

Businesses see

FROM PAGE 12 Business leaders feared the incident would only aggravate the critical situation the economy has been going through since the expiry of the multi-fibre arrangement.

The country was yet to recover from the shock of the most macabre grenade attack on August 21 last year following severe flooding and incessant rains, when came this another most upsetting incident, they pointed out.

"We were in the recovery phase, but unfortunately we find another gruesome attack. And this time the target was the immediate past finance minister," a top business leader observed seeking anonymity.

FCBI The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCBI) has called for a speedy and neutral probe into the Habiganj attack which it sees as posing a great threat to the national development.

"The country's business activities are being seriously affected due to the recurrent grenade and bomb attacks and their backwash," said the country's apex trade body in a statement, expressing grave concerns.

"This type of dreadful attacks on political rallies will badly tarnish Bangladesh's image abroad and could hamper both local and foreign trade and investment," it said, stressing the need for uprooting the evil forces involved in these attacks in the greater interest of the nation.

The chamber that represents all trade bodies of the country said, at this critical juncture, it is necessary to forge a national unity, hold dialogues and develop a commitment to transform politics into a medium of public welfare.

All political parties, particularly the two main ones, can contribute towards forging the unity through holding dialogues, it added.

"The roots of terrorism and killing are getting stronger by the day due to lack of dialogue, keeping Bangladesh and its people under constant threat," the statement said.

MCCI Termining the Thursday's grenade attack a barbaric act, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) President Kutubuddin Ahmed urged the government to carry out a transparent probe, acceptable to all quarters, and punish the culprits.

"Failure to find out the culprits of previous incidents has encouraged the recurrence of such crimes," the MCCI chief said.

But he urged the main opposition not to undertake such political programmes that hinder economic activities.

The ongoing 60-hour country-wide non-stop strike has paralysed the export process, he said, adding that almost all industries remained.

Hartal relaxed in hill districts UNB, Bandarban

The district unit of the Awami League (AL) has decided to relax hartal in the hill district for today and tomorrow in view of the difficulties facing the tourists as communications to and from the resort town remained cutoff.

Sources said backpackers got stranded in hotels in the district town due to the three-day nationwide shutdown called by the Awami League and its left-leaning allies protesting the killing of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria MP and four others in Thursday's grenade attack in Habiganj.

Many buses that left Dhaka for Bandarban on Friday could not enter the town, causing sufferings to the passengers.

Witnesses said schools, shops, business houses and private offices remained closed and vehicles were off the roads on the first day of the general strike.

Clarification FROM PAGE 12 The bank said that its deposit-advance ratio on December 31 was 100 percent as per normal rules.

Our Reply: We used the figure from Bangladesh Bank's 'Statement of Deposit and Credit Position of Scheduled Banks as on 31st December, 2004.'

Tigers FROM PAGE 1 on turn than bowling his usual flatter trajectory, went on to take 4-33, surpassing his previous best 4-63 against New Zealand at the big bowl two months ago.

It was Bangladesh's overall eighth ODI win and for the first time, they have scored back-to-back victories.

The toss for an umpire's time proved vital in the series and Bangladesh took full advantage of it after Habibul Bashar called the coin correctly for a second successive time.

Bangladesh's challenging total was built around two half-centuries by Nafees Iqbal (56 off 76 balls) and Nafeed Mashud's 51 off 61 balls.

Khaled added 72 runs for the second wicket with his Chittagong mate Aftab Ahmed (44 off 49 balls). The pair looked in ominous form before Aftab was sadly run out while attempting a second run.

closed yesterday and no consignments could be dispatched from Chittagong.

"These political programmes force foreign buyers to take their eyes off Bangladesh," he said.

"At this age of globalisation, we are facing stiff competition every day. If such incidents continue, the country's economy as well as the business activities will collapse," Ahmed remarked.

DCCI Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) President Sayeeful Islam said the killing of former finance minister SAMS Kibria was a severe blow to the economy.

He said the business community would like to see the rule of law and stability that are preconditions for economic growth.

"It was not the first time that this type of killings took place. So, culprits should be identified and punished," he added.

