

Ivy succumbs to her injuries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Veteran Awami League leader Ivy Rahman died early yesterday after fighting for her life for three days since she was grievously injured in Saturday's grenade attack on the AL rally.

The death of Ivy, who was a witness to the nation's turbulent history since the Pakistan days, put an end to a checkered political career. A deep sense of grief descended on her political colleagues and the people in general.

The women affairs secretary of Awami League (AL), who had both her legs blown off in the grenade attacks on Bangabandhu Avenue, died soon after midnight yesterday at the intensive care unit of the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka.

CMH doctors informed Ivy's family of her death at 2:30am over telephone. Former AL general secretary Zillur Rahman, Ivy's husband, was informed of his wife's death at around five o'clock in the morning, family sources said.

She will be buried at Banani graveyard today after SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

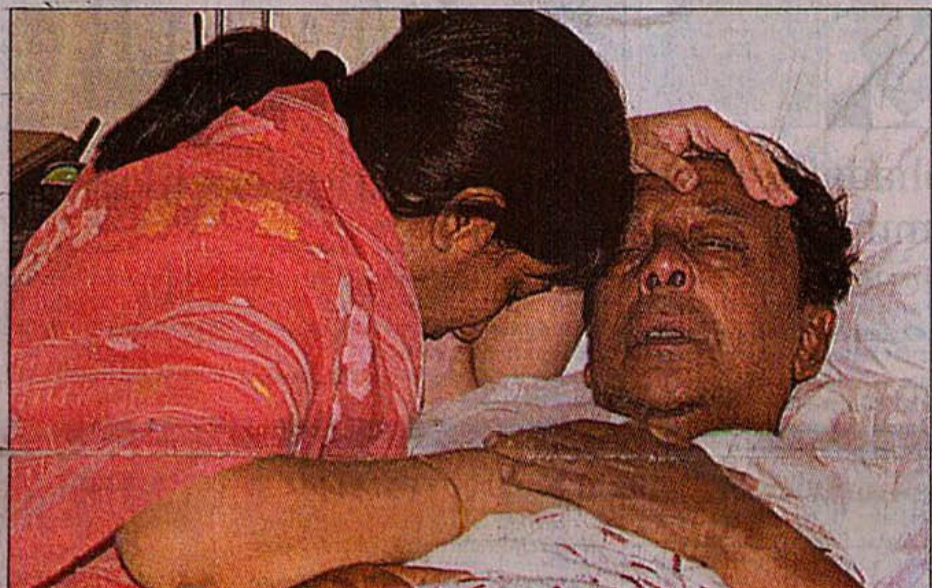


PHOTO: STAR

Awami League Women's Affairs Secretary Ivy Rahman, top, passed away early yesterday, three days into fatal injuries in Saturday's grenade attacks on an AL rally. Bottom, Tania, Ivy's eldest daughter, at their Gulshan home, tries to console her father Zillur Rahman while herself trying to accept the news of her mother's death.

Country crippled in hartal

Rail links collapse; cops club CPB leader Selim; today's hartal curtailed to 1pm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 100 people were injured in sporadic clashes on the first day of the opposition general strike yesterday that crippled life and disrupted train travels between Dhaka and other districts amid scenes of protest against Saturday's grenade attacks.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim was among the injured who battled the police and anti-hartal activists of the ruling BNP-led alliance.

The strike was called by the main opposition Awami League (AL) after deadly grenade attacks on a political rally on Bangabandhu Avenue killed at least 19 people and wounded about 200 others.

The left 11-Party and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal threw their weight behind the AL in the general strike called also to protest an assassination attempt on AL President Sheikh Hasina, who was addressing Saturday's rally.

In the wake of frequent attacks on railway establishments in parts of the country, Bangladesh Railway suspended rail services between Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Sylhet until 1:00pm today.

Incensed by the death of AL's Women's Affairs Secretary Ivy Rahman, the opposition activists ransacked at least two rail stations such as Brahmanbaria and Akhaura, an important rail junction.

