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GAZI TYRE FACTORY FIRE Excessive heat, risky structure delay rescue op

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

After a 32-hour battle, firefighters put out the massive blaze at Gazi Auto Tyres Factory in Narayanganj's Rupganj early yesterday.

They, however, could not enter the six-storey building due to extreme heat and the precarious state of the fire-ravaged structure.

They were uncertain about the start of the rescue operation as small fires continued to flare up since yesterday afternoon due to intense heat. Parts of the ceiling and walls of the building collapsed.

Meanwhile, a group of students visited the factory site in Rupshi area yesterday and compiled a list of 126 people reported missing by their families since Sunday night when the factory, owned by former Awami League minister Golam Dastagir Gazi, was set on fire by arsonists.

Md Alauddin, deputy assistant director of the Fire Service and Civil Defence, said they doused the blaze around 5:00am yesterday, but small fires flared up at some places due to intense heat.

"We are still trying to extinguish the

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As boats are hard to come by, volunteers pile up supplies on a boat in Dadurpol Kitchen Market area of Feni town yesterday and try to take the vessel to hard-to-reach areas where flood victims need relief materials.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Reject writ petition for banning AL Attorney general requests HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman yesterday implored the High Court to reject the writ petition that sought its order on the government to ban Bangladesh Awami League as a political party and cancel its registration.

"The current interim government believes in the freedom of association that's enshrined in the constitution of Bangladesh and does not intend to ban any political parties.

"People involved in the previous authoritarian regime who are guilty of wrongdoings can be tried in court, but it's not right to ban any political party based on the actions of its members," AG Asaduzzaman said.

He went on to say that the Awami League still has many good leaders and workers who believe in and practice party ideology.

The attorney general presented his arguments before the HC bench of Justices AKM Asaduzzaman and Muhammad Mahub UI

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RAKHINE STATE Dhaka should engage with Arakan Army

Suggests Int'l Crisis Group

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

As the Arakan Army is on the verge of expelling the Myanmar military in the Rakhine State, Bangladesh needs to expand the scope of its engagement with the rebel group, said the International Crisis Group (ICG) yesterday.

"After restarting its fight for Rakhine State in late 2023, the Arakan Army is in the process of carving out a proto-state of over a million people on the Myanmar-Bangladesh border," said the Brussels-based global think tank in a report.

Although the Myanmar military has countered with indiscriminate attacks and a blockade that is causing huge economic distress, the AA has pushed on, reaching northern townships where it is alleged to have attacked Muslim Rohingya civilians, it added.

Formed in the borderlands of China, the AA is responsible for some of the military junta's most decisive battleground losses over the past year.

The victories are rallying other ethnic armed groups and pro-democracy fighters to dislodge the military regime, which took control of the country by a coup against the National League of Democracy in February 2021.

The NLD leaders formed the National Unity Government (NUG) with the armed group Peoples' Democratic Force (PDF). Along with dozens of other ethnic armed groups, they have been fighting the military and now control large swathes of Myanmar.

Bangladesh's relationship with Myanmar remains sore because of the Rohingyas who fled to Bangladesh in



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SCRAPPING OF CARETAKER GOVT Petition filed for reviewing SC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A petition was filed with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday seeking review of its verdict that scrapped the nonparty caretaker government system in May 2011.

Lawyers Sharif Bhuiyan and Tanim Hussain Shawon submitted the review petition on behalf of five eminent citizens, including Badiul Alam Majumdar, secretary of Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik, citing some 14 grounds for reconsideration of the apex court's judgement.

"We have submitted the review petition against the Appellate Division verdict that revoked the constitution's 13th amendment. We will present the petition before a full bench of this court once it reconvenes after the annual vacation," lawyer Sharif told The Daily Star yesterday.

The Appellate and High Court divisions of the SC is scheduled to go into an annual vacation on September 6. They will reopen on October 20.

Citing the review petition, Sharif said the caretaker government

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GAZA STRIP No place for displaced as fighting rages

Israeli strikes kill 22; Israeli
hostage rescued after 10 months

AGENCIES

Palestinians displaced by fighting in the Gaza Strip crowded onto the seashore as Israeli forces continued to battle Hamas fighters in central and southern areas, with health officials reporting at least 22 people killed in strikes yesterday.

