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Nationwide crackdown, arrests go on

552 more held taking total number of arrestees to 8,914 in 11 days

STAR REPORT

At least 552 more people were arrested in the capital and elsewhere in the 36 hours till 6:00pm yesterday as the nationwide crackdown against protesters and opposition parties continues.

They were arrested in cases filed over the recent violence across the country.

Some 8,914 people, including many BNP and Jamaat leaders, have been arrested in 594 cases in 46 districts, including Dhaka, over the last 11 days since July 18.

Of them, 6,150 people were held outside the capital.

So far, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police has arrested 2,764 people in 229 cases filed with different police stations over violence, vandalism, and arson, said DMP sources.

Of them, 228 were arrested yesterday in 22 fresh cases, it added.

According to court documents, 95 people, including several BNP and Jamaat leaders, were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka yesterday.

Between 6:00am Saturday and 6:00pm yesterday, police arrested 309 people in 34 districts.

Of them, 50 were arrested in Chattogram, 26 in Rangpur, 25 in Narayanganj, 24 in Pabna, 20 in Rajshahi,

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Japan's Coco Yoshizawa celebrates winning the women's street skateboarding final during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games at La Concorde in Paris yesterday. The 14-year-old led a trio of teens on the podium in front of a sellout crowd at the La Concorde venue. Her compatriot Liz Akama took silver, while Brazil's Rayssa Leal claimed bronze.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Stars turn out in droves as Biles dazzles

AGENCIES

Tom Cruise, Lady Gaga, John Legend, Ariana Grande, and Vogue editor-in-chief Anna Wintour were among the celebrities packed into Bercy Arena on Sunday to witness the return of Simone Biles to the Olympic gymnastics stage for the qualifying round.

Biles, the most decorated gymnast in history, is back for her third Games after withdrawing from most of her events at the Tokyo Games in 2021 with mental health issues.

"It's awesome," Cruise told Reuters in the stands at the Arena.

"Great stories, great athletes. It's incredible what they do."

Legend and wife Chrissy Teigen said there was nowhere they would rather be.

"This was on our bucket list. We wanted to make sure we came to this event," he told Reuters.

"They represent the best

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Hasnatul's remand order scrapped

HC says govt can consider keeping him in parents' custody



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday said the government can consider keeping Hasnatul Islam Faiyaz, 17, a first-year HSC student of Dhaka College, who was placed on a seven-day remand, in his parents' custody.

A Dhaka court on Saturday placed him on remand in a case filed with Jatrabari Police Station over clashes and vandalism.

The same court yesterday scrapped the

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Mobile internet back without social media

Users get 5GB data for three days as compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mobile internet, used by about 14 crore people, resumed yesterday after more than ten days but popular social media platforms Facebook, TikTok, WhatsApp and YouTube would be unavailable.

As compensation, subscribers would be given a 5GB data pack for three days, as per the decision taken at a meeting yesterday at the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission headquarters with the mobile operators.

Zunaid Ahmed Palak, the state minister for ICT and telecom, presided over the meeting, where officials of different government agencies were present.

Asked when Facebook and YouTube will be back, Palak said: "Letters have been sent to the social media companies Facebook, YouTube and TikTok and they have been asked to respond to person on July 31."

In the last month, the government asked the platforms to take down fake news, propaganda, and rumours, he said at a press briefing after the meeting.

"But the number of pieces of content they have taken down and the number of platforms they have blocked are very meagre -- this is not acceptable to us. We have asked them if they want to use cyberspace in accordance with the laws and constitution of Bangladesh, as well as their community standards."

As many as 50 pages that support the Bangladesh

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Wider ME war fear grows after Golan strike

Tel Aviv vows to 'hit the enemy hard' after rocket from Lebanon kills 12 in the Israeli-occupied territory

AGENCIES

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant yesterday vowed to "hit the enemy hard" after rocket fire from Lebanon killed 12 young people in the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights and again raised fears that the war in Gaza will spread.

Iran warned Israel any new military "adventures" in Lebanon could lead to "unforeseen consequences". Western powers, including France and Germany, condemned the attack and appealed for calm.

The European Union called for an independent probe into what happened.

Israel's army called it "the deadliest attack on Israeli civilians" since the October 7 attack that began the war in Gaza and triggered regular exchanges of fire across the Lebanese border.

Israel blamed Lebanon's Hezbollah movement for firing a Falaq-1 Iranian rocket but the Iran-backed group -- which has regularly targeted Israeli military positions -- said it had "no connection" to the incident.

It said, however, that it had fired one such

rocket on Saturday toward an Israeli military target in the Golan.

The rocket fire in Majdal Shams, whose population are Arabic-speaking Druze, prompted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to return early from the United States. Upon arrival he went immediately into a security cabinet meeting, his office said.

He said "Hezbollah will pay a heavy price" for the attack, "a price it has not paid before."

The Israeli foreign ministry said Hezbollah had "crossed all red lines".

Israel's military said it had hit Hezbollah targets "both deep inside Lebanese territory and in southern Lebanon".

An Israeli drone fired two missiles at Taraiyya village in eastern Lebanon destroying a hanger and a home without causing casualties, a Lebanese security source told AFP.

Hezbollah has said its cross-border fire is an act of support for Palestinian Islamists from Hamas who have been fighting Israel's military in Gaza since October 7.

- » Hezbollah movement denies involvement
- » Iran warns Israel against Lebanon 'adventures'
- » Israeli military hits targets 'deep inside Lebanese territory'
- » 66 more killed in Gaza

4 of a family found dead in B'baria home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Police recovered the bodies of all four members of a family from their house in Nabinagar upazila of Brahmanbaria yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Sohag Mia, 33, his wife Jannat Akhter, 25, and their daughters Faria Akhter, 4, and Fahima Akhter, 2.

All four were found hanging inside the home, said Nabinagar Circle Additional Superintendent of Police Md Sirajul Islam.

"Police recovered the bodies from their house in Bijoypara area around 10:30am after being informed by locals. The exact cause of their deaths could not be ascertained immediately."

Describing the deaths as mysterious, he said police are trying to find the reason behind the incident.

The bodies were sent to Brahmanbaria General Hospital mortuary for autopsy, he added.



Congestion on Airport Road in the capital's Kakoli yesterday morning during the break in curfew. In the absence of metro services, the elevated expressway, and trains, some of the roads in the city are seeing additional load of traffic.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Concentrated fruit juice may cause diabetes in boys

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Drinking sugary beverages and concentrated fruit juices in childhood and adolescence may raise the risk of diabetes in boys, a new study has found.

The study of about 500 children in Massachusetts, United States, found that regular consumption of sugary drinks and concentrated fruit juices in childhood is tied to a higher risk of developing Type 2 diabetes among boys compared to girls.

These findings, presented at a recent American Heart Association conference, bolster evidence of a link between consumption of beverages with added sugar and the long-term risk of Type 2 diabetes in young people.

Healthcare professionals "should caution young patients and their parents about sugary drinks and fruit juices when discussing healthy eating habits", Soren Harnois-Leblanc, lead author of the study, said.

Two out of three children and adolescents in America consume at least one sugary drink like soda, lemonade or an energy drink every day.

Studies show that overconsuming sugary drinks can not only lead to weight gain and tooth decay but also raise the risk of developing heart disease, high blood pressure, and Type 2 diabetes.

