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CLASHES OVER QUOTA Four more die from gunshot wounds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four more people, who suffered bullet wounds during the recent clashes centring the quota protests, died at different hospitals in Dhaka in the last 48 hours.

The deceased are Imtiaz Ahmed Dalim, 20, a student of Southeast University; Mainuddin, 25, a madrasa student; Sohel Rana, 20, and Yeasin, 17.

Imtiaz's father, Nawsher Ali, said his son was shot in Rampura on July 19. Imtiaz died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 4:00am yesterday.

Mainuddin was shot in Rayerbagh on July 21. He also died at DMCH around 2:00am yesterday, said his mother, Mahfuz Begum.

Yasin was shot in Jatrabari on July 21 and was admitted to Mugda Medical College Hospital. He died undergoing treatment around 11:00pm on Thursday, said his cousin Babul.

Sohel was shot in Rampura on July 19. He was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, where doctors declared him dead on Thursday evening, said Manik Saha, a sub-inspector of

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AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY 20 students sued for attack on police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty students of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, along with many unnamed others, were sued on charges of demonstrating unlawfully in front of the campus and assaulting police.

Sub-Inspector Akhtaruzzaman of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station filed the case on July 21, ten days after the incident.

The students who have been named in the case as accused are Tawhid Ahmed Ashique, Ahmedul Kabir Taposh, Md Raihan, Sourav, Shahriar, Mohaminul, Ahsan Habib, Anas, Sagar, Imran, Ahsan Habib, Wasiu Islam, Mujahidul Islam Shuvo, Altaf, Selim Reza, Nur Islam, Asif, Rifat, Shakib, and Mridul.

According to the case statement, students demanding reform to the quota system in government jobs blocked the road in front of Gate 2 of the university on July 11.

When police went to the spot to control the situation, students allegedly started throwing brickbats at them. At that time, several police personnel were injured. At one stage, police chased the protesters and dispersed them, it added.

As of yet, no arrests have been made in the case, Sub-Inspector SM Al Mamun of

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Members of the Bangladesh delegation wave the national flag as they parade on a boat through River Seine during the opening ceremony of the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris yesterday. For the first time in Olympic history, the opening ceremony took place outside the main stadium, with some 300,000 people watching in person from specially built stands on the river banks, and another 200,000 from overlooking balconies and apartments.

'Sabotage' hits French trains hours before Olympics

One in four Paris-London Eurostar trains cancelled

REUTERS, Paris

Saboteurs struck France's TGV high-speed train network yesterday in a series of pre-dawn attacks across the country, causing travel chaos and exposing security gaps ahead of the Paris Olympics opening ceremony later in the day.

The coordinated sabotage took place as France mounted a massive security operation involving tens of thousands of police and soldiers to safeguard the capital for the sporting extravaganza, sucking in security resources from across the country.

SNCF, the state-owned railway operator, said vandals had damaged signal substations and cables along the lines connecting Paris with cities such as Lille in the north, Bordeaux in the west and Strasbourg in the east. Another attack on the Paris-Marseille line was foiled.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Two security sources said the modus operandi meant initial

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Wave of Israeli strikes hit Gaza's north, south

21 more Palestinians killed; WHO sends over 1m polio vaccines to enclave to protect children

AGENCIES

A new wave of air strikes by Israeli fighter jets yesterday targeted the Gaza Strip, including Khan Younis in the south, the Bureij refugee camp in the centre, and Gaza City in the north of the enclave.

Gaza health officials said Israeli military forces fired live rounds at an ambulance evacuating a wounded person in southern Khan Younis, where a deadly ground invasion by Israeli forces is expanding.

The armed wing of Palestinian Islamic Jihad said its fighters bombarded Israeli soldiers and vehicles stationed around the Rafah crossing in southern Gaza with mortar shells.

The group also said it engaged in fierce clashes with Israeli forces since Thursday night in the east of Khan Younis, using machine guns and anti-tank shells.

According to Gaza health officials, Israeli military strikes in the past 24 hours had killed at least 21 people, the latest casualties in an offensive that health authorities in the enclave say has killed at least 39,196 Palestinians.

The World Food Programme (WFP) has been forced to reduce rations for families in Gaza to ensure broader coverage for newly displaced people, it said yesterday.

