

## Serial blasts

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Accordingly, the border with Bangladesh was sealed and night curfew imposed along the interstate boundary with Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh which the militants use as a corridor to enter Assam.

The Brahmaputra and other rivers were also under the scanner of the security forces with boat police patrolling the waterways.

At around 9.30am, the insurgent outfit simultaneously exploded two grenades at the G D Road mini bus stand and near the Bodoland Territorial Council office in Kokrajhar town, both close to the venue of the I-Day celebrations, the police said.

A man named Bipul Brahma (45) was injured in the bus stand explosion and he has been admitted to a hospital, while no one was

injured in the other blast near the BTC office.

Another unexploded bomb was recovered from there and it was taken away by the bomb disposal squad.

In Chirang district's Bongaigaon, a grenade was exploded yesterday by the underground groups which lobbed the explosive at the All Minority Students Union office at around 8.45am, the sources said. None was injured.

On Wednesday, the NDFB(S) exploded three grenades in Chirang district, but none was injured.

Security forces are on high alert and additional forces have deployed in vital installations like oil fields, pipelines and refineries, airports, railway stations and television and radio stations, the sources said.



Parvin and her four-year-old son Miraj, survivors of a boat capsizing on Wednesday, grieve for the three other family members who went missing since the accident. Inset, Parvin's husband Harun, another son Maruf, 12, and daughter Israt, 9.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## ATTACK ON JUMMA PEOPLE 'Land grabbing was key motive'

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, Rangamati

The Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS) has said Bangalee settlers planned the August 3 attack on the indigenous people at Taindong in Khagrachhari to grab their land.

In a probe report on the incident, the PCJSS also has said the administration is trying to shift the blame on the BNP by saying the main opposition party had plotted the attack to tarnish the image of the country.

The administration has claimed Kamal Hossain, a member of BNP, himself spread the rumour of his abduction by the indigenous people after going into hiding, and the entire BNP was behind the attack.

Actually, the report says, the Bangalee settlers operated the attack to evict the indigenous people from their land and homesteads.

PCJSS also has said the BGB and police hardly took any measures against four-to-five-hour simultaneous attacks on eleven indigenous villages at Taindong in Matiranga. They could have prevented massive arson, looting and vandalism.

In that attack, at least 2000 Jumma people of 454 families took shelter in the no man's land in Indian territory and 1,500 Tripura people of 380 families took refuge in the jungle of adjacent Panchhari upazila, the report says.

Some twelve Jumma people were beaten mercilessly and injured by the settlers during the attack, the probe found.

It identified eight Bangalee settlers who led the attack.

PCJSS also has demanded full security of Jumma people, proper rehabilitation and compensation, judicial inquiry into the attack, arrest of the attackers and exemplary punishment to them.

## Habiba

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"I'm heading to the platform in a little while. There are tanks there," Elaziz replied.

It was her last text.

Elaziz, 26, was one of the scores of people killed as security forces stormed Rabaa al-Adawiya camp filled with supporters of ousted Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi. It was not clear who fired the bullet during clashes between the two sides.

The dramatic text exchange, published by The National, was confirmed to CNN by Elaziz's younger sister, Arwa Ramadan.

A staff reporter with the United Arab Emirates-based Xpress weekly newspaper, Elaziz was in her native Egypt in a personal capacity, having celebrated the Eid holiday.

She was assisting the injured at the camp, according to Ramadan.

Elaziz joined Xpress as an intern in September 2011 and later took a full-time position, according to Dubai-based Gulf News, a sister publication.

"It's hard to believe she's gone," said Xpress deputy editor Mazha

Farooqui. "She was passionate about her work and had a promising career ahead."

Without knowing what had happened, Elaziz's mother, who lives in Sharjah, an emirate in the United Arab Emirates, texted a prayer to her daughter and wrote a message of support for protesters in Egypt.

"God I entrust to you with my husband Ahmed and my daughter Habiba. May we not be bereaved over any of them. God empower them and support them and keep them steadfast at the moment of encounter today."

AND THEN  
THIS TEXT  
"Habiba, please reassure me. I've called thousands of times. Please, my darling, I'm worried sick. Tell me how you are."

The mother called Elaziz's phone around noon. Someone picked up the phone and told her the young journalist was dead. Elaziz's father was OK.

The mother and three siblings were scheduled to arrive in Egypt late Wednesday.

## Govt moves

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Seeking anonymity, an official at the Directorate of Registration told The Daily Star that some of the property were still in the possession of a few absconding killers of Bangabandhu.

