

HOLEY ARTISAN ATTACK

Ten more witnesses testify

BSS, Dhaka Ten more witnesses, including four doctors, yesterday testified before a special court in the capital in the Holey Artisan attack case. They are physicians Masum Billah, Aminul Hasan, Ershadullah, and AKM Abdullah Al Masud, ASPs Md Sattar and Abu Taher Faruki, inspectors Jamal Uddin, Sheikh Nazrul Islam and Masud Siddiqui and CID Assistant DNA Analyst Nusrat Yasmin. The witnesses were also cross-examined by defence lawyers. Judge Md Mujibur Rahman of Dhaka Anti-terrorism Special Tribunal later adjourned the hearing till August 27. A total of 97 witnesses out of 211 have so far testified in the case. Militants had killed 20 innocent people, mostly foreigners, in the grisly attack at Holey Artisan Bakery in capital's Gulshan on July 1, 2016. Two police officials were also killed in the incident. Later, five militants were killed in a commando operation at the bakery. Police had filed the case under the anti-terror act with Gulshan Police Station. The trial in the case had begun on November 26 last year with the framing of charges against eight accused -- Jahangir Alam alias Rajib Gandhi, Rakibul Hasan Regan, Rashedul Islam alias Rash, Sohel Mahfuz, Mizanur Rahman alias Boro Mizan, Hadisur Rahman Sagar, Shariful Islam and Mamunur Rashid.

4,000 acres

FROM PAGE 16 The committee expressed dissatisfaction over the matter. The House body also voiced its displeasure at the absence of Milk Vita Chairman Sheikh Nadir Hossain in the committee meeting. About the quality of the company's milk, officials concerned informed the committee that they had tested it in different laboratories at home and abroad. The tests found that the presence of lead in the milk was below the tolerable level. Emerging from the meeting, ASM Feroz, chief of the JS body, told reporters that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had allocated 5,000 acres of khas land to Milk Vita, but 4,000 acres of it had been grabbed so far with the help of corrupt officials. "The committee has asked the authorities to be sincere in recovering the grabbed land," he added. Feroz, an Awami League MP, also said the committee had asked the authorities to sack corrupt and inefficient staffers of the milk producer to make it a more profitable venture.

Why should

FROM PAGE 16 move the petition before another bench. In the petition, Minni said she was innocent and not involved in the murder in any way. She added that she had been made accused with an ulterior motive and on the instructions of a vested quarter. Earlier, two courts in Barguna rejected her bail prayers on July 22 and 30.

Sailor's message

FROM PAGE 16 sailing, 20 June 1969." Tyler Ivanoff, a teacher's aide in Shishmaref, Alaska, spotted the bottle on the shore near his village, and pried off the plastic stopper with his teeth. "It was still dry on the inside and still smelled like wine or whatever, old alcohol. The note was dry," he told the Nome Nugget newspaper. Ivanoff posted a picture of the bottle and the note on Facebook on August 5. But the yarn doesn't end there. Rossiya 1, a Russian television network, tracked it by its return address in Vladivostok to a retired Soviet ship captain now living in Crimea. Anatoly Botsanenko, interviewed by the station in a naval uniform, said he served on the Sulak in 1969 when he was 35. Peering at the message on the reporter's smartphone, Botsanenko said, "That's not my handwriting." But he then recognized the return address as his old home in Vladivostok. "It's pretty cool how a small photo grew into a story," Ivanoff posted on Facebook.



City Development Journalist Forum, in association with Dhaka South City Corporation, carried out a cleaning drive to eliminate Aedes mosquito larvae at Dhaka Medical College Hospital compound yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Dhaka-dwellers join in the fight

FROM PAGE 1 "We took the initiative to prevent further spread of dengue," said Hossain Zillur Rahman, one of the initiators of an anti-mosquito drive in Dhanmondi. "The government and city corporations are working but you have to turn your awareness into action to tackle dengue," added Zillur, Brac chairperson and a public health activist. He and others have formed an organisation named "Parichhannata 28", which comprises house owners living on old road no. 28 of Dhanmondi. Several locals of the area said they sprayed mosquito repellents using fog machines and cleaned their localities on August 2. They have been regularly doing so since then. They also put up signboards in front of under-construction buildings warning them of potential danger zones for dengue, and urged the authorities to take necessary steps to prevent mosquito breeding. "We will all meet in a day or two to finalise the detailed action plan to prevent mosquitoes in our localities. I will urge residents of other roads to take similar steps," Zillur said. He said another reason of their coming forward was the city corporations' irregular anti-mosquito drives. Several teams of volunteers from a social organisation named Bidyandana Foundation have sprayed mosquito repellents using fog machines in Pallabi and Arambagh