"Food stocks and humanitarian supplies in central and southern Gaza are very limited

- WFP reduces rations for Gaza families to ensure coverage for newly displaced
- Australia, Canada, NZ urge Israel to protect Gaza civilians
- Death toll in enclave rises to 39,196

and barely any commercial supplies are going in," WFP added in a post on social media platform X.

The World Health Organization is sending more than one million polio vaccines to Gaza to be administered over the coming weeks to prevent children being infected after the virus was detected in sewage samples, its chief said yesterday.

Meanwhile, Australia, Canada, New Zealand urged Israel to protect civilians in Gaza. The three governments have issued a statement on the need for an urgent ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, saying "the situation in Gaza is catastrophic".

"The human suffering is unacceptable. It

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Humanity suffers from 'extreme heat epidemic'

Warns UN chief, calls for action to limit impacts of heat waves

AFP, United Nations

Humanity is suffering from an "extreme heat epidemic," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned Thursday, calling for action to limit the impacts of heat waves intensified by climate change.

"Billions of people are facing an extreme heat epidemic -- wilting under increasingly deadly heat waves, with temperatures topping 50 degrees Celsius around the world," he said. "That's 122 degrees Fahrenheit. And halfway to boiling."

According to the European Copernicus network, July 21, 22 and 23 were the three hottest days ever recorded worldwide, with July 22 holding the absolute record of 17.16 degrees Celsius (62.9 degrees Fahrenheit).

Guterres repeated his call for humanity to fight its "addiction" to fossil fuels.

"Today, our focus is on the impact of extreme heat. But let's not forget that there are many other devastating symptoms of the climate crisis: ever more fierce hurricanes. Floods. Droughts. Wildfires. Rising sea levels. And the list goes on," he said.

"To tackle all these symptoms, we need to fight the disease. And the disease is the madness of incinerating our only home. The disease is the addiction to fossil fuels."



Antonio Guterres

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COVERING DEMO Investigate killings of 3 journo CPJ urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) yesterday called on Bangladesh authorities to investigate the killings of three journalists and other attacks on reporters covering deadly nationwide protests over government job quotas.

"CPJ is deeply disturbed by the killing of journalists Hasan Mehedi, Md Shakil Hossain, and Abu Taher Md Turab while they were reporting on the quota protests in Bangladesh," said CPJ Asia Programme Coordinator Beh Lih Yi, according to a report on its website.

"The Bangladesh government must hold to account those responsible for all assaults on journalists and fully restore internet and phone services to allow the free flow of information needed to cover matters of public interest," Yi added.

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Lanka to hold presidential polls Sept 21

REUTERS, Colombo

Sri Lanka will hold presidential elections on September 21, a government notice said yesterday, setting the date for a crucial vote expected to determine the future of reforms in the South Asian nation weathering its worst financial crisis in decades.

Nominations for the election have to be submitted on August 15, with incumbent President Ranil Wickremesinghe becoming the first candidate to do so by paying a non-refundable deposit to the election commission, his office said.

Wickremesinghe, 75, took office in July 2022 after widespread protests caused by the debilitating financial crisis forced his predecessor Gotabaya Rajapaksa to flee the country and later resign.

Parliament elected Wickremesinghe to serve out the rest of the five-year term vacated by Rajapaksa who was elected in November 2019.



Children playing in the capital's Ramna Park during the curfew break yesterday. With schools closed and slow internet connection amid the curfew, children are left with little to do. The photo was taken around 3:30pm.



Ancient secrets unearthed in vast Turkish cave city

AFP, Midyat

Through a basement door in southeastern Turkey lies a sprawling underground city -- perhaps the country's largest -- which one historian believes dates back to the ninth century before Jesus Christ.

Archaeologists stumbled upon the city-under-a-city "almost by chance" after an excavation of house cellars in Midyat, near the Syrian border, led to the discovery of a vast labyrinth of caves in 2020.

Workers have already cleared more than 50 subterranean rooms, all connected by 120 metres of tunnel carved out of the rock.

But that is only a fraction of the site's estimated 900,000 square-metre area, which would make it the largest underground city in Turkey's southern Anatolia region.