BCI Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) President AK Azad said before the Thursday's attack, several similar incidents had taken place, but the government failed to conduct any thorough probe into any of them.

"If the government can identify the perpetrators of these crimes and bring them to book then such attacks will cease to take place," Azad observed.

He said such incidents make local investors shaky, "and we have to explain such gruesome incidents to the foreign buyers."

The BCI leader said the current terror-stricken situation will hamper the national economy. The government should immediately initiate a probe into the carnage in collaboration with the other political parties to expose the masterminds behind it.

KIBRIA KILLING Saifur calls for political consensus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday urged both ruling and opposition parties to reach a consensus to avert incidents like Thursday's killing of SAMS Kibria in the future.

"This is also an attack on people like us who are believers of free-thinking," Saifur said in an emotion-choked voice. "The murder of Kibria is terribly heinous. This is not just an attack on him but also on the democracy."

"If such shameful incidents continue to happen, it will be difficult for people like us to be involved in politics," he told journalists at the Planning Commission yesterday.

"Kibria was a brilliant diplomat and politician. It is unfortunate that a person like him was killed this manner."

"The image of the country will not only be tainted at home but also abroad, if we let some deranged people destroy our political environment in this way."

"How patriotic politicians will do work for the country if a patriot like him is killed in this way," he lamented.

He said Kibria had many friends abroad as he had served at the Escap (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific). "Now as the country's finance minister, I will have to answer to his friends why he died," said Saifur.

Saifur also recalled memories of his school days with Kibria. "We used to study in the Moulvibazar High School. He was one grade senior to me. He was a brilliant student. We resided at the SM Hall during our university days. Together, we also languished in jail for 45 days during the Language Movement in 1952."

"Though we belonged to opposite camps politically, we remained close at family level."

Speeding buses kill bureaucrat, another

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Reckless driving killed a government official and an unidentified man in separate accidents in Kalyanpur and Mohakhali during the hartal hours yesterday.

Rafiqul Islam, 40, senior assistant secretary of the health ministry, was standing at Darus Salam Road bus stoppage for a vehicle to his office at 8:30am.

"The driver of the speeding bus lost control and drove over him," said Shafiga, a roadside cigarette vendor.

The secretary died on the spot. Passers-by and locals stopped the Gulistan-bound bus coming from Dhaka Zoo and caught Shahinur Islam, helper of the bus, who was behind the wheel.

Robbers shoot

FROM PAGE 12 house hearing a gunshot.

"I made a phone call to Uttara Police Station and the duty-officer said he did not have the force to come to the spot immediately," said a neighbour, seeking anonymity.

The robbers meanwhile ransacked the house and looted about Tk 25,000, around 15 tola gold ornaments and one camera, said the officer-in-charge of Uttara Police Station Quoting Saaveda.

The robbers might have fled the scene by scaling the northern wall, as the barbed wire was also cut, said neighbours.

Neighbours rushed into the house at around 3:30am and found Hamid lying in a pool of blood in front of the kitchen, said Ali Ashraf Sarkar Dipu, another neighbour.

Hamid was rushed to the Uttara Central Hospital and later to the Institute of Post Graduate Medicine and Research (IPGMR), where doctors declared him dead.

Police sent his body to the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) morgue for an autopsy at around 9:00am.

Farah is undergoing treatment at the Uttara Central Hospital.

One held for vandalising Rangpur temple

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur Police arrested the prime accused in the Tuesday's Lalbagh temple incident and sent him to jail.

Police arrested Rashid after Prof Narayan Chandra Kundu, secretary of Lalbagh Kalmi Mondir committee, lodged a case with Kotwali Police Station last night against Rashid and his accomplices.

A number of police are deployed in the area.

Rashid on primary interrogation admitted that he damaged a wall of the temple and snapped the temple's electricity connection. Officer-in-Charge of Kotwali Police Station Nur Alam said.

The accused is somewhat insane and he underwent treatments several times, the OC said referring to Rashid's relatives.

Termining the Tuesday's temple incident a heinous act, leaders of the Hindu community in Rangpur expressed their concerns over the police bid to divert the matter to a different direction.

