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## Fake freedom fighters to be brought to book

Says Adviser Farooq-e-Azam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Fake freedom fighters will be brought to book, said Liberation War Affairs Adviser Farooq-e-Azam yesterday.

"Those who became freedom fighters with fake certificates will be brought under the law. They have enjoyed state allowance for so long. They would be punished for defrauding the state," said Farooq-e-Azam, a freedom fighter.

He said this while addressing a meeting attended by Chattogram Metropolitan Police Commissioner Saiful Islam, Deputy Commissioner of Chattogram Abul Bashar and Mohammad

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At least 169 first graders and their parents formed a human chain in front of the office of the chief adviser on Minto Road yesterday afternoon. A High Court verdict cancelled their admission to Viqarunnisa Noon School and College recently. So they are now demanding that they be allowed to attend school. After around 30 minutes, the press secretary came out of the office, spoke to the parents and assured that he will raise the issue with the education ministry.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Two former AL MPs held, four more sued

Cases filed against hundreds of party men

STAR REPORT

Two former Awami League lawmakers were arrested yesterday, while cases were filed against at least four other ex-parliamentarians in separate incidents across Chattogram, Dhaka, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Cox's Bazar and Rangpur.

In Chattogram, Md Abdul Latif, the former Awami League lawmaker from Chattogram-II, was placed on a three-day remand by a court in connection with a case involving the shooting and injuring of a protester during the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement.

Chattogram's Metropolitan Magistrate Jewel Deb granted the remand after police presented Latif with a 10-day remand request.

Latif was arrested in the Baizid Bostami area early yesterday, said Fazlul Quader Patwari, officer-in-charge of Double Mooring Police Station.

The arrest followed a case filed by Md Ershad, accusing Latif and others of opening fire on protesters on August 4.

The former MP was allegedly hiding at a relative's house in Madarbari before being picked up by the army on August 10.

## UK shouldn't offer asylum to Hasina

Says British MP Rupa Huq

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh origin British MP Rupa Huq has said it would be unwise for the UK to give refuge to former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"As a British Bangladeshi MP, my inbox is a lightning rod for Bangladeshi issues worldwide. At the moment, pleading mails ask me to 'ban the butcher' and similar requests as it is rumoured London is her next destination," she wrote in an opinion column published by the Standard newspaper of UK on Friday.

"I personally think given the deep unpopularity of her bloodthirsty regime and political sensitivities around immigration, it'd be unwise for the UK to give refuge to such a high-profile asylum seeker who is subject of an International Criminal Court application," Huq opined.

Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana fled to India on August 5 following a mass upsurge that began as a peaceful movement just over a month back.

There were reports Hasina would be taking refuge in the UK where Rehana's daughter Tulip Siddiq is also a Labour Party MP.

In her opinion column, Rupa Huq wrote that the recent student unrest, where hundreds of unarmed minors were killed by police under a "shoot on sight" policy resembling that of stormtroopers, sparked protests by expatriates in Paris, Rome, Manchester, Trafalgar Square and Middle East.

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## DENGUE IN 2024

# August deadliest month so far

At least 18 dead; experts urge immediate action

HELEMUL ALAM

At least 18 dengue patients have died in the first 17 days of August, the highest monthly death toll in 2024 so far.

Meanwhile, 2,660 people have been admitted to hospitals during the same time, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

Last year, Bangladesh recorded its highest-ever dengue toll since the first outbreak in 2000, with 1,709 deaths and 3,21,179 cases.

Experts warn that the number of cases could rise further in September if immediate action is not taken.

Prof Kabirul Bashar, an entomologist at Jahangirnagar University, said inadequate response from local government bodies, and absence of any anti-mosquito drives during the recent political upheaval has contributed to the deteriorating dengue situation.

"Anti-mosquito drives across the country are not being conducted properly. Even in Dhaka, the efforts are insufficient," he said.

He urged for comprehensive measures to control the spread of the dengue virus nationwide.

Dr HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said the number of patients with dengue shock syndromes has increased recently.

He urged everyone to remain wary of dengue warning signs, as early intervention can reduce fatalities.

The World Health Organization introduced

the term "expanded dengue syndrome" in 2012 to describe patients exhibiting atypical symptoms in vital organ systems, such as the cardiovascular, neurological, renal, gastrointestinal, and hematological systems. Dr Nazmul pointed out that a large number of patients last year were admitted with dengue shock, a critical stage of the disease.

### DENGUE THIS YEAR

MONTH	DEATH	HOSPITALISED
August	18	2,660
July	12	2,669
June	8	798
May	12	644
April	2	504
March	5	311
February	3	339
January	14	1,055

"Many people do not realise they have symptoms and delay seeking medical attention, increasing their risk of developing shock syndrome," he said.

Shock syndrome in dengue patients can be categorised into two types: compensated shock and decompensated shock.

In compensated shock, blood pressure may appear low or normal, with a narrow pulse pressure of 20 or less.

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## Ustad Mihir Lala no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Ustad Mihir Lala, 83, the veteran singer of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, is no more.

He passed away at his residence in the port city at 7:30am today.

He is survived by his wife, Jayanti Lala, a celebrated artiste known for her performances in Nazrul Sangeet, as well as by their son and daughter. His death is deeply mourned by his family, friends, and numerous admirers.

Mihir Lala served as the principal of Arjya Sangeet Chattogram until his passing.

He was accorded state honours at the JM Sen Hall premises in the city, and his funeral took place at the Baluar Dighi Moha Shamsan in Chattogram.

Ustad Mihir Lala was born on January 4, 1941. Although he was born in Cox's Bazar, he grew up in Popadia village of Kanungopara at Boalkhali upazila in Chattogram.

Mihir Lala's deep passion for music blossomed early in his childhood. He began his musical journey under the guidance of



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## Uncertainty remains over metro resumption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Uncertainty looms over metro rail service resumption as a group of metro rail employees vowed to continue their work abstention until all six of their demands are met.

Metro rail authorities will meet the newly appointed adviser of the road transport and bridges ministry today to end the stalemate, said MAN Siddique, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd, said.

Once employees rejoin, metro rail operations can be resumed within five days, he told The Daily Star today.

Operations of metro rail have remained suspended since July 18 after two stations were vandalised during the quota reform protests, which later turned into an uprising that toppled the Hasina-led government on August 5.

On July 19, attackers vandalised two metro stations -- Mirpur-10 and Kazipara.

The government directed DMITCL on August 11 to complete necessary technical checks within seven days to resume services, without the two vandalised stations.

On the same day, the advisory council of the interim government decided to resume metro rail services on August 16.

But, DMITCL, in a press statement on August 15, said it would not be possible to resume metro rail operation as they could not start necessary technical checks due to an unavoidable situation.

Sources said the authorities failed to start the trial runs as around 700 of the DMITCL employees of grade 10 to 20 have been on work abstention since August 6 to press home their six-point demand, including pay hike.

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