



Workers of Alif Apparels Ltd staged a sit-in yesterday on Mirpur Road in Shyamoli after they found the factory closed without prior notice. Traffic movement was stopped from 8am until 11am. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

AUGUST 21 GRENADE ATTACK CASE

Will seek death penalty for Tarique Rahman: Quader

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said they will go to the High Court seeking capital punishment for acting BNP chairman Tarique Rahman, terming him the "mastermind of August 21 grenade attack".

"We'll surely go to the High Court, as there's a scope to carry out a legal fight for the maximum punishment of Tarique Rahman," he said while talking to reporters after placing wreaths at a makeshift altar in front of the party's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue, marking the 15th anniversary of the gruesome attack.

Quader, also the Road Transport and Bridges Minister, further said, "Harkat-ul-Jihad leader Mufti Hannan in his confessional statement said they made the attack at the behest of Tarique Rahman. So, the mastermind of the killing must be awarded the highest punishment."

The minister said the BNP-Jamaat alliance regime carried out the grenade attack on Awami League's anti-terrorism rally on this day in 2004, and the then-opposition leader Sheikh Hasina was their prime target.

He said two incidents in history -- August 15 assassination of Bangabandhu and most of his family members, and the August 21 grenade attack -- are inseparable as those were carried out with the same motive.

Quader also said the working relationship that needs to remain between the government and the opposition party was finished forever through the bomb blasts. "It won't be possible for us to forget the pain of the incident."

Even after that, he said, Awami League tried to normalise relations with BNP as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina invited Khaleda Zia to Gono Bhaban before the January 5 national election in 2014.

"Our leader also went to Khaleda Zia's office to console her following her son's death. People know they misbehaved with the prime minister. On that day, BNP shut the door for dialogue in Bangladeshi politics, by closing the door on the face of the prime minister."

At least 24 leaders and activists, including Awami League women affairs secretary and late President Zillur Rahman's wife Ivy Rahman, were killed and 300 others injured in the grenade attack on August 21, 2004.

ANTI-MOSQUITO DRIVE

Penal Code to be used if combing operation faces obstacle: Atiquel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Penal Code will be used to hand down punishment to any house owner who obstructs the "combing operation" to kill Aedes mosquitoes, said Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Mayor Atiquel Islam yesterday.

"From now on, if city corporation officials face any obstacle during the drive by house owners, or if they refuse to cooperate, we will use Penal Code 1860," said the mayor at a meeting organised by DNCC, to evaluate the recent mosquito-killing and cleanliness drives, at Spectra Convention Centre in Gulshan-1.

Ward councillors of DNCC attended the meeting.

Presiding over the programme, Atiquel said, "Our officials faced obstructions during recent drives. We had to wait 45



LGD secretary Helal Uddin, LGRD minister Tazul Islam and Atiquel Islam at the event.

minutes to get inside a building."

Some homeowners even did not let them use lifts, saying their lift was out of order, he said, sharing experience of a recent drive.

Emphasising responsibilities of the citizens and ward councillors, the mayor said the drive should continue round the year to keep mosquitoes in check.

A magistrate of DNCC said clauses 187, 269 and 270 of the Penal Code can be used to hand out jail sentences and fines for not cooperating with a public servant, or for negligent or malignant "act likely to cause infection of disease".

Speaking as a chief guest, Local Government and Rural Development Minister Md Tazul Islam said, "We will cooperate to fight against Aedes mosquitoes. We request councillors to play an active role."

He also said Aedes mosquitoes have become a menace across Asia now, and the government is trying its best to control it.

DNCC Secretary Rabindra Sri Barua was also present at the programme.

BNP smells 'AL involvement' in August 21 attack

UNB, Dhaka

BNP leader Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed yesterday said there is a question in public mind whether Awami League had "involvement" with the blueprint of the August 21 grenade attack.

"It [August 21 attack] was part of a deep-rooted blueprint. People wonder whether the ruling party [AL] had involvement with it," he said.

Rizvi, BNP's senior joint secretary general, came up with the remarks while speaking at a press conference at the party's Nayapalton central office.

The nation is observing the 15th anniversary of the brutal attack on an Awami League rally in the city that killed at least 24 leaders and activists of the party and injured 300 others.

Sheikh Hasina, the then opposition leader, luckily escaped the attack but her hearing was affected badly.

Nearly 14 years after the gruesome grenade attack, a Dhaka court on October 10 last year sentenced 19 people, including the then BNP-led government's state minister for home affairs,

Lutfozzaman Babar, to death.

Tarique Rahman, BNP's current acting chairman, and 18 others were also sentenced to life in prison in the case.

Rizvi claimed that the investigation into the grenade attack case was not fair and impartial. "Neutral investigation was obstructed; we have repeatedly talked about it in the past."

He said Tarique Rahman's name was not in the charge sheet submitted during the caretaker government's rule on August 22, 2007, accusing 22 people.

The BNP leader alleged that Tarique's name was included in the supplementary charge sheet of the case when Awami League came to power.

He questioned why the investigation officer of the case did not find Tarique's involvement in the grenade attack during the 1/11 regime.

"Tarique Rahman was implicated in the case with a political motive. Had there been rule of law, justice and good governance, the real culprits would have been punished," Rizvi observed.

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Make technical courses must at secondary schools

JS body recommends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday recommended making technical courses mandatory at all secondary schools.

"We have recommended making technical courses mandatory for all students of sixth to tenth grade at all general stream secondary schools," committee member Fazle Hossain Badsha told The Daily Star after a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

He said they made the recommendation with a target of developing skilled and efficient human resources for the country.

