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Press Release**Court Approves DNA test to identify Md. Sohel Rana, Killed during the July Uprising**

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka has granted a petition for DNA test to identify the body of Md Sohel Rana (37) who was killed in the July-August 2024 mass uprising. The petition was filed on behalf of the family of the deceased with the legal support from Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST). This marks an important step toward ensuring the identity of the deceased and the delivery of justice.

Background: Md. Sohel Rana went missing on 18 July 2024 while participating in a peaceful protest in South Kajla area under Jatrabari Police Station. Despite searching multiple locations and hospitals the family could not find any trace of him. Later, they identified his body from videos posted on social media. Subsequently, an anonymous phone call informed them that several bodies, including that of Md. Sohel Rana, had been buried with the support of Anjuman Mofidul Islam. Upon visiting the organization, they came to know from the records that the body of Md. Sohel Rana was sent to Anjuman Mofidul Islam through Shahbagh Police Station on 23 July 2024 and his body was buried in Block 4 of Rayerbazar Intellectual Graveyard on 24 July 2024. When the family members of Md. Sohel Rana went to the graveyard to identify his grave, they discovered that a total of 113 unidentified bodies, including the body of Md. Sohel Rana, had been buried in a mass grave. It was not possible for them to identify the grave of Md. Sohel Rana, as there was no mark in the grave to distinguish it from the rest.

Later, Md. Sohel Rana's brother filed a criminal case on 17 September 2024 in the court of the learned Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (Amli, Jatrabari), Dhaka. However, no investigation report had been submitted for a long time. In response to the family's request and in the interest of a proper identification, BLAST submitted an application to the court requesting the exhumation of Md. Sohel Rana's body along with the bodies of 112 unidentified individuals for autopsy and DNA profile preservation for identification. Later, the investigating officer of the case also submitted an application to the learned court. In response, on 30 July 2025, the court, after hearing the applications submitted by BLAST and the investigation officer, granted permission for the Chief DNA Analyst to collect samples and conduct DNA profiling at Forensic DNA Laboratory of Bangladesh Police CID, Malibagh, to ensure proper investigation of the case and for the identification of the deceased.

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