

Raid on dorms

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staff and students on suspicion of 'disturbing peace', as the lawmen took total control of the area which had been at the centre of the unrest since Monday.

They also beat up indefinite number of DU staff, who were on duty at different dorms on the campus on Wednesday night, reports the BBC.

The law enforcers raided Shib Bari staff quarters on the campus and beat up at least 10 staffs, witnesses said.

Law enforcers combed through the Aziz Supermarket at Shahbagh for students yesterday in the morning, according to the BBC Bangla Service.

They surrounded and raided the supermarket at about 9:00am and went from door to door in search of students at apartments on top of the market.

Those who had workplace ID cards were spared. But students and individuals, who could not produce identity cards, were rounded up on the third floor of the market and beaten up, according to a witness interviewed by the BBC.

Our correspondents also received similar reports from witnesses.

Law enforcers beat up Pranab Hawlader, a student of Jagannath Hall, as he came to the hall to collect his belongings and forced him to leave the campus. A number of female students had also been subjected to verbal abuses, according to the BBC.

In Mohammadpur and Dhanmondi areas, lawmen roughed up people indiscriminately whoever dared come out on the streets.

JAHANGIRNAGAR UNIVERSITY
An unknown number of students were injured at Jahangirnagar University as law enforcement agencies baton charged Jahangirnagar University (JU) students who failed to leave their dormitories within the deadline on Wednesday night.

Nearly one thousand students took shelter at the adjoining villages

10 Afghan guards die in Taliban attack

AFP, Kandahar

Taliban militants attacked yesterday a convoy carrying supplies for international troops in Afghanistan, killing 10 Afghan guards, officials said.

The convoy of trucks was attacked by dozens of militants on the main highway between Kabul and southern Kandahar city in Zabul province.

About 80 private security guards escorting the convoy fought the militants near provincial capital Qalat, an official from the security company said.

Patients suffer

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said Afsana fell ill Wednesday afternoon and her condition was critical at night.

"Finding all the drug stores closed, we decided to admit her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). But as we reached Azimpur intersection, law enforcers stopped us from going to the hospital," Rina Begum said.

She said she then went back. "As my daughter was seriously ill, I started for Dhaka Medical College Hospital again in the early morning and my brother was also with me. But the law enforcers at Palashi intersection again stopped us and beat up my brother forcing us to go back."

Rina tried again at noon yesterday and luck favoured her this time and she was able to reach DMCH.

Shoeb Hossain, son of Jahanara Begum, 65, said his mother has been admitted to Jahangirnagar Hospital at Tikatuli, but the doctors advised him to shift her to another hospital, as her condition became serious Wednesday night.

"I decided to take my mother to DMCH, but found not a single vehicle. I then found only a three-wheeler uncovered van, but had to agree to pay Tk 200 to the van driver. But on the way from Tikatuli to DMCH, law enforcers stopped me three times," Shoeb Hossain told The Daily Star at DMCH.

After all the trouble, when he got to the hospital, there were not sufficient doctors at the hospital to check up Jahanara Begum and give any prescription. "Only a junior doctor saw my mother, but nothing was suggested," he said.

Zafar Ahmed, father-in-law of pregnant Beena Begum of Uttar-khan, said they had to wait hours from early morning to afternoon to get to DMCH, as they could not find an ambulance.

"As it was a complicated delivery case of Beena, we went to four hospitals at Uttara and Tongi areas which could not help us. Something serious could have happened by this time," he said.

Sheikh Mohammad Ali, uncle of a serious typhoid patient Abu Zaman, 45, said they arrived in Sadarghat by trowler from Sirajganj around 2:00pm, but the real trouble began only when they discovered that there was neither any vehicle nor any people around due to the curfew.

"After an hour of search, we found two three-wheeler rickshaw vans charging Tk 300 for going to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. On the way, the law enforcers stopped us at least at four points," Ali said. The law enforcers allowed the van that carried the patient, but not the other one that was carrying his relatives, Ali said.

Mohammad Alam, a fourth-class employee of DMCH alleged: "I started for DMCH at 1:00pm from my Elephant Road staff quarter, but I was not only stopped, but beaten up by the law enforcers in front of New Market

as law enforcers forced students out of the dorms at about 2:30am, despite assurances from the university administration.

The students remained trapped in the villages till late last night as members of law enforcement agencies were patrolling inside and outside the campus, searching for students.

RAJSHAH
Over 50 persons were injured in Rajshahi yesterday as law enforcers baton charged people who were out their homes during the curfew.

