



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

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REASSURING ALLIES

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson says UK won't abandon EU friends

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Remembering the born storyteller on his fourth death anniversary

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Prosecution is ailing

Ruling party loyalty a must in appointment; official financial gain not lucrative

SHAKHAWAT LITON

His expertise in criminal laws matters little. What is a must for his appointment as a prosecutor is his loyalty to the party in power.

He knows he will not get a handsome remuneration and will be dismissed after change of the government. And yet, many pro-ruling party lawyers find the job lucrative.

And that's how the country has its prosecution system highly politicised, as successive governments show little will to strengthen the prosecution system with professional lawyers for the important job.

In case of a crime, it's the responsibility of the state to punish the offender. That largely depends on the performance of the public prosecutors who represent the state in lower courts.

But because of their poor performance, only 25 to 30 percent cases see conviction, legal experts say.

The drawbacks in the prosecution system have resurfaced following media reports that a few hundred suspected militants secured bail in the last few years. As a result, the trial process is facing delays on the one hand and those out on bail are getting involved in militant activities again on the other.

Besides the inefficiency of the prosecution, flawed investigation is also to blame for the low rate of conviction.

In 2005, the then law minister said inefficiency of the prosecution led to the quashing of some 70 percent cases.

The situation remains almost the same today.

Whenever a political party forms the government, all the prosecutors appointed by the previous government are replaced by a new group.

On July 5 last year, Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha himself decried the existing system of appointing ruling party men as public prosecutors as well as the faulty investigation by police. He also spoke about their poor knowledge on criminal laws.

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In an attempt to track down militant training camps, members of Rapid Action Battalion, police and Border Guard Bangladesh conduct drives in remote char areas of two upazilas in Bogra. About 450 law enforcers took part in the 11-hour joint drive that began early yesterday. The photo was taken in front of Sonahata High School yesterday.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

AT A GLANCE

- Remuneration max Tk 500 a day
- No private practice
- Tasks uphill
- Still it's a sought-after job

Police on high alert

Various steps taken on intel inputs of more terror attacks; for now, no leave for police personnel

SHARIFUL ISLAM and PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The government has taken various initiatives to thwart further terror attacks following reports that militants may try to carry out attacks similar to the Gulshan café and Sholakia Eidgah attacks.

Members of all law enforcement and intelligence agencies are on high alert. Holidays and leave of police personnel have been cancelled.

Apart from strengthening security measures,

the government has made moves to build social resistance against militant activities.

"Getting intelligence reports of possible terrorist attacks, we have made all-out preparations to thwart any such attack. We have cancelled holidays and leave of all police personnel and put the law enforcers and members of intelligence agencies on high alert," Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal told The Daily Star yesterday.

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Massive Bogra drive yields little

450 members of police, Rab, BGB scour char areas for 11 hrs, recover 9 jihadi books, 6 sharp weapons

STAR REPORT

An 11-hour joint drive carried out by about 450 law enforcers to root out militant dens in remote char (shoal) areas of Bogra ended with the recovery of nine jihadi books, six sharp weapons, a coil of wire and five empty boxes of SMC magazines yesterday.

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TOP QUOTE

"This drive shouldn't be belittled. It's a major drive. It can't be said that every big drive would bring success. But it is a successful drive."

RAB-12 CO
MD SHAHABUDDIN KHAN
ABOUT YESTERDAY'S JOINT FORCES' DRIVE IN DIFFERENT AREAS OF BOGRA

DEATH OF 1,136 IN RANA PLAZA DISASTER

41 indicted, finally

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against 41 people, including Rana Plaza owner Sohel Rana, in the murder case filed over the building's collapse in 2013.

Of them, Rana, his parents -- Abdul Khaleque and Morjina Begum -- and 34 others were charged with causing the victims' death while four others were accused of sheltering Rana and helping him flee.

Three government officials were also indicted in the murder case relating to the worst-ever industrial disaster that took place on April 24 that year.

The government, however, had not given permission for including them in the charge sheet.



Sohel Rana

At least 1,136 people, mostly garment workers, were killed and more than 2,500 injured as the building crashed, raising questions of labour standards and human rights situation in Bangladesh.

Charges of murder have been brought against Rana and 36 others since they knew that the building's foundation was faulty, the judge said.

Though they did not commit the murders directly, they were responsible for the deaths, the court said in its order.

Of the accused, Rana and six others are in jail while seven accused are still at large. Twenty-seven others including Rana's parents are on bail.

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Dengue strikes early

Situation indicates bigger outbreak in Dhaka

DENGUE SYMPTOMS

HIGH FEVER WITH AT LEAST TWO OF THE FOLLOWING

- Headache
- pain behind eyes
- nausea
- vomiting
- swollen glands
- joint or muscle pains
- rash

PROTECTION

- Use mosquito repellents
- Wear long sleeve shirts, long pants
- Use mosquito nets

IF INFECTED

- Rest and drink plenty of fluids
- Paracetamol can be taken
- Sleep under a treated net

SOURCE: WHO



PORIMOL PALMA

The capital has seen an early outbreak of dengue as compared to previous years and the situation could take a turn for the worse in the months to come.

A large number of dengue cases are reported in Bangladesh in June and the number drops in November.

This year, however, a lot of city people had been infected with dengue by April.

Till July 17, the total number of

dengue patients in the capital was 471 shows data from the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR).

Of the dengue cases, nine were reported in January, two in February,

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Rajya Sabha condemns Dhaka attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Rajya Sabha, the upper House of Indian parliament, yesterday denounced "senseless and barbaric" acts of violence in various parts of the world, including Bangladesh and France, and asked the international community to jointly combat the scourge of terrorism.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Hamid Ansari referred to terror attacks in various parts of the globe in June and July, which claimed several lives and left several others maimed and injured, and said the manifestation of terror in the form of terror attack in Dhaka, Nice (France), Jeddah and Qatif and the holy city of Medina, gun-fights and bomb explosions in Istanbul, suicide bomber attacks in Kabul and Baghdad "have stunned the world".

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Garbage and leather off-cuts dumped beside a canal in the capital's Hazaribagh continue to pollute the environment in the area. The Supreme Court yesterday ordered the owners of 154 tanneries there to pay Tk 10,000 in compensation every day for damaging the environment. The photo was taken around 6:30pm yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Tanners must go, but with less compensation

Have to pay Tk 10,000 a day until relocation to Savar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday ordered the owners of 154 tanneries in the city's Hazaribagh to pay Tk 10,000 in daily compensation for damaging the environment in the area.

The apex court reset the compensation amount after the tanners moved an appeal before it against the June 16 High Court order that had asked each of the factories to pay Tk 50,000 in daily compensation.

The SC order said half of the money would go to Bangladesh Liver Foundation for running charitable activities and the rest would be deposited in government coffers.

The Tannery Owners Association and Bangladesh Finished Leather, Leather Goods and Footwear Exporters Association jointly moved the appeal, seeking stay on the HC order.

The HC order came following a petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh. On June 28, the chamber judge of the Appellate Division stayed the HC order until July 17 and sent the appeal to apex court's full bench for its hearing.

Talking to The Daily Star, petitioner's lawyer Manzill Murshid said the SC's order was a big progress towards relocation of the hazardous tanneries to Savar. The government has set up Savar Tannery Industrial Estate there.

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