

## Cops go wild

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indiscriminately on some female workers taking shelter in a by-lane. They even entered a house and a clinic and beat up the female workers mercilessly, injuring at least 20 others.

The angry opposition activists at one stage pelted brickbats and chased the police. Additional police force rushed to the spot and chased the opposition men.

The law enforcers stormed into Nasim's residence, where many opposition activists took shelter, and damaged the security guard's room.

Before its attempt to march towards the PMO, the opposition alliance held a rally at Dhanmondi voting to resist the upcoming parliamentary election without electoral reforms.

**BMCH**  
Doctors at the BMCH said around 100 opposition workers and leaders went to the hospital to take treatment after the clashes.

A total of 36 severely injured opposition men, including Nasim, Ajoy Kar and SM Kamal, were admitted to BMCH.

Condition of Nasim who was admitted unconscious was critical, said Prof Abdul Rauf Sarder. "But we cannot say anything definitely about the state of Mohammad Nasim before 24-hour observation," he said. Nasim received injuries all over his body, including on the hands, legs and head, he added.

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil, Organising Secretary Abdul Mannan and other senior leaders and hundreds of activists rushed to the BMCH to see Nasim and other injured.

### ALPPP PROCESSION

An AL Parliamentary Party (ALPP) procession comprising 13 AL lawmakers led by opposition Chief Whip Abdu Shaukat and Col (Retd) Faruk Khan brought out a procession from the NAM building.

The police intercepted the procession three times before it reached the Bijoy Sarani intersection. The AL lawmakers held a rally there.

**BANGLAMOTOR CROSSING**  
Police clubbed the leaders and activists of 14-party alliance at Bangla Motor intersection area during their peaceful rally at around 12:30pm.

The police assaulted and injured at least 50 demonstrators including AL leaders Asaduzzaman Nur MP and Mobashwer Ali, president of city (north) Awami Swochhasebak League.

Police attacked and drove the demonstrators away from the rallies in Bangla Motor, Sonargaon road and Eskaton areas.

A group of demonstrators put up a little resistance by pelting brickbats at the police but soon gave in to police might and dispersed.

AL President Member Moin Chowdhury, speaking from a makeshift stage aboard a truck bed, said the people would retaliate with a vengeance for all the bloodshed caused by the police.

Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, general secretary of Dhaka City Awami League, presided over the rally.

**AGARGAON**  
Agargaon area turned volatile after some demonstrators hurled four homemade bombs at around 12:45pm toward the police positioned in front of IDB Bhaban.

Riot police charged in and chased the opposition activists away. The activists answered with brickbats.

At least five AL activists were injured during this clash.

Two AL leaders fell off the truck that was carrying them and suffered injuries as the police was chasing them.

The retreating opposition activists moved towards Mirpur vandalised a taxicab and set fires at several spots on Rokeya Sarani stretching

**27 people killed**  
**FROM PAGE 16**  
were wounded.

Women also shot dead a policeman in Baghdad, where insurgents have managed to carry out a series of large-scale attacks despite a security crackdown since mid-June.

Northeast of the capital in the country's restive Diyala province, 11 people were killed in a string of bombings and shootings.

In the deadliest of the attacks, four people were killed and 24 others wounded when a bomb exploded near a shop in the town of Muqadadiyah.

A separate bomb attack also killed Brigadier General Ali Hassan Jubur, head of operations in Muqadadiyah's police headquarters, police said.

He was killed in Abu Sayda, near Baquba, the provincial capital, as he left his home for work.

The other casualties were civilians, all killed in different shooting attacks in the town of Khalis, the Al-Tahrir neighbourhood of Baquba and at a market in Baquba.

Police also found three bodies in the province on Tuesday.

An ethnically mixed province, Diyala is one of the most violent regions in Iraq with dozens killed every week in bombings and shootings.

In the northern city of Mosul, a police captain was shot dead as he was driving in his car.

In the town of Samarra, 125km north of Baghdad, four people were shot dead by gunmen in the town's industrial zone.

Also southwest of Samarra, a policeman was killed and another wounded when a roadside bomb hit their patrol.