Secretary of the Rangpur Puja Udjapon Committee Babon Prosad said although tension there subsided, Hindu families are still in fear.

Moudud refutes allegation of coalition link

UNB, Dhaka Law Minister Moudud Ahmed has strongly refuted the allegation that a faction within the ruling alliance was involved in grenade attacks for which no clue to the heinous acts could be detected.

No responsible government can involve in such criminal activities," he told a reporter at a press conference yesterday.

The minister said similar grenade attacks were also made during the past Awami League rule but no clue to those deadly attacks could yet be unearthed.

About the Habiganj grisly grenade attack Moudud said, "Those trying to undermine the nation as a fundamentalist and failed state were behind the heinous conspiracy." He did not name any party or group.

"It is a matter of grave concern for all of us. We should stand united to frustrate such conspiracy. Government cannot do it alone," he added.

Moudud added that the clue to Habiganj grenade attack that left former finance minister and Awami League (AL) leader SAMS Kibria MP and four others dead could be unearthed only through cooperation of all quarters including the AL.

Iraq closes center in the town of Khanaqin, northeast of Baghdad near the border with Iran.

The US military said three Iraqi soldiers and five civilians were killed and seven people were wounded in the attack. No Americans were among the casualties.

JMJB behind Jatra

FROM PAGE 12 Maulana Azizullah of Courtpara village at Bandar upzila of Narayanganj, came in contact with the banned organisation Jamatul Mujahidin through Joyal, whom he met at an Islamic jalsa (meet) at Narayanganj a few months back.

Shafullah was eager to go to Iraq during the 'mass-killing and torture against Muslims' and asked Joyal to send him there, he said, adding that Joyal told him he would have to be trained before being sent.

In the statement, Shafullah also told the magistrate that Joyal admitted that his group carried out the bomb attack in Loxmikil village. Termining the performance of jatra and drama as anti-Islamic activities, Joyal told Shafullah that such attacks would continue.

Shafullah also told the magistrate that Joyal used to go to Dhaka for various organisational activities, although he could not mention the purposes, adding that Joyal's wife and children did not know about these activities.

JMJB operation commander Siddiqur Rahman, alias Bangla Bhai, said in an interview with journalists several months ago that Jamatul Mujahidin turned to JMJB when the government banned the organisation after several of its operatives were injured while making bombs.

Joyal is among those named by the arrestees injured while making bombs in Dinajpur several months ago.

Abdur Rahman, a close accomplice of Laden in Afgan war, who was

China-Taiwan FROM PAGE 12 issues," said Chiu Tai-san, chairman of Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council, who greeted them in a red carpet welcome.

"Reaching an agreement allowing the flights means the two sides are able to shelve their political differences in order to seek mutual benefits to better bilateral ties," said Chiu after the first two mainland planes landed.

Kibria's daughter violence and I hope people will be with us until my father's killers are brought to justice," Dr Reza said.

On the government's proposal for dialogue between the ruling parties and the opposition, he said, "It's all a mockery. After every killing they call for such dialogues. It is the government's responsibility to nab the criminals and they have been proved absolutely incompetent in discharging the responsibility."

Dr Reza Kibria also expressed dissatisfaction over Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar's not visiting either the hospital or the residence to see off the former finance minister.

"He (Speaker) is the guardian of the lawmakers and we expected him to pay a visit," he said.

Family of Kibria had refused the Speaker's request to bring the body to South Plaza of the Jatya Sangsad for a nama-j-e-janaja and to be lain in state as required under the convention for a sitting lawmaker.

Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar yesterday phoned Kibria's daughter Dr Nazli Kibria to make the request.

Govt asks Interpol country."

UNB says: Lutfuzzaman Babar, state minister for home affairs, also talked to the US ambassador yesterday and sought cooperation of the US investigators.

"We sought US expert investigators to dig out the Habiganj incident as the government is determined to unearth the mystery," Babar told a briefing.

"We want full cooperation of the US investigators, we want that they remain involved in the whole investigation process with our local investigators," he said.