areas of Mirpur, and adjacent areas of airport railway stations of Uttara area this month. Salman Khan Yeasmin, manager of the foundation's Dhaka branch, said they took the initiative as part of their responsibilities towards the society. He said they are holding the drives targeting slum areas. Churihata Ekota Shadha, another organisation, has conducted anti-mosquito drives in Chawkbazar, Churihata and Rahmatganj areas of Old Dhaka from August 3 to August 10, said president of the organisation Ashraf Uddin Shadhin. Ranjana Rani Roy, leader of the Scout unit of Udayan Higher Secondary School, said they have been conducting awareness programmes since before Eid-ul-Fitr celebrated on June 6, to conduct cleaning drives in Dhaka University and adjoining areas. She said they are also doing a door-to-door awareness campaign to make people aware about Aedes mosquito and dengue. Mohammad Mominul Haque, youth chief of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's Dhaka unit, said 80 members of their unit have been working at the grassroots level since August 2. "We have already visited 80 schools, many houses and mosques in 20 wards of Dhaka South City Corporation to raise awareness," he said, adding that they will continue this work for another month. Around 170 members of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society have been working in Dhaka to build social

awareness on the issue, he said. Meanwhile, Kazi Wazed Ali, officer-in-charge of Sutrapur Police Station, said they have cleaned the police station and its premises under the initiative of Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday. "We also cleaned and destroyed Aedes breeding sources at the station and its adjoining areas several times before Eid-ul-Azha," he said. City Development Journalists' Forum Bangladesh along with Dhaka South City Corporation held a cleanliness programme to destroy possible sources of Aedes larvae at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon and Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Atiqul Islam both welcomed the community initiatives to prevent dengue. Sayeed Khokon said, "It is difficult for the city corporations alone to kill Aedes mosquitoes as it breeds on clean, stagnant water that can be found anywhere. Everyone should come forward to curb the spread of dengue." FOUR MORE DIE In Dhaka, dengue patient Rehana Begum, 67, yesterday morning around 11:40pm in Green Life Hospital's intensive care unit. She was admitted to the hospital, located in the capital's Green Road area, on August 9. She died from dengue shock syndrome, hospital sources said. Rehana was a doctor living in the United States, who had come to Dhaka on holiday.

In Barishal, a school teacher from Barguna's Amtali upazila, died yesterday after being diagnosed with dengue at Barishal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital. She was initially admitted to Patuakhali General Hospital on August 17 and then transferred to Barishal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital where she died around 12:30am, said Dr Shankar Prasad Adhikari, Amtali upazila's health officer. In Shariatpur, dengue patient Suraiya Begum, 35, died in her house in Damuda upazila yesterday, reports UNB. She was diagnosed with dengue on August 16, sources said. In Faridpur, Saheb Ali, 45, of Rajbari, died while being treated for dengue fever in Faridpur Medical College Hospital around 9:10pm on Monday. Kamoda Prosad Saha, superintendent of Faridpur Medical College Hospital, said, "Saheb Ali was admitted to the hospital around 12:00pm on Monday with dengue." A record 56,379 people have been infected with the mosquito-borne disease so far this year, according to the Directorate General of Health Services. Of them 6,470 are currently under treatment in hospitals across the country. A total of 1,572 new patients -- 750 in Dhaka and the rest outside -- were admitted to different hospitals in 24 hours until 8:00am yesterday, according to the DGHS.

ROHINGYA REPRESSION

Myanmar probe team arrives in Cox's Bazar

UNB, Cox's Bazar A team from Myanmar's Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) has arrived in Cox's Bazar to interview 150 to 200 Rohingya refugees. The Myanmar government has formed the ICOE to probe into the repression of Rohingyas. The delegation of the commission came to Bangladesh on a four-day visit on Saturday. Former ambassador and Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kenzo Oshima is leading the ICOE team. However, it is presumed that the Rohingyas would not give interviews to the team without the assurance of adequate security and safety for their repatriation in Myanmar. Mohammad Abul Kalam, Cox's Bazar's Refugee, Relief and Rehabilitation commissioner, said, "It would be tough to take interviews on behalf of the 'Independent Commission of Enquiry' team if the Rohingyas do not get assurance of security and safety. So, we told the delegation about the concerns of the Rohingyas interviewees and the delegation assured us that the interviews will be taken with due consideration." He added that there was a meeting between the local administration and the ICOE team at the Cox's Bazar Refugee, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner's office at 4:00pm on Monday. Bangladesh is now hosting over 1.1 million Rohingyas, most of whom entered the country since August 25, 2017. Bangladesh and Myanmar signed the repatriation deal on November 23, 2017. On January 16, 2018, Bangladesh and Myanmar inked a document -- "Physical Arrangement"-- to facilitate the return of the Rohingyas refugees to their homeland. The "Physical Arrangement" stipulates that the repatriation will be completed preferably within two years after it begins.

3 abducted

FROM PAGE 16 Tk 30 lakh, he added. On Sunday, a Bangladesh Army soldier was shot dead when criminals opened fire on an army patrol team in Rangamati. Six people were killed and another was kidnapped in Bandarban in the last three months.

