

## Cops raid houses of Khoka, Partha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch (DB) of police last night raided the houses of BNP leader Sadeque Hossain Khoka and Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP) Chairman Andaleeve Rahman Partha, but found neither of them.

A DB team first went to Khoka's Gopibagh house around 11:15pm and then to his other residence in Gulshan, said DB sources.

Around midnight, another DB team raided BJP lawmaker Partha's residence at Baridhara.

Both the opposition leaders are accused of provoking Hefajat-e Islam's Dhaka siege on May 5.

Meanwhile, DB police picked up Jubo Dal President Moazzem Hossain Alal last night, immediately after he was released from Kashimpur jail on bail in eight cases.

The cases were filed with Ramna and Shahjahanpur police stations on March 2 and 6 in connection with vandalism, assaulting police and preventing law enforcers from discharging their duties.

## Govt moves

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absence of teachers, staff and students ahead and after the May 5 Dhaka siege programme of the Hefajat-e Islam, several DCs told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We are trying to identify those who had joined the Hefajat's programme," said a DC wishing anonymity.

If anyone is found absent during the period, he would be asked to clarify his absence, he added.

The DCs said they would also monitor the activities of Qawmi madrasas on completion of work on general madrasas across the country.

Teachers, students and staff of madrasas, particularly of Qawmi madrasas, largely joined the Dhaka siege and Shapla Chattarrally.

There are over 15,000 Qawmi madrasas across the country while the number of madrasas under the madrasa education board is 5,500. On average, each of them has 300 students.

DC of Dinajpur Shamim Al Razi said they have control over the madrasas brought under MPO.

"We are monitoring them [madrasas] so they cannot join such programmes [Dhaka siege] in future. If needed, we will send our officials to the madrasas ahead of such programmes to ensure no one can send children to such programmes," he mentioned.

Our Dinajpur correspondent reports: The DC of Dinajpur held a meeting at his office on Tuesday with the madrasa supers of all general, Qawmi, Dakhil, Kamil and Fazil madrasas.

"We have asked the madrasa teachers to be more careful to teach children so that they are not encouraged to be involved in militancy in the name of serving Islam," said Mostafizur Rahman, DC of Pabna.

## Mushfiqu

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answer session. As the press conference was about to end, Mushfiqu held up his hands indicating that he had something to add.

"I have something to say. This will probably be my last series as captain, I will resign. The two T20s [on May 11 and 12] will be my last as captain," said Mushfiqu, whose eyes began to well up at that point.

"The reason obviously is the way we lost the match. I personally feel that I haven't been able to play well and I couldn't lead the team well, which is the reason we lost the ODI series. Since I am captain for the series, I have to lead in the last two games," said Mushfiqu.

Emotions seemed to have gotten the better of him as when asked another question, he requested: "Let's keep it at that, please," and left the room.

Bangladesh had lost the first Test before winning the second match in Harare and tying the series, and yesterday lost the three-ODI series 2-1.

Mushfiqu took over the captaincy from Shakib Al Hasan following Bangladesh's unexpected defeat in Zimbabwe in August 2011. Under his captaincy, Bangladesh won eight one-day international, one Test and five T20 Internationals.

# Kaikobad

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jumped right into action. Over the next five days, the father of two did not think about anything other than the rescue of the victims.

Kaikobad had rescued alive at least 26 people, said rescuers and his family.

Kaikobad's family came to know about his involvement in the rescue operation a day later through TV.

With his lanky physique he surprised the members of the armed forces, fire brigade and other rescuers by slipping through narrow openings of the collapsed building and leading dozens of trapped men and women out to safety.

"As he prepared to go down through a narrow tunnel, a bag around his waist was getting in the way. Kaikobad took off the bag and handed it over to me saying that he had some money there. He asked me to keep the bag until he had finished his job," Kaikobad's wife Germin Akhter quoted Maj Mahbub Hasan Chowdhury as saying.

His motorbike and the bag had been returned to the family, said Germin.

On the first day of his involvement, Kaikobad found eight victims trapped in debris. He told Maj Mahbub and others to get some oxygen cylinders, masks, a rope and a rod cutter. The army major immediately gave him the items and soon Kaikobad disappeared into the tunnel.

Shortly after, to the rapturous welcome of rescuers, he led the trapped men and women out of the rubble.

Kaikobad worked ceaselessly for five days and nights.

"He talked to us over the phone a few times and told us that he would come home only after the rescue was over," said Kaikobad's wife.

"They need me here," he

told his sister.

"I have promised many trapped people that I would come for them. How can I break the promise?" That is what he told his wife over the phone.

On the fifth day, on April 29, as Kaikobad descended into a tunnel, he made contact with a young garment worker, Shaheena Akhter, who was trapped inside the wreckage and was desperately pleading to be rescued.

