

No plan to catch

FROM PAGE 1
mosque can be ensured," he said, expressing his intention to place a proposal to the government in this regard.

The situation has already created resentment even among the law enforcement agencies as the fanatics attacked the law enforcers in Dhaka and vandalised a police station in Chittagong without any instigation, according to several sources.

Police sources said officials of different ranks have already censured this feeling to their superiors.

Meanwhile, Islamist organisations have pinned the blame on the police for attacking them and are planning tough programmes to force the government scrap the women development policy and remove Women and Children Affairs Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury.

"We know who are behind designing all these. But at the moment, we don't want to go after them as that might aggravate the situation further," a high-level official said who cannot be identified.

But those who actively took part in the Thursday and Friday's violence in Dhaka and Chittagong are going to face strong action, affirmed the official.

Using different names, activists of around two dozens of Islamist organisations including Jamaat-e-Islami, Islami Oikya Jote, Hizbut Tahrir, Khelafat Majlis and Islami Shashontantra Andolon took part in the post-Juma violence at the national mosque on Friday.

Though not present on the scene, many leaders of these organisations had time to time contact with the activists over phone during the "planned" movement, sources said, adding that many madrasa students also took part.

Several high-level discussions on how to tackle the issue have already taken place and the law enforcement agencies have been asked to collect details how such large demonstrations and violence occurred while emergency state is in force.

Since taking action against the top brass of the Islamists parties may add fuel to the fire, the law enforcement agencies have been asked to "advance carefully" but tackle the situation with "strong hand", said sources.

"Here is the old dilemma: if you attempt to take action, they will just say that the government is taking stance against Islam. Finally, you will not be able to do anything," said a government high official.

Since the caretaker government has already been troubled with price spiral and some other issues, it does not want to add another group to its opposition, he added.

To identify those who actively took part in Thursday and Friday's

Bush says no plans to attack Iran

AFP, Crawford

violence, the government agencies have already started collecting evidence including video footage and still photographs taken by the intelligence agencies and print and electronic media.

The law enforcers said initially over 100 people can be identified though such pieces of evidence. "We will later be able to identify others through these people," a police officer told The Daily Star yesterday.

On staging demonstrations and violence violating the emergency, Home Secretary Abdul Karim said: "We will take steps according to the law."

Contacted by The Daily Star yesterday, Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad said: "An investigation has already been initiated into this. We'll take necessary steps against everyone who will be found involved."

The police have already filed a case against 4,000 to 5,000 unknown people and arrested 17, while another case has been filed for the Chittagong incident.

FOOD PRICE PROTESTS

Haitian senate votes to oust prime minister

AP, Port-au-prince

Haiti's Parliament has voted to dismiss Prime Minister Jacques Edouard Alexis following deadly riots over rising food prices.

Senator Gabriel Fortune says 16 of Haiti's 27 senators voted in favour of the dismissal in Saturday's session. The vote reflects widespread frustration over rising cost of living in the impoverished country and days of looting and clashes between protesters and U.N. peacekeepers over high food prices.

Alexis survived a no-confidence vote over the government's handling of the economy in February. He was nominated prime minister in May 2006, succeeding former interim Prime Minister Gerard Laturie.

Crossfire

FROM PAGE 16
will gather at a house in the area, Rab-10 members encircled the house at 7:00pm.

Sensing presence of the law enforcers, the gang fired on them. The Rab members fired back triggering a gunfight lasting two and a half hours, said a Rab official.

Both Tiger Anwar and Babu received fatal bullet injuries in the gunfight and died on the spot," he said.

Rab arrested three other accomplices of Anu from the spot and recovered two firearms.

11,000 sued for violence

FROM PAGE 1
Islamist organisations, Islami Shashontantra Andolon (ISA), yesterday issued a five-day ultimatum to the government, asking it to scrap the Women Development Policy 2008 and remove Women and Children Affairs Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury within "a day or two".

DHAKA CASE
Sub-Inspector Ershad Ali of Paltan Police Station filed a case Friday night against the 17 identified individuals and 4,000 to 5,000 unidentified others in connection with the violence and assault on police near the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque.

The seventeen activists, arrested from the spot on Friday, were sent to Dhaka Central Jail yesterday after they were produced before the court.

They accused face the charges of violating Emergency Power Rules, snatching firearms from the police, endangering lives, vandalising properties and obstructing police duties.

The arrestees include A Mannan, Syed Sabik, Abul Qasem, Osman Gani, Mostafa bin Hossain, Syed Hossain, Enamul Hasan, Ehsanul, Rahmatullah, Obaidullah and Mostafa Kamal. Names of the other arrestees could not be known immediately.