Babar told journalists that two Interpol men are coming on January 31 from the US and Japan. They will prepare an assessment report and later, on the basis of the report, another team will come.

The state minister described limitations and progress of the investigations of the bomb attacks on the British High commissioner and on the Awami League meeting on August 21.

He said that Interpol and Scotland Yard were invited soon after the bomb attack at Sylhet Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) Mazar and on the Awami League meeting.

During the investigation of the Sylhet bomb attack, investigators arrested one Badrul Hasan Shamim, a UK citizen. Later the government, at the request of the British envoy, allowed him to go to Singapore for treatment but he left for London instead of returning to Dhaka, Babar said.

"Our investigators even went to Singapore for interrogation but the suspect did not cooperate with them. We requested the British high commissioner not to allow him in the UK for the sake of investigation, but it was ignored," UNB quoted Babar as saying.

"We have sent recently another letter to the authorities concerned in the UK saying Shamim is one of the prime suspects and he should be interrogated further," he said. "We hope that they (UK) will consider our request positively," Babar told the reporters.

also present in the interview, said that he and others decided to form an organisation in 1997 that later became Jamatul Mujahidin.

Shafullah claimed that Abdur Rahman of JMJB is his leader.

600 SIs FROM PAGE 12 Development," the meeting was told.

The Ncar approved the decision to create 600 new posts of sub-inspectors in 300 police stations across the country to form separate investigation units to ensure "fair and speedy investigation" into cases.

A decision was also taken to set up four new police investigation centers at Titas Purbanchal under Brahmanbaria Sadar Police Station, Dapherhat under Sadullapur Police Station of Gaibandha, Eidgaon under Cox's Bazar Sadar Police Station and at Agorpur under Babuganj Police Station in Barisal.

The meeting approved a decision to set up divisional administrative office of the land ministry in Barisal and Sylhet divisions.

It also decided to rename Bogra's Majhira upazila as Shahjahanpur upazila and to build a new upazila complex building at Louhajang in Munshiganj.

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Health and Family Welfare Minister Khandakar Mosharrat Hossain, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed, Industries Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami, Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, Food and Disaster Management Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Post and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Huj, State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar, State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazur Rahman and State Minister for Land Uki Abdus Sattar attended the meeting.

Cabinet Secretary Sadaat Hossain, Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Kamal Siddiqui and other officials concerned were also present.

Women activists say people's life utterly unsafe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Seventy-two leading women's rights activists and members of civil society in a joint statement yesterday demanded the government instil sense of security among the citizens through restoring public confidence in the administration and judiciary of the country.

They termed the killing of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria in grenade blasts on Thursday a tragedy for the nation and sign of serious moral degradation.

Condemning the killing, they demanded immediate identification of the criminals through proper and transparent investigation into the incident.

People's lives of late have become utterly unsafe. Lack of sincere efforts by the government to curb crimes has pushed the country towards an uncertainty, the statement said.

A tendency of taking law into hands is growing in the society contributing to further worsening of law and order, it pointed out. In reference, they mentioned the vigilantism by Bangla Bhai and his men. They regretted that despite the prime ministerial order Bangla Bhai is still at large.

Referring to bomb and grenade blasts that killed over 140 people since 1999, the right activists said they were not any isolated ones, rather well-orchestrated acts of violence by a powerful gang.

Besides, they expressed concern over the failure of the government in preventing repeat of such attacks. In some cases, they observed, the government failed to bring the culprits to trial even after police had submitted charge sheet against them.

The statement was signed among others by Sultana Kamal, Khush Kabir, Hamida Hossain, Ayesha Khanom, Shirin Akhter, Advocate Sigma Huda, Sara Zaker, Mita Haque, Rotunah Hossain, Farida Akhter, Taslima Hossain, Advocate Saima Ali, Dr Naila Khan, Aasha Meherin Amin, Shahin Anam, Laila Kabir and Dr Sonia Amin, Aroma Dutta, Saika Kamal Ila Chanda and Maleka Begum.

Pay commission FROM PAGE 12 recommendations on the report.

A Pay Commission meeting on Thursday finalised the report. The recommended pay structure puts the highest basic pay at Tk 27,500 and the lowest at Tk 2,800, said sources.

