



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Five-year-old Sumaiya Akhter Sadia was going to school yesterday morning when she was struck by splinters from a cocktail hurled from a procession of the BNP-led 18-party opposition alliance activists, brought out to enforce its blockade, in Chittagong city's Akbar Shah Mazar area. The photo was taken at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

VIOLENCE BY BLOCKADERS

Even 5yr-old not spared

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Ctg

When Liza saw an oncoming procession yesterday morning, she soon got off the rickshaw with her five-year-old daughter who was to sit for the final exam around an hour later, but it did not save the kid from the marauding blockaders.

They threw a petrol bomb near the two of them standing by the roadside in Akbar Shah Mazar area in Chittagong city and some splinters flew to the kid's head.

"Fearing attack, the rickshaw-puller asked us to get down and stand by the road. We did so but suddenly a cocktail was hurled in front of us from the procession that exploded with a bang and my child screamed in pain," said Jesmin Akhter Liza.

Prof Dr Tahmina Banu, head of the paediatrics department at Chittagong Medical College

Hospital (CMCH) where the girl was taken immediately after the attack around 8:30am, said Sadia was out of danger but her wounds had to be stitched.

"The government and the opposition parties are all safe. But we and our kids are the victims of their politics," said an angry Omar Faruque Sumon, uncle of Sadia and a college teacher. "Why would we, the people, be the victims of their dirty politics?"

The attack on this innocent child angered the hospital staff and doctors as well.

Meanwhile, a trucker sustained 15 percent burns to his body after blockaders set his vehicle afire in Sitakunda upazila around 2:00am yesterday.

Yasin of Patiya upazila left the capital with his egg-laden truck for the port city Friday night but got

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India intensifies border watch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As violence centring the national election sweeps across Bangladesh, India's Border Security Force has started taking precautionary measures along the Bangladesh border, said a BBC Bangla report yesterday.

BSF Director General Subhash Joshi said they had taken the measures fearing that the violence might leave adverse effects beyond Bangladesh borders.

"The election in Bangladesh is scheduled for January; it is natural to be careful about that. We are taking necessary steps in this regard," he said.

India is constructing watchtowers along the borders where there are no barbed wire fences, the report added.

The BSF officials are concerned that people who are involved in subversive activities in Bangladesh might escape to India.

If the attacks on religious minorities escalate, they may also try to intrude into India in large groups, they fear. However, Indian external affairs ministry officials think the current situation is still not a matter of grave concern.

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Berger Award for Excellence in Architecture Events Postponed

The award ceremony of the 6th Berger Award for Excellence in Architecture, scheduled to be held on December 5, 2013 at Bangabandhu International Conference Center, and the exhibition on December 7, 2013 at Dhaka Art Center, have been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances.

The fresh date and time for these events will be announced later. We humbly apologize for any inconvenience caused.

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