

Chronicle of attempts on Hasina's life

UNB, Dhaka

"If a person is afraid of death, life has no dignity," Sheikh Hasina had told Newsweek way back on May 11, 1981 when she was elected president of the Awami League (AL) while in exile.

She had also said she was neither afraid of being killed nor deterred by the strength of the government she would face. "In one's life," she said, "Risks must be taken..."

"One of my priorities will be to restore the full democratic rights of all the people of the nation," Hasina had told the magazine a few days after her return on May 17.

Since then, Hasina has come under attack several times, but her party leaders said the velocity of the assassination attempt had never been so intensified as it was on Saturday.

Earlier the severest attack she faced was on January 24, 1988 when police in Chittagong had fired on a procession she was leading. Over 24 people were killed in the police firing.

On August 11, 1989, a group of gunmen fired on Dhanmondi-32 house where she had lived at that time. The shooting, four days before August 15 mourning day, was believed to have been carried out by Freedom Party cadres.

She also came under attack a day after the death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 16, 1983. Her house was attacked again on October 16, 1986.

Sheikh Hasina was targeted several times during anti-Ershad movement and one such occasion was during Dhaka blockade on September 28, 1984.

Quoting newspaper reports, her party leaders said Sheikh Hasina's life also remained at stake after the fall of Ershad following a mass upsurge on December 6, 1990.

Bullets were fired targeting her during a by-election in Dhanmondi in the capital on September 11, 1991. Unidentified gunmen shot at the bogie

of the train she was journeying by on September 23, 1994.

On December 7, 1995, her rally at Russell Square came under gun attack. Also a bomb attack on her rally at Bangabandhu Avenue on March 7, 1996 left 30 people injured.

Threats and attempts continued still after Sheikh Hasina led her party back to power after 21 years through June 12, 1996 general election under the constitutional caretaker government she fought for.

One young man, Anisul Bari, was arrested along with a revolver and 23 rounds of bullets while trying to enter her meeting at Ramna on January 6, 1997.

Detectives arrested 17 Jubo Command cadres while they were holding a meeting allegedly for planning to assassinate her in the name of an iftar party on January 30, 1997.

Several bombs were exploded in front of the Prime Minister's Office on April 26, 1999. A big bomb was planted at her meeting venue at Kotlipara on July 21, 2000.

As Sheikh Hasina was addressing an election meeting at Sylhet Alia Madrasa ground on September 25, a bomb blew off, killing two of her party supporters.

Khaled, a man allegedly a cousin of Faruq Rahman, principal accused in the Bangabandhu killing case, tried to knife her while she was visiting Naogaon on March 4, 2002. Her motorcade came under attack in Satkhira on August 29 the same year.

In 2004, she and her party leaders came under attack at Barisal ferry ghat on February 26 and at Gournadi on April 2. She received a life threat while staying in Turkey on July 5 this year. And, lately it was a close call on August 21.

my 28-year career. Some of them are controversial persons in profession and ethically."

Lawyers' organisations have been agitating for the last three years against such appointments, prompting Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to assure them of further recruitment in consultation with them, but no consultation was made.

The coalition government did not confirm the services of 15 additional judges appointed during the Awami League rule.

Five of the new judges are from the judicial service: Abdul Hye, Qamrul Islam Siddiqi, Fazlur Rahman, Mainul Islam Chowdhury and Emdadul Haq.

Five are government law officers: Syed Abu Kowser Mohammad Dabirush-shan, Ataur Rahman Khan, Sheikh Abdul Awal, SM Emdadul Haq and Farah Mahbub.

Nine are from the Bar: Shahidul Islam, Nirmalendu Dhar, Rais Uddin, Emdadul Haq Azad, ABM Hatem Ali, Syed Mohammad Ziaul Karim, Rezaul Huq, Faisal Mahmud Faizi and Mamnun Rahman.

The appointees include a daughter and nephews of a former minister and BNP lawmakers, while another was a leader of Islami Chhatra Shibir, an Islamic student organisation patronised by coalition partner Jamaat-e-Islami.

Another new judge, defeated in the last election to the Supreme Court Bar Association, contested it on the BNP slate.

