.

Earlier, the judge cancelled her bail and declared her fugitive after dismissing a petition submitted through her lawyer over her absence before the court.

The judge also fined her Tk 5 lakh, or three more months in jail in default.

Her punishment will be effective from the day of her arrest or surrender, according to the verdict.

The judge acquitted

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Unite to resist the return of fascist forces
Demand political leaders at rally staged by ‘July Oikya’

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite differences in opinions, all must remain united regardless of political affiliation to resist the resurgence of fascist forces and “Indian conspiracies”, said leaders of different political parties yesterday.

They warned that no foreign conspiracy would be allowed to succeed in Bangladesh as long as the “July fighters” were alive.

The remarks were made at a protest rally titled “July Unity Against Indian Conspiracies”, held in front of the National Museum at Shahbagh. A platform named July Oikya, a coalition of over 100 organisations, organised the event.

At the programme, BNP Chairperson’s Adviser Habibur Rahman Habib said, “We may have differences in ideology, misunderstandings, and conflicts, but we must unite to prevent the return of fascism. We will no longer accept subservience to India or any other country. The people of Bangladesh will determine their own future.”

He also demanded justice for those involved in the July atrocities.

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Travel ban issued against Saber, family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued a travel ban on former environment minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury, his wife Rehana Chowdhury and four of his family members over corruption allegations brought against them.

The four others are Saber’s sons Hamdan Hossain Chowdhury and Araj Alam Chowdhury and his daughters, Raimah Chowdhury and Alisha Babar Chowdhury.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge’s Court passed the order after ACC Deputy Director Md Saiduzzaman, who is leading the inquiry team, submitted an application in this regard.

ACC Public Prosecutor MA Salauddin Eskander Prince moved the application on behalf of the anti graft body.

In the application, the ACC official said Saber

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PURBACHAL PLOT GRAFT
Publish gazette asking Hasina to appear in 2 cases
Court asks govt

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the government to publish a gazette asking six people, including ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her daughter Saima Wazed Putul, to appear on June 17 in two cases over alleged irregularities in plot allocation in the Purbachal New Town project.

The other accused are Hasina’s nephew Radwan Mujib Siddiq Bobby, housing ministry official Kazi Wasi Uddin, former Rajuk official Md Nasir Uddin, and Hasina’s former personal secretary Mohammad Salahuddin.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain Galib issued the directive after receiving police reports on earlier arrest warrants. If the accused do not appear, the trial will proceed in their absence.

The court also asked eight police stations to report on the execution of arrest warrants against Sheikh Rehana, her daughter Tulip Siddiq, and 17 others in four related cases by June 17.

Hasina’s son Sajeeb Wazed Joy and Rehana’s daughter Azmina Siddiq are also among the accused. Arrest warrants were issued on April 13 and 15.

The ACC filed six cases over irregular allocation of six 10-katha plots in Sector-27’s diplomatic zone of Purbachal. Hasina is a common accused in all six cases. The ACC listed all accused as fugitives.

A motorbike rider leaves a filling station without fuel at the capital’s Asadgate amid an eight-hour strike enforced by the Bangladesh Petrol Pump and Tank-Lorry Owners Unity Council. Drivers and commuters suffered yesterday as the council pressed for a 10-point demand, including a minimum 7 percent commission on fuel sales.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS