



JAMAAT'S RELENTLESS VIOLENCE

1) A four-wheeler van of Jorarganj Chowdhuryhaat police outpost in Mirsarai upazila of Chittagong burns after being set alight by activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and pro-Jamaat student organisation Islami Chhatra Shibir yesterday, the second day of their 48-hour countrywide hartal. 2) A Jamaat activist hurls a brickbat at an armoured personnel carrier of police on Shaheed Faruk Road in the capital's Jatrahari. 3) Jamaat-Shibir activists viciously attack a Bangladesh Chhatra League man in Barisal. 4) Jamaat engages children in pro-hartal processions and in using trees to block Koddha Road in Kaishahata of Sirajganj district. 5) Similarly, they engage women in blocking Kaliganj-Chuadanga Road near Lalutala Bazar in Jhenidah. 6) Jamaat-Shibir activists use logs to barricade Kaliganj-Kotchandpur Road in Jhenidah. 7) The residence and a fertiliser warehouse of the Awami League joint-general secretary of Kuchpukur in Agardari Union of Satkhira sadar upazila burns after an arson attack by Jamaat-Shibir activists. 8) The activists place logs and set those on fire on a road in Thakurgaon. 9) Locals help police remove bricks dumped by Jamaat-Shibir activist to block Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj highway in Rajshahi's godagari upazila.

PHOTO: STAR, BANGLAR CHOKH, FOCUS BANGLA



Youth hurt while 'making bomb'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth sustained severe burn injuries on his hands when a bomb, he was allegedly making, exploded in a building at Naya Bazar in Old Dhaka yesterday.

Mosharraf Hossain Bakul, 35, with burns on many parts of his body, was shifted to Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation from Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Quoting locals, fire service officials said fire broke out on the first floor of the two-storey building on French Road following an explosion. Fire service personnel extinguished the fire. Bangshal police said the evidence found on the spot suggested that Bakul was making the bomb that exploded.

Stranded Cox's Bazar tourists in uncertainty

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

With two routes, connecting Cox's Bazar to the rest of the country via Chittagong, cut off since February 28, some 5,000 tourists were stranded, left with nothing but uncertainty, insecurity and little cash.

Jamaat-Shibir men barricaded Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway, one of the routes, especially at Satkania, Lohagara and Chakaria upazilas. They also wrecked a Bailey bridge on a bypass, the second route, at Banskhali upazila.

Between Saturday and Sunday, some 530 tourists could reach Chittagong, Dhaka or nearby districts via five special flights, a launch provided by Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC), speed boats and different vehicles.

The remaining tourists are fast running out of cash. Many who came by road can not afford the airfares while the launch, having a 270-passenger capacity, is showing technical problems.

This prompted some 1,000 tourists to demonstrate before Hotel Long Beach on Saturday demanding resumption of road

transport, said locals.

With fuel lorries unable to reach Cox's Bazar, the hotels are also running short of fuel needed to run generators.

Uzzal Hossain, returning to Dhaka by Novo Airways on Sunday, said, "Only the travel agencies were providing tickets at Tk 10,500 instead of the regular Tk 6,800 or 7,000 per ticket and we had to wait all day to get a confirmation."

Four airlines, each having around a 50-passenger capacity, were charging Tk 5 lakh for a Dhaka-Cox's Bazar-Dhaka roundtrip instead of the regular Tk 8 lakh, said BPC, Cox's Bazar Coordinator Nurul Islam.

Since the flights were returning empty, they were charging a bit higher, he said, adding that an information cell was opened by the district administration at Hotel Shaibal to help those stranded.

Syed Nurul Basir, Cox's Bazaar additional deputy commissioner (general) and the cell's head, said, "We fixed four hotels providing cheap accommodation rates and are thinking of providing free food."

"Many of the around 5,000 people have left since February 28," he said.

Bangladesh to find its own way for polls: Pranab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh itself will fix how to hold its next general elections, said the visiting Indian President Pranab Mukherjee yesterday.

He, however, commented that the election would be acceptable to all and helpful for continuation of the country's democracy if held with the participation of all political parties.

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad told this to journalists after calling on the president at a hotel in the capital.

Ershad said during the half-an-hour long meet, he had discussed about Bangladesh's ongoing political situation with Pranab.

On whether discussions over the ongoing violence came up, Ershad said, "It is our internal matter and he (Pranab) did not comment on it."

He also said the Teesta water sharing agreement issue and land boundary issues came up for discussions.

"One of their (Indian) ministers said water flow over the Teesta was very low," Ershad's Political Adviser Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu, who had accompanied Ershad, told The Daily Star.

"But we have asked that Indian minister to share that little amount of water of Teesta with Bangladesh," said Bablu.

Later, Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Janata League President Kader Siddiqui and the prime minister's two advisers -- Dr Gowher Rizvi and Dr Mashiur Rahman -- also met separately with Pranab.



Dr. A. Latif Choudhury
1934 - 2013

You Lit Up Many A Soul
With The Light That Burned Within You
And Then Your Voyage Ended
Now The Heaven Is Brighter Still
With The Light You Carried With You There