The Bar said the appointment and swearing-in of the judges were done in a hurry, which the lawyers called unprecedented. The lawyers did not felicitate the new judges.

The Bar association president, Rokonuddin Mahmud, told The Daily Star that it was unprecedented to become a judge of the High Court from the position of assistant attorney general. "I didn't know many of them in

give us bodies of the deceased for janaja. The police didn't take case from us. So what's left there of sympathy?" he questioned.

Security personnel closed all entrances to Sudha Sadan while sentinels were guarding the area.

A number of law enforcers were deployed in front of Mahbub Bhaban at Road no 5 that houses residences of prime minister's eldest son Tarique Rahman's father-in-law and Communications Minister Nazmul Huda.

The agitating partymen beat up a youth suspecting that he had been filming the demonstrations for intelligence agency. Police rescued the youth after a long scuffle with the demonstrators.

Earlier in the morning, Special Security Forces (SSF) personnel from Prime Minister's security apparatus reced the Sudha Sadan and adjoining area as a routine operation performed prior to any visit by the prime minister.

UNB adds: Prime minister's political secretary Harris Chowdhury has admitted to making contacts at different levels from Sunday night to arrange the prime minister's visit.

"We hope that a meeting between the prime minister and the leader of the opposition would ease the present situation and many other issues," he told the newsmen at his office yesterday afternoon.

Harris said the prime minister had tasked him with conveying her intent to see the opposition leader.

He said he had talked to Saber Hossain Chowdhury a number of times but to no response yet.

Harris said the efforts are on and he is still hopeful about getting a positive result.

"They (the government) didn't

3 Indian pirates killed in Satkhira

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Three Indian pirates were killed and four others including two policemen were severely injured in a shoot out on Sunday evening at Kalirchar in Shyamnagar upazila in Satkhira.

Officer-in-Charge of Shyam-nagar Police Station said the pirates opened fire on police during a combing operation in the Sundarbans where five fishermen were held hostage for ransom. In an hour long gunfight police fired 30 bullets, while pirates fired at will, he added.

Indian pirates of *Borho Bahini* headed by Hafiz held the fishermen hostage for a ransom of Tk 5 lakh. The fishermen were abducted from Kalindi river in Shyamnagar on August 19.

The injured are Sub-inspector Mirza Shajahan, 48, constable Shahidul Islam, 32, Abdus Sattar, 27, and Abdullah Al Mamun, 30.

The unidentified dead were reportedly taken to Indian side by their associates while the injured are undergoing treatment at Shyam-nagar Upazila Health Complex, policemen said.

No headway in grenade recovery in Dhaka jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The grenade recovery from the prison compound of Dhaka Central Jail Sunday still remains a mystery, as authorities are clueless about how the bomb made its way into the highly protected area.

A sweeper of the jail found the grenade from a sewer channel in between cell No. 36 and 90. Important prisoners are kept in the cell No. 26 and notorious criminals are in No. 90.

Authorities yesterday formed a committee headed by Deputy Inspector General (prisons), Dhaka Division Tyeab Ali Molla to probe the incident.

A jail source said it is very hard to take even a blade into the jail premises. If the grenade passed through the gates, gatekeepers might have a hand in it.

On the explanation of the inspector general of prisons, the source said had the grenade been thrown in from outside, there must have been sound as it fell. But the on duty security guards noticed nothing, he added.

"If security lapse was the reason, then it's a big challenge to overall security system of the country's largest prison where convicts and accused including those of Bangabandhu Murder and Jail Killing cases are kept," said a former jail official asking not to be named.

Hurt AL leaders

FROM PAGE 12 (sub committee), was stated to be safe. He is receiving treatment for splinter wounds in the Central Hospital.

Sheikh Bazlur Rahman, a leader of AL's Dhaka city unit, is receiving treatment at the Samorita Hospital for multiple splinter injuries.

Meanwhile, 14 patients injured in Saturday's attacks are now under treatment in Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Many were released yesterday and the day before, while many others shifted to other city hospitals and clinics, hospital sources said.

AL rejects

FROM PAGE 12 will happen to the probe into Saturday's attacks."

The probe commission, formed at the directive of the prime minister, comprises Justice Joyнал Abedin, a senior judge of the High Court, and will submit its report in three weeks.

