



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

Star
Showbiz

IT'S TIME

Sacrifices of Indians in world wars should
duly be honoured, Kuldip Nayar writes

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GREECE DEBT CRISIS

Ruling party splits after PM Tsipras resigns
to trigger snap elections in September

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Free speech vs section 57

The provision of ICT Act goes against
freedom of expression; vagueness creates
scopes for misuse, say legal experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act-2006 goes against people's right to freedom of expression and free speech, say legal experts.

Particularly, they add, the section contains vague wordings, allowing its misuse against newsmen and social media users.

Though rights activists have been critical from the beginning, the debate over section 57 and demand for its repeal intensified following the arrest of journalist Probir Sikdar.

The veteran journalist was arrested and sent to jail after he posted a status on Facebook, expressing fear that his life was in danger and that LGRD Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, businessman Moosa bin Shamser and fugitive war criminal Abul Kalam Azad would be responsible if he were killed.



Following the post, an Awami League leader sued Probir in Faridpur under the ICT act for "tarnishing the image" of the minister.

Probir was released on bail on Tuesday but he had to endure mental torture in custody apart from physical sufferings. He lost a leg and the use of one hand in a 2001 attack for his write-ups.

The arrest sparked huge protests on the streets and also in the social media. Legal experts and rights activists say the section in question was "misused" against Probir.

A rough translation of section 57 (1) says: "If any person deliberately publishes or transmits or causes to be published or transmitted in the website or in any other electronic form any material which is false and obscene and if anyone sees, hears or reads it having regard to all relevant circumstances, its effect is such as to influence the

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina consoles Mahbuba Parvin, a victim of the gruesome August 21 grenade attack, at a programme on Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday, marking the 11th anniversary of the carnage. Mahbuba still has 1,800 splinters in her body that cannot be removed.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

TOP
QUOTE

"Section 57 of
ICT Act has a
chilling effect on
people's right to
freedom of
expression."

SUPREME COURT LAWYER
TANJIB-UL ALAM
TOLD THE DAILY STAR

'Shootout' on Ex-Jubo League leader killed in Gazipur, 'outlaw' in Tangail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people, including a former leader of a union unit of Jubo League, were killed in "gunfights" between their cohorts and law enforcers in Gazipur and Tangail yesterday.

With the yesterday's death of Saidul Islam, 35, former president of Shimultala union unit Jubo League in Badda of Dhaka, four leaders and activists of pro-ruling party bodies have been killed in "crossfire" in as many days.

The other man killed yesterday in Tangail was identified as Mojibur Rahman Sheikh, a leader of an outlawed party.

In another "shootout" incident in Satkhira, Shaheen Sarder, a mugger suspect, was shot in both of his legs during a "gun battle" between his cohorts and police at Krishnanagar of Kaliganj upazila early yesterday.

According to rights body Ain O Salish Kendra, 72 people were killed in "crossfire" between law enforcers and alleged criminals in the first six months of this year. Besides, 23 people were killed in similar "gunfights" or "shootouts" between July 1 and August 21, according to reports published in this newspaper.

One of the recent victims, Hazaribagh unit Chhatra League president Arzu Miah, 28, was killed in a "gunfight" between his associates and Rab men in Hazaribagh on August 18.

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FILING OF GD Probir for probe into police role

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior journalist Probir Sikdar yesterday demanded an investigation into police's claim that he didn't hand them over a draft of a general diary.

His demand came after the officer-in-charge and the OC (investigation) of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station asserted that Probir didn't submit any application to them to record it as a GD.

"I went to the police station on July 22 and submitted my application to Inspector (investigation) Sabbir Ahmed. He received it and assured me of taking proper action after consultations with police high-ups," Probir told The Daily Star.

"But after three days, SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

11 years on, they still bear the pain

PARTHA PRATIM
BHATTACHARJEE and
TUHIN SHUBHRA
ADHIKARY

Eleven years ago, Farida Malek, full of energy and vigour, had walked around 10 kilometres with her party activists to join an Awami League rally on Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21.

She came to the same place yesterday to join another rally, but not on foot. She now finds it difficult to move. She came by a bus with a fellow colleague. With swollen legs, she sat in a specially arranged chair with others, giving a vacant look as people placed floral wreaths in memory of those who had lost their lives in the August 21 grenade attack.

"I saw death up close," murmured Farida, now in her mid forties. She was the woman affair secretary of Ward-19 Dhaka City AL at that time and still holds the post.