Near the northern oil city of Kirkuk, an Iraqi soldier was killed and three others wounded when a roadside bomb struck their convoy.

Also in Kirkuk, police arrested a wanted insurgent from a local hospital and his interrogation led to arrest of another two policemen suspected of links with insurgent activities, police said.

Police found 15 bodies of men shot to death across Iraq, including the three in Diyala province.

from Agargaon to Mirpur 10.

Police picked up nine activists from the spot including a ward commissioner, Shahida Tarique Dipti, Sajedur Rahman Russel, Farok, Luna, Shahna Hossain, Zinat, Nasrin, Aina Moti and Kulsum.

Earlier, several thousand leaders and activists gathered at Mirpur Section 10 roundabout with processions from different areas of Mirpur.

From there, a procession moved forward on Rokeya Sarani at 11:00am towards the Prime Minister's Office.

As the procession reached Agargaon crossing, some demonstrators pelted stones on the police.

Leaders in the procession restrained their activists while the police requested all to remain calm over loudspeakers.

Later, AL held a rally in the area. Police filed two cases -- one for assaulting the police and the other for throwing bombs under the Explosive Substances Act -- against 22 AL leaders and activists including former lawmaker Kamal Ahmed Majumder and Shahida Tarique Dipti.

**MOHAKHALI**  
Situation at Mohakhali was relatively peaceful except a number of cracker blasts at 1:00pm right after the conclusion of a rally organised by the 14-party opposition combine amidst heavy police presence.

Separate processions led by AL leader Tofail Ahmed and advocate Sahara Khatun from the Titumir College area reached at the eastern side of the railway crossing at Mohakhali intersection at 11:00am where police already put up barbed wire barricades to block them.

The demonstrators there grew stronger as more processions joined them, but they did not succeed to remove the police barricade.

The leaders refrained their activists from further attempts and held a rally there. Speakers presided over by Rashid Khan Menon, spoke from a makeshift podium built on a truck bed.

Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Subid Ali Bhuiyan, Zahid Hasan Russell MP, AKM Rahmatullah and MABakerspoke at the rally.

Tofail Ahmed threatened the government with indefinite strikes from October 28 if justice KM Hasan is allowed to be the chief of the caretaker government and Chief Election Commissioner MA Aziz continues with the electoral process.

Two crackers went off after Tofail and other leaders got down from the podium instructing their followers to march towards the PMO.

Demonstrators started to hurl brickbats at the police and police pushed them towards the Mohakhali Bus Terminal area.

Three more crackers went off one after another when Tofail and other leaders reached near Mohakhali-Gulshan link road with a procession.

**FRESH PROGRAMMES**  
The opposition combine held an urgent meeting at its coordinator Abdul Jalil's residence with Tofail Ahmed in the chair last night.

The meeting announced demonstration programmes at Chalk Bazar and Bangabandhu Avenue today and at eight electoral constituencies in the capital tomorrow.

Jalil, also the General Secretary of AL, demanded immediate removal of police DC Kohinor Miah and accused him for masterminding the carnage during the PMO and EC site programmes.

**Police barricades**  
**FROM PAGE 1**  
Police put up barricades at Mohakhali rail crossing, Farmgate, Mohakhali flyover, Moghbazar, Bangla Motor, Shyamoli, Asad Gate, Panthapath, Russell Square, Dhanmondi Road No 27, Rokeya Sarani intersection and Bijoy Sarani intersection clogging traffic during the rush hours of the day.

People who came out from their houses in the morning were seen walking to their destinations while many had to wait for a long time to get public transports.

"Oh God, what should I do now, I have to go to Al-Raji Hospital within an hour", a little boy, who was carrying food for his sick brother, told this correspondent at Mohakhali, as public transports were barred from running in the area at the moment.

"Now how will I go to Farmgate?" he asked before he started walking towards Farmgate.

"After remaining stranded for over an hour in front of the Army Stadium, I got off the bus and walked to Banani to attend my office," said a commuter.

Thousands of city-dwellers were seen waiting for hours at different intersections including Shabbagh, Malibagh, Mouchak, Maghbazar, and New Market for buses.