AL walks out

FROM PAGE 12 Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina were under threat.

He said the committee should discuss and adopt the proposals on the barbaric attack that killed opposition leaders and activists and plunged the whole nation into an environment of horror.

AL lawmaker Shahjahan Khan moved the proposals at the beginning of the meeting of the committee that advises the government on residential accommodation of lawmakers and their food, medical aid and other amenities at MPhostels.

Jatiya Party (Ershad) lawmaker Tajul Islam Chowdhury also demanded adoption of the proposals to voice anger and hatred at the heinous attack.

After the walkout, the committee allocated 122 of the flats to the key ruling party BNP, 10 to ruling coalition partner Jamat-e-Islami, 37 to the AL and nine to the Jatiya Party.

Talking to reporters after the walk-out, Shahid said the ruling party did not agree to adopt the censure motion to hide its failure to rein in widespread crimes across Bangladesh.

Opposition Whip Mirza Azam said the ruling party cited the rules of procedure as a mere excuse.

A number of parliamentary committees adopted condolence motions in the wake of recent launch capsize and deaths of Bangladesh peacekeepers in a plane crash in Benin.

Cops, BNP men

FROM PAGE 1 headquarters on Bangabandhu Avenue, several thousand activists paraded through the Zero Point, Purana Paltan Crossing, Dainik Bangla Intersection, Rajuk Avenue, Mahanagar Natya Mancha and Fulbaria Bus Terminal.

Witnesses said AL supporters went berserk at one point, smashing windpanes of the Jibon Bima Bhaban and damaging some roadside shops along the Moulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium, Rajuk Avenue and Gulistan.

When the procession approached the Gulistan Bus Terminal and the demonstrators attempted to damage parked vehicles, the BNP-backed transport workers, armed with sticks and bricks, pounced on them.

The workers and the police then beat up journalists on duty before bringing out an anti-hartal procession from the area.

GLOOMY CITY, PANICKY DWELLERS

With the memory of Saturday's inci-

Ivy's kidneys, liver

FROM PAGE 1 himself came over here to see her," Rokhsana said.

Meanwhile, President Iajuddin Ahmed visited Ivy at 8:00pm yesterday and inquired about her health.

The blast at AL's anti-terrorism rally blew off her legs and doctors at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where she was rushed, amputated those. She was shifted to the CMH on the same night.

Home ministry

FROM PAGE 12 to contact the home ministry officials beforehand for appointment and gather information from the public relations officer, he said.

Rahman said the restrictions were in place earlier, but they were eased. The journalists on Sunday hounded State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babar and put him into "an embarrassing situation", which prompted the ministry to go for the restrictions, he informed the newsmen.

Bush expresses

FROM PAGE 1 demned the attacks on an Awami League rally that killed at least 18 people and called for an investigation into the gory episode. The countries made the appeal for justice two days after Hasina survived an assassination attempt at the rally.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the UK condemns the bombings and added: "We look to the Bangladesh authorities to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice."

"I was shocked to hear the latest bombings in Dhaka and many deaths and injuries these have caused, as well as further violent incidents overnight," Straw said in a statement.

Foreign envoys, including British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Chowdhury, yesterday called on Hasina at Sudha Sadan, her Dhanmondi residence, and offered sympathy for her.

"We are terribly shocked and horrified," said Chowdhury, who was injured in a bomb blast in the north-eastern city of Sylhet on May 21.

Among eight European delegates, Royal Netherlands Ambassador Kees

Kamal for ex-CJ

FROM PAGE 12 the loss of lives and condemned the "brutal" attack and questioned the professional efficiency and neutrality of the law-enforcing agencies in protecting national security.

"Manipulating law-enforcing agency personnel in the self-serving interest of narrow coteries to maintain themselves in power through unholy alliances is what has brought us to the edge of a national disaster," Kamal said.

He observed every attack starting from Udichi blast in Jessore to Sylhet car bomb explosion was a warning to the nation of the grave threat but there has been no effective investigation or action as yet.

The national reaction after the grenade attack on the rally has been one of shock but 'this must now turn into a serious and concerted action', he said.

