

AUG 21 ATTACK
HC launches
fresh hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday started a fresh hearing on the death references and appeals of the August 21 grenade attack cases.

The cases were filed following grenade attacks on an Awami League rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in Dhaka that claimed 24 lives and left about 300 injured.

Then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina, who later ran the country for 15 years as prime minister and was forced to resign and flee on August 5 this year following a mass uprising, narrowly escaped the attack on August 21, 2004.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice Syed Enayet Hossain began the hearing with Deputy Attorney General Md Jasim Sarker and Assistant Attorney General Laboni Akter reading out from the paper books, which contain all the details -- trial proceedings, statements, evidence, verdicts and

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Liquid waste from a factory pours out of this pipe and into the Buriganga river. Considered the lifeline of the capital, Buriganga continues to suffer due to encroachment and waste dumping. The photo was taken in the Shyampur area recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

DENGUE OUTBREAK
DMCH providing
treatment to critical
patients only

HELEMUL ALAM

Kamrul Hasan, 42, a resident of Narayanganj, is undergoing treatment at the dengue ward of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Kamrul, who was admitted to the hospital in critical condition, got treatment at the ICU for five days and was later shifted to the ward.

"I was having breathing problems even," he said.

Although Kamrul is now in better health, he said he does not know when the doctor will release him, as he is not feeling totally well yet.

Mohamamad Shanto, a resident of Rupganj who has been undergoing treatment at the DMCH for the last four days, said he was admitted to the hospital with abdominal pain, body pain, nausea, loose motion, and fever.

"Now I am doing a bit better," said Shanto on Tuesday. Amid the ongoing pressure of dengue patients, DMCH has started admitting only critical patients from this week to reduce pressure on the hospital, said doctors and nurses.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), a total of seven patients died while 1,243 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours till yesterday.

With this, the death toll has reached 297 this year, and the number of total infected has reached 61,817.

Among the deaths and cases, the highest 57 patients died in DMCH, while a total of 2,401 patients were treated in the hospital till yesterday.

Currently, 114 dengue patients are undergoing treatment in the hospital.

"We are now admitting only the critical patients and referring the rest to the Dhaka North City Corporation Covid-19 hospital from this week," said Sharmin Akter Sweetey, honorary medical officer of the DMCH dengue ward.

She said the DNCC Covid-19 hospital is now dedicated to treating dengue, so they are referring the comparatively stable patients there.

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17,264 firearm
licences issued
during AL regime

Says PHQ official; home ministry to
return firearms to civilians after
analysing applications

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

In the last 15 years, during the tenure of the Awami League (AL) government, a total of 17,264 firearms licenses were issued.

Many of these firearms were seen used by the AL party leaders against unarmed students and people during the anti-discrimination movement in July and August.

A high official at the Police Headquarters (PHQ) told this to The Daily Star last night.

After the interim government was formed on August 8, following the ouster of Sheikh Hasina on August 5, a notification was issued from the home ministry to suspend licenses of firearms issued to civilians between January 6, 2009, and August 5, 2024, during the AL regime.

The government then asked the civilians to deposit the firearms by September 3, but only 13,349 firearms were deposited, according to PHQ sources.

The government on September 4 started a joint drive conducted by the

armed forces, border guards, coast guards, police, Rab, and Ansar to recover the 3,915 remaining firearms.

Meanwhile, the ministry on Monday formed a committee to return the firearms to civilians, which were deposited last September.

The committee, chaired by the District Magistrate, includes two members and a member secretary.

The district superintendent of police (SP) and a deputy director of National Security Intelligence (NSI) will act as members of the committee, while the additional district magistrate will be the member secretary, said the notification signed by Israt Jahan, deputy secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs' Public Security Division.

Based on a notification from the Public Security Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs dated August 25, the committee will verify and decide on applications for the return of firearms acquired for personal security that have been

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JULY KILLINGS
ICT sends
ex-addl SP
Shahidul to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday sent former additional superintendent of police (Savar Circle) Shahidul Islam to jail for crimes against humanity over the July-August massacre.

The three-judge panel of the ICT led by Justice Golam Mortuza Mozumder passed the order as police produced him before the court and the prosecution pleaded to show him arrested.

Shahidul is the second to be sent to jail in such a case.

Chief Prosecutor Muhammad Tajul Islam made the plea before the court, while prosecutors Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim, BM Sultan Mahmud, and Abdullah Al Noman were present.

After the hearing, Tajul told reporters that the court had issued arrest warrants for 17 police officers on October 27.

"A student named Asadul Yamin, who was shot and unconscious, was brutally thrown from an Armored Personnel Carrier. Additionally, there were incidents in Savar involving the deaths of more than a 100, or nearly 200 people, and many others were shot. He [Shahidul] was the officer in charge at that time."

