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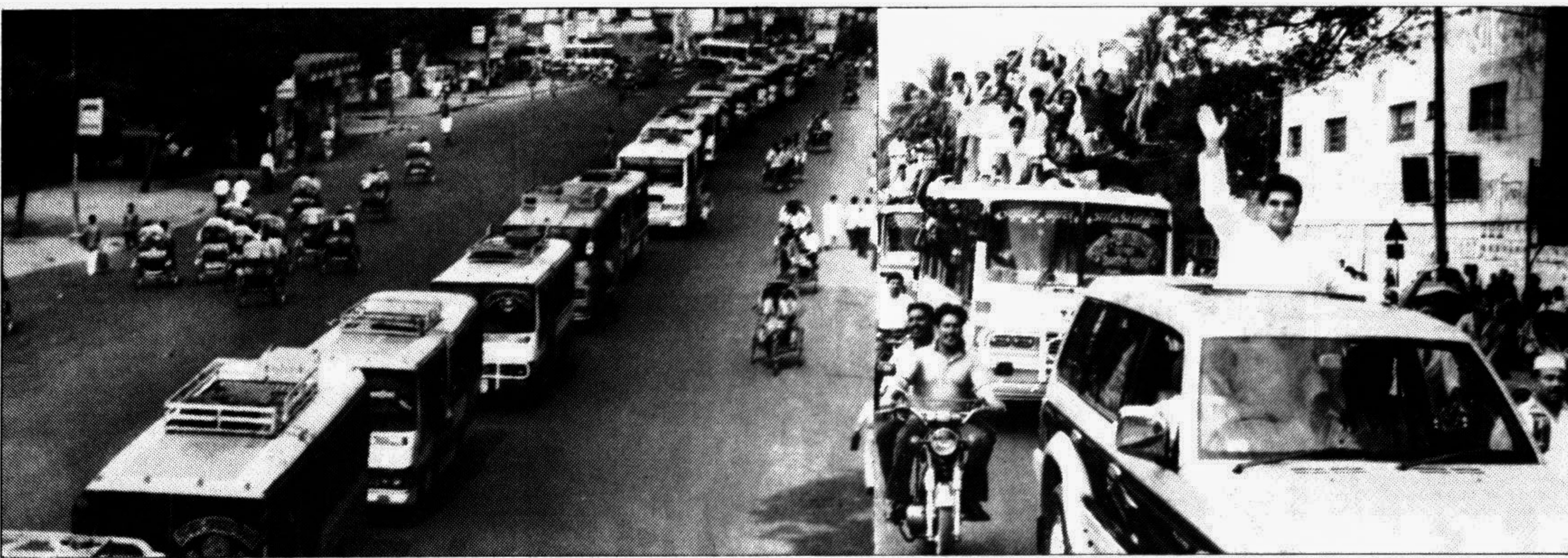
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AL to observe Shokrana Dibas Friday

Awami League will observe Shokrana Dibas (gratitude day) on Friday as the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman have been awarded capital punishment, reports UNB.

BGMEA appeal to Hasina, Khaleda

BGMEA has appealed to the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition to sit across the table to solve the political crisis which it said already endangered the country's export-oriented garment industry, reports UNB.



A SHOW INDEED: A view of the motor rally brought out by Awami League MP Dr HBM Iqbal in the city during hartal hours yesterday, and (right) the physician-turned-lawmaker waves while leading the rally in a jeep.

Post-flood rehab ordn House rejects motion seeking disapproval

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday rejected an opposition motion seeking disapproval of the Presidential ordinance that recently imposed additional surcharges and duties on some services and imports.

The House rejected the Opposition resolution by voice vote. Arguing in favour of imposition of duties and surcharges, the minister also said: It is only natural that the foreigners, who have come forward to help us after the flood, would like to see that we are also trying to mobilise domestic resources for the rehabilitation programmes.

With the BNP calling hartal across the country, its lawmakers did not enter the House yesterday. Jatiya Party legislator Rustam Ali Farazi opposed the ordinance but the Sangsad rejected his arguments by voice vote.

The JP legislator said that the recent devastating floods had affected all sections of the people. The fresh taxes and duties have appeared to be an additional burden to the flood-affected people.

He further argued that imposition of taxes by Presidential ordinance had amounted to undermining the parliament. Approval of the ordinance would only mean this parliament is a rubber stamp.

Replying to his contention, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khairuddin argued that the President had promulgated the ordinance absolutely within the ambit of his constitutional power. Quoting certain provisions of the Constitution, he said: When the President duly promulgates an ordinance, it enjoys the strength of a law enacted by parliament.