8 arrested

FROM PAGE 16 statement read. Police are trying to arrest the rest of the criminals, the OC said. TWO MADRASA STUDENTS RAPED Police yesterday arrested two men for their alleged involvement in raping two madrasa students in Madaripur Sadar upazila. The arrestees are Masud Moral, 30, and Rubel Mollah, 18. One of the victim's brother filed a case with Madaripur Sadar Police Station accusing the duo on Tuesday, said Sowgatul Alam, officer-in-charge of the police station. According to the case statement, the duo forcibly took the victims, a tenth grader and a fifth grader, to an abandoned dairy farm and raped them on the same day the case was filed. Later, locals found the victims and informed police. The law enforcers then rescued the girls, the OC said. FOUR-YEAR-OLD RAPED Police yesterday held Joydeb, 40, on charge of raping a four-year-old girl in Chapainawabganj. The victim's mother filed a case with Chapainawabganj Sadar Police Station, said Ziaur Rahman, officer-in-charge of the police station. According to the case statement, the girl was playing near her house around 2:10pm on Monday when Joydeb took her to his house and raped her. Returning home, the girl shared the incident with her mother who later filed the case. DOMESTIC HELP RAPED Police yesterday arrested a man in Jhalakathi's Rajapur upazila on charge of raping his domestic help. The arrestee is Belal Howlader, 35. Jahid Hossain, officer-in-charge of Rajapur Police Station, said the 14-year-old victim filed a case with the police station on Monday. Promising to marry the victim, Belal often had intercourse with her. Later, he refused to marry her which led the victim file the case. FIFTH GRADER RAPED Police yesterday arrested a madrasa superintendent on charge of raping a fifth grader in Bagerhat's Sharakhola. The arrestee is Elias Hossain, 45. The victim's father filed a case with Sharakhola Police Station on Monday, said Dilip Kumar Sarkar, officer-in-charge of the police station. According to the case statement, Elias took the victim to the madrasa library and raped her on August 8. Noticing the girl to bleed, her parents took her to a local clinic where doctors sense the incident. Later, the victim shared the incident with her family members.

'Not proud as Indian'

FROM PAGE 16 proud of the fact that India, after having done so much to achieve a democratic norm in the world -- where India was the first non-Western country to go for democracy -- that we lose that reputation on the grounds of action that have been taken. The government's move earlier this month to end Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcate the state into two union territories have received political and popular support. The bifurcation bill received support from several key opposition parties and individual leaders. Even a section of Congress leaders applauded the end to the special status, which has now put Jammu and Kashmir on par with the rest of the country -- doing away with its own constitution, flag, penal code and the power to decide who buys land in the state. Amid anticipation about the possibility of buying land in Jammu and Kashmir by people from other states, Dr Sen said it should have been "something for the people of the state (Jammu and Kashmir) to decide".

Pakistan to move

FROM PAGE 16 and detentions of hundreds of political leaders and separatists who have long campaigned for secession from India. Youth have pelted stones at paramilitary police deployed in Srinagar, and the latest detentions took place in parts of the city where such incidents have occurred, a police officer said. "These arrests have been made in the areas where there has been intensifying stone pelting in the last few days," the officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation. A local government official confirmed the latest detentions. The withdrawal of the special privileges of Muslim majority Kashmir means residents of all parts of India can buy property and compete for government jobs and college places, raising fears that it will be flooded with outsiders. US President Donald Trump spoke to Modi and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday urging them to reduce tensions over

Cameroon anglophone separatist leader gets life sentence

AFP, Yaounde The right of the military tribunal in Yaounde to try them. Their lawyers have yet to say whether they will file an appeal. Ayuk Tabe, a charismatic 54-year-old computer engineer by training, was the first self-proclaimed president of "Ambazonia" -- a breakaway state declared in October 2017 in two English-speaking regions of the central African country. The government responded with a military crackdown. Attacks by both sides have left 1,850 dead, according to the International Crisis Group (ICG) think tank, while the UN says 530,000 people have fled their homes. English-speakers account for about a fifth of Cameroon's population of 24 million, who are majority French-speaking. Anglophones are mainly concentrated in two western areas, the Northwest Region and the Southwest Region, that were incorporated into the French-speaking state after the colonial era in Africa wound down six decades ago. Anglophones have chafed for years at perceived discrimination in education, law and economic opportunities at the hands of the francophone majority.

Kashmir. "A tough situation, but good conversations!" Trump said in a Twitter post after the calls. Authorities in Indian Kashmir on Monday said the protests were local and small in nature involving no more than a dozen people. Still, primary schools remained deserted yesterday as they were the previous day as parents worried about the safety of their children kept them at home. Reuters visited three schools in Srinagar including Presentation Convent Higher Secondary School and no students had turned up and classes were deserted. "Some teachers reported to duty but left as there were no students", said an official of the school. Authorities had ordered schools to reopen on Monday after a two-week closure as a sign of normalcy. Srinagar's top city official Shahid Choudhary asked schools to ensure resumption of bus services. A driver, however, said it was difficult to operate buses in such a volatile situation. "It is very risky for us and the students," he said.

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Ayuk Tabe is part of the political branch of the separatist group that supports dialogue with President Paul Biya. But the influence of moderates waned in 2017 as Biya, who has been in power for 36 years, rejected demands for autonomy and radicals in the movement gained the ascendancy. "Brazen crimes" - In January 2018, Ayuk Tabe was arrested with 46 other separatists in the Nigerian capital Abuja. They were then handed over to Cameroon -- a move that was ruled illegal by a Nigerian court in March this year.

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