

Attack AL

FROM PAGE 1
100 vehicles, including motorcycles, jeeps, pick-ups, a police van and a fire truck were torched within an hour. At least 15 police personnel, four firefighters and two BGR men were among the injured.

Presiding over yesterday's rally, BNP Vice Chairman and convener of the party's city unit, Sadeque Hossain Khoka, thanked the "brave attackers" in Fatikchhari. "You [alliance men] will have to carry out fiercest attacks again on Awami League leaders and activists if they bring out anti-hartal processions like the one [brought out] by the party's motorcycle cadres ... You will have to destroy them."

Khoka also asked the opposition leaders to note down the names of the police personnel who fire shots on the opposition men from now on.

Other leaders of the alliance, including BNP Vice Chairman Major (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, Islami Oikya Jote Secretary General Fayeduzzaman, and Jamaat central working committee member Moshammad Ijjatullah also called upon the opposition men to fight back the government.

Hafizuddin said the AL should be banned for "killing democracy". He also lauded the "heroic Fatikchhari men" for their attack on AL leaders and activists.

Fayeduzzaman, also a joint secretary general of Hefajat-e Islam, called upon opposition activists to engage themselves in the "final game" against the government with a readiness to lay down their lives.

At the rally, Jamaat-Shibir activists seemed to have outnumbered those of the BNP.

Container slips

FROM PAGE 1
Police, said, "The container skidded off, as it might not have been set up properly on the train."

Five of the injured were undergoing treatment at the Combined Military Hospital, said Khandaker Lutful Kabir, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police in Gulshan division.

Majibur's wife Jahar Banu, a domestic help, said, "I went to work in the morning leaving my husband and son asleep. On information, I returned and found my husband dead and son fighting for life."

The railway line where the accident took place could not be used for nearly four hours. It, however, did not hamper the overall train communications as the other tracks were open.

OC Abdul Majid said the train was taken away around 4:15pm.

A four-member committee led by Divisional Railway Manager Sarder Shahadat Ali has been formed to probe the incident, the OC added.

Constitution

FROM PAGE 1
On April 6, Hefajat-e Islam from a rally in Dhaka gave the government until May 5 to fulfil its demands.

The leaders yesterday said Hefajat-e Islam did not want to go to state power, but those who wanted to stay in or assume power must comply with their demands.

They accused the government of siding with Shahbagh "atheists" and cautioned that janazas [funerals] of the supporters of "atheists" would not be held in future.

The leaders vowed to save Islam and humanity, and resist those who come in the middle.

Hefajat also alleged that the government was torturing Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman for revealing its [govt's] anti-Islamic activities.

Maulana Obaidur Rahman Mahbub, Barisal city unit president of Hefajat, presided over the grand rally held on Fazlul Huq Avenue. The rally from 2:00pm to around 5:15pm witnessed several thousand people, mostly students and teachers of the division's Qawmi madrasas.

Pro-BNP Doctors' Association of Bangladesh and National Doctors Forum provided medical care to those who fell sick in the gathering.

Security in the rally area was beefed up to avert any untoward situation.

Claiming Awami League

NIZAMI'S TRIAL

Witness cross examined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War crimes accused Jamaat chief Motiur Rahman Nizami lived in Dhaka during the Liberation War but he visited Pabna four to five times a month, a prosecution witness told International Crimes Tribunal-1 during cross-examination yesterday.

Nine of the 16 charges Nizami is accused of are based on incidents that happened in Pabna during the war.

Defence counsel Mizanul Islam had yesterday asked freedom fighter Habibur Rahman Habib, the fourth prosecution witness, whether he knew where Nizami resided and what he did.

In his deposition before Tribunal-1 on Tuesday, Habib said as per Nizami's directives members of Al-Badr tortured and killed his father and a teacher of Pabna Zila School on the Ichhamati river during the Liberation War. He said he had heard about the incident from others.

Between April 1971, and until the surrender of the Pakistani army, 45,000-50,000 people of Pabna were killed by the Pakistani army, Razakar and Al-Badr (auxiliary forces to Pakistani army), the witness said.

At least 1,000 women were violated, hundreds of houses were burned down, and eight to 10 lakh people of Pabna were forced to take refuge in India.

Habib said Nizami was then president of Islami Chhatra Sangha (then student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami) and on his directives the Pakistani army and Al-Badr led the killings.

Mizanul yesterday asked Habib if he had seen Nizami during the war.

The witness said he had not.

The defence yesterday completed cross-examining Habib in the war crimes case against the Jamaat ameer and the proceedings of the case were adjourned until April 20.

Tribunal-1 yesterday also adjourned the proceedings of war crimes case against BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury until Sunday.

Prosecutor of the case Sultan Mahmud Simon was not present when the Tribunal-1 asked if a witness was ready to testify. The prosecution was supposed to produce the 27th witness yesterday.

The prosecutors present in the courtroom were seen whispering to each other but none could say anything about the next witness.

Following defence counsel Ahsanul Huq Hena's request

Watch abuse

FROM PAGE 1
Jamaat-Shibir for carrying out subversive activities across the country in the name of hartal, the AL chief said they have launched anti-people activities to protect war criminals.

"They attacked a peaceful procession of Awami League in Fatikchhari; beat up the activists brutally.... It reminds us of the torture unleashed by the Pakistani occupation army in 1971," she mentioned.

The opposition men, noted Hasina, used loudspeakers of local mosques to misinform and instigate the innocent villagers (against the AL men).

She complained that those who did nothing for the people when they were in power are now carrying out anti-people activities. "While in power, they were engaged in terrorism, corruption and plundering national wealth," she said.

Reiterating her commitment to hold the trial of war criminals, the prime minister said opposition leader Khaleda Zia would not be able to save the war criminals.

She stressed the need for continuation of democracy in the country as no nation could reach its desired goal without it. Transparency and accountability are a must for ensuring overall development, she observed.

Claiming Awami League

ACID VIOLENCE
ASF media awards distributed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

for adjournment, the tribunal adjourned the case proceedings with a warning to the prosecution that if it fails to produce witnesses, the court would close prosecution witness testimony recording.

TRIBUNAL-2
The International Crimes Tribunal-2 continued recording the cross-examination of Abdur Razzaque Khan, the investigation officer of war crimes case against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, for the third day yesterday.

Mojaheed's defence counsel Syed Mizanur Rahman cross-examined Razzaque, the 17th and last prosecution witness in the case, for around two hours.

Mizanur asked the investigator questions related to prosecution witnesses who hailed from Mojaheed's home district Faridpur.

The tribunal adjourned the case proceedings until Sunday, when Razzaque would face further cross-examination.

Meanwhile, the prosecution yesterday failed to produce any witness in the war crimes case against Abdul Alim as well. This led to Tribunal-2 adjourning the case proceedings until April 23.

The prosecution had actually prayed for adjournment until April 24 but the tribunal said, "It is not possible to allow such a long adjournment. If you can't produce witnesses, then close your case."

Mojaheed is facing seven charges of crimes against humanity while BNP leader Abdul Alim is facing 17 charges.

Mizanul yesterday asked Habib if he had seen Nizami during the war.

The witness said he had not.

The defence yesterday completed cross-examining Habib in the war crimes case against the Jamaat ameer and the proceedings of the case were adjourned until April 25.

Tribunal-1 yesterday also adjourned the proceedings of war crimes case against BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury until Sunday.

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The twins were taken out for a stroll around 2:30pm and were drowned in the canal around 3:00pm, said the OC quoting Osman and family members. Osman had gone into hiding after the incident.

The bodies have been sent to Chittagong Medical College morgue for autopsies.

The mother later filed a murder case with Boalkhali Police Station.

3 nations meet

FROM PAGE 20
rivers.

"This is our first meeting and we needed to discuss the preparation of a framework on how the three nations will work together in future in this regard. So we have not discussed dam sites much," an official present at the meeting said requesting anonymity.

The meeting, held in a Dhaka hotel, Bangladesh proposed a draft terms of reference (ToR) to make the framework on how the tri-nation alliance, the first ever of this kind in the region, would work further.

The meeting decided that the proposed ToR would be taken up for finalisation in line with the tri-partite framework. The next meeting will be held in India at any mutual convenient time, sources at the meeting said.

The delegates discussed the matter with highest importance. The prime ministers of Bangladesh and India had already agreed on this issue and it was included in the joint communiqué signed in 2010.

Bangladesh and India along with Nepal have formed a similar sub-regional alliance for identical cooperation.

The Bangladesh delegation was led by Parimal Chandra Saha, joint secretary, water resources ministry, while the eight-member Indian delegation was led by Akhilesh Mishra, joint secretary (north) of the external affairs ministry.

Three people were killed and about 120 injured in a clash between the activists of AL and Jamaat-Shibir and Hefajat-e Islam at Kazirhat of Fatikchhari upazila in Chittagong on April 11. Over 100 motorcycles, four mini-trucks, three private cars, a fire fighting vehicle and a microbus were torched during the clash.

Dasho Yeshi Wangdi, director general of hydropower and power systems, economic affairs ministry of Bhutan, led his country's three-member delegation.

Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim and Kazi Jafarullah, Joint General Secretaries Mahbubul Alam Hanif and Jahangir Kabir Nanak, State Minister for Religious Affairs Shahjahan Mia, State Minister for Water Resources Mahbubur Rahman, and former chief whip Abul Hasnat Abdulla were present, among others.

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Claiming Awami League

Govt moves to pick 'educated' directors

FROM PAGE 1

The commission suggests the directors should have a certificate from a government-recognised school or madrasa, endorsing that the person has passed the equivalent of Class 7 so they can read and understand the proceedings of the board.

Acbar Ali Khan, former adviser to a caretaker government, said: "These borrower-directors are elected representatives. If we are not respectful to these elected representatives, then questions could be raised in many other areas."

"Even, we can raise questions about the qualifications of the lawmakers and ministers," he said, adding that

there were many factory owners and industrialists who were not highly educated.

"I think we should be respectful to democratic values," said Khan, who was the chairman of Grameen Bank for around three years until 1996.

Khan said in state-run banks the government had scrutinised the director selection process in an excessively careful manner, but the banks were in dire straits now.

"So, there is no way to think that any government intervention will improve the situation in any bank."

"The government is doing all these to destroy the bank," Khan said.

AB Mirza Azizul Islam, another former adviser to a caretaker government, also finds no reason why there should be any educational benchmark for these directors.

He said the government planned to introduce a system in a country where people's representatives, including lawmakers or union parishad chairmen, did not have to match any certain level of educational qualifications.

Islam said: "Even in case of listed companies, it is not stipulated that a certain director candidate will have to have certain educational qualifications."

Prof Muhammad Yunus, the founder of Grameen Bank,

told The Guardian in December last year: "I find it outrageous that people are calling into question the qualifications of these women who have become owners of the bank with their own money."

In another interview with the New York Times published on Wednesday, the Nobel laureate said: "If the government suddenly starts to implement the recommendations [of the commission], it will cause fundamental damage to the institution."

The government now owns 3.29 percent of the bank based on equity, while the rest 96.71 percent shares are held by the bank's members.

Correction

FROM PAGE 1

Yunus was the 17th person to receive both Congressional Gold Medal and the Presidential Medal of Freedom of the United States. He is actually the seventh person to have this honour. We apologise for the mistake.

Mahmudur

FROM PAGE 1

continuous fasting.

"He hardly took any food in jail. Except for that, he has no other physical complications," the jail superintendent added.

According to BBC, Nea Manolada has previously been in the spotlight over exploitation of migrants.

In 2008, workers staged a protest against inhumane conditions. There have also been reports of previous attacks.

A social media campaign

has now been launched to boycott fruits from Nea Manolada, calling them "blood strawberries".

The Council of Europe

-- the main European rights watchdog -- issued a report this week, detailing abuse of migrants in Greece.

The report warned of a

growing wave of racist violence, stating that "democracy is at risk".

Wilson said about half the town, eight to 10 blocks, had been evacuated and that "we might even have to evacuate on the other side of town" if winds shift.

Wilson said 50 to 75 houses

were damaged by the explosion and fire, and a nearby 50-unit apartment complex had been reduced to "a skeleton standing up," Muska put the number of destroyed homes at between 60 and 80.

Wilson said 133 people

were evacuated from the

nursing home, which was

heavily damaged, but it was

not known how many residents had been hurt. A middle school also was badly damaged.

Three hospitals in Waco

and Dallas reported treating

more than 160 injuries from

the blast.