Some 25 students were injured at Rajshahi University railway station in the morning when lawmen charged batons on students, waiting for train to go home.

Journalists

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as a journalist.

As he tried to scurry to safety towards DU library, three other vehicles of the law enforcers appeared and more law enforcers joined in to beat him up again, causing serious injuries to both his legs and his arms.

Since the curfew was imposed on Wednesday night, fourteen journalists from the daily Samakal were also reportedly beaten up, arrested and taken to Mohammadpur and Mirpur police stations. Mirpur police filed a case against one of the journalists and sent him to court yesterday.

Two journalists from Aker Kagoj, two from Jai Jai Din, two from Bangladesh Today, daily Amar Desh reporter Nesar Ahmed, daily Korotoa reporter Sabir Mahmud, Jahangir Alam of UNB, Dinkal photographer Babul Talukder, and reporters Wahiduzzaman and Fariduddin Ahmed were allegedly assaulted yesterday by the law enforcers while covering the curfew.

On Wednesday night, several journalists were reportedly beaten up and a number of them arrested while they were headed for home during the curfew.

Anis Alamgir, news chief of Bashkhi TV, was among many of the injured senior journalists who were beaten up. Twelve of the arrested journalists have been released, according to the police.

Anis Alamgir, head of news at private TV station Baishakhi, was arrested while returning home on Wednesday night. He was taken to Mohammadpur Police Station where he was severely beaten up by law enforcers. Alamgir received multiple injuries to his legs and arms.

Three bdnews24.com reporters – Lita Haider, Biplob Rahman and Rommo – were arrested by the law enforcers as they were returning home from work, despite showing their press identity cards.

It may be mentioned that Information Advisor had assured the editors that press ID would be recognized as curfew passes which was repeatedly confirmed by PID last night.

Police Station. They even threw away my ID card."

Hospital sources said many patients left hospitals when the curfew was relaxed, from 4:00pm to 7:00pm, yesterday though they were not fully cured. The numbers of such cases were numerous, they added.

Hospital sources said patients admitted to Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital, Pangu Hospital, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and other hospitals also faced shortage of doctors, nurses, technical staff and many could not reach due to the curfew. Those who could move left the hospital during the time when curfew was lifted, though they needed urgent treatment.

368 workers

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were deployed at the mill to prevent any untoward incidents following retrenchment of the workers.

The workers termed the lay off "inhumane" and demanded reinstatement to their jobs with full payment of their arrear wages and Eid bonus.

Project Director of the mill Lashkar Ruhul Amin said it was the decision of the government to run the mill with 50 percent workforce and they were laying off according to the government's reform measures.

The mill has 510 permanent workers. It requires 1.50 lakh bundles of raw jute to reach the production target of eight tonnes a year. The mill currently has 300 quintals of raw jute. Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) recently allocated Tk 46 lakh for the mill to purchase raw materials.

The mill is now burdened with Tk 24 crore bank loan and it is yet to pay Tk 9 lakh of outstanding electricity bills, the project director said.

Around 468 retrenched workers of the closed Peoples Jute Mills were paid over Tk 1 crore yesterday in arrear financial benefits, excluding payment of provident funds and gratuities. Payment of gratuities is to begin from August 26 but the BJMC authorities are yet to decide when they would start paying provident funds, said convener of Khulna regional committee of Patkal Sangram Parishad (PSP).

Non-payment of provident funds will create another problem for BJMC authorities as workers of the mill are determined not to leave the mill colony without getting all their dues, said Publicity Secretary of PSP Abdur Rahman.

Black money

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independent and the EC secretary will come out of the control of the Prime Minister's Office over the next 15/20 days as part of the ongoing reforms launched by the interim regime.

About inviting political parties to dialogues on reform of electoral rules, the CEC said there are around 170 parties in the country and it would not be possible to talk with all of them. The EC will sit with those who had representation in parliament in the past.

Faridpur Deputy Commissioner Yaha Yeah presided over the meeting. Brig Gen Imamuzzaman, Police Super Kusum Dewan and Faridpur army-in-charge Maj Anisur Rahman were, among others, present.

The meeting was informed that work on the new voters' list would begin in Faridpur on September 25 and continue till July 4 next year.

RU Violence

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properties were brought against the accused.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Mukhtar Hossain of the police station has been made investigation (IO) officer of the case.

Anwar, a rickshawpuller, was killed and some 200 people were injured when the angry students clashed with police and ransacked the VC's residence protesting the DU incidents.

