



## Govt ready to give FBI full-access to evidence

Waits for US response

REZAUL KARIM and ASHFAQ WARES KHAN

The government is ready to provide full access to evidence to the FBI to investigate the January 27 grenade attack in Habiganj that killed former finance minister SAMS Kibria and four others.

A highly placed home ministry source said the government is now awaiting response from Washington

regarding its request to send detectives to investigate the attack.

"We have not yet received any official response from the US government. We are in touch with the US embassy in Dhaka and they assured us that they will communicate Washington's response as soon as it is available," the source added.

A source in the US embassy confirmed that the decision to send the FBI now rests with the US government.

Wounded Khulna reporter flown in to CMH

OC closed; human-chain today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Daily Sangram Khulna Bureau Chief Sheikh Belaluddin Ahmed, the most severely injured in Saturday night's bomb blast at the Khulna Press Club, was flown yesterday to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in the capital.

Meanwhile, officer-in-charge (OC) of Sadar Police Station was closed to the police lines last night for negligence of duty during the bomb attack. Iqbal Hossain, OC of Khan Jahan Ali Police Station replaced him.

Belaluddin, also the president of Metropolitan Union of Journalists (MUJ) of Khulna, was rushed to the

## Cop killed, 80 hurt in hartal clashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A policeman was killed and at least 80 people were injured yesterday as the country passed off the last of six hartal days in two weeks called by the main opposition Awami League (AL).

Police constable Ashraf Siddiqui, 45, succumbed to his injuries at the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) after being hit on the head by an object while chasing away hundreds of agitated opposition activists Jogali of Nalitabari upazila in Sherpur at around 11:00am.

"One officer was killed and five

others were wounded, one of them critically," said Sherpur Superintendent of Police Nibas Chandra Majhi, adding that Ashraf died on the way to the hospital.

Among the four other policemen injured, assistant sub-inspector (ASI) Nurul Islam Mollah was admitted to MMCH where doctors stated his condition to be critical. ASI Mizanur Rahman, Constable Mizanur Rahman and Sulaiman were admitted to the health complex Nalitabari upazila.

The Nalitabari police arrested Wahidur Rahman but no case was filed till filing of this report at 6:00pm. Ashraf's death was the first casualty since the AL and its left allies enforced series of countrywide shutdown following the Habiganj grenade attack on January 27 that killed former finance minister SAMS Kibria and four others.

The 14 opposition parties, led by AL, also called another three-day general strike in Chittagong from Monday, but changed their heart at the request of business leaders in the port city. They will now enforce an eight-hour hartal today.

Apart from the death at Nalitabari, Sunday's hartal marked clashes here and there as the government beefed up security after

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PHOTO: STAR

Awami League lawmaker Mirza Azam wrestles with a policeman at Dainik Bangla intersection in the city during yesterday's hartal trying to prevent police from arresting his party workers.

## Hartal at Ctg reduced to 8hr for today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Awami League and other opposition parties yesterday curtailed their 3-day hartal to eight-hour in Chittagong for today at the request of business community in the port city.

Emerging from a meeting with the business leaders, Chittagong Mayor and city Awami League (AL) general secretary ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury told the press that the opposition parties would enforce a strike, from 6:00am to 2:00pm, considering the appeal from business sector.

"We will go ahead with an eight-hour hartal tomorrow (Monday) as a token protest against the police

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## Two more JMJB men held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police yesterday morning arrested two more operatives of Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) in Bagmara upazila.

Acting on information couched up by a group of JMJB men arrested earlier, police nabbed Abu Zafar Sardar, 28, and Masud Hasan, 28, at their homes in Ramrama village. They were shown arrested in a case for an assault on police on January 24.

Police said they have squeezed out many important information from the JMJB Bagmara chief Abdus Sattar Master and 24 other JMJB men while they were on a nine-day remand and are now scrutinising and verifying those.

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