"I got on a bus at the airport bus stop at 9:00am, but arrived in my office at Malibagh at 11:00am, as I had to get off the bus at Badda because we got stuck in a traffic jam," said another commuter Mahfuzur Rahman.

Many people were seen crossing the troubled areas in Mirpur on foot while trying to hail public transports, which were plying on Mirpur Road via Mirpur 1.

"I was in a hurry to go to Dhanmondi but could not. I had to wait for an hour and a half at Mirpur 10 intersection due to shortage of public transports," said Shafiq, an official of a real estate company.

Rickshaw pullers and drivers of CNG-run three wheelers were demanding high fares prompting the commuters to get locked in bargaining squabbles with them in which the commuters had to ultimately give in to the transport operators' demands.

"I was coming to Farmgate from Shabbagh. Finding no bus, I looked for a rickshaw, but none of the rickshaw pullers agreed to come. After waiting for almost an hour, I started walking towards Farmgate," said Shahid, a student.

## Govt crackdown

**FROM PAGE 1**  
organisation's preparation to send a large number of people to Dhaka to take part in the 14-party programme of laying siege to the Prime Minister's Office yesterday and an opposition grand rally scheduled for September 18.

Proshika sources said panicked staff of the NGO are preferring not to attend their offices and are not staying in their residences to avoid arrests and harassment by the government.

Law enforcers yesterday continued their surveillance of Proshika offices, but no new arrest was reported till 7:30pm. Police however had picked up a Proshika employee at Dumuria yesterday but he was released after he had been taken to the police station, the Proshika sources said.

Some arrested Proshika staff obtained bail from local courts, but they were yet to be released from jails till 7:30pm yesterday, according to sources.

A Proshika official said two arrestees from Dhamrai, one each from Ashulia and Savar, five from Brahmanbaria, six from Bhairab, seven from Pakundia and four from Bajitpur were granted bail yesterday.

Meanwhile, different social and rights organisations in separate statements yesterday strongly condemned and protested the 'illegal arrests' of Proshika staff.

The statements condemned the crackdown terming it a 'violation of human rights' and demanded immediate release of the arrestees and a stop to the harassment.

The arrests and harassment of Proshika staff without any specific allegations or cases revealed the fascist nature of the present government, some of the statements said.

Some national organisations condemning the crackdown are Sammilita Nagorik Andolon, Bangladesh Institute of Human Rights, and Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee.

The Nirmul Committee statement was signed by Prof Kabir Chowdhury, eminent writer and journalist Shahriar Kabir, and Kazi Mukul.

Our Rajshahi University (RU) correspondent reported that Rajshahi chapters of Oikkyabaddha Nagorik Andolon, Sammilito Sangskritik Jote, Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, Rajshahi Union of Journalists, Udichi City Unit, Rajshahi Bar Association, RU Progressive Teachers Society, Teachers Officials and Employees Welfare Association of RU, Bangabandhu Parishad, Mohila Parishad, Rajshahi Theatre and Bangabandhu Ainjibi Parishad of Rajshahi also issued statements condemning the crackdown.

**Polythene bag**  
**FROM PAGE 1**  
under the guidance of a taskforce comprising police, BDR, customs officials and others is being implemented at the initiative of Department of Environment (DoE).

The taskforce sealed off the factories manufacturing polythene bags illegally at Tejgaon and Lalbagh and seized such bags sold at kitchen markets, he added.

The minister and state minister of environment and forest ministry are regularly leading such sudden raids, Tariqul Islam said.

But in reality, he said, the DoE has limited manpower and it has no offices outside the divisional cities. As a result, it has become difficult to prevent successfully at the field level the manufacturing, marketing and use of the polythene bags.

That is why the police officers of the ranks of sub-inspector and above have been empowered to take legal measures in this connection in and outside the metropolitan areas, he added.

**PM opens**  
**FROM PAGE 16**  
manufacturing 500 tonnes of fertiliser a day. Toyo Engineering Corporation and Mitsui Ltd of Japan constructed the unit.

"DAP has the quality to meet the demand for both TSP and urea. So, farmers will not have to buy TSP and urea separately as they can meet the requirements of the two fertilisers by using DAP," said an expert at the newly-built factory.

The two new units will produce around 5 lakh tonnes of DAP fertiliser annually, which is equivalent to 5 lakh tonnes of TSP and 2 lakh tonnes of urea fertiliser.

"As a result, yearly import of 5 lakh tonnes of TSP and 2 lakh tonnes of urea will be reduced which will save a huge amount of foreign currency," according to an official.

The raw materials of DAP-1 are phosphoric acid, ammonia, and sulphuric acid while of DAP-2 are phosphoric acid, ammonia and silica. Ammonia and sulphuric acid are available locally while phosphoric acid has to be imported.

The PM visited the two units and watched the production process. Local MPs and investors were present during the inauguration.

Later, the prime minister inaugurated the newly-built Karnaphuli Export Processing Zone, set up on 222.42 acres of land, on the premises of the closed-down Chittagong Steel Mills at North Potenga on the outskirts of the port city.

Total plots in the project will be 211, drawing an estimated investment of \$350 million and creating jobs for 52,000 Bangladesh citizens. Annual export target of the factories in the EPZ has been set at \$750 million.

## Dhaka set to sign

**FROM PAGE 1**  
A team of PTTEP executives made this proposal during their visit on August 20-22. It was then said the Thai energy minister will visit Dhaka next month (September) and participate in the signing of the MoU on the proposal. But soon after reviewing the proposal, Petrobangla forwarded it to the energy ministry asking it to sign a MoU.

"Firstly, this is an unsolicited proposal. This is not unattractive. But if we float an open tender, there is a chance that we might get better offers from other international companies, private or national oil agencies," noted an official.

"Secondly, the energy ministry last month finalised the new map of off-shore blocks that will be open for the third round block bidding for oil and gas exploration. So, we cannot give away some of these blocks to PTTEP without any competition or before we conclude this international block bidding," he added.

Besides, the political governments of both Thailand and Bangladesh are now at the end of their tenure. But the countries are preparing for elections. "Therefore, it is not a good time for striking an investment deal," he pointed out.

The MoU to be signed between the two countries will focus on broad-based cooperation. Sources however said the draft of the MoU has not yet been finalised.

Thailand had been holding dialogues on energy sector cooperation from March last year. A high-level team of PTTEP officials had met the energy minister, Petrobangla and Bapex chiefs and later sent a proposal for Thai scholarship on reservoir engineering and geo-science studies, visit of Bangladesh oil and gas executives to Thai oil and gas facilities and review of off-shore geological and seismic data of Bangladesh from Bangladesh Data Centre.

As a follow up, Bangladesh sent two officials from Bapex and Bangladesh Gas Field Company Ltd to Thailand under the scholarship programme late last year. In March this year, high officials of the energy ministry Petrobangla and Bapex visited Thai oil and gas facilities.

The PTTEP team on its August 20-22 visit was supposed to be accompanied by the Thai energy minister. But the minister cancelled his visit as he was busy in electioneering and decided to come to Dhaka this month.

Earlier, the Thai prime minister and foreign minister during their visits to Bangladesh had emphasised energy sector cooperation between the two countries.

## EU mission asks

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The exchange occurred when the mission delegates met the leaders of BNP in the party's central office at Nayapal in the capital yesterday.

During the meeting, which went on for about two hours, BNP leaders led by its Secretary General LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, and the EU mission led by Andrew Bruce discussed the matter of monitoring the upcoming election and the pre-election circumstances of the country. The ruling party leaders gave their consent to deploying the EU mission for observing the next election.

"Now we are listening to the authorities concerned including the government, different political parties, the civil society, media and others and gathering information so that the EU could deploy its observation team for the next election," Andrew Bruce, election expert of the EU External Affairs Department told reporters after the meeting.

Declining to disclose the meeting agenda, the leader of the EU mission said, "We have just listened to their views."

But meeting sources said the EU mission asked the ruling party leaders about their position regarding the proposal for electoral reforms and also wanted to know about the views of BNP regarding Justice KM Hasan, the likely chief adviser to the next caretaker government, and Chief Election Commissioner Justice MA Aziz. The

leaders of BNP told the EU mission that Justice Hasan will take over the charge of the next caretaker government as its chief adviser in accordance with the constitution, the sources said.

"It was a fruitful discussion and we have discussed different issues like election observation, voter list and the political situation in the country," BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told reporters after the meeting.

"They have asked us about the voter list and the controversy, and we informed them that the voter list could be corrected even on the day before the election," he said adding, "They also asked us about the present situation of the country and BNP leaders told them that the election records of our country is better than the records of other countries in this region."

In reply to a question the LGRD minister said, "I think the EU mission have shown a positive attitude regarding the election observation issue."

When a reporter asked Bhuiyan whether Washington based National Democratic Institute (NDI) has any right to comment on the possible chief adviser of the next caretaker government, he just said, "I will tell you later."

BNP Standing Committee Member also Health Minister Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain, Law Minister Moudud Ahmad, Post and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Haque, and BNP Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan also attended the meeting.

## A three-minute

**FROM PAGE 1**  
was chanting slogans.

There were a lot of women activists, carrying sticks and placards. They looked furious and tried to put up their best show; after all they knew the photographers were clicking away right in front of them. They were pushing hard against the barbed wire. A man in white Panjabi, seemingly a ward-level leader, outstretched his hands, trying to dissuade the women from turning too violent.

The policeman beside me was still blaring on his loudspeaker, asking the demonstrators to back off. He was reading from a handwritten paper from behind his helmet.

Suddenly, a woman threw a stick into the sea of police; a half brick hit the fibre glass shield; two more sticks flew in and four more pebbles. Now the policemen also hurried back to the stones. More missiles started flying in the air in both directions. A police woman was hit on her helmet; she looked baffled.

And then the policemen broke the barricade and charged, swinging their batons wildly. In a span of few seconds, the pickets vanished towards Road 27.

The place was now teeming with policemen. One of them was dragging a sombre looking bearded man

towards the police van. The man looked surprised and baffled, he did not look like a picketing kind.

It was now a sub-normal situation. About two hundred yards from the barricade, a few Awami League leaders and workers including former home minister Mohammad Nasim were standing together, aimlessly. And then it happened in a jiffy. At least 15 policemen encircled them and started beating them mercilessly.

Hit on the waist, Nasim fell on the street and others followed him. The policemen were whacking away at the fallen bodies. Some of them tried to get on their feet, but they were quickly mowed down. The clubs rose and fell with a dull sound of connection with human bodies. The clubs got shredded at the top by the impact. The policemen's nostrils flared, they looked focused on their job. The killer instinct playing through their whole bodies.

There was no screaming now, only the men and women lay motionless, most of them unconscious. Even the whacking did not stir them at all.

Suddenly, the policemen turned and walked away, as if nothing had happened there.

It took three minutes to complete the neat job.

## Home ministry

**FROM PAGE 16**  
(PP) Abdullah Mahmud Hasan on September 7 submitted two separate petitions along with a home ministry letters recommending the withdrawal of the cases saying the cases were 'politically motivated'.

Judge Mohammad Aman Ullah of the Fifth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka on Sunday fixed October 10 and November 5 for hearing on the petitions.

According to the prosecution, a team of Tejgaon police led by its then officer-in-charge (OC) raided Nannu's shanty at South Begunbari and arrested Sobahan with 280 bottles of Phenisidol on November 11, 1999. Sensing the presence of police, his brother Selim and two others fled the scene.

Sub-inspector Sirajul Islam filed a case in this connection under the Special Powers Act, 1974 against Sobahan, Selim and the two others with Tejgaon Police Station on the same day.

The investigation officer (IO) of the case pressed charges against the two brothers and dropped names of their involvement with the offence was not pressed.

In the charge sheet, the IO mentioned three other cases against them were also pending with other courts in the capital.

## Butenis for polls

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Someone has to lose, it is democracy and it is expected that the loser should accept the result that would help forward the country and democracy," Butenis told pressmen on the second day of her three-day visit to the port city.