Police could not arrest any of the accused as of 6:00pm yesterday.

ISPR clarifies

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constructive activities of the banks," it said.

On certain banking regulations, which were to be implemented before the promulgation of the state of emergency, General Moeen mentioned that hasty move to strictly implement those rules after the emergency had caused sufferings to clients.

"As a matter of fact," the ISPR said, the army chief made the remarks targeting the "over-enthusiastic activities by some banks."

But, the ISPR said, the newspapers reported that the army chief accused all banks of "blackmailing", which is completely unwarranted.

It said the army chief also advised the banks not to strictly enforce the regulations unnecessarily and to be caring about the clients by guarding against over-enthusiastic activities.

Flood death

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Benu, Zakir Hossain, architect Iqbal Habib, Sharif Jamil, Dr M Nuruddin and Alamgir Kabir participated in the relief operation.

World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) decided to give fodder and veterinary care to tens of thousands of livestock belonging to poor families.

Beginning from 25 August, the relief will reach 20,000 families in five days. The UN-affiliated charity feeds and treats more than 50,000 animals in the five worst-affected districts along the banks of the River Jamuna, said a press release.

A WSPA disaster assessment and response team is leading and coordinating this logistic operation, supported by the government's livestock department and Human Development Program, an NGO.

WSPA has also reached an agreement with the trading wing of Brac to buy cattle feed for the operation.

Meantime, expatriate Bangladeshis in the US donated US\$ 58,307 to the Chief Adviser's (CA) relief fund. The money, handed in to the Bangladesh Consulate in New York, was channelled to the CA's fund through Sonali Exchange, said Salah Uddin Noman Chowdhury, consul at the Bangladesh consulate, reports News World.

Of the various social organisations in the US, Jamaica Muslim Centre at New York donated \$30,000, Bangladesh Medical Association of North America donated \$15,000, Long Island Muslim Society donated \$10,000, Probashi Bansal Division Samly \$2,000, Yellowhi Society – a platform for Bangladesh cab drivers – donated \$2,000, Bangladesh Social and Welfare Organisation donated \$1654 and New York Real Estate Professionals donated \$1101 for the flood victims.

25 killed

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Police used water cannon and tear gas to end the riot, and officials said none of the inmates had escaped the prison during the blaze.

The prison holds some 175 inmates, even though its capacity is only 87. Ponte Nova police commissioner Luis Carlos Chartume told Globo television.

A medical team was due to arrive at the jail to carry out DNA tests and compare dental records in order to identify the bodies of the dead.

ETV, CSB

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on telecasting provocative news, documentaries, talk shows and discussions against the government according to Article 5 of the Emergency Power Rules 2007.

The two electronic media have been telecasting provocative news, documentaries, talk shows and discussions against the government for the last few days, a PID handout said.

"It is urgent to stop this type of activities for public interest and thus the government issued the order as per Article 5 of the Emergency Power Rules 2007," the PID handout added.

Dulu handed 12 yrs

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President of Natore Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Dewan Shahin and secretary Mostafizur Rahman are among the convicts.

Trial of the case under explosives act began at the District and Sessions Judge's Court after the charges were framed on July 4. But as the judge refused to continue the proceedings, it was shifted to an additional judge's court. When he too expressed inability to try the case, it was finally transferred to the tribunal.

Before delivering the judgment, Judge Mirza Abdur Rouf said that the then administration of upazila, district, and police would work on the dictates of Dulu.

Dulu was blessed by the then ruling four-party alliance high-command and raised a big group of cadres for carrying out misdeeds, the court observed referring to different witnesses and evidence.

The Ramsa-Kazipur arson was a despicable incident where the state machinery helped to violate the law. It was masterminded to avenge Gama's [Dulu's nephew] murder, the tribunal continued.

Dulu along with his henchmen went to the scene in two microbuses and unloaded two sackfuls of gun powder near a mosque. Later, the gunpowder was distributed among the cadres, said the judge quoting witnesses.

"The affected families had to pass days and nights in the open air after their houses were torched," he added.

Police took special security measures to take Dulu to the Natore court from Rajshahi for the judgment amid curfew.

THE CASE
Natore district Jatiya Chhatra Samaj President Asaduzzaman Shah filed the case with Naldanga Police Station on February 25, accusing Dulu and 104 others.

Officer-in-charge of Naldanga

PS Arman Hossain submitted two separate charge sheets—one for arson and looting and another under explosives act, on May 3.

