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Hindus send females away

Males stay back at houses damaged by BNP-Jamaat in 4 districts

STAR REPORT

Most of the Hindu families who had been attacked since election day, have sent their young female members to relatives' homes elsewhere fearing more Jamaat-BNP attacks on them.

Meanwhile, reportedly Jamaat-BNP men carried out fresh attacks on the minorities on Tuesday and yesterday, injuring five, burning seven homes and two temples, and vandalising idols in five districts.

Panicked Suzen Chandra Das, 60, died supposedly of a heart attack in Joypurhat when the criminals set his home on fire on Tuesday night.

Jiten Chandra Das, younger brother of the deceased, said his brother suffered a cardiac arrest seeing the house on fire, our correspondent reported.

Alleged Jamaat-Shibir men had attacked and set fire to three Hindu homes, including Suzen's, at Sonakul of Panchbibi in Joypurhat around 10:30pm on Tuesday. Locals said family members noticed their heaps of hay on fire as well but could not identify who had set the fires.

In another incident, unidentified criminals set fire to the paddy reserves of Kiran Chandra Roy and Sukumar Kumar in Shyampur village of Panchbibi in Joypurhat.

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Premo Bala of Pretampara in Kornaigram of Dinajpur Sadar trying to tell The Daily Star correspondent yesterday how Jamaat-Shibir and BNP men attacked her home on election day.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

BNP blames AL men for attacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia last night claimed that the BNP-Jamaat had no relation with the post polls attacks on the religious minorities.

She also rejected outright the prime minister's claim that the opposition men were responsible for the attacks.

The BNP chief was exchanging views with a delegation of pro-BNP journalists, teachers and lawyers at her Gulshan residence around 9:30pm.

Ruhul Amin Gazi, convener of the Peshajibi Shamannay Parishad, led the 12-member team.

"The opposition didn't contest the January 5 elections. Therefore, it is out of question that opposition activists attacked the minorities for going to polling centres. We've no

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BNP seeks Ansar team for Khaleda's residence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has sought Ansar members to guard the Gulshan residence of its Chairperson Khaleda Zia, said party sources.

The opposition party made the move last week as the government withdrew Khaleda's police protocol on December 28 last year, a day before the opposition's "March for Democracy" programme.

The government that day

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Hartal goes, blockade on

No respite from violence, public suffering

STAR REPORT

Although the opposition enforced 60-hour countrywide hartal ended yesterday amid reports of violence across the country, its non-stop nationwide blockade of rail, roads and waterways will continue.

On December 30, the BNP called the indefinite blockade from New Year's Day to resist what it called the one-sided January-5 parliamentary election.

Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, acting secretary general of BNP, in a statement yesterday urged party leaders and workers, its allies and the people of the country on behalf of Khaleda Zia to continue the blockade as part of its ongoing "mass movement".

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O-, A-LEVEL EXAMINEES

Police protection on call from guardians

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police will escort O- and A-level examinees to the exam centres if their parents contact the local police stations asking for it, DMP Commissioner Benazir Ahmed said yesterday.

"Police escort will be provided as per the parents' requests. They will have to contact the police stations prior to the exams," he told a press briefing at the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Media Centre on Minto Road in the capital.

The DMP boss said the decision was taken after parents had repeatedly communicated to the police their concern for the

students' safety amid political violence.

The police stations under which the capital's eight exam centres are located have already been asked to take the necessary steps, a DMP official said.

"If an examinee comes to the police station and asks for help, police will escort him or her all the way to the centre," Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of DMP, told The Daily Star.

He said the DMP has yet to work out a plan to pick up the students from a certain place at a certain time, adding that they would go for it if necessary.

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Resist attacks on schools

Nahid suggests filing cases against attackers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday asked the education institutions, which were damaged by the opposition on the eve of the 10th national polls, to file cases with respective police stations.

The instruction came at a meeting with the officials of the ministries of education and primary and mass education.

Nahid, also the primary and mass education minister, urged all the teachers, students and guardians to build a united resistance against such attacks.

At the meeting, the headmaster of Shujabad Government

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The derailed locomotive of Nasirabad Express almost tipped over close to Halimpur Railway Station in Kishoreganj yesterday after alleged 18-party alliance activists removed the fishplates of the rail line.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

BID TO CHANGE CONSTITUTION Thai anti-graft body to charge 300 lawmakers

BBC ONLINE

Thailand's anti-corruption body said it will bring charges against more than 300 politicians, mostly from the governing party, for trying to change the constitution.

A court ruled in November that the government move to make the Senate fully elected was unconstitutional.

The graft body said PM Yingluck Shinawatra would not face charges.

The move came as Thailand heads for a general election on 2 February, amid opposition protests.

Yingluck called the polls last month in a bid to end demonstrations by opposition supporters in Bangkok.

The protesters want Yingluck's government replaced with an unelected "People's Council".

They said her government's populist policies - which they allege are controlled by her brother, ousted former PM Thaksin Shinawatra - have created a flawed democracy.

Yingluck's party has drawn considerable support from rural voters and would be likely to win the election - which the main opposition party is now boycotting.

The National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) ruling will lead to another investigation and could

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The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL
Do you agree with the US, UK, Canada and Commonwealth that the results of Sunday's elections had failed to reflect the will of the people?

Yes (87%)
No (13%)

TOTAL VOTES: 927

TODAY'S POLL
Do you think that the government would be able to take stern action against the persons responsible for the attacks on minority community?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
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PRAYER TIMING January 9

Fajr	Azan	Jamaat
5:30	6:05	
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:00	4:15
Maghrib	5:30	5:35
Esha	7:00	7:30

Source: Islamic Foundation



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