

## Minni's bail

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hear the petition yesterday.

The court said it would hear the petition in detail on Thursday, advocate Panna said, adding that the court could not hear the issue yesterday as other issues were pending to be heard and disposed.

Aysha Siddika Minni, who is now in jail, submitted the bail petition to the HC on Monday through her lawyers citing different grounds on which the HC may consider her bail.

In the petition, Minni said she was innocent and not involved in the murder in any way.

She also said she had been made accused with an ulterior motive and on the instructions of a vested quarter.

Earlier, two courts in Barguna rejected Minni's bail on July 22 and July 30.

Police arrested Minni after a daylight interrogation on July 16. A court placed her on a five-day remand the following day. Three days later, a Barguna court recorded her statement.

On June 26, Rifat Sharif, 25, an internet service provider, was hanged to death in broad daylight in Barguna town.

In a footage of the incident that went viral on social media, Minni was seen screaming and trying to save her husband from the attackers.

Rifat's father filed the murder case with Barguna Sadar Police Station against 12 people on the day of the murder.

Prime accused in the case, Nayan Bond, was killed in a "gunfight" with police on July 2.

## HC asks 4 BNP

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Hossain, Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury and Gayeshwar Chandra Roy.

Earlier in the day, the BNP leaders collectively filed a petition with the HC seeking anticipatory bail in the case lodged by AB Siddique, president of Bangladesh Jananetri Parishad, a pro-Awami League organisation.

On Monday, Metropolitan Magistrate of Dhaka Satyabrata Sikder issued arrest warrants for BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman, now in London, and eight other leaders, including the four, in the case.

According to the case statement, the complainant alleged that Hafizur Rahman Rana, an expelled teacher of Buet, sent him a letter on July 25 this year.

It was alleged that the teacher, in his letter, threatened to assassinate Hasina, other family members of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the complainant by Islamic State (IS).

The memorial complex of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman would be destroyed by bombing. It has been said that a new Bangladesh will be established under the leadership of Tarique, the letter said.

The plaintiff also appealed to the court to issue arrest warrants for the accused.

Khandker Mahbub Hossain, Zainul Abedin, AJ Mohammad Ali, AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon and Sagir Hossain Leon appeared for the BNP leaders, while Deputy Attorney General Rezaul Karim represented the state.

## 'Drug dealer'

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In the noon, a car tried to escape the check-post. Following the car, Rab officials reached an isolated area. At one point, the car got into a roadside Tamarisk bush. Finding no way out, Ashraful, who was driving the car, pointed a gun at the Rab officials, the superintendent claimed.

In self defence, the Rab official shot a gunfire that injured Ashraful. In response, Ashraful fired back, forcing the Rab officials to retaliate with more gunshots. The man died on the spot, the Rab official further claimed.

Rab handed over the body to police, said said Akter Hossain, inspector (operation) of Sreepur Police Station, adding it was sent to Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Rab also claimed to have recovered a private car, a revolver, four bullets and 100 bottles of phensedyl from the spot.

The Daily Star, however, could not independently verify Rab's claims.

## Israel advances plans for more than 2,300 settlement homes

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel has advanced plans for more than 2,300 settlement homes in the occupied West Bank, the latest in a surge of such approvals since US President Donald Trump took office, an NGO said yesterday.

A defence ministry planning committee issued the approvals while meeting over the past couple of days, the Peace Now NGO said in a statement. The 2,304 housing units are at various stages in the approval process.

### RAMPANT FOREST FIRES

## Indonesian leader threatens to sack firefighters

AFP, Jakarta

Indonesian leader Joko Widodo yesterday warned that officials would be sacked if they failed to stamp out rampant forest fires that are belching out toxic smog over Malaysia and Singapore.

The threat came as Indonesia faced pressure from its neighbours to douse the blazes, which are blamed for sending air quality plummeting in parts of Southeast Asia.

"I've told the military and police chiefs to sack people who don't tackle forest fires," Widodo told a ministers meeting on the issue in Jakarta.

"We'll be humiliated in front of other countries if we can't solve this haze problem.

"No matter how small the fire is, put it out immediately," he added.

Indonesian authorities are deploying thousands of extra personnel to prevent a repeat of the 2015 fires, which were the worst for two decades and choked the region in haze for weeks.

The blazes are an annual problem during the dry season but they have worsened in recent weeks.

Many of the worst fires occur in carbon-rich peat, which is highly combustible once drained to make way for agricultural plantations.