Although another case was filed for violence in the same area the day before, on Thursday, anyone has yet to be arrested.

CTG CASE
Police yesterday filed a case against over 6,000 unknown people in connection with the attack on Hathazari Police Station Friday evening.

Around five platoons of additional police force were deployed at the police station as a precautionary measure after madrasa students attacked the station following rumours that an imam was killed in Dhaka during clashes with police Thursday.

Sub-inspector Md Walilullah filed the case with Hathazari Police Station Friday night against 6,000 to 7,000 unknown people on charge of damaging furniture, arson and injuring police officials by hurling brickbats after storming the station.

According to the first information report (FIR), 6,000 to 7,000

people brought out a procession from the Darul Ulum Moin Ul Islam Senior Madrasa and 1,000 to 1,500 of them stormed the police station and went on a rampage damaging virtually everything in the station and on its premises.

They torched a number of vehicles in the compound and outside the police station, Walilullah stated in the case. The incident left over 10 including five cops injured.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Hathazari Police Station Md Alamgir said they were trying to identify the people actually involved in the incident.

Alamgir said he contacted the Boro Huzur-Mohammed (Principal) of the madrasa yesterday morning and the Mohammed gave assurance that no such further incidents would take place.

Quoting the Mohammed, Alamgir said the madrasa authorities formed a five-member probe committee to identify the people involved in the incident.

Superintendent of Police (SP) in Chittagong Kamrul Ahsan said the situation was under control and they would proceed against the perpetrators as per the law.

ULTIMATUM TO GOVT
The Islami Shashontantra Andolon (ISA) yesterday gave a five-day ultimatum to the government to scrap the National Women Development Policy.

The ISA also asked the government to remove Women and Children Affairs Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury within a day or two.

"If needed, we shall sacrifice our lives to scrap the National Women Development Policy," said ISA Ameer Mufti Rezaul Karim during a human chain formed in front of the Baitul Mukarram Mosque in the capital.

Several hundred people under the banner of ISA formed the human chain stretching from Dainik Bangla crossing to Paltan intersection at about 5:15pm, breaking the Emergency Power Rules (EPR).

Terming the caretaker government an 'anti-Islam government', the ISA chief said, "If our demands are not met within the deadline, we'll announce tougher programmes at a rally of all Islamic parties on April 18."

Security was tightened in and around the mosque.

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Grenade thrower

FROM PAGE 1

investigating the cases, yesterday said, "Planners and attackers of Ramna blasts and August 21 attacks are almost the same people. So, the authorities have asked us to submit charge sheet in the blasts case after charges are pressed in the grenade attacks case which is more sensational."

Earlier, CID chief Javed Patwari said they would submit charge sheet in the grenade attacks case within this month.

Investigators resumed probe into the Ramna carnage on instructions of the home ministry last year and found that militant outfit Huji planned and carried out the blasts.

The grisly incident at Bangla New Year's Day function on April 14 in 2001 left 10 people killed and many others injured while 24 people were killed and scores injured in the grenade attacks on August 21 in 2004.

Although seven investigation officers (IOs) and five supervising officers of the case were changed till February last year, the probe made little headway for political intervention by the thenrulers.

The home ministry on February 28 last year included the case in its list of sensational cases for warranting quick disposal, and formed a three-member task force comprising Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) officials to oversee the probe.

On his instructions, Sabib and Jahangir made several powerful bombs applying the methods used by the Taliban in Afghanistan. Abu Taher, Hasan and Faruq planted bombs at the Ramna venue of Chhayanaut's traditional New Year programme.

Police have so far arrested 12 people including Mufti Hannan, Moulana Abdul Latif, Moulana Monir, Moulana Idris, Moulana Abdur Rouf and Moulana Abu Taher, Walu-1, Walu-2.

Billion dollar fund

FROM PAGE 1

Recently, Raja Debasish Roy, special assistant to the chief adviser on environment, has strongly stressed on clear government oversight of such a 'multi-donor funding mechanism'. But the fund would also be designed to be flexible and less bureaucratic.

Despite being at the forefront of the countries affected by climate changes, Bangladesh has received only \$10 million in foreign aid over the past decade, even though recent donor estimates put future climate change adaptation bill for the country at over \$1 billion.

Talking to The Daily Star, a number of climate change experts, NGOs and donors have also raised questions about Bangladesh's ability to absorb such a huge fund and implement projects in such a wide variety of sectors based on declining implementation rate of the Annual Development Plan.