Hartals aim to shield

They should rather resist such programmes," she said and called upon the BNP chief to withdraw the current hartal and not to side with the killers.

Thanking the Thal authorities for deporting one of the 15 killers, Major (ret'd) Bazul Huda, the prime minister also sought co-operation of some other countries, where 11 other killers are now sheltered, for their deportation.

"I appeal to the conscience of the world for deportation of the killers for the sake of justice and rule of law in the country. Killers and conspirators can be threats to any country," she noted.

Reiterating her commitment for trial of the killers of former president Ziaur Rahman, Col. Taher and Major General Manzur, a determined prime minister told the Sangsad amid thumping from Treasury members that those who committed crimes against humanity, democracy and rule of law must face trial.

Criticising Khaleda Zia for her "unwillingness" in the trial of Zia's killers, Sheikh Hasina said, "I don't understand why she did not go for trial of her husband's killers while in power? Perhaps, she feared to lose power."

"I expected to be thanked by Khaleda Zia and receive co-operation from her after I made the announcement for the trial. But she reciprocated with threats on my life. I don't care for life which the almighty Allah is to protect," said an emotionally charged Hasina, recalling the August 15 murders of her father and other family members.

Earlier, the prime minister expressed gratitude to the Almighty and the people of the country for justice done in the Bangabandhu murder case and recalled the sacrifices of thousands of her Awami League workers who laid down their lives and faced oppression in the struggle for the trial.

"With the trial, the nation has been relieved of a stigma it had been bearing so long," she said.

Hartal sees 2 killed

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was standing at the Nayabazar Park at about 3:30 pm. He was taken to the DMCH and later shifted to the Chest Diseases Hospital. Doctors said that the victim was in a critical condition.

A number of others were injured there and fourteen of them were admitted to the DMCH, hospital sources said. Five policemen were also injured in the area during the clashes.

Unidentified gunmen also looted goods from a boutique shop on Mirpur Road near the Dhaka College, witnesses said. When contacted, owner of the shop said that the locks of the shop were broken and the furniture were also set on fire.

Auto-rickshaws carrying newsmen could not escape the wrath of activists. Shafiqul Islam, a photo-journalist of Inquilab, received bomb injuries at Nazira Bazar during a chase and counter chase between the rival groups.

Amran Hossain, a photo-journalist of The Daily Star, was manhandled by armed activists when the BNP office at Nazira bazar was set on fire in the morning. The wind shield of his autorickshaw was smashed.

Another three-wheeler of the same newspaper was also damaged at Bijoy Nagar. An autorickshaw of Bhorer Kagoj was damaged at Mouchak.

Dhaka city Awami League and AL units of different thanas in the metropolis brought out anti-hartal processions.

Ruling party lawmaker HBM Iqbal brought out a big mini-bus procession. But most of the buses were almost empty.

Sylhet: At least 30 people were injured, 26 of them with bullet, as rival groups clashed in areas adjacent to the Judge's Court in the town, reports our staff correspondent.

The injured included one policeman, five BCL activists and two JCD activists. The wounded were rushed to the MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Chittagong: Delivery of goods at the Chittagong Port came to a standstill. Cargo handling continued inside the jetties, reports our staff correspondent.

Pro and anti-hartal activists brought out separate processions and later held rallies. Bombs of crackers were also heard but the day passed off without any major untoward incident.

Police arrested 70 pickets from different areas in the city yesterday. They also said 50 others were picked up the night before.

Khulna: Phulbari unit office of BNP here was damaged allegedly by supporters of Awami League at noon yesterday, reports our staff correspondent. None was present inside the office then. Police charged the attackers with batons and drove them away.

The hartal hours passed off almost peacefully in this divisional headquarters. Port activities were normal as loading and unloading of goods continued uninterrupted.

Barisal: Over 100 people were injured, 11 of them critically, in a series of clashes between pro and anti-hartal activities in Bhola town yesterday. The 11 critically injured were admitted to Bhola Sadar Hospital, reports our staff correspondent from Barisal.

By-election to Pabna-2 seat December 10

By-election to Pabna-2 constituency of the Jatiya Sangsad will be held on December 10 as per a schedule announced by the Election Commission yesterday, reports APB.

The seat, comprising Sujanagar and Bera thanas, fell vacant following the death of Ahmed Tafiz Uddin, a treasury bench member.

The last date for submission of nomination to the Returning Officer or the Assistant Returning Officer is November 17, according to the EC gazette notification.

The Returning Officer would scrutinise nomination papers on November 18 while the last date for withdrawal of candidature is November 24.

One stabbed to death in city

A young man was stabbed to death by a gang of assailants at Bashundhara under Cantonment thana in the city yesterday afternoon.

