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QUOTA PROTESTS

Trauma, pain etched on their faces

Limbs of several injured had to be amputated after gunshot wounds

AHMED DEEPTO

Lying in a hospital bed, teary-eyed Md Rifat was staring at his right leg, rather where his right leg used to be. He could not look away.

The 10th grader of Badda Alatunnessa Higher Secondary School was shot around 10:00am on July 19 while he went out of his home to see what was going on in Rampura.

He had two surgeries. His leg was amputated from the knee.

"I don't know whether I will be able to go to school again," Rifat said softly at the Casualty Ward-2 of the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor).

He was struggling to hold back his tears as he recalled the life-changing incident.

"I just wanted to see what was going on in my neighbourhood. I didn't go there to protest ... I was having a sherbet near the Rampura U-loop, suddenly a bullet hit my right leg, and I fell to the ground."

In the same ward, Imran Sarkar, a fourth-year student of philosophy at Dhaka College, was without his left leg. He was shot during a clash between the demonstrators and police in Rayerbazar area on July 19 afternoon.

"I was returning home after offering Juma prayers ... All of a sudden, a bullet hit my left leg and I passed out," said Imran.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits the Mirpur-10 metro rail station in the capital yesterday. The station was among two that were vandalised on July 19. The authorities said it will take at least a year to make the two stations operational again.

PHOTO: BSS

ARSON, VANDALISM 'Play your part to bring the culprits to justice'

PM urges people

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the people of the country must come forward to make sure that the perpetrators of the recent violence face trial and punishment.

"They [people] have to try the culprits. I am seeking justice from them," she said after visiting the vandalised metro rail station at Mirpur-10 in the morning.

Hasina said everyone involved in metro rail construction is now in tears after witnessing such destruction.

"Why did they do this? I am working tirelessly to improve the living standard of the people and I have done this. No one can deny it now."

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VIOLENCE CENTRING QUOTA PROTESTS

Andaleeve, David Hasanat arrested

At least 4,784 held in last 6 days

STAR REPORT

Police arrested Bangladesh Jatiya Party (Manju) Chairman Andaleeve Rahman Partho and top businessman KM Rezaul Hasanat David in a countrywide crackdown that saw the arrest of at least 4,784 over the last six days.

Besides, the BNP said Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anne, joint secretary general of the party, was picked up by the Detective Branch of police from Elephant Road area around 4:30pm.

Detectives arrested Andaleeve at his Gulshan home around 1:00am, and a Dhaka court later placed him on a five-day remand.

He and David, founding chairman and CEO of major garment exporter Viyellatex Group, were accused in a case filed over an arson attack on Setu Bhaban in Dhaka on July 18.

According to the Viyellatex website, David is a well known businessman and his company has diversified businesses ranging from end-to-end apparel solution to tea, engineering and power generation. It employs over 300 management staff and over 15,000 workers.

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Andaleeve



David Hasanat

Social media off-limits indefinitely

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi social media users are unlikely to get uninterrupted access to the platforms anytime soon as the government has put in strict blocking mechanisms until the tech companies comply with its demands.

The international internet gateway (IIG) operators were instructed to block Facebook, the most popular app in the country with about 5.5 crore users, from the gateway devices by the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, The Daily Star has learnt from people with knowledge of the matter.

Meta's other platforms such as Messenger and WhatsApp and ByteDance's TikTok -- the most popular social media and instant messaging apps -- are on top of the block list, they said.

Social media platforms, especially Facebook and YouTube, have not been complying with Bangladesh's laws, said Zunaid Ahmed Palak, the state minister for ICT, on Wednesday.

"They are also not taking into account the situation on the ground, violating their policy guidelines... Amid this, who

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'End crackdown on protesters, lift all curbs'

Urge UN rights chief, Amnesty, US, Canada

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The UN and Amnesty International yesterday urged the Bangladesh government to respect the right to protest, end violent crackdown on protesters and immediately lift all communication restrictions.

In separate statements, they also called for impartial, independent and transparent investigations into all alleged human rights violations during the recent violence in the country.

In a statement released in Geneva, UN Human Rights chief Volker Türk called on the government to urgently disclose full details about last week's crackdown on protests amid growing accounts of horrific violence.

"The government must provide the details of those killed, injured, or detained for the benefit of their families," he said.

The rights chief also offered his office's support in probing the alleged human rights violations.

He also urged the government to ensure that all operations of law enforcement agencies are conducted strictly in line with international human rights norms and standards, particularly regarding the policing of protests.

"This is important to begin to rebuild gravely damaged public trust and create an environment conducive to public dialogue on the underlying concerns that led to this wave of violence," reads the statement.

Latest reports indicate that more than 170 people were killed and over a thousand injured -- some of whom were denied medical care

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19-yr-old crippled as cop shoots him point-blank

SHAHEEN MOLLAH



Akash

As the July 20 mayhem centring on quota protest escalated on Dhaka-Chattogram road in Narayanganj,

Mohammad Akash, 19, pulled down the shutters and locked the glass doors of the sweetshop, where he worked, to save his life.

But law enforcers broke open the shutters and the glass door and shot him anyway from close range to his left knee, he told The Daily Star.

Akash, a storekeeper of Bikrampur Mishtanno Bhandar, will now be a cripple man for the rest of his life, as doctors had to amputate his left leg on Tuesday.

Akash worked at the shop for the last two and a half years. That Saturday he was in charge of safeguarding the establishment.

"Police forcibly entered the shop, breaking all the doors," says Akash.

They accused him of concealing his identity and being involved in violence. Akash says he repeatedly denied these allegations, but police mistook him as a troublemaker trying to hide in the shop.

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