



Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina with the party leaders in the UK at a London hotel on Friday.

PHOTO: PID

AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK
Anarchy centring
verdict will be
dealt with an
iron hand: DMP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police will deal with an iron hand if any quarter tries to create anarchy centring the verdict of August 21 grenade attack cases -- scheduled to be delivered on October 10, said Monirul Islam, chief of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), yesterday.

There is no specific threat but police have made all preparations to tackle troublemakers, he said while talking to reporters after attending an event organised by Crime Reporters Association.

The Speedy Trial Tribunal-1, on Tuesday, set the date for the verdict 14 years after the grenade attack on an Awami League rally in the capital that left 24 dead and scores injured.

BNP's acting Chairman Tarique Rahman, two former BNP ministers, former top police and intelligence officials and some militant leaders are among the 49 accused in the cases.

Asked whether there is any threat centring the upcoming Durga Puja, Monirul said two incidents of violence have occurred during religious programmes in the recent past but there is no intelligence of any militant attack or act of sabotage this year. "Yet, we will take security measures," he said.

Rohingya crisis to dominate PM's UN visit

Hasina to reach NY today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who left Dhaka on Friday morning, is expected to reach New York this afternoon to attend the 73rd UN General Assembly where she will make specific proposals for a permanent solution to the Rohingya crisis and their safe, dignified repatriation.

After making a nearly two-day stopover in London, the prime minister will leave for New York at 10:50am (UK time) today by a British Airways flight, which is scheduled to reach Newark Liberty International Airport, New Jersey at 1:40pm local time.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the US Mohammad Ziauddin and Bangladesh Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN Masud Bin Momen will welcome her at the airport.

The prime minister will place some fresh proposals in continuation of the previous five-point proposals she made at the last UNGA for a sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis, through early implementation of recommendations by the Kofi Annan-led Commission.

In the 72nd UNGA last year, the PM proposed that Myanmar unconditionally stop the "ethnic cleansing" in Rakhine, create "safe zones" inside its territory to protect all civilians irrespective of religion and ethnicity under UN supervision, and take back all forcibly displaced Rohingyas in a sustainable manner.

The theme of this year's UNGA is "Making the United Nations relevant to all people: Global leadership and shared responsibilities for peaceful, equitable and sustainable societies".

Like every year, the prime minister will deliver her speech in Bangla at UNGA at 7:30pm local time on September 27.

During her six-day stay in New York, she will attend 12 high-level events, including bilateral meetings with world and UN leaders, on the sidelines of UNGA.

As per the schedule, the PM will attend a reception hosted by the expatriate Bangladeshis at Hotel New York Hilton Midtown this evening, her first day in NY.

Tomorrow she will attend a meeting on "Global Call to Action on World Drug Problem" and another on "Global Compact on Refugees: A Model for Greater Solidarity and Cooperation" with UNHCR Chief Filippo Grandi.

The prime minister will also hold a bilateral meeting with Netherlands' Prime Minister Mark Rutte and attend a

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Award recipients and guests at a ceremony hosted by IFIC Bank Ltd at IFIC Tower in Dhaka yesterday. The bank conferred the "Sahitya-Ratna Sommanona 2018" (with a prize money of Tk 10 lakh) on novelist Hasan Azizul Huq, third from left, and the "IFIC Bank Sahitya Puroshkar 2016" (with a prize money of Tk 5 lakh) on writers Khosru Chowdhury, extreme right, and Shakoor Majid, second from left. Present on the occasion were Bangladesh Bank Governor Fazle Kabir, third from right, IFIC Bank Chairman Salman F Rahman, second from right, and its Managing Director and CEO Shah A Sarwar, extreme left.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

WB approves \$25m grant for Rohingyas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank (WB) has approved another \$25 million, including \$4 million from Canada, to help Bangladesh provide education and support to heal the psychological wounds of Rohingya children and youths who had fled violence in Myanmar.

WB, in a statement, said the additional financ-

ing on grant terms expands an existing project to help about 350,000 Rohingya children and adolescents get basic education at learning centres.

Bangladesh on Thursday signed a \$50 million grant agreement with the WB to improve its health, nutrition and family planning services for Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar.

Qimiao Fan, WB country director for Bangladesh, said, "Bangladesh has done a great

service to the world by sheltering nearly a million Rohingya people, most of whom are women and children. Many of these children were exposed to psychological trauma, torture and violence. Without learning life skills and basic education, they can become a lost generation.

"In addition to providing access to learning opportunities, the grant will support

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