He, however, refused to disclose the names of the killers, who are still enjoying the property, saying that they might either sell or transfer the pieces of land if their names were made public.

The official hoped that they would be able find more land property of the convicted killers and their family members.

Contacted, Inspector General of Registration Khan Md Abdul Mannan refused to comment on the property of the killers and their relatives.

The Directorate of Registration has identified land property of 144 decimals at Gheor in Manikganj, 15.75 decimals at Srinagar in Munshiganj, 258.50 decimals at Bhairab, 292 decimals at Kuliarchar in Kishoreganj, 772.75 decimals at Chandina in Comilla, 74.5 decimals at

Begumganj in Noakhali, 10 decimals at Kushtia Sadar upazila, 636 decimals at Borhanuddin in Bhola and 812 decimals at Sutrapur in Dhaka belonging to the killers and their families.

On November 21, 2012, the taskforce led by the law minister decided in a meeting to confiscate the property of the six fugitive convicted killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

In 2009, the Supreme Court had upheld the death penalty for 12 killers, including the six absconding. Of the 12, Syed Farooq Rahman, Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Bazlul Huda, AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed and Mohiuddin Ahmed were executed on January 27, 2010. Another convict Aziz Pasha died in Zimbabwe in 2001.

The trial of Bangabandhu killing commenced in Dhaka in 1997.

On August 15, 1975, disgruntled army personnel had killed the Father of the Nation and most of his family members.

## Father sacrifices

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Chandanaish upazila of the district, family sources said.

They took a bus ride from Chandanaish to the port city and then hired a boat at Bridgeghat around 7:45pm to reach their Sadarghat residence.

However, when the boat was halfway across the river Karnaphuli, a goods-laden engine boat struck it around 8:15pm, throwing them into the water, witnesses said.

The boatman managed to get to the shore carrying Miraj while Parvin herself could swim ashore. Harun held the two children and struggled to swim across the river but soon the three drowned, the survivors said.

"Harun was a very good swimmer," said his brother Md Mamun while searching for the trio in the

river along with coast guard personnel and local people yesterday.

"He put himself in danger to save his children."

Zafar Ahmed, president of Bridgeghat Shampun Malik Kalyan Samiti, filed a case with Karnaphuli Police Station in connection with the incident. Police seized the goods-laden boat but its crew fled.

The goods-laden engine boat did not have any signal light and had been driven by the helper of its boatman, he said quoting witnesses.

Mirza Sayem Ahmed, assistant commissioner (Kotwali zone) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police, said the boat had capsized at a time when the tide was ebbing and that was why Harun and his children could not be rescued.

## Jamaat plans

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cancelled, Jamaat would not be able to take part in the general elections, a serious threat to its existence.

Jamaat, a key component in the BNP-led 18-party alliance, had filed a petition with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court seeking a stay on the High Court order but that was rejected. Like the EC, the party is waiting for the full judgment of the High Court after which it hopes to file an appeal.

While the legal battle waits for the full judgment, a number of central leaders of Jamaat told The Daily Star that they were considering "every option" to retain the registration with the EC.

Jamaat central working committee member Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher said the party plans to enforce long-duration hartals, non-cooperation programmes, and road, railway and waterway blockades across the country.

Jamaat, which actively worked against the birth of Bangladesh in 1971, was reborn in 1979 after a ban. The party suffered a severe blow when the present government formed the international crimes tribu-

nal in 2010 to prosecute war criminals.

Of the six verdicts the two war crimes tribunals have delivered so far, four were against incumbent top Jamaat leaders and two against its former leaders.

"And we will do everything to prevent the government from excluding our party from the registered ones," said a central Jamaat leader, adding that the party had taken part in all parliamentary elections since 1990.

Wishing not to be named, the leader said Jamaat considered the court's verdict as a reflection of the government's conspiracy against Jamaat.

"We will carry out all types of agitation programmes to put pressure on the government," another Jamaat leader said.

Jamaat central leader Taher said Jamaat leaders and activists would remain engaged in "open politics" and not go underground.

Asked what would happen if their efforts failed, Taher said, in that case "we would leave no stone unturned in fighting the conspiracy". He refused to elaborate further.

## Egypt burning

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to be guided by anyone," he said.

The Brotherhood has called on followers to march in Cairo later yesterday, while funeral processions for those who died provide further potential flashpoints over the coming days.

On Wednesday, protesters clashed with police and troops who used bulldozers, tear gas and live ammunition to clear two Cairo sit-ins that had become a hub of resistance to the military.