Since the last pay structure was announced in 1997, there had been an inflation of 31.76 percent, observed the commission in its report. In line with the inflation, it recommended a pay hike of 70 percent on an average.

There is, however, no guarantee that the government would fully implement the Pay Commission recommendations. The 1997 Pay Commission had put the highest and lowest basic pay at Tk 18,000 and Tk 1,850 but the government scaled it down to Tk 15,000 and Tk 1,500.

If the Pay Commission's recommendations are implemented, the new pay, which will be effected from January 1, 2005, would cost the government Tk 5,294 crore annually.

Speaker, AL FROM PAGE 1 Sangsad (JS) tomorrow at the beginning of the session, the first of this year.

It is however a convention in Bangladesh parliament that the day's session is adjourned following the adoption of an obituary reference if a sitting lawmaker dies.

Talking to The Daily Star, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid yesterday said they have demanded the speaker to adjourn the sitting following the convention. "We will react strongly if our demand is not met."

Asked how they will protest if the convention is not followed, the deputy leader said the AL parliamentary party will decide about it.

Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar said he cannot violate the constitution by deferring the presidential address. He however said the issue will be settled at the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee before beginning of the session.

"The president will address at the commencement of the session in accordance with the constitution. I see no way to alter this constitutional obligation," the speaker said at a press briefing at his office yesterday.

Echoing him, Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui also said they cannot go beyond the constitution.

However, the speaker expressed his deep concern at the 'violation' of the convention of holding a nama-j-e-janaja of a sitting lawmaker at the JS complex following the death of Shah AMS Kibria.

"I was ready with flowers after making a stage at the South Plaza (of the JS complex) to pay tribute to him. But Awami League and the late lawmaker's family did not agree to bring the body to the parliament complex," he told the briefing.

5 of a family FROM PAGE 12 The dead was identified as Rafiqul Islam, 40, senior assistant secretary of the health ministry.

Hospital sources said Rafiq died on the spot when a pick-up van rammed the rickshaw carrying him at 8:30am.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital for autopsy. A case was filed with the police.

Over 100 hurt

FROM PAGE 1 establishments remained closed. No trading took place in the Dhaka and Chittagong stock exchanges while transactions in banks were very thin.

DHAKA The police chased and charged batons on the opposition leaders and activists in Dhaka University, Paltan, Motijheel, Muktangan and Baitul Mokarram areas. The hartal supporters clashed with the police at Chawkbazar.

The police cordoned off the AL headquarters on Bangabandhu Avenue putting barbed wire fences in the morning and did not allow the opposition activists to bring out processions or stage demonstrations in the area.

At least six AL leaders and activists including former MP Obaidul Kader were injured when the police started dragging them from a procession as it reached near Chamber Bhaban in Motijheel at about 11:30am.

As Kader and some other leaders tried to snatch an activist from the policemen, the law-enforcers swooped on them. The police started beating and kicking the AL leaders and activists including the former minister.

Witnesses said Kader fell to the ground when the police assaulted him. Later, he was taken to a private clinic. The police picked up at least 12 AL supporters from the spot.

At that time AL lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor shouted at the police: "If you do not let us protest the killing of our leader, please shoot us."

Paltan and surrounding areas turned into a battlefield at about 10:30am when the law-enforcers went on action to disperse the opposition activists. They charged batons on a Jubo Mahila League procession at about 11:45am.

At this stage the agitating female protestors pelted stones at the running vehicles and on the police. Several policemen swooped on Srantik League activist Shima Chowdhury who fell to the ground and sustained head injury.

In protest against the police action, the hartal supporters led by Asaduzzaman Noor staged a sit-in at Paltan blocking the road.

The police clubbed a procession of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of the AL, in front of Rokeya Hall of Dhaka University (DU) leaving at least 10 BCL leaders and activists injured at about 11:30am.

Two of the wounded BCL activists collapsed on the road receiving serious head injuries. Five of them were admitted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).

Six BCL leaders including central Vice-president Ashit Baran Biswas were arrested during the demonstration.

