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Cases against Hasina keep mounting

She is made accused in 2 more murder cases

STAR REPORT

The number of cases filed against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina has risen to 66, with two new cases filed in Gazipur and Rangpur yesterday.

The cases include 56 for murder, seven for crimes against humanity and genocide, two for abduction, and one for attack on the BNP procession.

In Gazipur, Hasina, along with Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader and 83 others, were sued over the death of one Manju Mia, 43, during a student protest in Borobar area on July 20.

Former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, former lawmaker Tipu Munshi, former minister Mashhur Rahman Ranga, Gazipur city Awami League President Azmat Ullah Khan were among the accused.

Insar Ali, the father of the deceased, filed the case with Gacha Police Station, accusing 500-700 unnamed individuals as well, Ziaul Islam, officer-in-charge of the police station, told our local correspondent.

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Bangladesh forward Asadul Mollah (L) celebrates his first-half goal against India during their SAFF U-20 Championship semifinal in Kathamandu, Nepal yesterday. Although the defending champions equalised in the second half, it was the boys in red and green who had the last laugh in the penalty shootout. PHOTO: BFF

Asif sends U-20s into SAFF final

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Having conceded the equaliser six minutes after coming off the bench, substitute goalkeeper Mohammad Asif made amends with two big saves as Bangladesh beat defending champions India 4-3 in penalty shootout in the second semifinal of the SAFF U-20 Championship in Nepal yesterday. The regulation time had yielded a 1-1 draw.

Bashundhara Kings' young goalkeeper Asif blocked Akash Tirkey's fifth shot with his outstretched right leg as Maruful Haque's charges burst into wild celebration at the ANFA Complex in Lalitpur.

The final save came after the young goalkeeper had saved the first shot from Thanglalsoun Gangte while Bangladesh's Pishah Ahmed Nova, Moinul Islam, Shakil Ahmed Topu and Ashrafur Haque had converted all four of their attempts.

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Niaz Ahmed Khan new DU VC

DU CORRESPONDENT

Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan has been appointed as the vice-chancellor of Dhaka University.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin, also the chancellor of the university, made the appointment, sources at the Bangabhaban confirmed The Daily Star yesterday.

He will replace Professor Dr ASM Maksud Kamal, who resigned from the post on August 10.

He was previously the pro-vice chancellor of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) and the former chairman of the Department of Development Studies at DU.

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SOUTHWEST PAKISTAN Over 70 killed in militant attacks

Baloch Liberation Army claims responsibility

REUTERS, Quetta

At least 73 people were killed in Pakistan's province of Balochistan when separatist militants attacked police stations, railway lines and highways and security forces launched retaliatory operations, officials said yesterday.

The assaults were the most widespread in years by ethnic militants fighting a decades-long insurgency to win secession of the resource-rich southwestern province, home to major China-led projects such as a port and a gold and copper mine.

"These attacks are a well thought-out plan to create anarchy in Pakistan," Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said in a statement.

The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) armed militant group took responsibility for the operation they called "Haruf" or "dark windy storm". In a statement to journalists they claimed more attacks over the last day that have not yet been confirmed by authorities.

Pakistan's military said 14 soldiers and police and 21 militants were killed in fighting after the largest of the attacks, which targeted buses and trucks on a major highway.

Balochistan's chief minister said 38 civilians were also killed. Local officials said 23 of them were killed in the roadside attack after armed men checked passengers' IDs before shooting many of them and torching vehicles.

"People were taken off buses and killed in front of their families," Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti said in a televised press conference.

Rail traffic with Quetta was suspended following blasts on a rail bridge linking the provincial capital to the rest of Pakistan. Militants also struck a rail link to neighbouring Iran, railways official Muhammad Kashif said.

Interim govt is on right track

Says Jamaat ameer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday said Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus's speech echoed the aspiration of the nation.

He said the interim government is on the right track. "Allah and the people will support him if they move forward this way."

The Jamaat chief came up with the remarks while talking to reporters at Dhaka Medical College Hospital after visiting students injured during the clashes between the students and Ansar members.

Shafiqur said, "The chief adviser gave a responsible speech, which was necessary at this moment. The nation needed to hear about hope. We think the speech echoed people's desire."