The clashes spread quickly to Alexandria and numerous towns and cities around the mostly Muslim nation of 84 million.

A Reuters witness counted 228 bodies, most of them wrapped in white shrouds, arranged in rows on the floor of the Al-Imam mosque in northeast Cairo, close to the worst of the violence.

Some men pulled back the shrouds to reveal badly charred corpses with smashed skulls. Women knelt and wept beside one body. Two men embraced each other and shed tears by another.

### ISLAMISTS IN SHOCK

In the aftermath of the bloodshed, and with the death toll expected to rise further, Morsi supporters were left dazed by a crack-down that was more swift and brutal than most expected.

Army chief General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi removed Morsi from power on July 3 in the wake of huge protests by people frustrated at the lack of progress on economic reform and wary of what they saw as a creeping Islamist power grab.

But the subsequent crack-down points to a bleak future for the Brotherhood, which was suppressed for decades under autocrat Hosni Mubarak before he was toppled in a 2011 uprising.

"It's not about Morsi anymore. Are we going to accept a new military tyranny in Egypt or not?" Haddad said.

Despite shocking scenes in Cairo and beyond, including television footage of unarmed protesters dropping to the ground as security forces opened fire, many Egyptians support the crack-down, underlining how

deeply divided society has become.

"The Brotherhood would never agree to a political deal," said Ismail Khaled, 31-year-old manager in a private company.

"They are terrorists and violent, and what happened was the only logical way to end their sit-ins, which did have weapons and... violent people. Thank God the police ended them. I wish they had done so sooner."

Cairo and other areas were largely calm overnight, after the army-installed government declared a month-long state of emergency and imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew on the capital and 10 other provinces.

A military source said that while sit-ins like the main one outside the Rabaa al-Adawiya mosque in Cairo would no longer be tolerated, marches may be in spite of the state of emergency.

The decision to forcibly clear sit-ins defied Western appeals for a negotiated settlement to the crisis, amid concerns that the country which has signed a peace treaty with Israel and straddles the strategic Suez Canal

could spiral out of control. **BLOODSHED**  
**"DEPLORABLE"**

The Muslim Brotherhood said the true death toll was far higher, with a spokesman saying 3,000 people had been killed in a "massacre". It was impossible to verify the figures independently given the extent of the violence.

The state of emergency and curfew restored to the army powers of arrest and indefinite detention it held for decades under Mubarak.

The army insists it does not seek power, and it has installed an interim government to implement plans for fresh elections in around six months.

But efforts to restore democracy have been overshadowed by the crisis, and the Brotherhood suspects the military is effectively running the country.

Egypt's interim president named at least 18 new provincial governors earlier this week, half of them retired generals, in a shake-up that pushed out Brotherhood members and restored the influence of men from army and police backgrounds.

## No progress in trial of 3 cases

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Three murder cases in connection with these killings were filed in 1996, but those are still on the back-burner.

Asked about legal development, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said he was not aware of the cases as the home ministry dealt with those.

He asked these correspondents to contact the home ministry to get update on the cases.

Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir, State Minister for Home Affairs Shamsul Haque Tuku and Attorney General Mahbubey Alam could not be reached for their comments despite several attempts.

In January 2010, five condemned killers of the father of the nation were executed following a Supreme Court verdict in the Bangabandhu murder case filed in October 1996.

**SHEIKH MONI KILLING**  
A band of 25-30 army men surrounded Sheikh Moni's house on Road 13/1 in Dhanmondi around 1:30am on August 15.

Eight to ten of them wielding firearms in black uniform went up to the first floor and left after a shootingspree.

Moni's close aide Mohammad Shahabuddin, who was on the ground floor, immediately went upstairs and found Moni and his wife Arzu lying on the floor in a critical condition.

Sheikh Maruf, Moni's younger brother, turned up there. Arzu was crying out for help and requesting to save them and their two sons -- Sheikh Fazle Shams Porosh and Sheikh Fazle

Noor Taposh.

Moni and Arzu were pronounced dead on arrival at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, read the statement of the murder case filed by Shahabuddin with Dhanmondi police on November 20, 1996.

Sixteen people including former deputy minister Taheruddin Thakur were made accused in the case.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) gave the final report in the case on August 22, 2002 and had it secretly dismissed, ignoring legal bindings.

The Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka on December 30, 2002 accepted the final report and acquitted all the accused without notifying the complainant.

Neither the investigation officer nor the court concerned informed the complainant about the fate of the case.