In the past, investigations were announced and even judicial commissions were set up, but these ended with no results. There has been no identification of the source of these attacks nor of those who patronise and protect the perpetrators, he alleged.

"The overwhelming majority of our people cherish democracy and have a tradition of tolerance, communal harmony and solidarity," Kamal added.

He called upon all democratic, peace-loving citizens irrespective of profession to unite against the communal and fundamentalist forces engaged in conspiracy to destabilise the nation.

Leaders of the Jatiya Oikya Mancha Saifuddin Ahmed Manik and Zahirul Islam, among others, were present.

dent still fresh, most of the panicky city-dwellers preferred not to come out on the streets and those who braved the fear were desperate to hurry back home.

Police and members of paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles and Armed Police Battalion manned the city points and frisked people on suspicion. Besides, personnel from intelligence agencies kept a tight vigil on different points.

Presence at most non-government offices was unusually thin and most schools, colleges and universities suspended classes and examinations for an indefinite period. A few government schools however held examinations yesterday.

The city was free of traffic jam for a change as the BRTC (Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation) and many transport owners pulled out their buses from the streets yesterday. The BRTC authorities however said their buses would play today and tomorrow despite the hartal.

Taxis, CNG-run three-wheelers, Mishuk and other public vehicles meanwhile made most of the unusual day charging fare much higher than usual.

BHAIRAB TRAIN BLAZE Passenger's body found

UNB, Chittagong

Body of an unidentified passenger of Subarna express, set ablaze at Bhairab on Sunday, was found yesterday.

A mob stopped the inter-city train at the outer signal of the station, forced some 600 passengers to alight and set it on fire.

The train was brought to the workshop at Pahartali for repair when workers found the charred body in one of the 12 torched compartments.

Railway police recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Beemsterboer, who also met the AL chief, read out a statement calling on the government to "thoroughly investigate the attacks and bring those responsible to justice".

Diplomats of other European countries such as Sweden, Denmark, France, Germany and Italy were on the delegation.

Hasina's Political Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury told newsmen that AL leaders described the present social and political context to the delegation. "We told them that no investigation of bomb blasts or political killings, including of lawmaker Ahsanullah Master, was complete."

Saber said opposition lawmakers fear fresh attacks on the AL president as the previous incidents were not properly investigated.

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil and Hasina's younger sister Sheikh Rehana were also present at the meeting.

Sri Lankan Ambassador in Dhaka Gamini Farath Munasinghe and former Attorney General of Pakistan Senator Iqbal Haider also met the leader of the opposition.

AL LEADER MURDER Prime suspect killed in crossfire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The prime suspect of Bagerhat district Awami League (AL) vice president Kalidas Boral murder case, Babu Molla was killed in a crossfire after being arrested in Dhaka on Saturday morning by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

Babu Molla, 34, also the prime accused of eight more murder cases, was an activist of Janajuddho faction of outlawed Purbanga Banglar Communist Party (PBCP).

Rab and police forces came under armed attacks by PBCP's cadres while Babu Molla was taken back to Kendua village under Mollahat upazila for recovery of arms and ammunition on his prior statement.

Rab and police traded fire with about 15 extremists of PBCP (Janajuddho) for over half an hour near Kendua bridge on Saturday midnight when Babu Molla died on the spot, police super of Bagerhat district said.

Both the groups exchanged more than 50 rounds of fire while other armed cadres managed to escape, he added.

Rab and police forces however recovered five foreign made guns, two Indian revolvers, two pipe guns, one shutter gun and 17 rounds of revolver and gun ammunition from the slain outlaw's hideout at Mollahat upazila, sources said.

Two members of Rab and a police constable have been injured in the armed encounter, sources added.

NON-STOP STRIKE Edn instts paralysed on first day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first day of the indefinite student strike to protest the Saturday's attack on the Awami League (AL) rally passed peacefully in Dhaka University (DU) yesterday.

Classes and official activities remained suspended. Different organisations of teachers and students brought out separate protest rallies and demanded punishment of the real attackers.

The leaders of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at a rally said the indefinite strike will continue until the government steps down.

"We can't be inactive any longer as the evil forces have made an attempt to assassinate our leaders," said BCL President Liakat Shikdar.