When asked if there is a possibility of mediation from the US to narrow down the gap between the confronting political parties, she replied in the negative and said, "We do not support or disfavour any party but are very careful about holding the election."

About the personal political stalemate, Butenis said the government and the opposition should sit down to find a solution, as the people want a fair election so that they can exercise their voting rights.

She observed that personal ego should not get in the way of resolving the issues of national interest and there is still a lot of room for the dialogue.

Bangladesh has great potentials as the people here are hospitable, sincere, peace- and democracy-loving while the media is free, noted the American ambassador.

Earlier, Butenis visited the two-century-old Chhatraeswar Kali Temple and talked to the Hindu leaders there. Chief priest Chandraraj Shekhar Chakraborty and human rights activist Advocate Sunil Siran received her at the temple.

Talking to the press on the temple premises, she said Bangladesh has a proud tradition of interfaith harmony and the constitution safeguards the rights of the minority communities.

Butenis said the country's image as a moderate and peace-loving state has been brightening among the international community.

The US envoy visited Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ), Chittagong Port Authority and a private industrial enterprise at CEPZ. She exchanged views with the leaders of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) and joined a dinner hosted by former city mayor and Jatiya Party leader Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury last night.

Butenis also called on Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury at his Chasma Hill residence.

While meeting the CCCI representatives, she said political stability, consistency in policymaking, diversification of export basket and enabling infrastructure are the key to sustainable economic development.

Highlighting the steady economic growth of Bangladesh for several years, she appreciated its entrepreneurial performance.

"Bangladesh has shown resilience in the changing market climate in post-MFA era," Butenis said adding that alongside some other major sectors, the pharmaceutical industry has witnessed a robust growth in recent years.

Chamber President Saifuzzaman Chowdhury requested the ambassador to use her good offices in ensuring duty-free access for Bangladesh products to the US market and more US investment in the country.

**50 killed**  
**FROM PAGE 16**  
finished an election speech as part of his campaigning for the September 20 presidential and local polls.

Bodies and injured people were seen lying on the ground as rescue teams and ambulances rushed to the scene.

The 1bb constituency, which has some 900,000 voters, is the second most important in Yemen after the capital Sanaa, and is an opposition stronghold.

Saleh kicked off his election campaign on August 30 and is virtually certain to win the presidential polls in which he faces four challengers.

The 64-year-old field marshal has been at the helm since 1978, first as president of the then North Yemen and then as leader of the unified state after north and south merged in May 1990.

The election campaign in the impoverished tribal-based Arabian peninsula country has been marred by acts of vandalism and violence, in which four people have been killed.

Tribesmen also abducted four French tourists in southeast Yemen Sunday in a bid to put pressure on authorities to free jailed members of their tribes.

Saleh's ruling General People's Congress (GPC) and an electoral opposition alliance dubbed 'Common Forum' that backs the president's main rival, Faisal bin Shamlan, accused each other of being behind acts of vandalism at a political rally in 1bb on Saturday.

Three Yemenis were killed and eight wounded late August in a shootout between supporters of GPC and Common Forum local candidates in Jawf, 180km north of Sanaa.

A nephew of independent presidential hopeful Ahmad al-Majeedi was killed August 28 while organising a rally for his uncle in Lahij in south-west Yemen.

**Court quizzes**  
**FROM PAGE 16**  
Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on March 14 pressed charges against Sunny and four others in two cases, showing 36 people as prosecution witnesses.

Rab dropped the names of Monir and Abul Khair, Sunny's landlord, from the charge sheet as their involvement with JMB could not be proved.

The investigation officers (IO) said the charges brought against the five were primarily proved and they should be tried. The IOs also prayed for arrest warrants against the absconders and attachment of their moveable properties.

Sunny, member of the 1MB top tier Majlis-e-Shura, master-minded the August 17 blasts across the country. He was arrested at the Polytechnic Institute in Tejgaon on December 13 last year.

Leads obtained from Sunny prompted Rab to seize 56 items of arms, ammunition, explosives, bomb-making materials, and books on jihad from the house of Abul Khair at South Manda in Sabujbagh area of the capital.

## Phase-wise