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3 teens jailed for 10yrs for rape of July martyr's daughter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A Patuakhali tribunal yesterday sentenced three teenage boys to 10 years' imprisonment for the rape of 17-year-old girl in Dumki upazila of Patuakhali. The victim, daughter of a July uprising martyr, took her own life around a month after the rape incident.

According to case document, all the convicts are aged 17.

In addition, two of the convicts got three more years in jail under the Pornography Control Act for filming the incident. The court ordered that the additional sentence will begin after the first one ends.

Judge Nilufar Shirin of the Patuakhali Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal delivered the verdict around 11:00am in the presence of the convicts.

After the verdict, they were sent to Jashore Juvenile Correctional Centre.

Confirming the judgement, Public Prosecutor Abdullah Al Noman said, "After examining 16 witnesses, the tribunal handed down

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Palestinians stand near unidentified bodies as they prepare them for burial at a mass grave site, after the bodies were handed over by Israel amid a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

SC SECRETARIAT ORDINANCE Judges may hold executive posts

Cabinet Division officials say it's double standards

BAHARAM KHAN

Lower court judges will be able to hold executive positions in the law ministry as well as state entities even after the establishment of a Supreme Court secretariat aimed at keeping the judiciary free from the executive's influence, says a draft ordinance.

Upon the SC's recommendations, lower court judges may be appointed to the offices of various ministries or departments, agencies and institutions of the government, according to section 7(3) of the draft "Supreme Court Secretariat Ordinance 2025".

Terming this "a form of double standards", several Cabinet Division officials told this newspaper that it's unacceptable that judges would demand the separation of the judiciary from the executive and also want to hold posts in ministries or other government institutions at the same time.

Seeking anonymity, a joint secretary at the public administration ministry said many lower court judges are currently serving in the law ministry. "If a separate secretariat is formed for the judiciary, why should they continue working in the ministry? This goes against the very principle of judicial separation."

The draft ordinance, prepared by the High Court Division of the SC, was sent to the Cabinet Division on October 13 through the law ministry. The following day, the inter-ministerial committee on legal scrutiny of the Cabinet Division reviewed the draft and returned it to the ministry with 18 observations.

In its observation, the committee said section 7(3) contradicts article 22 of the constitution, which states: "The State shall ensure the separation of the judiciary from the executive organs of the State."

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Russia, Ukraine pound each other 6 people, including 2 children, killed in Kyiv

AGENCIES

Russia and Ukraine pounded each other with heavy overnight missile attacks as diplomatic efforts to end the war faltered, with the White House saying there were no imminent plans for presidents Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin to meet.

Ukrainian officials said yesterday that Russian attacks had killed six people, including two children, in Kyiv and the nearby region, and forced power outages nationwide.

Ukraine's military said late on Tuesday that it used Franco-British Storm Shadow air-launched missiles to strike a chemical plant in southern Russia's Bryansk region.

Putin and Trump spoke last week and agreed to hold a summit in Hungary that the Kremlin said could take place within a couple of weeks.

But following a phone call on Monday between the two countries' top diplomats, the White House said the next day that Trump had no plans to meet Putin "in the immediate future". Trump said he did not want to have a wasted meeting - something Moscow also says it wants to avoid.

Russian officials said, however, that preparations continued for a summit.

The delay came after Russia reiterated to the US its previous terms for reaching a peace deal, including that Ukraine cede control of the whole of the southeastern Donbas region, three sources told Reuters.

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Ukrainian law enforcement officers work at the site of a Russian drone attack that hit a kindergarten in Kharkiv yesterday.

Israel must ensure basic needs in Gaza

Says ICJ, rules Israel has to facilitate aid flow

AGENCIES

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) yesterday said Israel must meet the "basic needs" of the population on Gaza, including providing everything they need to survive.

"As an occupying power, Israel is obliged to ensure the basic needs of the local population, including the supplies essential for their survival," said ICJ President Yuji Iwasawa.

Israel must not use starvation as a means of waging war: ICJ

'Tough task' ahead to disarm Hamas, rebuild Gaza: US VP

'No change' with truce as Israel blocks aid: Palestinians

Israel must not use starvation as a means of waging war in Gaza, he said. "The court considers that Israel is under an obligation to agree to and facilitate relief schemes provided by the United Nations and its entities, including UNRWA," said Iwasawa.

