



1. Burnt all over, Surma being taken into CMCH in early November after the rag picker had accidentally picked up a bomb. 2. Sumi, 8, at the burn unit of DMCH with her hands, legs and face burnt. 3. Bus helper Rony at the burn unit of DMCH after pickets torched his bus in Mirpur in mid November. 4. Wife and son cry after seeing burnt auto-rickshaw driver Sabed Ali whose vehicle was torched near Hatirpool in the capital in late November. 5. A weeping mother could only touch her son Riad's head with love as most of his body was burnt and bandaged after pickets hurled a petrol bomb into his bus near Shishu Park last month. 6. Burnt bus helper Hasan in hospital after his vehicle was torched in Jatrabari on December 5; Hasan died later in the day. 7. Victims inside a ward of the burn unit of DMCH. 8. Speech impaired truck helper Mujibur at DMCH after his truck was torched in Comilla last week. 9. Criminals hurled a petrol bomb at the Easybike Jahanara was travelling on in Shyampur earlier this month, burning 27 percent of her body. 10. Little Lima's mother cries quietly at the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedic Rehabilitation. Earlier this month, the child lost all the fingers of her right hand and suffered injuries to her stomach and left hand when she picked up a bomb, taking it to be a ball. 11. Trucker Mohammad Milu at the burn unit of DMCH after his vehicle was set alight in late November near Ghorashal Bridge in Narsingdi. 12. A bus burns on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway near Sitakunda in mid November. 13. An alleged opposition activist hurls a petrol bomb at Golpahar of Chittagong on December 2.

PHOTO: FILE/FOCUS BANGLA



FILE PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



When lungs turn to charcoal

FROM PAGE 7
van arrived at the spot, apprehended him without paying heed to what his explanations, accused him in a case filed for the explosion and placed him before a Dhaka court the next day with a remand prayer.

His face had swollen to twice its

size, with the lips so inflamed that he could not even close his mouth.

"The struggle for breathing is often more difficult and critical than the surface injury," said doctor Alam.

Nevertheless, an autopsy revealed that arson victim Hasan, a 90 percent

burnt teenager, died of the pain racking his entire body. Sohail Mahmud, assistant professor of forensic medicine, who conducted the post-mortem, told 'The Daily Star' that the boy had gone into a state of shock.

"The skin of his entire body had

almost turned into ashes and was crumbling off," said Alam, adding that when the boy had been brought to the hospital a strong smell of burnt skin was coming from his body.

Hasan's mother, who could not see her son alive, described her experience

of seeing the boy in a charred state. "His eyelids had swollen and turned inside out... there was no way I could have recognised him as my son."

On November 14, just a day before another arson victim Mantu Chandra Pal died, 'The Daily Star' encountered

his wife Sanchita rushing out of the ICU sobbing, as she could not bear to see him writhing in pain.

She said he had sustained 90 percent body burns and there was not an inch of his skin that had not been scorched.

Real culprits stay safe

FROM PAGE 7
could not return to his normal life. "He is so scared that he has stopped attending his college and coaching centre. He does not even go out to play with his friends. He keeps his cell phone switched off and has confined himself to his house," said a cousin of Rajib.

Fearing further trouble, his family members asked these correspondents not to expose their identity and other details.

Hundreds of crude and petrol bombs were blasted and many vehicles torched and vandalised in

the capital and elsewhere in the country during the recent spells of hartals and blockades, but hardly could the law enforcers arrest the real culprits.

In most cases arrested people on suspicion and filed cases against top and local leaders of opposition alliance.

"We could hardly catch anyone red-handed while exploding bombs as they chose places with no law enforcers around," said an officer-in-charge of a police station of the

capital. Wishing anonymity, he also said such attackers usually do not move in groups making it almost impossible for the police to detect them from the crowds, an observation echoed by a number of other field-level police officials.

Inspector General of Police Hassan Mahmood Khandker, however, has claimed that only the genuine culprits are being arrested.

When asked about the arrests of innocent people on suspicion, the IGP said, "There is no scope for the

law enforcers to do anything irresponsible as such."

An activist of Jubo Dal, the youth front of the main opposition BNP, told these correspondents how they manage to escape arrests after exploding bombs.

"Before carrying out any attack, we deploy our activists posing as innocent bystanders at strategic points to get advance information about the movements of police," he said wishing anonymity.

"Our activists used to explode

bombs on the road stretching from Kamalapur Railway Station to Peer Jangi Mazar during hartals or blockades, but police could never arrest any of them as they already knew where the law enforcers were," he added.

Deputy Commissioner (Media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Masudur Rahman said since October 25 till December 5, police arrested around 400 people in the capital and about 500 of them were arrested for either exploding or possessing bombs.