Yesterday she heard the speech of her



Farida Malek



Rashida Akhter

leader Sheikh Hasina, now the prime minister, as she was doing on that humid afternoon in 2004, when Hasina, then opposition leader, was speaking against a series of bomb blasts in the country.

Much like the previous years, the ghastly scenes of blood spilling and people groaning in pain came to her mind as she turned up at the AL central office to mark the anniversary of the grisly attack.

"The scenes of that fateful day flash through my mind. I still remember I sat near Ivy apa ... I remember journalists requesting Sheikh Hasina to wait a bit for pictures, for which she had survived ... blood dripping from Hanif bhai's head is still fresh in my mind," said Farida who still has several hundreds of splinters in her body, especially from her lower waist to the ankles.

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Khaleda, Tarique involved

PM on Aug 21
grenade attack

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said there is no doubt about the involvement of Khaleda Zia and her son in the August 21 grenade attack.

She was addressing a rally after placing wreaths at the memorial of martyrs of the gruesome August 21 grenade attack at Bangabandhu Avenue.

The programme was organised marking the 11th anniversary of the attack that left 24 people killed and several hundred injured.

The PM said it is evident in all the activities of the then BNP-Jamaat government that BNP was in a

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

A heavy rain yesterday morning left several roads and streets in the capital submerged. A helper, standing in knee-deep water between a rickshaw and a bus, checks for potholes so that the vehicle could move without any mishap on a road in the capital's Razarbagh Police Lines area. Inset, a CNG-run three-wheeler, which broke down on the road, is being pulled away by its driver.



আপনি সবাইকে আমন্ত্রিত

গণমানুষের অর্থনীতিবিদ
আবুল বারকাত-এর
বঙ্গবন্ধু-সমতা-সাম্রাজ্যবাদ গ্রন্থের
প্রকাশনা অনুষ্ঠান



আলোচনা করবেন

বিচারপতি জনাব এবিএম খায়রুল হক

সৈয়দ আশরাফুল ইসলাম এমপি

সাধারণ সম্পাদক, বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগ

ব্যারিস্টার এম আমীর-উল ইসলাম

মেজর জেনারেল (অব.) কে এম সফিউল্লাহ, বীর উত্তম

এমিরিটাস অধ্যাপক ড. এ কে আজাদ চৌধুরী

অধ্যাপক ড. মিজানুর রহমান

অধ্যাপক মাহফুজা খানম

সাংবাদিক গোলাম সারওয়ার



মুক্তবুদ্ধি প্রকাশনা

বাড়ি ৫, সড়ক ৮, মোহাম্মদিয়া হাজিঞ্জি সোসাইটি, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা ১২০৭

ফোন: ৮৯১৬৯৭২, ৫৮১৫৭৬২১, ০১৯৭৭৯২২৬৮

প্রকাশনা

ইমেইল: অনুষ্ঠান শুরু হবে ঠিক দুপুর ৩ টায়

প্রকাশনা

কি ছিলো বঙ্গবন্ধুর
বিশুদ্ধিভঙ্গি, জীবনদর্শন,
রাজনীতিদর্শন, উন্নয়ন ও
প্রগতিদর্শন? বঙ্গবন্ধুর
"বৈষম্যহীন- প্রগতিবাদী-
অসাম্প্রদায়িক সমাজ-
অর্থনীতি-রাষ্ট্র" বিনির্মাণ
দর্শনের কারণেই সাম্রাজ্যবাদ
ও তাদের এদেশীয় এজেন্টরা
১৯৭৫-এর ১৫ আগস্ট
বঙ্গবন্ধুকে হত্যা করে। কিন্তু
বঙ্গবন্ধু "বঁচে থাকলে"
আজকের বাংলাদেশের
দৃশ্যপট কেমন হতো?
কোথায় পৌঁছতো বাংলাদেশ?
আর সাম্রাজ্যবাদী
বিশ্ব-প্রভুত্বের আজকের যুগে
পৃথিবীর একক কোনো দেশে
বঙ্গবন্ধুর উন্নয়ন-প্রগতিদর্শন
বাস্তবায়ন সম্ভব কি? এসব
প্রশ্নের বিশেষণভিত্তিক নির্মোহ
উত্তর জানতে এ গ্রন্থটি অবশ্য
পাঠ্য।



মুক্তবুদ্ধি প্রকাশনা

বাড়ি ৫, সড়ক ৮, মোহাম্মদিয়া হাজিঞ্জি সোসাইটি, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা ১২০৭

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প্রকাশনা

ইমেইল: অনুষ্ঠান শুরু হবে ঠিক দুপুর ৩ টায়

প্রকাশনা