

AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK

**Court summons ex-DGFI official**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday summoned a former DGFI official and three police constables to appear before it on August 4 to narrate as witnesses what they knew about the August 21 grenade attacks on an Awami League rally.

The witnesses are Manirul Islam, a sacked official of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence; and Ahsan Habib, Al Mamun and Habibur Rahman, the then constables of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

After completion of cross-examination of another witness former DGFI official Lt Commander Mizanur Rahman and also a serving naval officer, the court ordered the four witnesses to appear before it.

Earlier, the same court recorded statements of 68 prosecution witnesses, including complainant of the case.

The August 21 grenade attack was carried out while opposition leader Sheikh Hasina, now prime minister, was addressing a party rally at Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21 in 2004.

Hasina narrowly escaped death with an ear injury but 24 leaders and workers of her party were killed, including late president Zillur Rahman's wife Ivy Rahman, and 300 others were injured.

Later, Criminal Investigation Department pressed charges in connection with the deadly attacks, accusing 52 people, including BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's son Tarique Rahman and some other BNP, Jamaat and Huji leaders, and some former intelligence and police officials.

Thirty-three accused, including BNP leader Lutfozzaman Babar and Jamaat leader Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojaheed and three former inspectors general of police, are now in jail.



**Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses the inauguration ceremony of the conference of the deputy commissioners (DCs) at the Prime Minister's Office in the capital yesterday.**

PHOTO: BSS



**PM asks DCs to protect interest of people**

**Gives 17-point directive**

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the deputy commissioners (DCs) to work closely with the public representatives for establishing good governance at the grassroots level to ensure public welfare.

She gave a 17-point directive to the DCs for implementing various government programmes while inaugurating a three-day Deputy Commissioners' Conference 2013 at her office.

In her directives, Hasina asked the DCs to perform their duties with utmost sincerity and protect interest of the people rising above any fear, favour and temptation.

"Negligence in performing duties or any biased treatment of anybody will not be acceptable by any means," she said, adding it will be possible for the DCs to perform their duties properly if they work with a mentality of rendering services remaining steadfast in truth and justice.

The prime minister said divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners have to play important role to turn Bangladesh into a happy, prosperous and non-communal country free from poverty, hunger, illiteracy and terrorism. Terming the deputy commissioner's

office a centre of development management at the field level, she said the DCs are working as the bridge between the government and the people for implementing government policies, strategies and programmes to improve the living standard of the people.

Hasina said a transparent, accountable and efficient as well as service and development oriented public administration is needed to establish a developed nation's state system.

In this regard, she mentioned opening of a front desk as one stop service, introduction of public hearing day and district web portal in each deputy commissioner's office.

The district administration across the country has been brought under the video conferencing system to play a supportive role, she added.

Hasina said the present government has contained all forms of terrorism and militancy. She asked the DCs to fully utilise the ICT services and keep close watch so that the ordinary people are not harassed while seeking public services.

The prime minister said the DCs will have to play effective role in spreading education as well as in curbing various social problems, including human trafficking, abuse of drugs, smuggling,

and torture on women and children.

Besides, she said, the DCs will have to work sincerely in implementing government's programmes to achieve the development targets in the field of education, health, communications and other infrastructure sectors of the country.

She said the aim of her government is to develop Bangladesh as a knowledge-based digital, peaceful and prosperous middle income country by 2021 in line with the spirit of the Liberation War.

In this regard, she said her government has been working tirelessly for the last four and half years to achieve this objective and have been able to fulfill most of the pledges she made before the last general election.

In her speech, she also elaborated her government's achievements in various sectors, including education, health, agriculture, communications, ICT and other infrastructure sectors.

The prime minister hoped that the deputy commissioners will continue to play their due role in future with efficiency and integrity to bloom smooth democratic trend in the country.

Adviser to the Prime Minister HT Imam and Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan also spoke on the occasion.

**Hasina hails birth of Britain's royal baby**

CITY DESK

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday extended warm congratulations to Queen Elizabeth II as Britain's Prince William and his wife Kate have been blessed with a baby boy, reports BSS from Dhaka.

The Duchess of Cambridge gave birth to a baby boy weighing 8lbs 6oz (3.8 kilos) in London early yesterday.

In a congratulatory message sent to the Queen, the prime minister said: "We are delighted and pleased at the arrival of a new guest in the British Royal family. On behalf of the government and the people of Bangladesh, I offer our heartfelt congratulations to the Royal Couple and the entire Royal Family."

In another message, British High Commissioner in Dhaka Robert Gibson has also congratulated the royal couple on the birth of their son who is now third in line to the British throne, adds our diplomatic correspondent.

Gibson said, "I am delighted to learn of the birth of a son to Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. My warmest congratulations to Her Majesty on the birth of a future King."

**Special launches for Eid from Aug 6**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government-run BIWTC and private launch operators will start special services from August 6 to deal with the excessive pressure of passengers ahead of the Eid-ul-Fitr.

The decision came after an inter-departmental meeting to ensure safe water transport management during the Eid rush at the conference room of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) in the capital yesterday.

