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## Quader now says no shoot-on-sight order was issued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said the directive to "shoot on sight was misinterpreted", and that the order was not given to law enforcers.

He said this while speaking at a press briefing at the party president's Dhanmondi office.

However, he did not clarify who was misinterpreting the order.

On July 20, Quader announced the government's decision to impose nationwide curfew and deploy armed forces.

He also mentioned at the time "shoot-on-sight" order while talking to journalists at a meeting of the AL-led 14-party alliance at the Gono Bhavan.

He, however, did not say who gave the order and to whom.

Hours after that announcement, the home ministry issued a gazette notification imposing a nationwide curfew and deploying armed forces to assist the civil administration in ensuring national security and protecting lives and properties.

But the government did not issue any gazette notification regarding the "shoot-on-sight" order.

The Daily Star yesterday looked into the websites of the home ministry and BG Press, but found no such gazette notification there.

Yesterday, Mohammad Ali Arafat, state minister for

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Rickshaws waded through a waterlogged street in Chattogram city's Muradpur around noon yesterday after downpours inundated parts of the city. A truck is stranded after it broke down on the flooded street. The port city experiences waterlogging during monsoon every year due to poor drainage.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## QUOTA PROTEST Another dies from pellet wounds

Death toll rises to 201

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One more person, who suffered shotgun pellet wounds during the recent clashes centring the quota protests, died at Popular Hospital in the capital's Dhanmondi area yesterday.

Selim Talukder, 31, a factory worker in Narayanganj, was shot in the Rampura area on July 18.

According to his family, Selim was on his way to the office from his residence in the capital's Middle Badda when he was caught up in a clash between the police and protesters.

Selim's sister said that her brother suffered at least 56 pellet wounds in his chest and 18 in his head and underwent treatment in the intensive care unit of a private hospital for 14 days.

With this, at least 201 lives have now been lost since July 16 in clashes centring the protesting seeking

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### QUOTA REFORM MOVEMENT

## Free all detainees within 24 hours

Demands eminent citizens' platform

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All the detainees, particularly the students who staged quota reform protests, must be released within 24 hours, a group of eminent citizens demanded yesterday afternoon.

Speaking at a human chain, they said although the six coordinators of the quota reform movement have been released, many people, including students, teachers and ordinary citizens, are still in police custody.

The programme was organised under the banner of Aggrieved Citizens' Society in front of the office of the DMP's Detective Branch on Minto Road.

"The people of Bangladesh pay taxes. Using guns and bullets bought with taxpayers' money, police personnel shot people, including students," said Debapriya Bhattacharya, a distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

He demanded probes by international organisations like the United Nations into the recent killings of people, including students and children.

He said educational institutions must be reopened after the withdrawal of all law enforcement and security agency personnel from the campuses.

Prof Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University's law department said, "We want justice for the killings. We want those who ordered the killings to be brought to book."

He said three out of the six coordinators of the quota reform protests were tortured by a state agency before being picked up from a city

hospital. Those involved in their illegal detention should face abduction charges, he added.

Iftekhazzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, said all law enforcement agencies, including the DB, have "resorted to lying and cheating to deceive the people".



The repeated deception has fostered a belief among the law enforcers that they can act with impunity indefinitely, he said.

"Admit the truth that you have shot students indiscriminately, detained them without any cause, and wronged many, including students and teachers, depriving them of their rights."

Mentioning the arrest of a 16-year-old boy over the killing of Abu Sayed in Rangpur, Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), said, "Didn't we see how Abu Sayed was killed?"

She said students have been picked up by law

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### SAYED MURDER CASE

## 16-yr-old Alfi gets bail after 13 days in jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The 16-year-old boy, Alfi Shahriar Mahim, who was arrested in the murder case of Begum Rokeya University student Abu Sayed on July 18, got bail yesterday after languishing in jail for 13 days.

Mostafa Kamal, judge of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-1 of Rangpur, granted him bail after a short hearing, said Alfi's lawyer Jobaidul Islam.

The lawyer said the case, which was filed with Tajhat Police Station under Rangpur Metropolitan Police, was transferred to the children's court as the accused was underage. The hearing was scheduled to be held on August 4 after Alfi's father filed a bail petition on July 30, said the lawyer.

He added that the hearing was held yesterday as police took the step. Alfi's father Md Shahjalal confirmed that his son walked out of Rangpur Jail at 5:18pm.

On July 19, Alfi was produced before a Rangpur court that sent him to jail, said the lawyer.