The government says its implementation rate has significantly improved in the past decades and capabilities are already expanding. In addition, ERD Secretary Bhuiyan said: "The civil society [NGOs] and private sector have also increased their capabilities, so as a nation, Bangladesh's capacity has improved by leaps and bounds."

The idea of the fund was floated in the aftermath of Cyclone Sidr and World Bank-led study that projected a \$4 billion need for climate change adaptation, protection of the southern coast and disaster reconstruction.

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Delwar

FROM PAGE 1

delegates of Barisal Bar Association, dismissed Hafiz's claim of being the lawful secretary general of the party. The verdict of the High Court in fact did not specify who the lawful secretary general of the party is, Delwar added.

"The party will run according to the instructions of its chairperson and its constitution," he said adding, "One cannot be a leader simply with a court verdict or a certificate."

A vested group is out to destroy BNP, but they will not succeed as the party is united under the leadership of Khaleda Zia, Delwar reiterated.

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Delwar

FROM PAGE 1

decided to use the SMS from the commerce adviser as the 'alternative path', the sources added.

At yesterday's meeting, held in acting AL president Zillur Rahman's Gulshan residence, the presidium formed a seven-member delegation headed by Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury for the talk. The other members are Amir Hossain Arnu, Abdur Razzaq, Totail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Matia Chowdhury, and Syed Ashraf Islam.

In another development, Syed Ashraf last night told reporters that they would discuss five issues at the talks with the government.

Those would be release of party chief Sheikh Hasina, declaration of election schedule, withdrawal of the state of emergency, measures to contain price hike and the situation in general.

He also questioned how a communal force could get away with such violence while the state of emergency is in force adding that the government must think about where that country would head to in absence of strict actions against such violations of law.

The meeting demanded that the party's detained chief Sheikh Hasina be sent to the US for treatment on humanitarian ground, while it strongly criticised the government for its 'indecision' and for failing to control price hikes of essentials.

Sheikh Hasina would not flee anywhere. She would be staying in the US as long as her treatment would require, and then she would return home to face the trials in the cases filed against her," said the AL leader.

Asked whether they were 'pressured' by 'influential quarters', the AL leader denied and said 'no unseen force' was putting pressure on them.

The AL spokesman also hoped that the government's final dialogue will be held with detained party President Sheikh Hasina.

The meeting also expressed deep concern over Friday's violence at Baitul Mukarram mosque and the attack on Hathazari police station by madrasa students. It held Jamaat-e-Islami responsible for the incidents

and demanded that the government takes active measures against the responsible.

Jamaat-e-Islami was linked with the incidents. At least eight to ten organisations that have direct connections with Jamaat were responsible for the violence. Two Jamaat rokans (officially inducted cadres) were also involved in the incident," said Ashraf adding that the 'fundamentalists' use mosques as their fronts for attacking police and journalists.

He said the people might suspect that the government is supporting them, as it is not taking any action against the violent 'fundamentalists' even after such a major violent incident amid a state of emergency'.

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He also said the country needs elections as soon as possible since in his words, "The country can not be run by a handful of PhDs and World Bank clerks."

The meeting decided to observe Mujib Nagar Day on April 17. A delegation comprising Amir Hossain Arnu, Abdur Razzaq and Suranjit Sengupta will attend the programme in Meherpur.

Analysts said any meeting with the AL leader and the AL delegation will be a breakthrough in the political dialogue between the two parties.

"We are basically trying to break the ice that is eight years thick. We want to break the ice and usher in a new period in cross-strait relations with economics, trade and investment being the locomotive," said Sengupta.

"We're starting off from a very deep-frozen relationship. So it's

Motia

FROM PAGE 16

Prashant Jha
party leaders and workers to enquire where she can find an OMS outlet to buy some rice. One of them said she could try the one at Kadamtala in South Basabo.

Motia said, "I reached there at 8:30am and queued up till 2:00pm, but the supply of rice was exhausted with around 150 people waiting for it."

The senior AL leader, who lives in Magibazar, told reporters, "Buying 5 kg rice from an OMS outlet could have saved me up to Tk 45, and that I could have bought two hali (eight pieces) eggs."

Meanwhile, Col Mujibul Haque, commander of BDR Dhaka, told The Daily Star last night that they would open 25 new fair price shops in the city today. Those would be in addition to 50 such shops operating in different areas across the capital.

People stood in line for hours in scorching weather yesterday to buy rice at different BDR shops, OMS outlets and spots of direct sale by the food department.

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