Yesterday's judgment is second among 23 cases filed against Dulu. Earlier on July 26, he was sentenced to eight years in jail for looting and arson by the Additional District Magistrate's Court.

According to charges, the accused launched a series of assaults on Ramsa-Kazipur (Dulu's home village), Shahpara and Amtali Bazar villages on orders from Dulu to seek revenge for the killing of his nephew Sabir Ahmed Gama on February 7 in 2004.

The then deputy minister rushed to the village on hearing the news of Gama murder and began the attacks on the villagers by setting fire to plaintiff Asaduzzaman's house. He carried the gunpowder to the scene using his government vehicle.

In a couple of days, some 18 houses and shops were gutted and belongings looted.

REACTIONS
Asaduzzaman has expressed satisfaction over the judgment. He said all affected people are somehow linked to Awami League, and which is why Dulu laid his vengeance on them.

Public Prosecutor Khandaker Abdul Hai and Additional PP Shamsunnahar said depositions of all the 25 witnesses proved the charges beyond doubt.

Defence lawyer Shakhawat Hossain Shawkat said they would appeal the verdict at a higher court.

The complainant and most of the witnesses stand accused in Gama murder case, he claimed.

Dhaka sits on gas

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An inter-ministerial technical committee headed by the foreign minister formed three years ago could not complete the task. This committee comprises members from Petrobangla, Geological Survey of Bangladesh, the Navy, Spaarso, Inland Water Transport Authority and Surveyor of Bangladesh.

The committee was to recommend to the government how to mark the deep sea territory fulfilling requirements of the United Nations and as per the law of the sea.

While this committee went into hibernation, the Indian government in early 2006 launched the sixth licensing round under its New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-6) offering 55 blocks including 24 deep water blocks.

According to the block acreage map published by Indian government, larger parts of blocks D-23 (8706 sqkm) and D-22 (7790 sqkm) appear to have fallen inside Bangladeshi deep waters far below the coast of the Sundarbans.

Both these blocks are situated right below block 21 of Bangladesh, as was floated in the second round block bidding.

International law allows each country to have 200 nautical miles from its coast to the sea to enjoy rights. But this is a tricky matter as the coasts of India, Bangladesh and Myanmar follow a curve which imply overlapping

of territory. As per international practices, in such a case, neighbours should inform each other and reach a mutual understanding before exploring such gray areas.

As there had been no exploration in the deep waters of the bay, a scientific survey in June and July last year conducted by a German geo-scientific and natural resources institution—BGR—primarily found for the first time the presence of sedimentary rock ooilite or carbonate in the south-western bay, which indicates the potentials of oil and gas there.

Sources said ooilite was detected at a depth of 125 metres off the Sundarbans coast. Samples extracted by scientists show the ooilite has a layer of 6 metres in depth.

The sonar map produced by the survey shows the presence of ooilite extending to off-shore blocks 21b and 20 b. "But this study was not aimed at detecting mineral resources. So, specific and further studies will determine how extended the ooilite layer is, which will also indicate actual potential of oil and gas reserve there," said one source.

But the government did not follow up such accidental discovery till date.

Prices go up

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hours were running out fast.

When curfew was relaxed, price of rice increased by Tk 1 to 2 per kg. Najirshah was selling at Tk 34, earlier the price was Tk 32. Miniket was selling at Tk 32, which had been at Tk 30. Jhinga was sold at Tk 30, which had been at Tk 26. Papaya was sold at Tk 16-18, which had been at Tk 12-14. Aubergine was sold at Tk 40, which had been at Tk 32.

Green chilli again experienced the maximum rise, earlier it was sold at Tk 80 but yesterday the price stood at Tk 140.

The situation in Karwanbazar was similar. Though supply was more than satisfactory at both the Karwanbazar and Jatrabari wholesale markets, traders from different localities could not come to collect their goods.

The trading at the fish market almost came to a halt, one pair of hisla, which had been sold at Tk 1000, was sold at Tk 700 to 750 yesterday afternoon. At Jatrabari Arat (the largest whole sale market in Dhaka city), the fish traders were very disappointed, as they did not have many customers.

Shamim Kabir Bhuiyan, Jatrabari Bohumukhi Babsayee Samity secretary, told The Daily Star that traders from Meghnaghat, Narsingdi, Bhulta, Sonargang, Madhabdi, Comilla buy fish from here and sell at the local markets. But due to the curfew, the traders could not come. Every day, the market sells worth Tk 50 lakh to two crore, while the trading stood at Tk 50 to 60 lakh yesterday.