Shahidul was arrested in Teknaf on Wednesday.

200 women, girls
faced violence in
October: BMP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 200 girls and women suffered various forms of violence in October of this year, according to Bangladesh Mahila Parishad's monthly media monitoring report.

The report titled, "Statistics of Violence against Women and Girl Child: October 2024", was based on reports published in 13 daily newspapers.

The statistics shows 44 women, including 30 girls, were raped, while 9 women, including 7 girls, narrowly escaped attempts of rape.

Eight victims, including two girls, fell prey to gang rape. One girl also lost her life after an incident of rape.

Additionally, nine women, including seven girls, faced sexual assault, while four women and girls encountered sexual harassment.

Two women were also victims of acid attacks and one of them died following the incident. Six women were also tortured in dowry-related incidents, resulting in four fatalities.

In separate incidents, ten women faced physical violence. Three domestic helps endured torture resulting in one fatality.

Fifty women, including four girls, were murdered for various reasons, and two narrowly escaped murder attempts.

Fourteen women, including six girls, died by suicide. Additionally, 18 women, including five girls, died under mysterious circumstances.

Additionally, six women, including four girls, were abducted and two encountered cyber violence.

SEDITION CASE
Trial against Tarique
Rahman scrapped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday scrapped the trial proceedings of a sedition case against BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman, ETV chairman Abdus Salam and its former journalists Mahathir Farooki Khan and Kanak Sarwar.

The HC bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice Syed Enayet Hossain delivered the verdict after hearing a petition filed by Abdus Salam.

The case was filed with Tejgaon Police Station against Tarique, Salam, Mahathir, Kanak and several other unknown persons on charges of broadcasting a "false, fabricated, and provocative" speech given by BNP leader Tarique on January 5, 2015.

Meanwhile, the HC bench yesterday quashed another violence case against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, following a petition filed by her in 2017.

The case was filed with Darus Salam Police Station during a political movement against Hasina-led government in 2015.

Travel ban on ex-
MPs Habib, Nurul

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued separate travel bans on former lawmakers Mohammad Habib Hasan and Nurul Islam Talukder, Union Bank managing director ABM Mokammel Hoque Chowdhury, Taxes Appellate Tribunal's former member Ranjit Kumar Talukder and four others in connection with corruption allegations.

The other four are Habib's wife Shamima Habib, son Abeer Hasan Tanim and daughter Sonia Hasan Tonni, and Ranjit's wife Jhumur Majumder.

Judge (in charge) Mohammed Ibrahim Mia of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court in Dhaka passed the orders after the ACC officials submitted four separate applications, an ACC official working in the court told The Daily Star.

ACC prosecutors, including Mahmud Hossain Jahangir, moved the petitions, he said.

HELD IN AUSTRALIA
Bangladesh to
repatriate 97
nationals

DIPLOMATIC
CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will soon repatriate 97 Bangladeshis detained in Australia for attempting to enter the Pacific country without visa, Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said yesterday.

"The irregular migrants detained in Australia are sheltered at an Australian island," he told media after a meeting with Australian Home Minister Tony Burke at the Bangladesh Secretariat.

The Australian minister, who is leading a delegation to Bangladesh, yesterday called on Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain and Home Adviser Jahangir Alam Chowdhury.

The two countries also signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen maritime security and safety.

According to a home

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Dhaka's waste
disposal still not
up to the mark

Rizwana tells dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan yesterday highlighted Dhaka's waste management did not improve even after 53 years of independence.

Speaking at an event, titled "Youth Leading Climate and Local Action for Cities," held at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka on the occasion of World Cities Day 2024, Rizwana called for a renewed focus on urban management.

"Our current systems are still not up to the mark. We need a concerted effort from all stakeholders, particularly our youth, to bring about meaningful change," she said.

Chaired by Chandan Z. Gomez, senior director of World Vision Bangladesh, the event encouraged youth participation in urban sustainability initiatives.

Rizwana also stressed the need for more recreational spaces for children, connecting this to the broader issue of urban planning.

"Building liveable cities goes beyond just waste management; it encompasses the well-being of our future generations," she added.

The dialogue aimed to inspire young leaders to take active roles in improving Dhaka's sustainability, with the adviser expressing confidence that youth, supported by government initiatives, can drive the necessary transformations.

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A farmer ploughs his land early in the morning in preparation for planting winter vegetables likes radish, turnip and spinach. While his son helps him to pull the plough, his granddaughter sits on it and enjoys the ride. The photo was taken in the Kamalganj area of Moulvibazar yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR