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8 YEARS OF HOLEY ARTISAN ATTACK

Final justice yet to be delivered

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Although eight years have passed since the horrific militant attack on the Holey Artisan Bakery in Dhaka's Gulshan, justice is yet to be finalised for the families of the victims.

The High Court bench of Justice Shahidul Karim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman on October 30, 2023, delivered a verdict in the case filed over the attack, commuting the death sentences of seven militants to jail sentences until their deaths.

But the HC bench is yet to release the full text of the judgement, which is needed to move any appeal before the Supreme Court.

The judges are now writing the judgement of the Holey Artisan attack case.

According to court sources, it cannot be specifically said when the full text of the verdict will be

released and when appeals will be moved, heard and disposed of before the apex court.

Ariful Islam, a defence lawyer for the convicts, told The Daily Star on June 29 that his clients wanted to move their challenge appeals. But they have not been able to do so as the full text is yet to be released, he said.

Contacted, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin said the state will decide, after receiving the full text of the judgement, when any appeal will be moved before the Appellate Division seeking enhancement of the convicts' sentences.

On July 1, 2016, five militants with firearms, machetes, and grenades stormed the bakery and held the diners hostage before killing three Bangladeshis, seven Japanese people, nine Italians, and one Indian.

The militants were killed

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Traffic remains halted due to a gridlock in the capital's Shantinagar area yesterday morning. A combination of HSC exams, heavy rainfall and the fact that it is the start of the week contributed to the problem.



Latifur Rahman's fourth death anniv today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the fourth death anniversary of Latifur Rahman, founder chairman and CEO of Transcom Group, a well-known and highly respected business house in Bangladesh.

Soft-spoken and humble, the visionary and ethical businessman passed away in his sleep on this day at his paternal home in Cumilla after

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HSC, equivalent exams begin amid inclement weather



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Higher Secondary Certificate and its equivalent exams began nationwide yesterday, except in Sylhet division, where exams were postponed until July 8 due to severe flooding.

The government made this decision on June 20, in response to the ongoing flood impacting the region. Exams scheduled from July 9 onwards in Sylhet will continue as planned.

On the opening day, nearly 10,000 students from nine general education boards remained absent, according to the Secondary and Higher Secondary division of the education ministry.

Exams are being conducted with a reduced syllabus, a measure that was implemented during Covid-19 pandemic and continued for 2021-2023 academic years.

The capital saw heavy monsoon rains early in the morning yesterday. The downpour resulted in reduced public transport availability, creating significant obstacles

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'Nothing moves without bribes'

MPs slam corruption in education system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The opposition Jatiyo Party and independent MPs yesterday in parliament raised allegations of widespread corruption in the education system.

The level of corruption in the education sector cannot be expressed in words. Nothing happens without money. For getting monthly pay order (MPO) facilities, a teacher has to pay from table to table, they said.

They were speaking at the cut motion proposals against the demand of the Secondary and Higher Studies Division of the financial year 2024-25.

Education Minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury in his response speech, neither refuted the corruption allegations, nor acknowledged it.

Md Hamidul Haque Khandker of Kurigram-2 highlighted that the education budget consistently falls short of the GDP target. He pointed out institutional, curricular, and regional disparities, adding that field-level education officers remain in the same workplace for 5-7 years, leading

to irregularities and corruption.

Independent MP Pankaj Nath from Barishal-4 praised the NTRCA's teacher recruitment process but added that teachers are often posted at places far from home, which ultimately ends up with them not joining their schools.

He suggested regionalising recruitment, especially in hilly areas, and called for filling vacancies swiftly.

Jatiyo Party MP Hafiz Uddin Ahmed criticised the education system's focus on building unnecessary infrastructures over ensuring quality teaching.

"Today's education is like – I have a house and bathroom but do not have food," Hafiz added.

Independent MP Abul Kalam from Natore-1 said no teachers get retirement allowances without paying bribe.

Nasser Shahrear Zahedee from Jhenaidah-2 proposed reducing administrative expenses to boost educational research funding.

The education minister acknowledged the issue of teachers not joining distant posts and mentioned ongoing efforts to amend laws to address this.

Today's education is like – I have a house and bathroom but no food.

HAFIZ UDDIN AHMED
Jatiyo Party MP



Abul Mansur Ahmad speech contest launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time, "Abul Mansur Ahmad Smriti Parishad and Tarkajal are jointly organising a national speech competition in honour of renowned journalist, politician and litterateur Abul Mansur Ahmad."

Two subjects have been fixed for the competition, titled "Abul Mansur Ahmad Speech Competition 2024," which are – "Abul Mansur Ahmad in journalism" and "Rashtra Chintay Abul Mansur Ahmad".

To participate in the competition, contestants must be under 30 years old. A participant can compete

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Magistrate to look after Benazir's Gulshan flats

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday appointed a first-class magistrate as an administrator to look after four confiscated flats of former IGP Benazir Ahmed and his family members.

The flats are located in Gulshan.

Judge Mohammed Ash-Shams Joglul Hossain passed the order accepting a petition filed by ACC director (property management unit) Md Monjur Morshed, said its Public Prosecutor Mahmud Hossain Jahangir.

In the application, Morshed told the court that the same court on June 6 appointed administrators to look after some of the immovable properties of Benazir and his family members.

After that, Morshed along with some ACC officials went to visit the flats and talked to the building's receptionist Meherab Hossain. The receptionist informed them that the flats' owners did not live there, and he did not know their

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SAGAR-RUNI MURDER Probe submission deadline extended for 111th time

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday extended till August 4 the deadline for submitting the probe report of a case filed over murders of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi in February 2012.

This is the 111th extension of the deadline for probe report submission.

Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mahbubul Haque passed the order as Investigation Officer Khondoker Md Shafiqul Alam, also an additional superintendent of police at Rab, failed to submit the report, said a court police.

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Rain disrupts life in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chattogram experienced heavy rain yesterday morning, causing difficulty for commuters, including HSC examinees.

The Met Office reported 32mm of rain between 6:00am and 9:00am.

Many areas, including GEC, Muradpur, Katalganj, and Bahaddarhat, were waterlogged, forcing residents to wade through knee-deep water. Low-lying parts of the city faced a shortage of vehicles, making it difficult for students and parents to reach their destinations.

Many vehicles were stranded for hours. Traffic jams were severe on Zakir Hossain Road and in GEC area. Shahnaj Begum, whose son is an HSC candidate, said they had to walk in the rain to the exam centre for transport shortage.

Meteorologist Ali Akbar cautioned that the monsoon could bring more rainfall causing similar distress to the city dwellers.



Many areas, including GEC, Muradpur, Katalganj and Bahaddarhat, in the port city got waterlogged due to yesterday's rain, forcing residents to wade through knee-deep water. The Chattogram Met Office reported 32mm of rain between 6:00am and 9:00am.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Unfit vehicles, brick kilns behind air pollution: minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

LGRD Minister Tazul Islam yesterday told parliament that the main causes of air pollution are unfit vehicles, black smoke emitted from factories and brick kilns, and dust pollution caused by urbanisation.

The minister said this while responding to a tabled question of ruling Awami League MP Mohammad Sayeed Khokon.

He also said the impact of methane gas emitted from landfills on air pollution is not serious.

However, modern technology-based sanitary landfills and waste-to-energy projects have been planned to control methane gas emissions, he added.