



During yesterday's sudden rainfall, this family found itself on a rickshaw at the capital's Dhanmondi Road-27. As thunder blared across the sky, the child got scared and the father cupped his palms over the child's ears to shield him from the noise.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

An unending wait for justice

Landmark verdict on custodial death of Jonny remains stayed for a year, say speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A year after the landmark verdict on the custodial death of Ishtiaque Hossain Jonny, where three police officers were sentenced to life imprisonment, things are at a stalemate.

The High Court Division has stayed the conviction, and the victim's family are enduring an unending wait for the justice and compensation promised to them.

This was stated at a discussion session held by Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust (BLAST) yesterday to commemorate a year of the first ever verdict of a case of custodial death filed under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013.

On February 7, 2014, a police team led by sub-inspector Jahidur picked up Jonny and his brother Imtiaz Hossain Rocky from the capital's Pallabi Irani Camp area, along with some others, from a pre-wedding programme.

They were tortured inside Pallabi Police Station for around two and half hours after which Jonny lost consciousness. He was taken to a local clinic, where he died of his injuries.

Since then Rocky has been fighting a legal battle to get justice for his brother.

The lower court had sentenced three ex-policemen of the capital's Pallabi

Police Station to life imprisonment and directed them to pay Tk 2 lakh each to the complainant as compensation on September 9 last year.

The discussants at BLAST said that the accused sub-inspector Zahidur Rahman and assistant sub-inspector Rashedul Hasan filed appeals with the High Court last year.

In addition to staying the verdict of life imprisonment, the HC stayed the realisation of the fine as well as withdrawal of the compensation, said SM Rezaul Karim, the legal advisor of BLAST, speaking at the event yesterday.

Barrister Sharmin Akhter of BLAST said, "Rocky is financially crippled. The verdict is given but they won't get the money now. We are thinking of creating a state fund for families of custodial torture. The state has a liability. We will file a writ petition on behalf of Rocky for them to get the compensation."

Rights activist Nur Khan Liton said, "The amount of support needed by the victim is a lot. They need to know that even if the fight goes on for a long time, they will be able to pull through."

Rocky who was present at the meeting spoke about how he is still getting harassed in the neighbourhood.

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'Remove defamatory videos from internet'

SC upholds HC order on Japanese woman, her estranged husband

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order that directed the BTRC to remove from internet platforms defamatory videos about Japanese national Eriko Nakano and her estranged husband Bangladeshi-born US citizen Imran Sharif.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC, Justice Obaidul Hassan passed "no order" on a petition filed by Imran Sharif seeking a stay on the HC order that also permitted Eriko to spend nights with her daughters exclusively on September 9, 11, 13 and 15 at the Gulshan flat.

The couple have two daughters currently living in a Gulshan flat under HC directive.

The apex court chamber judge's "no order" means that the HC directives will remain in force, Eriko's lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir told The Daily Star.

Lawyer Fawzia Karim Firoze appeared for Imran Sharif

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Legal notice served on govt, BTRC

SC lawyer seeks removal of character assassinating materials from internet in 5 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer has served a legal notice on the Bangladesh Telecommunication and Regulatory Commission (BTRC) and government requesting them to remove and stop the further spread of videos, pictures and reports assassinating individuals' characters from all online platforms in five days.

Tasmiah Nuhya Ahmed sent the notice to BTRC chairman, and secretaries to the ministries of post and telecommunications, and information on Wednesday.

In the legal notice she said videos, pictures and media reports regarding personal relationships or private life were posted to damage the image of people,

especially female citizens, of the country.

The online content assassinated women's character by breaching their right to privacy and are offences under sections 25 and 29 of the Digital Security Act, 2018 and inconsistent with articles 27, 28, 31, 32, 39 and 44 of the constitution, Tasmiah said in the notice.

On September 5, the High Court rejected a petition filed by her (Tasmiah) seeking its directive to remove defamatory materials from internet, because she had not served a legal notice to the respondents (BTRC and government) to this effect.

The HC, however, blasted the BTRC for its failure to stop the spread of defamatory

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'Don't let history repeat itself'

SAHR calls upon the Taliban to respect women's right to work, education and govern

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

South Asians for Human Rights, a regional network of human rights defenders, called upon the Taliban to respect and protect the rights of Afghan women and girls, including their right to work, right to education, access to public space and a role in governing the country.

It urged the Taliban to "not let history repeat itself", in a statement issued on September 8.

Highlighting the targeted attacks on women and girls including academics, rights defenders, journalists and religious minorities, the regional network stated it was "deeply concerned" about what Taliban rule will mean in practice.