**SERNIABAT MURDER**  
A group of army personnel led by Maj Shahriar Rashid, Maj Aziz Pasha, Capt Majed and Capt Nurul Huda stormed into Abdur Rab Serniabat's residence on Minto Road around 5:00am.

The army personnel had rounded up the residents in the drawing room on the ground floor before Shahriar and Majed shot them.

Frightened Beauty Serniabat caught hold of her father Abdur Rab Serniabat. Shahriar Rashid, Aziz Pasha and Nurul Huda fired shots again and left the scene.

Abdur Rab Serniabat, his nephew Shaheed Serniabat, daughter Baby Serniabat, son Arif Serniabat, grandson

Babu Serniabat, who was only four, domestic helps Potka and Lakshmir Ma, and Abdur Naim Khan alias Rintu died on the spot.

Abul Hasnat Abdullah, son of Abdur Rab Serniabat, survived the onslaught hiding behind a door.

Shahan Ara Begum, wife of Hasnat, her mother-in-law Amena Begum, brother-in-law Abul Khair Serniabat, sisters-in-law Beauty and Rina Serniabat, and domestic helps Rana, Rafiqul Islam, Lalit Das and Golam Mahmud were seriously injured, said the statement of a case filed by Shahan with Ramna police on October 21, 1996.

Eighteen people were charged with the murders in the case.

However, proceedings of the case were stayed by the High Court in November 1999 following a criminal revision filed by Bazlul Huda, one of the accused, against the order of charge framing.

The stay order remains in effect till date. The Awami League came to power in 2009 but did not take any initiative to vacate the stay on the case proceedings.

**MOHAMMADPUR**  
**MORTAR ATTACK**  
Mohammad Ali, a resident of Sher Shah Suri Road in Mohammadpur, woke up with wounds in his left thigh around 5:30am that day. He heard sounds of mortar blasts around.

Hearing cries, he went to a nearby house on Road 9 and found Rezia Begum, wife of house owner Musa, and their daughter Nasima dead.

He went to house 196 and 197 on nearby Shahjahan Road where he

saw bodies of Habibur Rahman, Anwara Begum, another woman by the same name, Moyful Bibi, Sabera Begum, Abdullah, Rafiqul, Safia Khatun, Shahabuddin, Kasheda, Aminuddin and Honufa Bibi, all killed in the mortar attack.

Later he came to know that 14 people were killed by mortar shells fired by a group of military personnel.

He also learned that Bangabandhu and most of his family members were dead, Ali said in the statement of a case he filed with Mohammadpur police on November 29, 1996 accusing Syed Farooq Rahman and 10 others.

The CID pressed charges against the accused on July 30, 1997.

On November 1, 2006, the court framed charges against 18 accused, including Taher Uddin Thakur, who later died, in connection with the Mohammadpur killings.

Trial of the case began with deposition of the complainant on March 19, 2007 and statements of only 12 out of 57 prosecution witnesses were recorded till July 1 this year.

The case now remains pending with the Court of Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Dhaka.

Talking to The Daily Star, State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam said almost all the accused in the three cases and the Bangabandhu assassination case were common.

The accused killers have already been convicted and sentenced in the Bangabandhu assassination case, he added.

## BNP men clash

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pality.

The supporters of the mayor blocked the roads from Madhupur to Tangail, Jamalpur and Mymensingh and damaged over 100 vehicles, including that of the upazila nirbahi officer in protest at the arrest.

Vehicular movement remained suspended for two hours, local sources said. Police fired rubber bullets and tear gas shells to disperse the protesters.

Seven protesters with rubber bullet injuries and four constables received first aid at the upazila health complex, said Dr Nurul Huda, upazila health officer in Madhupur.

Supporters of Fakir Mahbub Anam Swapan, an MP aspirant who assists Shahid, vandalised the billboards of another MP aspirant from BNP at Madhupur bus station on Wednesday night.

This led to a skirmish between the two BNP

factions led by Swapan and Bhuiyan Mahbub Abdul Latif, the other MP aspirant.

Latif's brother Amzad Hossain, councillor of ward no 6, filed the case with Madhupur Police Station on the same night, accusing Shahid and his men of firing bullets in his house during the skirmish.

Police took Shahid to the police station from his house around 3:00am and released him after interrogation at 9:00am yesterday, said police.

However, police called him to the police station and arrested him two and a half hours later.

The clash broke out when the BNP men intercepted the law enforcers who were taking Shahid to court, said police.

Over 15 people were detained in connection with the clash, said Hayatul Islam, additional superintendent of police in Tangail.