



Hasina sentenced to death

ICT also hands down capital punishment to ex-home boss Asaduzzaman Khan for crimes against humanity; ex-IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, who turned a state witness, given 5yrs

SHARIFUL ISLAM and
SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

In its first judgment on crimes against humanity committed during the July uprising, International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday sentenced deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina to death.

The Awami League chief was found guilty of incitement, abetment, inaction, conspiracy, and superior command responsibility that led to the murder and torture of protesters nationwide.

The three-judge panel said the five-time premier received imprisonment until natural death for one charge, and death for another, which included the murder of six protesters in Chankharpul and another six in Ashulia.

Former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal was also sentenced to death, while former inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, who testified as an approver, was given five years in prison.

Mamun, the first accused to become a state witness in an ICT trial, remains in custody and has pleaded guilty.

The former IGP sat in the



Sheikh Hasina, Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun acted jointly ... and committed atrocities in order to kill protesters across the country.

ICT-1 Chairman Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder

dock with his head bowed, tears streaming down his face as the tribunal chair announced his sentence.

Hasina and Asaduzzaman remain fugitives since they fled to India following the ouster of the Awami League government on August 5 last year.

As the death penalty was pronounced at 2:50pm, around

40 family members of martyrs, wounded victims and movement organisers burst into applause, some crying "Alhamdulillah." Zartaj Parveen, mother of July martyr Shafiq Uddin Ahmed Ahnaf, who had been sitting silently in the packed gallery, began to weep.

Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman urged the crowd to maintain court decorum.

Reading portions of the 453-page judgment over two and a half hours from 12:30pm, tribunal chief Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder said, "As prime minister, Sheikh Hasina exercised ultimate authority over the law enforcement chain -- from the home minister to the inspector general of police. Given the pattern of impunity, the ongoing student protests, and the role of state and

ruling party actors in the alleged atrocities, it is evident that she could not have been ignorant of these events."

"Accused prime minister Sheikh Hasina, accused home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and accused inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun acted jointly in connivance and

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THE CHARGES

CHARGE 1

FIRST COUNT
Incitement

SECOND COUNT

Ordering the killings

THIRD COUNT

Failure to prevent atrocities or take punitive action against perpetrators

PUNISHMENT

Imprisonment until natural death.

CHARGE 2

FIRST COUNT

Crimes against humanity by issuing order to deploy drones, helicopters, and lethal weapons to kill protesters

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A courtroom of tears and prayers

Families welcome verdict, unhappy over ex-IGP's 5-yr term

SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

From the early hours, the air inside the courtroom of the International Crimes Tribunal-1 felt thick with anticipation and grief.

In the front rows of the packed chamber sat families of those killed in last year's July uprising, waiting for a verdict they hoped would finally deliver justice.

The emotions were palpable as parents who lost their children prayed quietly, tears slipping down their faces.

Before the delivery of the verdict began, Mir Mustafizur Rahman, father of martyr Mahfuzur Rahman Mughdho, was holding a bottle of water when someone requested some. He softly said, "Of course. My son embraced martyrdom while handing out water to the July protesters."

The words were spoken with both sorrow and pride.

Around 12:30pm, the three-member ICT-1, led by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, began reading portions of the 453-page judgement.

After an almost two-and-hour wait, the verdict was finally pronounced: "...For all these three counts we have decided to inflict her [Sheikh Hasina] with only one sentence, that is sentence of death."

The chamber erupted in both applause and tears.

Reacting to the death sentences of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal for crimes against humanity during the July uprising, the victims' families described it as "bringing relief but not healing". They said closure would come only when the punishments are carried out.

Speaking to reporters following the verdict, Mughdho's brother

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Verdict shows no one is above the law: Yunus

India under obligation to return Hasina: govt

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday said sentencing of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her associates shows that no one is above the law, as the government intensified its push to bring her back from India.

"Today, the courts of Bangladesh have spoken with a clarity that resonates across the nation and beyond. The conviction and sentencing affirm a fundamental principle: no one, regardless of power, is above the law," he said in a statement issued by his press wing yesterday.

His statement came after Dhaka urged New Delhi to immediately extradite Hasina, who was sentenced to death in a crimes against humanity case filed over last year's uprising, saying it was "an



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BNP, Jamaat, NCP hail the verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Major political parties yesterday welcomed the International Crimes Tribunal's decision to sentence ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina to death.

Following the ICT verdict, the BNP said justice has been served, while Jamaat-e-Islami urged India to return Hasina so that she may face her punishment.

Meanwhile, the NCP demanded that Hasina's death sentence be carried out within a month and insisted that the Awami League, as a political party, also be brought to trial.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, in a statement, said, "The souls of the thousands of martyrs -- victims of 16 years of enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and state terrorism, as well as those who died in the 2024 student uprising -- will finally find peace, and the anguish of their families will be eased to some extent."

BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed said that the verdict delivers justice and serves as a warning against future dictatorship.

"It sends a message that no one can ever again establish a fascist regime in this country, no one can become a fascist ruler, and dictatorship must never return. This is a lesson for the future, not just a judgement for the past, and we must remember that," he told reporters at Dhaka University.

Calling the verdict a "milestone", he said, "Through today's verdict, several things are proven: no matter how strong a fascist dictator may be, or how long they exercise power illegally, they must eventually face trial..."

Speaking at a press briefing at Jamaat central office, Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar said, "We believe there is no scope for anyone to question this trial. It was transparent, impartial and met

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REACTION

Evidence strong, but defence did bare minimum

DAVID BERGMAN

One must distinguish between two separate issues: the evidence presented by the prosecution against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and the fairness of the process and procedure of the trial itself.

The evidentiary record points toward Hasina's involvement in crimes against humanity. Substantial evidence demonstrated the existence of a "widespread or systematic attack directed against a civilian population" carried out "pursuant to, or in furtherance of, a State or organisational policy".

In relation to Hasina's own connection to this attack and policy, the prosecution relied on her statements captured in intercepted communications as well as testimony from the former inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah

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Protesters try to demolish Mujib's house, clash with cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers clashed with demonstrators yesterday in and around Dhanmondi 32 in the capital, as the latter attempted to demolish the remaining parts of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's house with diggers.

Members of army, police, Rab, and BGB guarded the site and used truncheons, sound grenades, and teargas shells to disperse the agitating people.

"Several sound grenades were used to disperse the demonstrators," said Masud Alam, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Ramna division.

Over 20 people, including demonstrators and law enforcers, were injured in the sporadic clashes.

Vehicular movement on Mirpur Road and surrounding areas was

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Protesters bring an excavator to completely tear down the already damaged Dhanmondi-32 house of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the verdict against Sheikh Hasina was being declared by the ICT yesterday. The army and police barred the demonstrators, leading to chase and counter-chase. The photo was taken around 1:00pm.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Jubo Dal leader shot dead in Pallabi shop

Attack caught on CCTV; assailants also fire at rickshaw-puller



REIMAGED BY AI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Jubo Dal leader was shot dead inside a shop in the capital's Pallabi area last evening.

The victim, Golam Kibria, 47, was the member secretary of the organisation's Pallabi thana unit.

CCTV footage shows that three attackers, who were masked and helmeted, pushed open the glass door of Bikrampur Sanitary shop, in Pallabi's Block-C, and fired multiple shots point-blank around 6:40pm when Kibria collapsed. Within seconds, the three slipped out of the shop.

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