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Your Right to Know

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### IT'S TIME

ZILQAD 6, 1436 HIJRI

BHADRA 7, 1422 BS

Sacrifices of Indians in world wars should duly be honoured, Kuldip Nayar writes PAGE 6

#### **GREECE DEBT CRISIS**

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

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

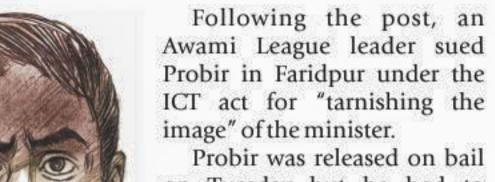
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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.



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 SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



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



chilling effect on people's right to freedom of expression."

SUPREME COURT LAWYER TANJIB-UL ALAM **TOLD THE DAILY STAR** 

broke down on the road, is being pulled away by its driver.

## '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, forme president of Shimultala union unit Jubo League in Badda o 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,

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# 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

Farida Malek 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



Rashida Akhter

and people groaning in pain came to her : gruesome August 21 gremind as she turned up at the AL central office : nade attack at Bangabandhu to mark the anniversary of the grisly attack. "The scenes of that fateful day flash. The programme was

through my mind. I still remember I sat near : organised marking the 11th Ivy apa ... I remember journalists requesting : anniversary of the attack that Sheikh Hasina to wait a bit for pictures, for · left 24 people killed and which she had survived ... blood dripping : several hundred injured. from Hanif bhai's head is still fresh in my : The PM said it is evident mind," said Farida who still has several in all the activities of the hundreds of splinters in her body, especially · then BNP-Jamaat governfrom her lower waist to the ankles.

the country.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

leader Sheikh Hasina,

### Khaleda, Tarique involved PM on Aug 21

grenade attack

· UNB, Dhaka now the prime minister,

as she was doing on that : Prime Minister Sheikh humid afternoon in · Hasina yesterday said there 2004, when Hasina, is no doubt about the then opposition leader, : involvement of Khaleda Zia was speaking against a · and her son in the August 21 series of bomb blasts in . grenade attack.

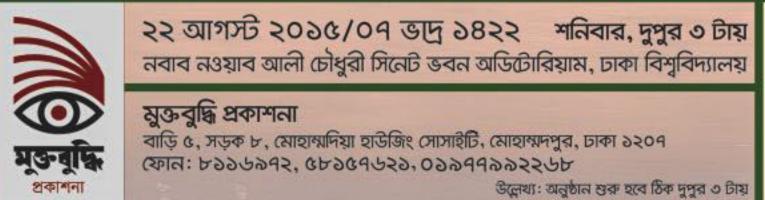
: She was addressing a rally Much like the previ-; after placing wreaths at the ous years, the ghastly scenes of blood spilling · memorial of martyrs of the · Avenue.

: ment that BNP was in a

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6







অধ্যাপক মাহফুজা খানম

সাংবাদিক গোলাম সারওয়ার

मुख्युष्टि भूख्युष्टि श्रकामना

উত্তর জানতে এ গ্রন্থটি অবশ্য

পাঠ্য।