At around 10:00pm, he took up the challenge. He was lowered into the tunnel. He inched towards Shaheena to get her out through a hole he had drilled.

But her body would not slip through the tiny opening. Just then a fire broke out from sparks from the drill machine, and it engulfed the tunnel. Kaikobad received serious burn injuries. Shaheena could not be saved either. She breathed her last trapped inside.

Kaikobad was first whisked off to Combined Military Hospital. On May 3, on the instructions of the prime minister, he was flown to Singapore. He died there two days later.

Hearing of his death, an army officer said, "I have wept for Kaikobad. During those five days I closely watched this brave soul and grew to respect him."

On May 7, Kaikobad was buried at Banani graveyard in the capital with full state honours.

Originally from Hatiya in Noakhali district and the youngest of two brothers and two sisters, Kaikobad went to Ideal School and College in Dhaka. He grew up in the capital's Farmgate area. Lately, he had been earning his livelihood by supervising construction sites.

Hasan, an old friend of Kaikobad, said he was an excellent badminton player.

## Correction

Yesterday's news analysis headlined "Shapla Chattar & act of Houdini" mistakenly mentioned that 175 trucks were required to carry 2,500 dead bodies. It would be 17 trucks. Similarly, in the following paragraph the analysis mentioned 100-175 trucks instead of 10 to 17 trucks. We regret the error.

## First day's

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been panicked by widespread violence by Hefajat-e Islam in and outside the capital during its Dhaka-siege programme on Sunday and the day after. Then came two consecutive day-long hartals called by the BNP-led 18-party alliance in protest at what it said was mass killings of Hefajat men when law enforcers had driven them out of Dhaka.

The second hartal is to be observed today.

Pickets carried out arson and vandalism in the capital and other parts of the country yesterday. However, the scale of violence was less than those of other hartals enforced recently.

The shutdown forced the government to reschedule today's Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and its equivalent examinations for May 31. The exams scheduled for Sunday have also been deferred to June 1 as Hefajat called a hartal for the day.

O-level and A-level examinees are bearing the brunt of the situation because it is impossible to have the exams postponed as those are held around the globe simultaneously. The examinations that began on Tuesday are held even at midnight on hartal days so that the students do not miss the session.

Hartal supporters torched a three wheeler in the capital's Mirpur, vandalised a bus at Argagaon, and exploded several cocktails at Shyamoli, Tejgaon, Badda and Goran and near Jagannath University.

Confrontations took place between pro and anti-hartal activists in some areas. However, no casualty was reported.

Compared to other hartals, public transport, including bus and CNG-run three-wheelers, were seen in good numbers on the city's thoroughfares. Huge contingents of law enforcers were deployed at all the key points of the capital to maintain law and order.

In Sarail upazila of Brahmanbaria, a police official was injured in an attack by activists of BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami and Hefajat.

In Bogra town, Jamaat-Shibir activists torched tyres and hurled at least five cocktails at a police vehicle. The pickets vandalised a few vehicles there around 6:00am.

In Satkhira, Shibir activists vandalised two goods-laden trucks at Binerpotal on Khulna-Satkhira highway and blocked it in the morning. They also set fire to a Satkhira-bound bus of Balaka Paribahan and vandalised two more vehicles at Madhabkathi around 7:00am.

Arson and vandalism took place in Bhola, Gazipur and Chittagong as well. Pro-hartal activists also blocked roads in Chandpur.

## Myanmar revokes dissident's pardon

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's opposition cried foul yesterday after the authorities revoked a prison amnesty granted to one of its members last year as part of widely praised political reforms.

It is the first time since military rule ended two years ago that a dissident's pardon has been overturned.

Nay Myo Zin, 38, served less than a year of a decade-long sentence for writing for exiled media outlet the Democratic Voice of Burma.

But the retired military captain was told on Tuesday that he would have to serve six years of his original sentence because he was recently convicted of defaming the police, according to his wife Zin Myo Maw.

# Haunted, forever

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floor of the 10-storey hospital.

Her traumatic experience of coming back to life from death's door is agony too heavy to bear. But when this correspondent interviewed her on April 27, she looked strong enough to describe what she had gone through since the collapse and also what she had been thinking about regarding her future.

"My life is ruined," said Laboni, who married in 2011 but has no baby.

"But I don't want to see the life of any other man or woman ruined like mine.

"I request the government to do something for me so I can live my life in a way so that none can neglect me or hurt me," she told The Daily Star on Tuesday.

Minutes before the disaster struck, her father, Mobashwer Ali, had asked her over the cellphone to leave the building. But she did not get time for that.

"Whenever we need to wake her up ... she springs out of her bed, scared and stupefied," says the grief-struck father. "Laboni often trembles with fear as she looks at the [hospital] building."

Laboni now fears that the

hospital building, too, will crumble and wants her father to take her out of it.

The father fell ill on hearing the news of the collapse, but still travelled to Savar from Narail when he heard his daughter had been rescued alive.

Recollecting the incident, Laboni said: "It was around 8:40am and I was just thinking of running out of the factory as my father told me. I had earlier told him about the cracks in the building."

Soon afterwards she felt the building shaking, as if it had been hit by a tremor. According to her, the building took a few seconds to come crashing down.

Having realised the building was collapsing, she instantly sat down and laid her head on the floor and folded her legs in a crawling position. It was dark and dust was all around.

"I realised that a pillar had fallen on my left arm. Blood was coming out of my head, eyes and nose," she said.

For 36 hours, she was trapped on the fifth floor of Rana Plaza until she was pulled out. Squeezed by concrete jumble and buried under the rubble, she could not move her body even an

inch.

Two of her colleagues were also trapped on the same floor. One of them, Dipa Patra, died shortly after the collapse as a big piece of concrete fell on her chest.

But Laboni heard the other friend, Sabiha, asking in a feeble voice: "Are you alive, Laboni?"

She replied in the positive, she said, adding: "Sabiha and I used to ask the same question to each other until we were pulled out,"

It was around 9:00pm on April 25 when rescuers spotted the two. Having seen Laboni's left hand pinned under a pillar, they first considered removing the pillar by cutting it.

But they changed their mind, fearing that doing so would mean further collapse and if that happened, Laboni and Sabiha would die.

"Then the rescuers decided to cut off my left hand to save our lives,"

Laboni was given some anaesthesia. Even so she had lost her senses when the rescuers finished cutting her hand off.

"When I regained my senses, I found myself lying on the hospital bed," she said.

"Is it a statement of the police or someone else has imposed it on them?" he asked.

BGB BINS CLAIMS

Maj Gen Aziz Ahmed, chief of Border Guard Bangladesh, refuted the claims that hundreds or even thousands of bodies were taken to the Pilkhana BGB headquarters.

"Had even a single body been brought inside, the whole Pilkhana would have been sealed off."

He said such claims were made to tarnish the image of the disciplined force.

THE DAILY STAR FINDINGS

Visiting 13 hospitals where bodies and injured Hefajat men were taken, The Daily Star learnt that 12 bodies were sent to the DMCH and one to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue.

Bodies kept at the DMCH included that of a policeman, a shop employee and a bus helper. The rest were of Hefajat activists'.

In the meantime, Baraka General Hospital Ltd in capital's Rajarbagh claimed it received six bodies but declined to give any details.

Islami Bank Central Hospital at Kakrail claimed three bodies were brought to the hospital but it couldn't substantiate the claim.



Additional DIG ZA Morshed

## 7 killed

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Identity of the other two deceased could not be known immediately.

The DIG's bodies have been kept in Square Hospital. Bodies of Sohel and Emdadul have been kept at National Institute of Cardiovascular Disease while of Mahbubur's at Apollo Hospital.

Fire fighters said most of them had been found on the staircase and all had died in suffocation.

The fire broke out at Tung Hai Sweater Ltd at about 11:05pm. All the units of the factory were closed then. According to fire fighters the fire originated on the second floor of the 11-storey building.

The fire could not spread as several fire fighting units from Mirpur reached the scene immediately. More fire fighting units joined them later. Clouds of smoke were coming out of the building until filing of this report at 2:00am.

About 200 to 300 workers worked at the garment factory until 10:00pm. But the MD, his friends and some staffs were on the 9th floor when the fire broke out.

## Rana on fresh remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sohel Rana, owner of the collapsed high rise Rana Plaza, was placed on fresh remand for 12 days yesterday in two cases for illegal possession of a firearm and drugs.

The accused, now on 15-day remand, is being grilled in two other cases.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Taiyabul Hasan placed Rana on police remand for seven days in the arms case and five days in the drugs case, said Alamgir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Dhamrai Police Station.

The two cases were filed with the police station after detectives of Dhaka district recovered a pistol, five bullets and five bottles of phensedyl from Rana's brickfield at Dhamrai on May 5.

Law enforcers arrested Rana from Benapole of Jessore on April 28, four days after his nine-storey building caved in, causing huge casualties.

## China and India's rivalry extends to the Arctic

AP, Beijing

While the recent troop standoff in a remote Himalayan desert spotlights a long-running border dispute between China and India, the two emerging giants are engaged in a rivalry for global influence that spreads much farther afield.

From Africa to the Arctic, the world's two most populous countries are bumping up against each other in their search for resources and new markets. Their rivalry is spilling over into global diplomacy and international institutions where Beijing and Delhi have elbow-jabbed over development loans and a seat for India on the UN Security Council.

It is visible in the building of infrastructure in nations like Ghana, which is rich in gold, cocoa and timber and is a new oil producer. Ghana's government moved into a presidential palace financed by India in February. A month later, China handed over a new foreign ministry building.

