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## Ride to death, return to life

Hasina's personal asst recounts grenade horror the AL chief went through on Bangabandhu Avenue, miraculous escape, ride back to Sudha Sadan



An aghast Sheikh Hasina at a press conference a day after the attack. PHOTO: FILE

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and WASIM BIN HABIB

The clock struck 3 in the afternoon of August 21, 2004. At Sudha Sadan, the residence of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, preparations were underway to head for Bangabandhu Avenue where the party was holding an anti-militancy rally.

Hasina, the then leader of the opposition, asked her security personnel whether everything was ready at the rally venue. She then started for the rally after saying Asr prayers.

"Apa asked us to offer Asr prayers before we left for the rally near the party central office," recalled Md Jahangir Alam, personal assistant to Hasina, now prime minister.

He could never imagine that the quiet afternoon

CRIES FOR JUSTICE ON -- PAGE 2

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## Flood victims to get food support for 3 months: PM

UNB, Dinajpur, Kurigram

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday announced that the government would provide food assistance to the flood-affected families for the next three months until the next crops are harvested.

She also said the government would do everything possible to ensure their food, healthcare and other necessities.

"Arrangements have been made so that flood-affected people get food, and this will continue," she said.

The PM made the announcement while addressing a rally at Dinajpur Zila School

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Workers trying to repair an approach to a rail bridge in Pungli area of Kalihati upazila in Tangail yesterday. Floodwater washed away the soil beneath the rails near the bridge, snapping rail communications between Dhaka and the northern and southwestern districts.

PHOTO: STAR



An unexploded grenade amid shoes and a victim after the August 21 attack that left 24 dead and more than 300 injured. PHOTO: FILE

**21**  
AUGUST  
ATTACK

"No one will remain homeless in the country, and the government will ensure food for all."

PRIME MINISTER  
SHEIKH HASINA  
ADDRESSING A RALLY  
IN DINAJPUR

## Rail link with north, southwest snapped

Over a dozen districts affected; train service may resume today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

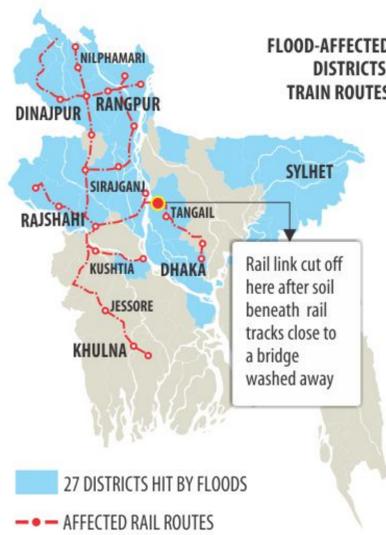
Rail communications between Dhaka and northern and south-western districts have remained suspended since yesterday morning as floodwater washed away soil beneath an approach to a rail bridge on Joydebpur-Bangabandhu Bridge route in Kalihati upazila of Tangail.

The snapping of rail link forced Bangladesh Railway to cancel plying of all trains to seven districts yesterday, causing sufferings to thousands of passengers.

According to a top railway official, the authorities suspended operations of Maitree Express (between Dhaka and Kolkata) and 10 intercity and one mail trains after the damage.

A FATAL TRAIN TRIP AVERTED -- PAGE 3

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