Hospital sources identified the dead as Shafiq, 26, son of Nazimuddin, a resident of Kuril Road.

Shafiq was killed following a row over digging earth in that area, police said.

Quoting relatives of the victim, hospital sources said the gang, led by one Zakir, called Shafiq out of his residence at about 10:30 am. Later, the gang took him to Bashundhara area and started stabbing Shafiq indiscriminately before leaving the scene.

Shafiq was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a serious condition where the doctors declared him dead. The body was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy, sources added.

India in Coca Cola Cup final

SHARJAH, Nov 9: India defeated Sri Lanka by 81 runs to reach the final of the tri-nation Coca Cola Cup cricket tournament here today, reports PTI.

BRIEF SCORES: India: 179 all out in 49.5 overs (Ajay Jadeja 64, Mohd Azharuddin 26, Dharmasena 3-31, Wickremasinghe 2-27).

Sri Lanka: 98 all out in 39 overs (Aravinda de Silva 29, Ajit Agarkar 3-35, Sunil Joshi 3-17, Javagal Srinath 2-20).

"It's not illegal to use my connection as I have allowed him to do so. But, I don't think the connection detected by Surveillance team is mine. It is likely to be someone else's," she said.

But DSE Chief Executive GQ Chowdhury seemed unconvinced. "Our IT officials traced the WAN connection and the traders were using her access code. When we went there we found no signboard of any stock broker. Soon after I came to know that the connection was in Olympic's office. I stopped the trading."

He said that the investigation is still going on "as the matter needs further inquiry."

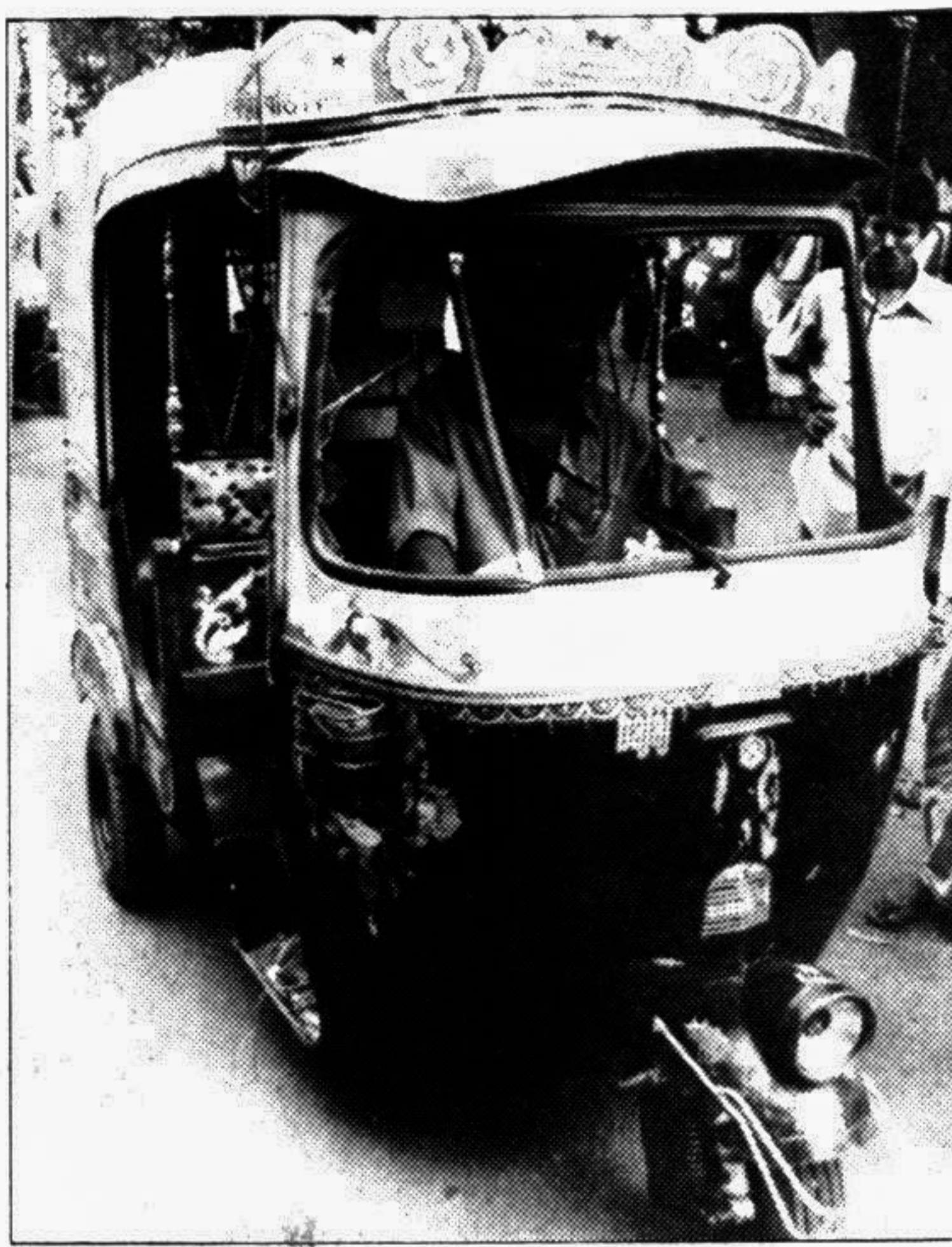
"And at this moment we cannot say whether they were engaged in anything illegal."