An outright clash between the two remains unlikely. But bickering on the global stage could make bodies such as the World Bank and the United Nations less efficient, and send ripples through institutions that are increasingly important in guiding global trade, commerce and diplomacy and influence policies that affect people around the world.

# 11; not 3,000

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men would attack the secretariat, Bangladesh Bank, other banks and shopping centres if they could stay put at Motijheel till morning.

"They had plans to loot the banks."

He said a decision was made to use only non-lethal weapons to avoid casualty. And eventually, the law enforcers were able to limit the casualty to a small number.

Before carrying out the operation, the law enforcers urged the demonstrators over loudspeakers to leave Shapla Chattar around 1:00am on Monday.

As they paid no heed to the call, the law enforcers launched the operation from the directions of Notre Dame College and Dainik Bangla intersection, keeping the roads on the east and south side open to allow them to leave the area.

"During the 10-minute drive, we used non-lethal weapons and logistics -- water cannons, and sound, gas and smoke grenades, and rubber bullets."

The operation was carried out in the dead of the night so that commuters or pedestrians come to no harm, he said.

"Extra caution was taken considering that many orphan madrasa students were taken to the rally."

Police found four bodies

wrapped in cloths near the stage of Hefajat rally, three at different points of the rally venue, three more of pedestrians and one of a policeman on Sunday and early Monday, he said.

On rumours that they hid bodies, he said, "Two TV channels aired the drive live. Many reporters were there. City residents from rooftop watched it and took photos with their cell phones."

"How was it possible to hide bodies?" he questioned.

Asked why they allowed Hefajat to hold rally in the heart of the capital, he said they gave the permission out of respect to Islamic clerics, despite having intelligence that Hefajat men could create mayhem and stay there beyond the time granted.

"They are madrasa teachers and students. People respect them. They promised us many times that they would leave the capital by 5:00pm after offering prayers."

BNP REJECTS DMP STATEMENT

Criticising DMP commissioner's statement, BNP spokesperson Shamsuzzaman Duda said people did not subscribe to the DMP's version.

He also demanded a government statement on the issue immediately.

# Bodies coming out

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operation to the district administration, said Lt Col Saiful Islam, a member of the engineering rescue team.

He said the rescuers had so far been able to reach 50 metres inside the rubble through the rear of the collapsed building and created access to the first and second floors through the front.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) continued to distribute salaries at the Savar cantonment shooting ground among the workers who survived.

However, the BGMEA did not comply with the workers' demand for four months' salaries for all workers irrespective of their joining date. This sparked dissatisfaction over the payment among the workers.

Abdul Ahad Ansary, chairman of the BGMEA's standing committee for labourers' education and welfare, said the organisation had decided to pay one month's basic salary for each of the year a worker had worked, basic salary and 60 hours' overtime for the month of April, and one month's basic salary as notice pay since the workers no longer have jobs.

As for their earned leave, it had decided to pay the arrears for a maximum of 40

days, added Abdul Ahad.

However, the conditions do not apply for those whose service tenure is less than three months. These workers will receive salaries for the days they worked in April and basic salary for one month.

At a press conference in Dhaka, BGMEA officials said they had paid the wages of 1,776 workers between Tuesday night and yesterday.

Meanwhile, 15 days into the fateful tragedy, the bodies trapped under the rubble have become so severely decomposed that relatives can hardly identify their loved ones.

District administration sources said they were having a hard time handing over the bodies, as they needed to confirm that the bodies were going to the right families.

"I have been looking for my daughter since the tragic day [April 24] among the bodies recovered. But the bodies pulled out in the last two or three days were too decomposed to identify," said Ranjana Akhter, mother of garment worker Sheuli, who used to work on the 7th floor.

Now the bodies are being identified through their ID cards, mobile phones or clothes.

Yesterday, many people with photographs and ID cards of missing workers were seen waiting at Adhar Chandra High School play-

ground for the remains of their lost ones.

## Amnesty

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really happened, and why the deaths occurred. There must urgently be an immediate independent and impartial investigation into the events, including the police use of force. The perpetrators must be brought to justice," said Polly Truscott, deputy director (Asia-Pacific) of the rights body, in a statement yesterday.

Protesters were seen on TV channels in Bangladesh to be attacking police, torching buses, cars, small shops and book stalls, noted Amnesty adding that police were seen using tear gas, rubber and live bullets at the protesters.

In total, Amnesty International has been able to confirm the protest-related deaths of at least 41 civilians and three police or security force personnel across the country on May 5 and 6.

The opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) claims that more than 1,000 people have been killed, but this has been dismissed by the government.

"This is an extremely volatile situation and there is still a risk of further violence. All law enforcement personnel must abide by international law enforcement standards and ensure that they do not use excessive force in dealing with the protesters," Truscott said.