

## AL launches arson attack on bus

### Bhuiyan tells party rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Minister and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday accused main opposition Awami League (AL) of arson attack on a double-decker bus on Friday that killed nine people.

"This party throws bombs on the transports before every hartal, to create panic among the public," he said this while he was addressing a public meeting at Muktangan in the city organised by BNP protesting arson attack on a passenger bus.

Bhuiyan said AL has tarnished image of the country calling hartal during the visit of US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

"AL calls hartal whenever any foreign dignitary comes to Bangladesh as it wants to tarnish country's image abroad," he added.

"AL and its leader Sheikh Hasina is segregated from its grassroots workers as most of its leaders don't want hartal," he said.

Bhuiyan said AL has betrayed countrymen as they promised not to call hartal while in power.

Major Sadeq Hossain Khoka said the bus was set on fire by the AL activists to create panic among people.

"The alliance government is voted to power by the countrymen not only for development works but also to ensure security of the citizens that's why we would take stern action against the criminals," Khoka said.

He urged BNP leaders and workers to remain alert against the 'AL conspiracy' and to be united to fight against criminal activities.

The rally was also addressed by Forest and Environment minister Tariful Islam, Moazzem Hossain Alal M.P, Advisor of the Commerce Ministry Barkat Ullah Bulu, State Minister for Labour and Employment Amanullah Aman and city BN General Secretary Abdus Salam.

The meeting was followed by a procession that ended in front of the BNP central office at Nayapaltan.



PHOTO: STAR  
LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan addresses a public meeting at Muktangan yesterday protesting arson attack on bus. BNP organised the meeting.

## Cops nab who took RU dy registrar to hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police are yet to find out any clue to the murder of Muhammad Mustafa, deputy registrar of Rajshahi University (RU) and ward leader Jamaat leader.

Rajshahi Jamaat Ameer Ataur Rahman, district BNP President Azizur Rahman and city BNP President Saleh Uddin Baby were present at the press conference.

Meanwhile, local leaders of AL and 11-party alliance have refuted the allegation saying the opposition parties were blamed for political vengeance.

They have, however, arrested Manik, a RU employee and Jibto League worker who took Mustafa to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital after he was shot on Friday night.

Manik has been placed on a two-day remand by a magistrate's court.

Earlier, the local BNP-Jamaat leaders blamed 'an alliance of opposition Awami League (AL), leftist parties and outlawed Purba Bangla Communist Party (PBCP)' for the murder.

At a press conference organised jointly by the district and city BNP-Jamat, Rajshahi city mayor and BNP lawmaker Mizanur Rahman

Minu said the murder of Mustafa was preplanned and committed by an unholy alliance which is creating anarchy in the country by killing people one after another.

Rajshahi General Secretary AHM Rahaman, district BNP President Azizur Rahman and city BNP President Saleh Uddin Baby were present at the press conference.

Meanwhile, local leaders of AL and 11-party alliance have refuted the allegation saying the opposition parties were blamed for political vengeance.

City AL General Secretary AHM Khairuzzaman Liton said the allegations of the ruling alliance are politically motivated.

Local Workers Party leader Liquat Ali Liku, Communist Party leader Enamul Haq and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal leader Abdullaheel Shibli, in a joint statement, have also denied the allegations.

## Govt plans to amend contempt of court laws

### Provision of Penal Code under sections 501 and 502 not under consideration

UNB, Dhaka

reforms and enactment of new laws "historic achievements" of the ministry.

During 193 sitting days in 11 sessions of the 8th parliament, the House has passed 93 laws--25 of those related to financial reforms that were "very important".

At a press conference he said that legal framework for the much-talked-about separation of judiciary would be completed within two or three months, but appointing judicial cadres would take about six years.

But he didn't elaborate on the nature of the amendments.

But amendment to provision of the Penal Code under sections 501 and 502 is not under consideration now as Moudud said there were "split opinions" in this regard.

These two sections, related to punishment for defamation, hang like sword of Damocles over the heads of journalists.

Narrating successes and achievements of his ministry in bringing reforms and enacting new laws to make the judicial system more dynamic and timely and to ensure access to justice, Moudud said many a step had been taken in last two and a half years of the alliance government.

He termed Speedy Trial tribunals, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) system, Legal Aid, Artho Rin Adalat and other

reforms and enactment of new laws "historic achievements" of the ministry.

About the ADR, he said the law that came into effect on July 1 last year helped settle 2,654 cases amicably till May 31 this year. This not only saved time but also money, he added.

He said with the Artho Rin Adalat law having taken effect on May 1 last year, 21,818 cases were disposed of by the High Court, as two paper books are being prepared a week in a speedy process, which he said was impossible in the past.

He said the government provided legal aid to 10,101 people for which 1,807 lawyers were listed in the panel of lawyers.

To a question about the Official Secrets Act which journalists say holds back information--Moudud said the law would be further examined and obstacles to free flow of information would be removed.

About the power to arrest any person on suspicion under section 54 of the CrPC, Moudud said such law exists in almost all the countries of the world. "Problem with this law in this region is about misuse and misapplication, and a suggestion has been sent to the home ministry to rationalise the law, not to repeal it," he added.

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