Widodo said the 2015 fires caused some 221 trillion rupiah (\$15.5 billion) in financial losses and burned about 2.6 million hectares (6.4 million acres) of land.

"That should never happen again," Widodo said.

Officials from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Brunei discussed the pollution issue at an annual meeting in Brunei which wrapped up yesterday, Malaysia's environment ministry said.

Malaysia will ask participants to "take pro-active action" to make sure that forest and peat fires in Southeast Asian countries can be controlled to avoid haze, the ministry said in a statement ahead of the gathering.

Malaysia said smog had appeared around Kuala Lumpur and on the west coast of peninsular Malaysia due to fires on Indonesia's Sumatra island and the Indonesian part of Borneo island.

## Syria regime, Russia resume Idlib air strikes

AFP, Khan Sheikhun

Damascus and Russia resumed air strikes on Idlib in northwest Syria on Monday, a monitor said, scrapping a ceasefire for the jihadist-run bastion and accusing the regime's opponents of targeting a Russian air base.

The northwestern region, which hosts some three million people, is one of the last major centres of resistance to President Bashar al-Assad's regime after eight years of war.

Damascus said Thursday it had agreed to a truce from Friday to halt three months of regime and Russian bombardment on the area, which has killed more than 790 civilians and pushed 400,000 people from their homes.

But jihadists running the region on Saturday refused to comply with a key condition to that truce, declaring they would never withdraw from a planned buffer zone around the area.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said regime air strikes resumed on the region minutes after the truce was cancelled, before Russian planes joined in too.

Russian planes pounded the western edge of the enclave, while aircraft from both sides resumed bombardment of its southern flank, the Britain-based war monitor said.

Further south, the monitor said four civilians were killed in regime barrel bombings on the town of Morek in the northern Hama region, adding that these were the first civilian victims since the regime bombardments resumed.

Earlier, an AFP correspondent saw the wind blow plumes of white smoke across the fields after planes and helicopters pounded Khan Sheikhun town in the south of the region.

A few families fled the town in cars or trucks piled high with their belongings, women and children perched on top, the correspondent said.

Syria's military said it was scrapping the truce as "armed terrorist groups, backed by Turkey, refused to abide by the ceasefire and launched many attacks on civilians in surrounding areas", according to a statement carried by state news agency SANA.

## 11 dead, dozens missing in DR Congo boat accident

AFP, Kananga

Eleven people have drowned and dozens are missing after a barge sank on a river in central Democratic Republic of Congo, authorities said yesterday.

Sixteen people survived the accident on the overcrowded vessel by swimming to safety on the Lukenye river, a journalist working for a local community radio told AFP.

The disaster -- the latest in a string of deadly accidents in Congolese waters -- occurred a week ago in a remote and densely forested region of Kasai province where rivers are the main means of transport due to a lack of driveable roads.

"We have recovered 11 bodies and about 50 people are missing," Kasai governor Dieudonne Pieme told AFP.

The local journalist said most of those on board were travelling to the DR Congo capital of Kinshasa.

Boat accidents are common in the vast country, typically caused by overloading of passengers and cargo.

Tolls are often high because there are no life jackets and many Congolese do not know how to swim.

In May, 32 people died in a boat accident on Lake Mai-Ndombe in the west of the country.

In April, at least 167 people died in two accidents, prompting President Felix Tshisekedi to make it mandatory for boat passengers to have lifebuoys.

## Dhaka's

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Union were supporting it.

He said the government now cannot fully meet the gas demand.

He expressed optimism that the situation would improve by the end of this year.

The government was expediting the exploration of onshore gas fields, the state minister added. "We have found gas in Bhola. We see possibilities of striking gas in greater Mymensingh and Madaripur."

He said the use of LNG has been on the rise in the country recently. "We hope that the LNG sector will be expanded within the next two years."

Nasrul said affording LNG remained a challenge for the consumers. And that was why the government were trying to explore new onshore gas fields. "If we get it soon, a scope will be created for producing mixed fuel of LNG and gas. And the price situation will reach a position then."

Currently, Bangladesh imports LNG from Qatar's RasGas and Oman's Oman Trading International.

All Events Group and Global Event Management Services Limited jointly organised the LNG Forum.

## Ensure there's no still water

FROM PAGE 1

Aedes mosquito," said HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawady Medical College Hospital.

Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education Director Abdul Mannan said they would instruct all educational institutions to clean their buildings and classrooms before resuming the classes after Eid ul Azha vacation.