"We reject the alarmist and Islamophobic narratives of media outlets that reproduce tired tropes suggesting that

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US gives twenty vessels to coast guard, navy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US has given 20 vessels to Bangladesh to help increase the country's capacity to monitor, patrol and respond to threats within Bangladesh's coastal waters and Economic Exclusive Zone.

US Ambassador Earl Miller handed over the vessels to Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Coast Guard in a virtual ceremony with Bangladesh Assistant Chief of Naval Staff for Operations Rear Admiral M Ashraf Haq and Rear Admiral Ashraf Hoq Chowdhury, director general of the Bangladesh Coast Guard, in a virtual

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MINI BYTES



TikTok surpasses YouTube in terms of average watch time, says report

NAVEED HUSSAIN

According to a report from app analytics firm App Annie, TikTok users now spend more time each month watching content than YouTube users.

In the United States, ByteDance's app first surpassed YouTube in August of last year, with users watching over 24 hours of content per month as of June 2021, compared to 22 hours and 40 minutes on Google's video platform.

The Google-owned video giant has an estimated two billion monthly users, while TikTok's most recent public figures put its user base at around 700 million by mid-2020.

In the United Kingdom, the disparity is even more pronounced: TikTok surpassed YouTube in May of last year, and users there now watch nearly 26 hours of content per month, compared to less than 16 on YouTube.

However, because the figures only include Android phone viewers, they may not be representative of all mobile users. Caveats aside, they demonstrate TikTok's meteoric rise in just a few short years and are all the more impressive given that most of its videos are only three minutes long, compared to the ten-minute format preferred by many YouTube users.

Not to mention the fact that TikTok was threatened with being banned in the United States for much of 2020, despite tumultuous negotiations

after Biden formally revoked Trump's executive orders earlier this year.

According to BBC News, YouTube is still ahead in terms of total time spent, owing to its two billion users versus TikTok's 700 million. YouTube is still number one in terms of time spent on Android phones among "Social and Entertainment Apps" as of the first half of this year, excluding iOS users and users of the app renamed Douyin in China, with TikTok coming in fifth behind three Facebook apps: Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram.

According to App Annie's data, users spend more money on YouTube than TikTok on both iOS and Android.

However, according to App Annie's findings, live-streaming apps, such as TikTok, are fueling an increase in money spent on creators. TikTok allows users to tip creators with "coins" which are TikTok's version of "bits" from Twitch, and YouTube also has a similar programme for live streams.

According to the report, live-streaming apps accounted for three-quarters of all money spent in the top 25 social apps in the first half of 2021.

Another winner from the previous year is Snapchat, according to the report.

App Annie's data suggests, the augmented-reality messaging app's downloads increased by nearly 30% year over year, and by 45 per cent when compared to two years ago.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

The 24th National Art Exhibition, organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), is underway at the academy in the capital's Segunbagicha. The exhibition is featuring 347 artworks of different mediums and genres by 323 artists. Open for all, the event will end on September 15.



Dengue cases cross 13,000 mark

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dengue cases in the country have crossed the 13,000 mark yesterday, pointing to the worsening situation.

In the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday, one more dengue patient died, while at least 317 patients were hospitalised.

With the new cases, 13,007 people have been hospitalised this year, according to Directorate General of Health Services.

As per DGHS data, 54 people have died of dengue infection in the country this year so far. Twelve people died in July, 34 in August, and eight in September.

Among the 317 new patients, 58 are from outside Dhaka. This takes the total dengue cases outside the capital to 1,250. A total of 2,651 were diagnosed with dengue during the current month.

At least 7,698 patients were hospitalised in August, 2,286 in July, 272 in June, while

43 were infected in May.

Though most patients who were hospitalised have so far been released, 1,254 are still undergoing treatment at hospitals in Dhaka, and 170 outside the capital, DGHS data shows.

Amid the rise in dengue cases, the government on August 23 dedicated six hospitals for treating dengue patients.

The dedicated hospitals are Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital, Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master General Hospital in Tongi; Railway General Hospital at Kamalapur, 20-bed Aminbazar Govt Hospital, Lalkuthi Hospital in Mirpur, and 31-bed Kamrangirchar Hospital.

Besides the dedicated hospitals, the government has already instructed some other public facilities, including Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital, Dhaka Medical College and Hospital and Mugda Medical College and Hospital, to provide dengue treatment.



Death toll 54

8 died in Sept so far

34 in Aug, 12 in July

317 more hospitalised yesterday



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