DU Teachers Association (Duta) at a meeting at the Central Shaheed Minar demanded an international probe into the grenade attacks on the AL rally. It asked the government to provide protection for Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina by Special Security Forces (SSF).

The Duta also demanded compensation to the families of the victims.

"Democracy can't exist without the opposition, but Saturday's attack was designed to kill all the leaders of the main opposition party," Duta President AASM Arefin Siddique told the meet.

Law enforcers and intelligence agencies have failed to arrest a single person even after four days of the blasts, he said.

The Duta earlier brought out a mourning procession on the campus starting from the Aparajevo Bangla.

The Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal backed BCL and Pragotishil Chhatra Jote, an alliance of left-leaning students organisations also staged protest and held several rallies and processions.

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DB at helm

FROM PAGE 12 Security Intelligence (NSI), Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) and Special Branch (SB) will supervise the case.

A top DB official said the IO of the case started the groundwork for the investigation soon after taking the charge yesterday noon.

The case would be transferred to Criminal Investigation Department (CID) within a short time, sources said.

Meanwhile, investigators still do not have a due to the blasts after three days since August 21, the day grenade attacks were launched on an AL rally in city's Bangabandhu Avenue.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police at a press release yesterday refuted press reports that said police did not record cases when AL leaders went to file those with the Motijheel Police Station on Sunday.

The press release said since none came to lodge any case in 'logical period', police filed a case. The copy of the FIR (first information report) lodged by the AL leaders will automatically be tagged with the FIR that had already been filed by police, the press release added.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Shahulul Haque told the BBC Bangla Service that police are looking into different aspects of the Saturday's grenade attacks.

The IGP said it is still difficult to say the source of the grenades used in the attacks.

"We are in the preliminary stage of the investigation and it'll take some more time as police lack the technical expertise to test high explosives like grenades," the IGP told the BBC last night.

He also said they currently have no plan to seek foreign assistance in examining the evidence gathered about Saturday's bomb attacks.

Clashes as hartal

FROM PAGE 1 spondents in Sylhet, Satkhira and Mymensingh said over 50 people were injured when police and ruling BNP men attacked pre-hartal processions yesterday.

At least 20 people were injured as police resorted to lathi charge and fired tear gas shells and rubber bullets to disperse agitating AL activists at Tajpur Bazar under Osmani Nagar Thana in Sylhet yesterday afternoon, reports our staff correspondent in the district.

At 6:00pm, about 200 activists of AL and its front organisations brought out a procession at the bazar and police swung into action soon after.

Later, the activists held a protest rally at the bazaar with thana AL President Kabir Uddin Ahmed in the chair. General Secretary of thana AL Abdal Miah and other leaders addressed the rally, alleging police swooped on the peaceful procession.

A police however said police had to take action to bring the situation under control. Additional police force was sent to the bazar.

In Satkhira, at least 12 AL activists were injured as BNP workers attacked a pre-hartal procession in front of Kolaroa thana. They also ransacked thana AL office.

In Gouripur thana headquarters in Mymensingh, at least 10 people were injured as police and ruling party men swooped on a procession denouncing the grenade attacks in Dhaka and for drumming up support for the hartals.

Our Bogra correspondent reports, a police sub-inspector and eight others were injured when a cocktail was hurled on a procession of the AL and its front organisations at Sherpur.

Amidst an uneasy calm prevailing across the country since Saturday's incident, the government has beefed up security ahead of today's shutdown.

In the capital, 6,500 law enforcers will be deployed today instead of 5,500 on other days.

In Chittagong, over 2,000 police men along with paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles and Armed Police Battalion personnel will be deployed in the port city today to maintain law and order, police officials said.

Special police teams have been posted and surveillance stepped up in and around all key point installations (KPIs) in the port city to avert violence.

"We have kept our men on high alert in this port city and we briefed our

officials to be more vigilant," acting Commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police Amjad Hossain told The Daily Star.

During an overnight special drive on Sunday, police arrested more than 140 people under Section 54 from different places of the port city.

Our staff correspondent in Khulna reports security measures have been further geared up in the city as panic gripped it ahead of the hartals. Ten platoons of police in riot gear have been deployed at the vulnerable points.

