



Police seized 20 petrol bombs found abandoned by a ragpicker in the capital's Moghbazar Wireless Gate area yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

20 Molotov cocktails seized in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rampura police yesterday seized 20 Molotov cocktails and detained for questioning a female ragpicker who found those abandoned in an alley in the capital's Moghbazar Wireless Gate.

A scrap trader at Malibagh Super Market informed police about the cocktails, said Rampura Police Station Officer-in-Charge Kripa Sindhu Bala, adding that Jobeda Begum, 30, will be released.

Talking to The Daily Star, Jobeda, a resident of Khilgaon's Riazbagh, said she had no idea that the 250 and 200 millilitre soft-drink glass bottles containing petrol were incendiary weapons.

Believing that the liquid was kerosene, she went to the trader around 8:00am to sell the 20 bottles and three more empty ones, she said.

A single Molotov cocktail is enough to significantly burn a vehicle as per preliminary investigations on the November 28 arson on a bus near Shishu Park which caused three deaths and seriously injured 16 others, said Detective Branch Addition Deputy Commissioner Sanwar Hossain.

During the blockades from November 26 till yesterday, opposition activists attacked vehicles with such cocktails, leaving several dead while many more seriously burnt.

Dhaka Medical College Hospital's burn unit sources informed that since October 26, at least 12 victims of political agitations like hartals and blockades died there.

Although there is no legal bar on collecting fuel on containers, fuel station owners have been requested to first question the customer on the purpose, said Tejgaon Division Deputy Commissioner Biplab Kumar Sarkar.

ARSON CASE

Khoka on remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed BNP Vice-president Sadeque Hossain Khoka on a two-day remand in connection with an arson attack on a bus at Shahbagh that left three passengers dead and 16 others injured.

Metropolitan Magistrate MA Salam granted the remand after MA Jalil, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station and also the investigation officer of the case, produced Khoka before it with a 10-day remand prayer. Khoka claimed he was innocent and said he fought for Bangladesh in the Liberation War and that a freedom fighter like him cannot commit such an offence.

His lawyer said after Khoka's arrest he was taken to a "special place" and asked to join the polls-time government. He was framed for the arson attack after he refused to join, added the lawyer.

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Armed youths rape girl after abduction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Locals of Narayanganj sadar upazila early yesterday caught and handed over to police two men who were, alongside some three others, raping a female garment worker after abducting her at gunpoint.

The two, Sajal Mian, 20, and Ramjan Ali, 25, are residents of Narayanganj city's Khanpur area, said Narayanganj Sadar Model Police Station Sub-inspector Ataur Rahman. Quoting the victim, police said some five men abducted her from the upazila's Talla area around 10:00pm on Wednesday while she was returning home from work and took her to the adjacent Killerpool area.

The locals came forward only after hearing the 18-year-old's screams around 2:00am and all but the two escaped with the gun. The girl is now being treated at Narayanganj General Hospital and will undergo a forensic test, said police, adding that a case will be filed.

Australia will not give permanent visas to boat people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Australian government on Tuesday announced that anyone who has arrived in Australia by boat illegally before July 19 this year will not be granted permanent protection visa.

"There are no visas for those who came illegally by boat and we will never allow those people to settle here," said a press release of the Australian High Commission in Dhaka quoting Scott Morrison, the Australian minister for immigration and border protection.

The Australian minister said, "Anyone who arrives by boat illegally will be

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BNP, Jamaat ruining economy: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the BNP-Jamaat alliance is destroying the country's economy through their "destructive political programmes".

"What type of politics BNP-Jamaat is doing now, I just can't understand this... the people of the country are also unable to understand," she said while speaking at a meeting with Bangladesh Tariqat Federation at her office.

Hasina said the BNP, joining hand with Jamaat-Shibir, is now carrying out vandalism, exploding petrol bombs, removing railway fishplates and killing innocent people on the streets.

Hasina, also the president of Awami League, said her party never believes in vote rigging. "We don't have the mentality of vote snatching

as we always fought for establishing the rights of people."

The AL chief said the BNP-Jamaat alliance during their regime had made the country a den of militants and terrorists. "After assuming office, we've freed the country from that stigma," she said.

Mentioning the improvement in the Transparency International (TI) corruption index announced recently, she said it proves that the government is very much sincere to eradicate graft from the country. "A section of people didn't appreciate this advancement of Bangladesh on the TIB corruption list," she said.

Bangladesh Tariqat Federation Chairman Nazibul Boshar Maizbhandari led the delegation.

During the meeting, Tariqat Foundation leaders said general people are not with the so-called movement of the opposition.



BNP Vice President Sadeque Hossain Khoka waves to party activists and supporters while being taken to a Dhaka court which placed him on a two-day remand yesterday on charges of arson and killing. He was arrested in the capital on Wednesday night.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA



Lalon Charcha Kendro and Bangladesh Bandhu Samaj bring out a procession on Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding a stop to burning of people during political strikes and consensus between the two major parties.

PHOTO: STAR

RESOLVING POLITICAL CRISES Hold prayers at places of worship Urges Nirapad Sarak Chai chief Ilias Kanchan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chairman of Nirapad Sarak Chai Ilias Kanchan yesterday urged religious leaders of all faiths to hold special prayers at their respective houses of worship all over Bangladesh today, seeking blessings of the creator to save the country from the current political crises.

"All hopes of finding a peaceful solution to the ongoing political crisis are dying by the day. We can get out of the situation only if the great creator gives the right sense to our parties and leadership," he told a press conference at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Ilias Kanchan, also a film actor, urged people of all religions to observe today as "prayer day". "I request all Imams to offer special prayers after Juma congregation today. I also call on leaders of other religions to hold prayers at temples, churches, pagodas and other houses of worship."

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Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Qulkhwani of Md Azizur Rahman, a former director of BSCIC, will be held after Asr prayers today. He died of heart attack

on Sunday at the age of 79. His daughter Anjum Aziz is the senior programme officer (Media and Communication) at European Union Delegation to Bangladesh.

Relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the qulkhwani at house-101, road 2, Niketan Block A, Dhaka.

Abdus Samad Sheikh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Qulkhwani of Abdus Samad Sheikh, former managing director of Al-Arafah Islami Bank Ltd, will be held today in his 120/1 New Eskaton residence in the capital.

He died of a brain stroke on Wednesday.

Nutrition education best way to improve food security

Says WFP, IFPRI joint research

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nutrition education is critical in leveraging the benefits delivered from food and cash transfers among the ultra poor in Bangladesh. So suggest the first findings of a joint research by two international organisations.


World Food Programme and the International Food Policy Research Institute presented the findings on Tuesday, says a WFP press release.

The initiative is aimed at exploring which types of social safety net transfers work best for the rural ultra poor.


The research initiative is supported and guided by the government of Bangladesh, and funded by Germany, the UNDP, the United States and Switzerland.

The two-year study, which will conclude in mid-2014, seeks to determine the benefits of five different types and combinations of transfers – including cash, food and nutrition education.

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THE WAY THEY SEE IT



THE WAY WE SEE IT

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