The court ruled that Israel has not stood up allegations that members of UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestinian

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Tug-of-war over water lily continues

EC cites emblem rules; NCP warns it won't join polls without desired symbol

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and AHMED DEEPTO

The Election Commission and National Citizen Party remain locked in a heated debate over the party's choice of electoral symbol, the water lily -- a dispute that began in June.

Despite several exchanges of letters and multiple meetings between NCP and the chief election commissioner, other

to deliver a fair outcome in the election.

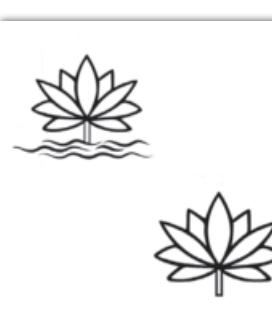
The EC, however, has refused to allocate water lily, citing the flower's status as a key element of the national emblem and the legal constraints surrounding its use.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Election Commissioner Tahmidah Ahmad said, "The water lily is a prominent part of the national emblem of Bangladesh. There are rules that clearly state the national

allocate something that isn't on the list? Few parties requested the same symbol previously, and we did not grant it for the same reason. How can we give it to NCP now?" she said.

Earlier, Nagarik Oikya and Bangladesh Congress had sought the water lily as their electoral symbol.

The national emblem features the national flower resting on water, with



NCP presented these options of water lily images to use as its electoral symbol

commissioners, and senior EC officials, the issue remains unresolved.

NCP has stood firm in its demand for the water lily, accusing the EC of "unfairly denying" it the symbol. Party Convener Nahid Islam yesterday said, "If our symbol [water lily] is not allocated, it will not be possible for us to take part in the election."

He also said a commission that does not ensure fairness regarding registration and symbol allocation cannot be expected

emblem cannot be demoted. Doing so would constitute a punishable offence."

The water lily, the national flower of Bangladesh, appears on the country's currency, national ID cards, passports, various insignia of different forces and in government buildings.

"If it's already present everywhere, how can it be used as an electoral symbol? Most importantly, it's not even in our approved list of symbols. How can we

an ear of paddy on each side and three connected jute leaves above the centre petal. There are two stars on each side of the jute leaves.

Rule 4 of the Bangladesh National Emblem Rules-1972 states that the national emblem, being an extremely dignified symbol, may only be used in specific places.

It must be displayed in the National

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CASE AGAINST HASINA Ex-IGP became approver to protect himself

Defence lawyer tells ICT tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun became an approver to "save himself" by concealing his own crimes and putting the blame on others, Amir Hossain, the state-appointed defence counsel for deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday.

He made the remarks while presenting his concluding arguments for the third consecutive day in a case filed against Hasina, Kamal, and Mamun over crimes against humanity committed during the July uprising.

While briefing journalists, Prosecutor Mizanul Islam said the tribunal may set the date for delivering its verdict in the case today after the prosecution presents counter arguments against the defence counsel.

During yesterday's hearing, the defence counsel also questioned the procedure through which Mamun's confessional statement was recorded by the Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, alleging that it was not done properly.

In July, former IGP Mamun pleaded guilty in the case and offered to be state approver, which the tribunal accepted. He also made a confessional statement before a magistrate.

When the tribunal sought his response regarding Amir's claim that Mamun became an approver to save himself, the former IGP's lawyer, Jaiad Bin Amjad, said, "My client made a true and full disclosure regarding this incident when he gave his deposition."

Amjad said neither the prosecution nor the defence could discredit the statement or present anything substantial against it. His client's deposition corroborates the testimonies of other witnesses in the case, he added.

Tribunal member Justice Shofiqul Alam Mahmood observed that Mamun's statements appeared cautious and careful, seemingly intended to protect himself to some extent.

Lawyer Amjad outright rejected the allegation, saying his client had also provided crucial information about the enforced disappearance case, the trial of which is set to begin soon.

Regarding the deposition of witness Nahid Islam, a key leader of the July uprising, Amir questioned Nahid's claim that he called Prof Muhammad Yunus and requested him to form a government on July 4.

"How did Nahid know that on August 5 the [Awami] government would resign?" he asked.

The tribunal responded that

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