He said that the education ministry in a directive on July 25 had already instructed to keep campuses clean to stop the spread of dengue.

Drain out all stagnant water at playgrounds and anywhere else in the buildings, and clean all water-filled containers and pots regularly, it said.

Shahan Ara Begum, acting principal, Ideal School and College, said they were aware of the problem. "Our guards will remain on duty. They will take care of the matter during the vacation."

Moreover, she said, school authorities will clean their school the day before classes begin on August 18.

As many travel to their ancestral homes to celebrate Eid, experts say the resulting empty apartments can become ideal breeding spots for Aedes mosquitoes, which can lay eggs in stagnant water sources left behind in pots, trays and under refrigerators.

Prof Mahbubur Rahman, also principal of Norail Govt Mohila College, who did his doctoral research on Aedes mosquito, said that if the several million people leaving Dhaka during Eid do not clean up their apartments properly, it could become a big issue.

"If 50 or 60 percent of the people leave a single container with some water at their houses, chances of it becoming a breeding ground for Aedes mosquitoes is huge," he said.

Former director of Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control And Research Mahmudur Rahman urged all to clean all stagnant water at houses, offices and school premises after returning.

It is a regular phenomenon that people unknowingly leave some water in pots or the office toilet which was dangerous, said Mahmudur.

DGHS's Communicable Disease Control Director Prof Sanya Tahmina said they had taken different awareness measures centring the upcoming Eid vacation.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) director said they would urge Eid-vacationers to keep water storage containers, pots and other kitchen utensils upside down before leaving their homes during the vacation.

"We will circulate this message among people through bulk SMS service shortly," she said.

Health experts said non-monitored construction sites could be another big factor in fighting Aedes mosquitoes. Flower pots, water tanks on the

roofs of offices and water at toilet commodes could also be breeding grounds for Aedes mosquitoes.

Dengue has spread to almost all the districts and health workers say it has claimed the lives of 65 people diagnosed with the disease. The government maintains that 23 have died of dengue so far.

But both figures may be higher as many dengue cases go unreported.

A record 2,348 dengue patients got admitted to hospitals across the country in 24 hours since 8:00am Monday, according to a DGHS report.

A total of 29,912 people have been infected with the mosquito-borne disease until yesterday, the highest ever in the country. Last year the number was 10,148.

BN Nagpal, senior entomologist at the South East Asia Regional Office of the World Health Organization, at a press briefing at the DGHS on Sunday said it was very important to search for and destroy Aedes mosquitoes.

He said the onus was on people to stop the spread of the disease, adding "source detection" was the key.

"It can breed even in 2ml water," he said.

"It's a smart mosquito. It does not rest on walls. It rests under the tables, beds, sofas, curtains, hanging clothes and dark places," he said, suggesting spraying those places with aerosol during the peak time of the mosquito's activity.

Five people die At least five people, including a three-year-old girl, died after contracting dengue fever in Dhaka, Dinajpur and Rangpur districts yesterday, bringing the unofficial death toll to 65.

In Dhaka, three patients died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Of them, Monwara Begum, 75, died at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the hospital around 3:00am, Assistant Director of the hospital Nasir Uddin told The Daily Star.

Monwara was admitted to DMCH on August 3 with symptoms of dengue fever, the doctor said.

Hailing from Chandpur district, she had been residing in Mirpur area of Dhaka, hospital sources said.

In Dinajpur, Rabiul Islam, 17, died at M Abdur Rahim Medical College and Hospital around 5:00am, our Dinajpur correspondent reports, quoting the hospital's Director Abu Mohammad Khairul.

Hailing from Thakurgaon's Ranisankail upazila, Rabiul was admitted to the hospital with symptoms of dengue fever.

In Rangpur, a three-year-old girl died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Rianna, 3, contracted dengue fever in Dhaka and was being treated at a clinic in Dhaka, but was admitted to the hospital on August 3, ABM Shahiduzzaman, a doctor of the hospital's medicine department, told our Dinajpur correspondent.

## Toni Morrison passes away

FROM PAGE 16

friends," they said.

"Although her passing represents a tremendous loss, we are grateful she had a long, well lived life," the statement added, describing her as "the consummate writer who treasured the written word."

Morrison wrote 11 novels, many of them touching on life as a black American, in a glittering literary and award-laden career that lasted over six decades.

She won the Pulitzer Prize and the American Book Award in 1988 for her 1987 novel "Beloved". Set after the American Civil War in the 1860s, the story centred on a slave who escaped Kentucky to the free state of Ohio.