Ceasefire talks were continuing in Cairo with little sign of a concrete breakthrough over key issues separating the sides, including future control over two corridors in the Gaza Strip once fighting ends.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military yesterday said it rescued an Israeli hostage in Gaza.

Kaid Farhan Alkadi, a 52-year-old Israeli Bedouin, was among the 251 people abducted by Hamas on October 7 last year.

"Alkadi was rescued... in a complex operation in the southern Gaza Strip," the statement said, adding that he was in a stable condition and being transferred to a hospital for a medical check-up.

Hostage rescues are rare, but Israeli forces have so far rescued alive eight captives since the ground military campaign in Gaza began on October 27. Seven hostages have been freed since a week-long truce ended in November.

- Few signs of progress in Cairo peace talks
- UN says movement of aid, aid workers in Gaza halted
- Gaza death toll hits 40,476

PROBING RECENT ABUSES Seek resolution at UNHRC session to set up mechanism HRW urges interim govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human Rights Watch has called on the interim government to seek a resolution at the upcoming session of UNHRC to establish an independent mechanism to investigate and pursue accountability for recent grave abuses in Bangladesh.

The 57th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council is set to begin on September 9, 2024.

In a letter to Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus and other interim government officials, HRW emphasised the need for ensuring ongoing monitoring of Bangladesh's human rights situation by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and for regular reporting to the council.

The interim government should also work with OHCHR and relevant UN experts to set up an independent domestic inquiry into enforced disappearances, torture, and extrajudicial killings during former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's 15-year administration, Human Rights Watch said in the letter released on Monday.

This domestic mechanism should operate with UN support and oversight to ensure its independence and adherence to international human rights standards.

"Following Sheikh Hasina's resignation amid mass protests, Bangladesh's interim government has the heavy

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Palestinians evacuate injured children at the site of an Israeli strike that destroyed several houses in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Murder case filed against ex-speaker Shirin

Tipu Munshi also sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Former Jatiya Sangsad speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, former commerce minister Tipu Munshi and 15 others were



accused yesterday in a case filed over the murder of a goldsmith in Rangpur during a mass protest on July 19.

The other accused include former lawmaker from the women's reserved seat for Rangpur Nachima Zaman Bobby, former Rangpur-2 MP Abul Kalam Md Ahsanul Haque Chowdhury,

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Two girls found dead 3 days after going missing

Doctor suspects
murder after rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Brahmanbaria

The bodies of two female students, presumed to have been killed after rape, were recovered in Brahmanbaria yesterday, three days after they went missing.

Naima Akther, 13, of Kalisima village under Brahmanbaria Sadar, and Maimuna Akhter, 15, of Uttarpara village, were resident students of Mayna Begum Islamia Hafizia Mahila Madrasa in the area.

Police said they went missing on Saturday night and the madrasa authorities informed their families of the matter.

The madrasa authorities and

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Hasan Mahmud, Nowfel, S Alam, sued for murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A murder case was filed yesterday against former foreign minister Hasan Mahmud, S Alam Group Chairman Mohammed Saiful Alam, former principal secretary to the Prime Minister's Office Tofazzal Hossain Mia and 270 others.

Nazim Uddin, office secretary of the Chattogram district (north) unit of Jubo Dal, the youth wing of the BNP, filed the case with Chattogram Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court.

The court ordered the Rangunia Police Station to register the case, said plaintiff's lawyer Ashraf Hossain.

The case accuses 270 named persons and 150 unnamed.

The other accused are former

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Hasina faces 5 more cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina was accused in five more cases yesterday.

Four of the cases were filed in Dhaka over the killing of four people during the recent student-led movement, while another was filed in Rajshahi over the abduction and torture of a BNP leader in 2023.

With this, Hasina is now facing 71 cases, including 60 for murder, seven for crimes against humanity and genocide, three for abduction, and one for attack on a BNP procession.

Hasina and 48 others were sued for the killing of one Dulal alias Selim in the city's Jatrabari area on August 3.

The victim's brother Mostafa Kamal filed the case with the court of Dhaka Metropolitan

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