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ABU SAYED KILLING

Probe report to be submitted within 2 weeks

Prosecution tells ICT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) yesterday informed the tribunal that the investigation report on the killing of Abu Sayed, a student of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur, during the July uprising, may be submitted within two weeks.

However, the prosecution formally sought a one-month extension, which the tribunal granted, setting July 14 as the new deadline.

The three-member tribunal, headed by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, passed the order following the prosecution's plea.

"The investigation officer has informed us that the investigation is complete, but some formalities remain. He expects to submit the report within two weeks," prosecutor SM Moynul Karim told the tribunal.

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Commuters crowded the Motijheel metro rail station yesterday as offices across the country reopened following the Eid holidays. Most metro stations in the capital saw long queues, with trains packed as people returned to work and daily routines after the festivities..

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Political climate reassuring after Yunus-Tarique meeting: Rizwana

UNB, Dhaka

Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan yesterday said the current political atmosphere appears reassuring in light of the recent meeting between Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus and BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman in London.



"Now, political parties will express their views from their respective positions. If they have anything to discuss, surely they will convey it to the chief adviser," she said.

Asked whether tensions between the government and the BNP regarding the upcoming election had eased, the adviser said, "I don't think there was anything of that sort in the first place. Whether it's politics, elections, democracy or reforms -- everything must progress through dialogue. That's why I see the ongoing dialogue as a positive development."

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ABRAR MURDER CASE

10 convicts challenge High Court verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 convicts in Buet student Abrar Fahad murder case have so far filed 10 separate appeals with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court challenging the High Court verdict on them.

On March 16 this year, the High Court upheld a trial court verdict sentencing 20 Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) students to death and five others to life imprisonment for killing Abrar Fahad in 2019.

Among the 10 convicted appellants, nine were sentenced to death and one was sentenced to life imprisonment in this case.

They submitted the appeals to the office concerned of the Appellate Division through their lawyers on different days in May and June seeking acquittal from the charges.

Defence lawyer Md Masud Hasan Chowdhury Porag, who represents nine convicts, told The Daily Star that the trial court has sentenced 20 persons to death and five persons, who are also Buet students and meritorious, to life imprisonment and the High Court has upheld the lower court judgement although many of them even did not touch Abrar during the incident of his torture.

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A MONTH OF NAGAR BHABAN BLOCKADE

DSCC shifts emergency operations to Wasa building

Ishraque firm on mayoral claim, vows to continue protest

DIPAN NANDY

More than a month has passed since Nagar Bhaban, the headquarters of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), was locked down amid protests by supporters of BNP leader Ishraque Hossain, who is demanding to be sworn in as DSCC mayor following a court verdict.

Despite the end of the Eid-ul-Azha holidays, the building has remained shut since May 15, disrupting official operations.

With access to Nagar Bhaban restricted, emergency administrative functions have been shifted to the Wasa building in Karwan Bazar. The move followed DSCC Administrator Md Shahjahan Mia's appointment as managing director of Dhaka Wasa.

Several DSCC officials, speaking anonymously, expressed concern over the prolonged disruption, saying continued closure would only increase public suffering.

The administrator has been conducting urgent meetings at the Wasa building or the Secretariat, they also said.

Since I'm now the MD of Wasa, we are operating DSCC's emergency work from its headquarters. With Nagar Bhaban locked, continuing operations there is not feasible. We're continuing emergency tasks through alternative means.

MD SHAHJAHAN MIA
DSCC Administrator

The gate will remain locked -- it symbolises our movement. I did not seize this position by force. I was elected by the people, and the court has validated it. The government must resolve this without delay.

ISHRAQUE HOSSAIN
BNP leader

Yesterday, Ishraque reaffirmed his stance at the protest site, saying DSCC civic services would now run under the protesters' oversight, though he did not elaborate on how that would be managed.

Since mid-May, protesters under the banner "Dhakabasi" -- mainly Ishraque's supporters -- have kept the main gate of Nagar Bhaban padlocked.

This has halted routine DSCC services like birth and death registration, holding tax collection, and trade license renewals.

The blockade was briefly relaxed during Eid to allow access to essential departments like waste management and mechanical services, but most services remain suspended.

On June 9, DSCC held its first public event at the Wasa premises regarding the disposal of Eid waste. An emergency meeting on June 11 focused on dengue prevention and COVID-19 control in DSCC areas.

In this regard, Shahjahan Mia told The Daily Star, "Since I'm now the MD of Wasa, we are operating DSCC's emergency work from its headquarters."

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Ready to assist EC in holding next election

Says home adviser

STAR REPORT

Home Adviser Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday said law enforcement agencies are fully prepared to assist the Election Commission (EC) in holding the next general election, whenever it takes place.

"The EC will set the date for polls. Our law enforcers are ready to assist in holding the elections at that date," he told reporters following a meeting of the core committee on law and order at the Secretariat.

Responding to a question on whether police are yet to be active at the desired level, the home adviser said, "If you think being active means police should beat up people all the time -- like what we saw happening over the past 15 years -- that's not the police force we want. We want a human, people-friendly police force."

He added, "Police will carry out their duties while treating citizens with respect... They are more active now than before."

Jahangir also said the overall law and order situation is good now.



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সড়ক ও মহাসড়কের টোল প্লাজায় লাইনে দাঁড়িয়ে অপেক্ষার দিন শেষ



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