The price of all sorts of vegetables, including papaya, bitter gourd, potol, pumpkin, arum, potato, and aubergine, dropped in the afternoon. The price of vegetables fell Tk 2 to 4 per kg. Karwan Bazar's retail vegetable shops were selling bitter gourd at Tk 26, potol at Tk 24, papaya at Tk 12, potato at Tk 20 and arum at Tk 5.

Asadullah, a wholesaler of meat in the market regretted that since evening he could sell only 1 kg of mutton at Tk 220, "I sell upto Tk 10 to 12 thou-

Journalist bodies

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Journalists (BFUJ), Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU), Crime Reporters' Association of Bangladesh (Crab) and Commonwealth Journalists Association, Bangladesh (CJA,B) issued identical statements to draw immediate attention of the authorities concerned to the plight of the journalists.

WHO warns

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Other centuries-old threats such as influenza, malaria and tuberculosis were also thriving due to a combination of biological mutations, rising resistance to antibiotics and weak health systems.

"Given today's universal vulnerability to these threats, better security calls for global solidarity," WHO Director General Margaret Chan said in a statement.

The report stressed that health threats were no longer easily confined within a country but could spread around the world swiftly, partly due to the expansion in passenger air travel over the past half century and to trade.

It warned of "serious gaps, particularly in health services in many countries," caused by poverty or a lack of investment, that severely weakened the global safety net.

Health and medical care were not only essential for treatment and prevention, but also for detecting new threats such as outbreaks, new diseases, as well as bioweapon attacks, environmental health problems, said the report.

"It would be extremely naive and imprudent to assume that there will not be another disease like AIDS, another Ebola, another SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), sooner or later."

The three historical advances that helped stifle diseases such as bubonic plague, cholera and small-pox – quarantines, better sanitation and immunisation – became successes once they were applied internationally, the report argued.

The UN agency's battle to fight disease often came up against political and logistical problems, the report noted.

It referred to the suspension of the polio vaccination programme in northern Nigeria in 2003, when the authorities there claimed it could leave children sterile.

"The result was a large outbreak of polio across northern Nigeria and the reinfection of previously polio-free areas in the south of the country."

The outbreak left thousands of children paralysed and spread to 19 other countries that had been free of the disease, the report added.

The civil war in Angola had hampered efforts to tackle an outbreak of Marburg haemorrhagic fever in 2005: 90 percent of the 200 people affected died.

The WHO introduced new international health regulations this year to sharpen the response of its 193 members to major health threats within their own borders or abroad.

It is also trying to resolve Indonesian complaints about the availability of newly developed medicines in poor countries, which halted crucial bird flu virus sharing with foreign laboratories.

The sharing of tissue samples from human victims is needed to detect possible mutations in the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus – one of the biggest fears of the beginning of this century – that might lead to a flu pandemic.

Govt asked

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preceding the clampdown needed to be dealt with strictly.

The BGMEA president also urged the government to consider exempting the RMG units, its production and shipment from the curfew's restrictions.

The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries president, Hossain Khaled, feared that the situation will deepen the country's image crisis, asking the government to keep the export wheel moving.

Meantime, the shipment of frozen foods and leather goods – the country's second and third largest exports – has also been hampered.

Indian nuke

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saying it brings New Delhi too close to the United States and jeopardises India's strategic sovereignty.

Last week, the party told the Congress government it would face "serious consequences" if it chose to press ahead with the pact, threatening the government's survival.

The main opposition Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has also rejected the accord, which seeks to bring India into the loop of global atomic commerce after a three-decade gap and give its burgeoning economy greater access to nuclear energy.

The Left has said it will be watching whether India "operationalises" the deal by opening talks next month in Vienna on an accompanying safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) – the next step in implementing the pact.

The communists have said India's Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Anil Kakodkar can only attend the IAEA's General Assembly as a member of the IAEA board and not to launch negotiations.

The government has indicated it will push ahead with the deal.

It also on Wednesday solicited Japan's support in the 45-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group for the deal during an official visit to New Delhi by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

The approval of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, which controls the sale of nuclear fuel and technology, is needed for the pact to go through.

BSF kills 1

FROM PAGE 12
guards of Bonnoria camp opened fire on some cattle traders while they were returning home with cattle at around 3:00am, killing Alim on the spot and injuring Shahadat Hossain.

The BSF men took away the body and did not return it as of 5:00pm yesterday.

High soil salinity

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ancient brick temple.

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