Badsha added that the committee also instructed authorities concerned to increase their monitoring on educational institutions, about completion of syllabus in due time.

At the meeting, the committee also held detailed discussion on International Mother Language Institute Bill-2019.

Standing committee chairman Afsarul Ameen presided over the meeting, that was also attended by its members -- state minister for education Mohibul Hasan

Chowdhury, lawmakers AKM Shajahan Kamal, Abdus Sobhan Miah, and Golam Kibria Tipu.

Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury said introduction of mandatory technical courses at all general-stream secondary schools was an education ministry plan which is under implementation.

"After discussion on our plan, the committee supported it," he added.

Education ministry officials said the government has plans to expand technical and vocational education at all schools and madrasas.

To this end, the education ministry is set to introduce Secondary School Certificate (vocational) at 640 schools and madrasas from next year.

It is also planning to introduce a compulsory technical course for students of sixth grade at all 30,000 schools and madrasas from 2021, top officials of Technical and Madrasa Education Division (TMED) said.

They added that such courses will be offered to students up to eighth grade gradually in following years.

Parliament's 4th session to begin on Sep 8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The fourth session of the 11th Jatiya Sangsad will begin at 5pm on September 8.

President Abdul Hamid called the session yesterday, exercising the power bestowed upon him as per clause (1) of article 72 of the constitution, according to a press release of the parliament secretariat.

Before the House goes into session, the business advisory committee of the Jatiya Sangsad is scheduled to hold a meeting at parliament with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair to fix the duration and businesses of the upcoming session.

Duration of the fourth session is likely to be short, sources at the parliament secretariat told The Daily Star.

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Visitors go through photos displayed at "One Click One Story Photography Festival" organised by Photographers Club Bangladesh at Drik Gallery yesterday. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

DEATH OF LAWYER IN PANCHAGARH JAIL HOSPITAL No proof of murder, but probe report finds mismanagement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The judicial committee formed to inquire into the death of Advocate Palash Kaur Roy in Panchagarh Prison Hospital has not found any proof of murder, but has found some mismanagement and irregularities in the hospital.

Palash -- a lawyer of Dhaka Bar Association -- who was in Panchagarh jail in connection with a defamation case, allegedly set himself on fire on April 26 at the prison hospital. He died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital's burn unit on April 30.

The judicial committee formed by the High Court in May, handed over its probe report to the HC last month through its registrar's office, and the report was produced before the HC during hearing of a writ petition yesterday.

After going through the probe report, the HC bench of Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif and Justice Md Badruzzaman said "apparently,

this is a case of suicide" and asked the office concerned to send the probe report to the home secretary and inspector general of prisons.

The bench also ordered the home secretary and inspector general of prisons to submit their statements over the probe report to the court by October 15.

Earlier in the day, writ petitioner Barrister Syed Sayedul Haque Suman read out from some parts of the probe report saying there was unabated use of gas lighters in Panchagarh prison; there was no fire extinguisher, close circuit television (CCTV) camera and jail superintendent; a diploma nurse was discharging the duties of a doctor; and a murder case accused was working at the surgical department of the prison hospital.

The writ petitioner also said it took 24 hours, after Palash Roy set himself on fire, to arrange his treatment.

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BIRTH CENTENARY OF BANGABANDHU Celebration fund to be spent under direct purchase method

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will spend the fund for the celebration of birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman under direct purchase method (DPM).

Cabinet committee on economic affairs yesterday approved a cabinet division proposal in this regard at a meeting chaired by Agriculture Minister Mohammad Abdur Razaque in the secretariat.

Officials of cabinet division told The Daily Star that the government will celebrate the birth centenary of Father of the Nation at home and abroad, beginning from March 17, 2020 for next year.

For this, the National Implementation Committee for the Centennial Birth Anniversary Celebration will spend necessary funds to arrange various events.

The government has allocated Tk 100 crore in this fiscal's budget for the celebration.

The implementation committee will appoint an event management firm to organise the events.

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**HEALTH HACK**

It's time to return to a regular diet after the red meat extravaganza during the holidays. Here's how you can do it:

1. Make use of seasonal fruits and vegetables in cooking or eat them as snacks and salads.
2. Cook meat in a different way for a change. Grill or oven-bake some chicken.
3. Keep your digestion system in check. Eat foods that are rich in fibre and make sure you drink lots of water.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**LECTURE**  
In Memory of Bangabandhu  
Venue: Shilpakala Academy  
Time: 4pm

**EXHIBITION**  
Evergreens Bonsai Society 2nd Annual Bonsai Exhibition  
Venue: Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi  
Time: 3pm-8pm

**MEMORIAL PROGRAMME**  
Shotoborsher Pothe Bangabandhu  
Venue: National Auditorium, Gallery 5, Shilpakala Academy  
Time: 12pm-8pm

**THEATRE**  
Desire Under the Elms  
Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi  
Time: 6:30pm

**SEMINAR**  
Deradicalization of Youth Among Displaced Children  
Organiser: Young  
Venue: House 8, Dhanmondi 4/A  
Time: 5pm

**BEAUTY WORKSHOP**  
Blow Drying  
Organiser: Sheba.xyz Beauty  
Venue: DevoTech Technology Park Level 6, House 11, Road 113/A, Gulshan 2  
Time: 10am

**THEATRE**  
Domer Madar  
Troupe: Natyam Repertory  
Venue: Experimental Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Time: 7pm