The activists forced rail officials in Khulna, Rajshahi and Lalmonirhat to leave control rooms, delaying train travels.

The second round of hartal was curtailed to 1:00pm for an easy SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

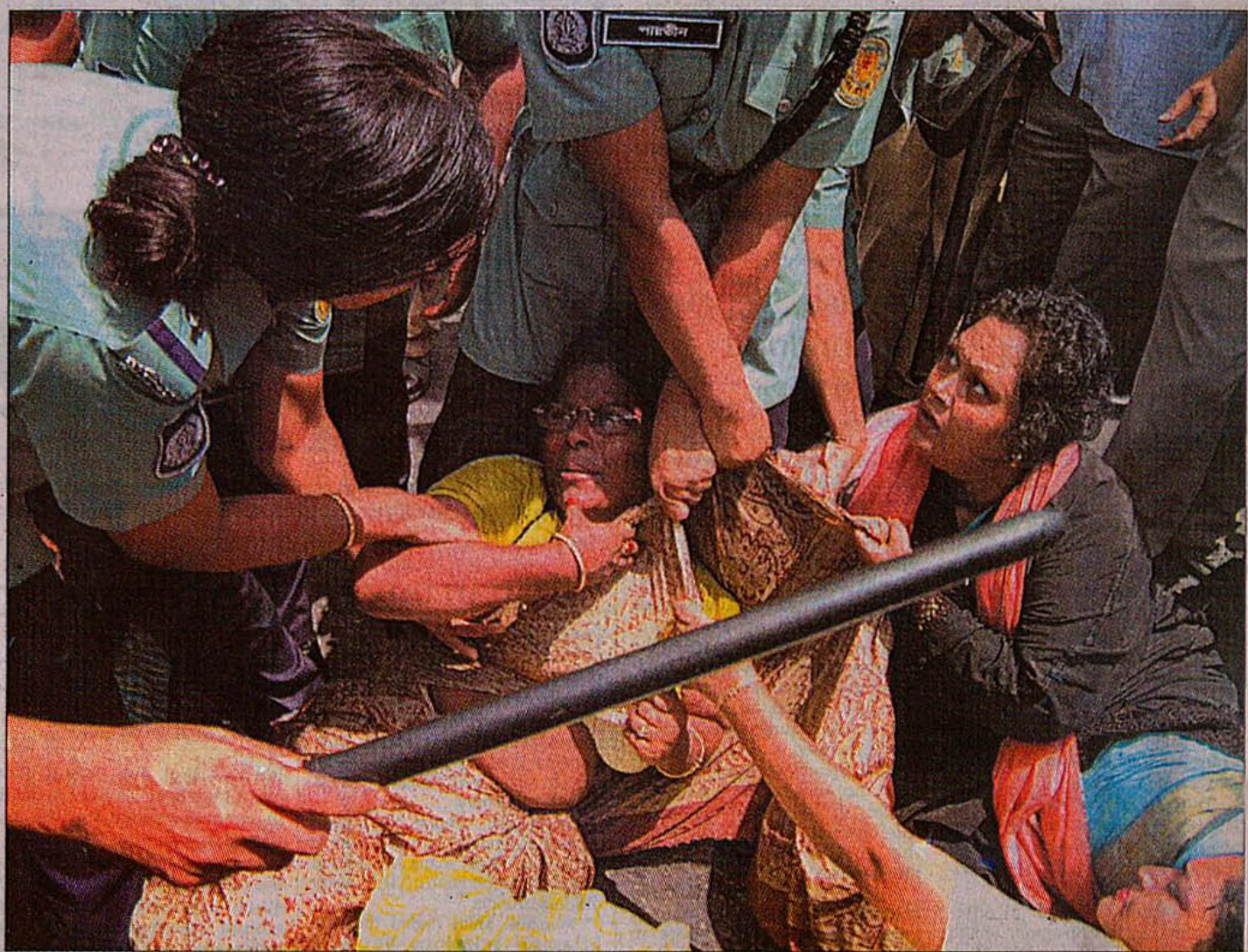


PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

Police club and hitch Bangladesh Mohila Awami League members onto police vans at Zero Point in the city after blocking their procession during yesterday's hartal.