Five other BCL activists were injured when the police charged batons on another procession near the Teachers-Students Centre on the DU campus at about 7:45pm.

The police beat former AL lawmaker Haji Selim mercilessly near the Dhaka Central Jail gate when he was leading a procession at about 11:30am. As the law-enforcers clubbed Selim and others, the protestors pelted bricks at them.

Haji Selim was rushed to the DMCH and later shifted to a private clinic from where he was released after treatment.

Earlier, the police also charged other law enforcement agencies had visited the spot earlier, they took preliminary testimonies of 18 injured undergoing treatment at Habiganj Sadar Hospital yesterday.

Sylhet Range Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police AKM Mahfuzul Haque had been staying in Habiganj for the last two days to monitor the investigations.

Meanwhile, a BBC Bangla Service reporter quoted Haque as claiming that they would be able to 'give a result' of the probe in 15 days.

PARALLEL PROBE Besides police, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Criminal Investigation Department (CID), National Security Intelligence (NSI), Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), Detective Branch (DB) and Special Branch (SB) have begun a separate investigation into the outrage.

A team comprising senior officials of Rab, CID, NSI, DGFI, DB and SB has been formed to co-ordinate the probe.

Two other four-member teams have also been formed headed by Habiganj Additional SP Shamsul Haque Khondaker and Sunamganj Additional SP Chandra Kumar Chakma to assist investigation officer Chowdhury in his probe. The teams have already started working.

NO FAITH IN PROBE The long track of failures to bring the perpetrators of previous grenade and bomb attacks to book has left local AL leaders and activists, and even some police officials of Habiganj worried whether the culprits behind this latest carnage would also go unpunished.

Habiganj District AL President Dr Moshfiq Hussain Chowdhury yesterday even accused the government of dilly-dallying in the probe. "Police will not be able to unmask the people behind the incident as they enjoy government patronage. The culprits behind the previous bomb attacks had also gone scot-free for this," he alleged.

An official involved in the investigation said the mystery of this killing will also remain shrouded like the previous ones, unless some one identifies the killers. "The people behind the repeated grenade and bomb attacks are so professional, skilled and powerful that they cannot be traced unless their field-level agents are identified," he said.

batons on a procession led by Haji Selim near Chawkbazar soon after he came out of his Lalbagh house defying police obstruction. From the early morning, a good number of police cordoned off his house.

OTHER PLACES Some 50 people including AL lawmaker Mohammad Ali and Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Hatia Imam Uddin Kibir were wounded when the AL activists clashed with the ruling BNP men in the island throughout the day.

The lawmaker and the UNO sustained head injuries while 30 others were injured critically during the series of clashes. The warning groups used sticks to beat their opponents. They pelted stones at each other.

Police and witnesses said the clashes ensued when the BNP activists brought out processions in the town amid demonstrations by the opposition activists in protest against the killing of Shah AMS Kibria.

The BNP activists ransacked houses of seven AL activists and local Proshika office while AL supporters attacked the house of a local chairman.

The authorities sent one platoon of additional police from Noakhali to Hatia to bring the situation under control.

In Chittagong, some unidentified youths set ablaze a city service passenger bus near the Fire Brigade headquarters at Agrabad at around 7:00pm. Firefighters rushed to the spot immediately and doused the blaze. None was hurt in the incident.

The police rounded up 157 people Friday night and arrested four hartal supporters in the city during yesterday's hartal, our staff correspondent reports from the port city.

The Sylhet-bound Jalalabad Express, which left Chittagong Railway Station the previous night, was stranded for a few hours at Nawapara station yesterday morning.

Railway sources in Chittagong said Sylhet-bound train Upaban Express from Dhaka faced similar obstruction at Srimganj station in Moulvibazar.

In Khulna city, the opposition activists damaged three trucks, two autorickshaws, a bus of Parjatan Corporation and eleven rickshaws, our correspondent reports.

Eight people including four AL leaders, two passersby and two BNP workers were injured in a clash between the AL and BNP activists at Patgram in the early hours yesterday, reports our Lalmonirhat correspondent.

Our Barisal correspondent reports: At least seven opposition activists