Sources said some quarters were active to suppress the issue by creating pressure on the surveillance officials.

When asked about it, the CEO said, "I will stand up for truth. My institution is more important than any individual."

Some senior brokers are saying that the matter should not be taken lightly and a thorough inquiry should be conducted.

When asked about this new incident, the SEC officials said that they were not aware of any such incident. The regulators do not have a surveillance software and use the DSE surveillance system to keep an on-line vigil.



The damaged autorickshaw of The Daily Star that came under attack from pro-hartal activists on North South road in the city yesterday.

BNP extends hartal

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or's residence fired shots on a BNP procession killing two young men. He claimed the dead as BNP activists.

Khoka also alleged that "ruling party terrorists and police" snatched bodies from the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue to hide the killings.

Acting Secretary General of the party Ashraf Hossain alleged that AL activists attacked a BNP procession at Kuril, Gulshan killing "one of our activists named Shafiq Ahmed."

BNP processions and party offices came under attack in different areas in the city including Demra, Sarulia, Shahjahanpur, Rampura and Bangshal, they alleged.

They alleged that their party activists were picked up by police from Ward Nos. 35, 69, 70, 22 and Gullistan, Mirpur, Demra, Kallyanpur areas.

BNP processions also came under attack and party activists were arrested in different districts - Chittagong, Khulna, Mymensingh, Rangpur, Noakhali, Comilla, Barisal.

Khaleda

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Meanwhile, Ashraf Hossain, acting secretary general of BNP, in a statement yesterday strongly condemned what he said attempts to harass the Leader of the Opposition by setting up barricades on the approach road to her house.

"We have no words to condemn such mean and autocratic mentality of the government," he said in the statement issued late last night. "Such attempts show that the government is conspiring to create obstacles to normal movement of Begum Khaleda Zia and her family members. Such actions reflect the fascist psyche of the government."

The BNP leader urged the government to put an end to such conspiracies against her and return to the path of transparent politics and show tolerance to the practice of democracy and democratic values.

In a separate statement, city BNP convener Sadek Hossain Khoka also condemned the attempts to set up barricade in front of her residence.

A personal staff of Begum Zia said last night that a number of MPs were barred from meeting her.

Reporters were also not allowed to visit her residence.

UNB reports

BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia was learnt to have made certain "provocative remarks" against the army for what she called not performing their assigned job.

Competent sources said Khaleda Zia and her son Tarek Rahman blasted the army jawans and officers on duty in front of her cantonment residence yesterday evening for extending a road divider near the house.

They came out of their 7 Mainul Hossain Road residence at about 6:30 pm and wanted to know the reason for extending the road divider. Major (Rtd) Akhtaruzzaman, MP was present.

Tarek was learnt to have shouted and hurled abuses at the army. Brigadier Shahed Hassan rushed to the spot and tried to convince Begum Zia that it was done for her security.

As the BNP chairperson was excited and shouting at the soldiers, people started gathering there. Begum Zia told the crowd that the government has destroyed army.

The government has withdrawn the army from the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the border areas, and engaged them in controlling traffic in the city, she said.

"What are you doing? Don't you want to continue your job in the army in future?" Begum Zia asked the soldiers present there.

She told them: "What you say, you do not follow." Meanwhile, a government source dismissed the rumour that the BNP chairperson was put under house arrest.

Noor Hossain

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ment to step down and hand over power to the caretaker government of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia have issued separate messages on the occasion.

In observance of the day, different political parties, student bodies and socio-cultural organisations have taken up elaborate programmes.

The programmes include laying wreaths at his grave at Jurain and Noor Hossain Square where he was killed, and holding of discussions, processions, milad mahfil and Qurankhuan.

However, the day this year will be marked by a country-wide 48-hour hartal that began at 6 am yesterday and is being enforced by BNP-led seven-party alliance.

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