Special services will be operated from August 6 to 10 before Eid and from August 13 to 20 after Eid.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) will operate its five steamers with the capacity of carrying around 3,000 passengers daily, while it usually operates one steamer every day.

In addition, private launch operators will nearly double their trips on the occasion, while they normally operate around 55 to 60 trips daily.

At the meeting chaired by BIWTA Chairman Shamsuddoha Khandaker, officials of different government bodies, law enforcement agencies and launch operators unanimously decided to take special cautionary measures, as this year's Eid rush will happen during the rainy season.

"We will deploy additional manpower to monitor overall management, check overloading, inspect technical components of vessels before sailing of the launch and conduct mobile courts," said Khandaker.

It was also decided that plying of sand-laden cargo vessels will remain suspended from August 5 till end of the Eid rush to avert recurrence of any accident.

Leaders of Bangladesh Inland Waterways (passenger carrier) Association also pledged not to increase fare ahead of Eid. "We will charge as per the government-fixed fare."

On Dhaka-Barisal route, we will charge Tk 240 instead of government-fixed Tk 258 for deck passengers because most of the southern district passengers ply on this route," said Saidur Rahman Rintu, vice chairman of the association.

**Prothom Alo's Sust reporter attacked**

SUST CORRESPONDENT

The Prothom Alo correspondent at the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust), Sylhet was severely injured as some unidentified men attacked him with machetes on the campus last night.

Mishbah Uddin, also a fourth year student of computer science and engineering, was admitted to MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital with deep cuts in the left hand.

Sources said some people, including three motorcyclists, attacked him somewhere between Shah Poran and Syed Mujtaba Ali halls around 8:00pm. The reason of the attack was not immediately clear.

**Muggers in guise of Rab rob businessman**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Muggers in the guise of Rapid Action Battalion picked up a businessman in a microbus and snatched Tk 3.30 lakh from him at Lalbegh of Sitakunda upazila in Chittagong yesterday.

While businessman Ali Akbar was going to Kumira by a CNG-run auto-rickshaw, the muggers, wearing Rab uniforms, halted the vehicle and asked Akbar to go with them saying that there was a case against him, witnesses said.

As Akbar did not get down from the vehicle they forcibly took him to their microbus and left the place, the witnesses added. On information from locals, police rushed in and halted the microbus and arrested its driver, Habibur Rahman. The muggers, however, fled the scene with the money. A case was filed with the police.

**Journos beaten by MP Rony get bail**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted bail to two journalists of private television channel Independent TV for three months in a case filed by ruling Awami League lawmaker Golam Maula Rony.

Rony filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station against reporter Imtiaz Momin and cameraperson Mohsin Mukul accusing them of attacking him (Rony), sending him death threats and trying to extort money from him.

The HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice Md Jahangir Hossain yesterday granted anticipatory bail to Imtiaz and Mohsin after holding hearing on a bail petition jointly filed by the two.

Advocate Anisul Huq argued for the petitioners -- Imtiaz and Mohsin -- when they appeared before the court.

On Saturday, Rony allegedly beat up Imtiaz and Mohsin, members of a team that produces a crime-investigative show, Talash, at his Topkhana Road office in the capital.

The two had gone there after receiving information that the lawmaker would receive a bribe of more than Tk 1 crore sent from Patuakhali.

Later, Rony sued the two saying that the journalists attacked him and tried to extort money from him.

Independent TV authorities also filed a case against Rony and 20 others on Saturday for assaulting Imtiaz and Mohsin.

Rony received ad-interim bail in the case on Sunday after surrendering before a Dhaka court.

Meanwhile, another Dhaka court fixed today for hearing a petition seeking cancellation of bail of Rony.

Complainant Yusuf Ali, an assistant manager of Independent Television, filed the petition yesterday seeking cancellation of bail of Rony, saying that after getting bail from the court on July 21, Rony threatened him with violence to withdraw the case.

The complainant also filed a general dairy against Rony on July 21.

After the hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Shahriar Mahmud Adnan directed officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station to submit a report on the issue by today.



**Street vendors have set up shops under the under-construction Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover at the capital's Gulistan, ignoring the risk of accidents anytime. The numbers of both vendors and shoppers have increased lately ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr. The photo was taken yesterday.**

PHOTO: STAR

**WAR CRIMES Projonmo'71 warns people of Mueen's lies**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Projonmo'71, a platform of children of Liberation War martyrs, urged the public to be aware of lies of Chowdhury Mueen Uddin, a war crimes accused who is being tried in absentia at the International Crimes Tribunal-1.

Mueen, now living in Britain, called the tribunal a "joke" and "kangaroo court" during an interview with Al Jazeera which was aired on Saturday.

In the same interview, the war crimes accused also claimed that he was not with Al-Badr, an auxiliary force of Pakistani army during the Liberation War in 1971.

"Anyone can understand that Mueen is lying if he or she watches the interview," said Projonmo'71 in a press release.

**Junior Climate Champions**  
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Junior Climate Champions competition is open to all students of class Six to Ten in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions. The competition offers a wide range of activities and interactive sessions for the participants to understand more about environment and climate change related issues. Participants can register for multiple categories of the competition:

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