Local AL leaders held a rally yesterday, blaming anti-liberation forces for the grenade attack in Dhaka.

Khulna district and city units of the BNP in a joint statement yesterday condemned Saturday's incident.

Meanwhile, shop owners at a meeting with Sheikh Hasina yesterday extended their support to the hartal.

Shop Owners Association leaders including Amir Hossain and SA Kader met the opposition leader at her residence Sudha Sadan.

Usually, shop owners are opposed to hartals.

Other organisations which extended support to the hartal include Bangladesh Sarak Pari-bahan Sramik Union, Bangladesh Jubo Union, Chhatra Union, Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolon and Samajtantrik Sramik Jote.

Sammilito Sangskritik Jote will organise cultural functions today and tomorrow at 5:00pm at the Central Shaheed Minar, protesting the grenade attacks.

Clashes as hartal

Cases filed against League activists for damaging vehicles, shops

UNB, Chittagong

Police have filed four separate cases under the Speedy Trial Act against 104 Awami League, Jubo League, Chhatra League activists and 15 lawyers.

They were accused of damaging shops and vehicles in the city on Saturday and Sunday.

Chittagong Bar Association at a meeting yesterday demanded withdrawal of the case filed against the lawyers. They threatened to boycott the courts if the demand was not met immediately.

Morshed also told Sikri that the government was committed to making a sincere effort to catch the culprits and already opened a judicial investigation commission.

Diplomatic sources said the Indian envoy pointed out inadequate government steps in the probe into 10 truckloads of arms and ammunition recovery on the Karnaphuli coast in Chittagong on April 26.

The government carried out its responsibility only by arresting truck drivers and petty criminals while the main suspects remained at large, she remarked.

India has made several offers to help Dhaka in important investigations, especially in the arms seizure when both nations exchanged information.

London assisted Dhaka in the probe into May 21 bomb explosion in Hazrat Shahjalal Shrine in Sylhet in which three people were killed and many more including its envoy Anwar were injured.

British police, the Scotland Yard and MI5 visited Sylhet as part of the probe.

How many more deaths

FROM PAGE 1

that leaders and activists of her party sacrificed their lives to save her.

"I was like sister to some of them and mother to some others. But I have lost them, they are gone forever", Hasina told a delegation of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists that met her yesterday to express its shock and sympathy.

"How many more deaths would I have to see?" the AL chief posed the question. "Party leaders and workers are like my family members and I spend most of the time with them, instead of my son and daughter," she said.

Hasina also recalled her long memories with critically injured party leader Ivy Rahman and broke into tears. "Along with her (Ivy), I participated in the election campaigns of 1970," she said.

"She (Ivy) has been kept on life support so far as I know", Hasina added.

The AL chief also remembered journalists who were injured in the grenade attacks and said her party would take immediate steps for better treatment of the injured newsmen and, if necessary, would send them abroad.

Talking to a group of reporters, Hasina said leaders of all political parties who believe in democracy and secularism met her and stressed launching a united movement to unseat the BNP-Jamaat-led ruling coalition.

"They have unanimously demanded resignation of the govern-

ment, and have taken the right decision," she said replying to a question.

The government should step down right now, the AL president said. "The people and the country are not safe under the rule of the four-party alliance."

Eminent economists Rehman Sobhan, Debapriya Bhattacharya and Dr Atiur Rahman, Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Justice KM Sobhan, former air chiefs AK Khandaker and Jamal Uddin, Samjtantrik Dal leader Noor-e-Alam Ziku, National Awami Party leader Amina Ahmed and leaders of Dhaka Bar Association met Hasina yesterday.

They expressed condolences for those killed in Saturday's incident and sympathy to the AL chief, who narrowly escaped the attacks.

Business community demands international probe

A delegation of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI), led by its acting President Kamal Uddin Ahmed, met the opposition leader and expressed deep sympathy to her.

The delegation demanded international probe into the attacks on Hasina and the party rally.

The business leaders also criticised the intelligence agencies' failure that, they noted, results in such incidents.

They said they would observe "Shokrana Day" on Friday at all district units of the organisation across the country to thank the creator that Hasina narrowly escaped the attacks.