Hikmatul Zihad vows to kill Hasina in a week

Claims responsibility for Saturday's attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hikmatul Zihad, a previously unheard-of organisation, has claimed responsibility for Saturday's grenade attacks on Awami League (AL) rally and vowed to assassinate Leader of the Opposition and AL President Sheikh Hasina in a week.

"We are coming and this time we will (accomplish) our target within 7 days. It's a promise," one Hyder Rob,

representing the organisation, said in a message emailed to Bangla daily the Prothom Alo Monday night.

Hasina narrowly escaped Saturday's grenade attacks on the rally on Bangabandhu Avenue that left 19 including central AL leader Ivy Rahman dead and over 200 hurt.

The advertisement wing (advertisement@prothom-alo.info) of the Prothom Alo received the SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

Hasina critical of security steps

Needs over month to regain hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed doubts over the adequacy of security measures taken by the government for her Saturday's rally that came under grenade attack and posed the question how the attackers escaped after such a carnage in presence of a large number of law enforcers.

"How the law enforcers' agencies failed to nab the attackers," she said

and hinted at the ruling coalition's links to the attack.

Hasina, also leader of the opposition in parliament, demanded an international probe into the attack as, she noted, the attack was tantamount to a genocide because the attackers exploded grenades that are used in war to kill AL leaders and workers.

The AL chief, who needs six to eight weeks to fully regain her SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Dhaka prefers own probe to int'l help

Morshed on diplomats' offer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister M. Morshed Khan yesterday said Dhaka would consider seeking international assistance in tracking down the perpetrators of the Saturday's grenade attacks on Awami League rally only after it completes its own probe.

"They (envoys of different countries) have offered help in any way to tackle the situation and we might ask for it if we believe assistance is

required after we have finished our own assessment," Morshed told reporters at his office.

Dhaka's 'all-out efforts' would make the investigation an inclusive process as the government is keeping an open mind. To work simultaneously with other security agencies, the government has already formed a one-member judicial commission to trace out the masterminds behind Saturday's carnage, headed,

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Opposition working on broad-based unity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The opposition will float an all-party action committee in a couple of days as part of its initiative to launch a fresh street movement against the fundamentalists and government in the wake of Saturday's grisly attack on Awami League rally.

The main opposition Awami League (AL), the left-leaning 11-Party and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) have agreed in principle to launch a united movement against the Islamic radicals and the pro-Islamist government, according to

sources on the opposition camp.

Discussions are underway to work out a strategy, the sources said, adding the opposition parties yesterday held two meetings and a joint meeting is likely today as part of the efforts to forge a broad-based unity.

The 11-Party yesterday held a three-hour meeting at the residence of its component Ganoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain where they agreed to join hands with the AL to launch the agitation.

Dr Kamal later sat with top leaders of the AL including its General SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

Condolences pour in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Iajuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Jamiruddin Sircar and Deputy Speaker Akhter Hamid Siddiqui yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of Awami League's Women Affairs Secretary and freedom fighter Ivy Rahman.

Different political, socio-cultural, human rights and business organisations also expressed deep shock at the death of Ivy Rahman.

In a condolence message, President Iajuddin Ahmed recalled her contribution to the movements for establishing democracy in the country.

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Bank Asia Limited	National Credit & Commerce Bank Limited
Southeast Bank Limited	Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited
Mercantile Bank Limited	
The Trust Bank Limited	
The City Bank Limited	
Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd.	

The valued applicants are requested to collect their Allotment Letter of shares and Refund warrant on production of the original Banker's Acknowledgement Receipt from Hotel White House, Shantinagar, Dhaka from 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. as per schedule mentioned above. Uncollected Allotment Letter and Refund warrant will be sent through courier to the respective addresses of the applicants at their own risk.

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