The book was later turned into a film starring Danny Glover and Oprah Winfrey.

Morrison received numerous other accolades including the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1993.

In 1996, she was honoured with the National Book Foundation's Medal of Distinguished Contribution to American Letters.

In 2012 then President Barack Obama presented her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom and in 2016 she received the PEN/Saul Bellow Award for Achievement in

American Fiction.

Tributes quickly poured in for her yesterday.

"She was a great woman and a great writer, and I don't know which I will miss more," Robert Gottlieb, Morrison's longtime editor at Knopf publishers, said in a statement sent to AFP.

Sonny Mehta, chairman of Knopf, said he could "think of few writers in American letters who wrote with more humanity or with more love for language than Toni."

"Her narratives and mesmerizing prose have made an indelible mark on our culture. Her novels command and demand our attention. They are canonical works, and more importantly, they are books that remain beloved by readers," he said.

Morrison was born in Ohio on February 18, 1931. "The Bluest Eye," her first novel, was published in 1970. She followed up with "Sula" in 1973, going on to publish another nine novels.

She also spent time as an editor at Random House and taught at Princeton University.

Morrison died at the Montefiore Medical Center in New York on Monday.

## DU suspends

FROM PAGE 16

of police, adding that the final decision regarding the suspended students would be taken in the next syndicate meeting after receiving replies to the show cause notices.

Besides, 31 other students were served disciplinary action for adopting unfair means during different examinations of the university.

On June 23, CID pressed charges against the 125 people, including 87 DU students, under the Public Examinations Act and the Information and Communication Technology Act.


A Dhaka court on June 26 issued arrest warrants for 78 of the 125 accused in a case filed over their alleged involvement in the question paper leak of Dhaka University's "Gha" unit admission test in 2017.

The CID had arrested 47 of the 125 suspects, including the alleged mastermind, Alip Kumar Biswas, a suspended assistant director of Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan, in different times and most of them are now on bail.

Forty-six of them have already given statements before a magistrate, confessing to their offences.

In its very first raid at two DU dormitories, the CID arrested two BCL leaders -- Mohiuddin Rana, an assistant secretary of the then BCL central committee, and Abdullah Al Mamun -- theatre and debate affairs secretary of the then BCL Amar Ekushey Hall unit -- only hours before the university's "Gha" unit admission test on October 20, 2017.

Police tracked down the gang members following a series of arrests since then.

 <div> <b>Janata Bank Limited</b>            Divisional Office, Dhaka South            48, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000            Tel : 7168883, 9554654, 9571676, 9554063            Fax : 880-2-7113233            e-mail: dhakasouth@janatabank-bd.com            web site: www.jb.com.bd         </div>																																															
<h2 style="text-align: center;">e-Tender Notice</h2>																																															
An e-Tender is invited under the provisions of the Public Procurement Rules - 2008 for the Goods and related services and under the terms and conditions outlined below and detailed in the Tender Document:																																															
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6. Eligibility of Tenders :	6.1 - The Tenderer shall be a minimum <b>5 (five) years</b> of overall experience in the supply of similar goods and related service (for both Lots). 6.2 - The Tenderer must have successfully completed supply, installation and commissioning of at least <b>100 pieces of workstation</b> under a single contract within last 2 (two) years (for Lot-1). 6.3 - <b>The Tenderer must have successfully completed supply, installation and commissioning of at least 125 pieces of offline UPS under a single contract within last 2 (two) years (for Lot-2)</b> 6.4 - Must have strong presence and 2 (Two) support offices with well-equipped service cell manned by adequately qualified technical personnel for maintaining and support for the proposed goods and service. Floating or home address shall not be considered as established offices (for both Lots). 6.5 - The participating company may offer proposals for the items in any or all lots and must quote all the items in that / those lots). Evaluation will be done Lot by Lot basis and contract will also be awarded Lot by Lot basis Partial offer for any lot will not be accepted. 6.6 - The offers should have validity for at least 120 (One hundred twenty) days from the date of opening the Tender.																																														
7. Name and address of the Offices) Selling Tender Documents	Janata Bank Limited, Divisional Office, Dhaka-South, 48 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 Tel : 7168883, 9554654, 9571676, 9554063 between 10.00 a.m and 06.00 p.m on all working days. Interested Tenders may view the Notice at the web site of the bank. (We site: www.janatabank-bd.com or www.jb.com.bd).																																														
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<b>Md. Abdul Jabbar</b> General Manager Janata Bank Limited																																															

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