Regarding the movement of different quarters over their demands, Shafiqur said, "They [government] have just taken charge. Where have you [the protesters] been in the last 15 years? Since they have been patient then, we urge them to be patient for a little longer. Give them [the government] a chance to sort things out."

Israel orders fresh evacuation in Gaza

Displaced Palestinians flee Deir Al-Balah; truce talks in Cairo end without a deal

AGENCIES

Israel issued new evacuation orders for Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip early yesterday, forcing more families to flee, saying forces intended to act against Hamas and others operating in the area.

In recent days, Israel has issued several evacuation orders across Gaza, the most since the beginning of the 10-month offensive, prompting an outcry from Palestinians, the United Nations and relief officials over the reduction of humanitarian zones and the absence of safe areas.

The Deir Al-Balah municipality said Israeli evacuation orders have so far displaced 250,000 people.

Israeli military strikes killed at least seven Palestinians yesterday, medics said. Two were killed in Deir Al-Balah, where around a million people were sheltering, two at a school in the Al-Nuseirat camp and three in

the southern city of Rafah, near the border with Egypt.

The military campaign has killed at least 40,435 Palestinians in Gaza, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry yesterday.

The new orders forced many families and patients to leave Al-Aqsa Hospital, the main medical facility

in Deir Al-Balah, where hundreds of thousands of residents and displaced people had taken shelter, for fear of bombardments. The hospital is close to the area covered by the evacuation notice.

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said in a statement on X that an explosion approximately 250 metres away from the MSF-supported Al-Aqsa Hospital triggered panic, reports Reuters.

"As a result, MSF is considering whether to suspend wound care for the time being, while trying to maintain life-saving treatment."

- MSF considers suspending medical care at Al-Aqsa Hospital
- Israeli new evacuation orders so far displaced 250,000
- Death toll in Gaza rises to 40,435



Nazrul's 48th death anniversary today

STAR REPORT

The 48th death anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam will be observed in the country today in a befitting manner.

On August 27 (12 Bhadra of Bangla calendar year) in 1976, the poet breathed his last at the then PG Hospital, now Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital, in Dhaka.

The poet was buried with state honour beside the Dhaka University central mosque.

Kazi Nazrul was a poet, lyricist, musician, and philosopher.

Different political parties, socio-cultural and professional bodies have chalked out programmes to pay respect to the national poet.

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Ansarullah Bangla Team chief freed on bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Mufti Jashimuddin Rahmani, chief of the banned militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team, was released on bail from Kashimpur High Security Central Jail in Gazipur yesterday.

Rahmani walked out of the jail around 11:15am, said Deputy Jailer Rezaul Karim.

He was sentenced to five years in jail in 2015 for inciting blogger Ahmed Rajib Haider's murder through his sermons.

Deputy Jailer Md Farhad Sarkar said there were four cases against Rahmani, and he got bail in all of them.

"He [Rahmani] was released as there was no

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Several hundred rickshaw pullers blocked Shahbagh for around two hours from 10:00am yesterday, halting traffic at this busy intersection in the capital. They were demanding that battery-operated rickshaws be banned from main roads and restricted to feeder roads. They left Shahbagh around noon on assurances from police and army personnel. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Russia fires 200 missiles, drones at Ukraine

5 killed; energy facilities hit

REUTERS, Kyiv

Russia launched about 200 missiles and drones at Ukraine yesterday, killing five people and striking energy facilities nationwide, Kyiv said, while neighbouring Nato member Poland reported a drone had probably entered its airspace.

Power cuts and water supply outages were reported in many areas, including parts of Kyiv, as officials said the attack - 2-1/2 years into Russia's full-scale invasion - targeted power or other critical infrastructure in at least 10 regions.

Russia dramatically stepped up its strikes on the Ukrainian power grid in March in what Kyiv has said looked like a concerted effort to degrade the system ahead of next winter when people need electricity and heating most.

Yesterday's missile and drone salvo was Russia's most intense in weeks, coming as Ukraine is claiming new ground in a major cross-border incursion into Russia's southern Kursk region while Russian forces steadily inch forward in Ukraine's east, closing in on the transport hub of Pokrovsk.

"It was one of the biggest combined strikes. More than a hundred missiles of various types and about a hundred Shahed drones. And like most previous Russian strikes, this one is just as sneaky, targeting critical civilian infrastructure," President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Telegram.