Alfi, an HSC first-year student at Rangpur Police Lines School and College, is 16 years and 10 months old,



Alfi Shahriar Mahim

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## Israel claims killing Hamas military chief

Hamas neither confirms nor denies Deif's death; 35 more Palestinians killed in Gaza strikes

REUTERS, Jerusalem

The head of Hamas' military wing, Mohammed Deif, was killed in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza last month, the Israeli military said yesterday, a day after the group's political leader was assassinated in Tehran.

"The IDF (Israel Defence Forces) announces that on July 13th, 2024, IDF fighter jets struck in the area of Khan Yunis, and following an intelligence assessment, it can be confirmed that Mohammed Deif was eliminated in the strike," the military said.

Hamas neither confirmed nor denied the killing of Deif, but one official, Ezzat Rashaq, said any word on deaths of its leaders was its responsibility alone.

The Israeli announcement came as crowds gathered in the Iranian capital for the funeral procession of Hamas' leader Ismail Haniyeh.

Iran and Hamas have blamed Haniyeh's killing on Israel, which has neither denied nor confirmed a role in the assassination. It did however confirm it killed a senior commander of the Lebanese Hezbollah movement in Beirut on Tuesday.

Yesterday, Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri said Haniyeh's death would not weaken the group's fighters in Gaza.

But his death was the latest in a series

that has targeted the group's leaders. Haniyeh's deputy, Saleh al-Aroui, was killed in a drone strike in Beirut in January. In March, Israel said it had killed Marwan Issa, Deif's deputy.

But now on the 300th day of offensive in Gaza, hopes for a hostage deal and ceasefire have dimmed.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said that at least 39,480 Palestinians have been killed in the Israeli offensive. The toll includes 35 deaths in 24 hours, according to ministry figures.

Yesterday, the Israeli military said it struck against dozens of Hamas targets in Gaza, including fighters and infrastructure. At least 13 people had been killed in the Israeli bombardments across the enclave, Gaza medics said.

An Israeli missile that hit a vehicle at the entrance of Al-Maghazi district in central Gaza killed six people and five more were killed in a strike on a house in nearby Nusseirat, medics said, while an airstrike in Gaza City killed two others.

East of Al-Maghazi, residents said tanks were firing as they tried to push deeper into the area.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken yesterday reiterated appeals for an end to fighting. He said achieving peace "starts with a ceasefire" and called on "all parties" to "stop escalatory actions".



Mohammed Deif

### NATIONWIDE DRIVES

## Some 11,000 held in last 15 days

674 cases filed so far over violence during quota protests; Rizvi placed on remand

STAR REPORT

At least 179 more people were arrested in the capital and elsewhere in 36 hours till 6:00pm yesterday as the nationwide crackdown on alleged saboteurs as well as protesters and opposition parties continues.

Of them, 63 were arrested in the capital, and 116 in 27 districts, said police.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police produced those arrested in the capital before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka yesterday.

The court sent most of them to jail and placed some of the arrestees on remand.

According to the latest count, at least 10,947 people, including students, BNP, and Jamaat-Shibir leaders and activists, have been arrested in 674 cases filed in the capital and 51 districts over the last 15 days since July 18.

Several thousand named and several hundred thousand unnamed individuals have been accused in these cases.

The cases were filed, mostly by police, with different police stations over violence, vandalism, arson, and killings.

The country witnessed violence on an unprecedented scale after the peaceful demonstrations for quota reform turned deadly on July 15 when Chhatra League attacked the protesting students on different university campuses.

Among those arrested in 27 districts in the 36 hours till 6:00pm yesterday, 11 each were held in Khulna, Rajshahi, and Pabna; nine in

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Ecuador's Brian Pintado holds his country's flag after clinching the gold medal in the men's 20km race walk with a time of 1:18:55 at the Paris Olympics yesterday, marking Ecuador's second Olympic title in the event and only its fourth gold medal overall. Pintado, wearing a scarf given by his grandmother and a necklace depicting his son running beside him, dedicated his historic win to his family back home.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Spotlight on American sprint duo

AFP, Paris

Brash, brazen, brilliant. American sprint duo Noah Lyles and Sha'Carri Richardson will look to live up to their billing as Olympic 100m favourites when the track and field programme at the Paris Games starts on Friday.

The reigning world champions are the stars of a recently-released Netflix docuseries entitled "Sprint", giving an up-close and personal view into their lives on and off the track.

At the Stade de France — with those cameras still turning for season two — the debate will be whether Lyles, who won three golds at last year's Budapest world championships, can beat defending champion Marcell Jacobs of Italy and go on to be crowned as the rightful successor to sprint king Usain Bolt.

The other hot topic is

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