

2 BNP men shot dead in Noakhali

FROM PAGE 1

worst of yesterday's countrywide violence.

Both the dead -- Md Rubel, 28, of Senbag upazila's Shibpur and Md Mohsin, 29 -- were activists of the BNP's youth front Jubo Dal, according to Kamakhya Chandra Das, general secretary of the district unit Jubo Dal.

Blockade supporters were rampaging through Chaumohani Rail Gate area in Begumganj upazila yesterday evening, said ASM Ashrafuzzaman, additional superintendent of Noakhali police.

When police reached the spot, the blockaders started pelting the policemen with brick chunks and stones, forcing the law enforcers to open fire, he added.

The injured were rushed to Noakhali Abdul Malek Ukil Medical College Hospital where Rubel and Mohsin were declared dead.

Kamakhya claimed they had brought out a peaceful procession in support of the blockade but police intercepted and opened fire on them.

However, Superintendent of Noakhali Police Ilias Sharif told The Daily Star that it was the blockaders who fired the shots first and police only retaliated.

He also claimed that seven policemen were injured in the violence.

Fourteen BNP-Jamaat men were detained in this connection as of 10:50pm and drives were on to arrest more.

The local BNP is enforcing a daylong shutdown in the district today to protest the killings.

DHAKA
At least seven vehicles were torched in the capital yesterday.

Unidentified criminals, presumably blockade supporters, set fire to a bus of the public administration ministry in front of Motijheel Kriya Bhaban around 6:15pm.

Fire fighters rushed to the spot and doused the blaze. No casualty was reported.

Criminals also set fire to a bus in front of Bahadur Shah Park in Old Dhaka around 6:40pm, one near Azimpur Bus



A bus burns on the street in front of Baitul Mukarram mosque in the capital yesterday evening. Alleged supporters of the 20-party blockade had torched the bus.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Stand around 7:00pm and another at Shewrapara in the morning.

Apart from these, two more buses were torched in front of Mirpur Indoor Stadium and in Khilkhet, and a sport utility vehicle was set afire in Segunbagicha last night, according to fire service officials.

Despite the arson attacks, traffic movement inside the city was almost normal, with its streets packed with all sorts of public and private vehicles.

JESSORE
A bus helper -- identified as Murad Mollah, 20, of Magura Sadar upazila -- was burnt as miscreants set his bus alight

while he was sleeping in it early yesterday.

Officer-in-Charge Enamul Haque of Jessore Kotwali Police Station said a group of blockaders set fire to the bus parked at Khajura Bus Stand around 4:00am.

Police and fire fighters rushed to the spot and sent Murad, who suffered 50 percent burns, to Jessore Medical College Hospital, he said.

Another bus was torched near the bus stand around the same time. But none was hurt in the incident.

Two cases were filed against BNP Standing Committee Member Tariqul Islam and at least a dozen other leaders

and activists of local BNP-Jamaat in connection with the arsons.

Demanding withdrawal of the "false cases", the local BNP is enforcing a daylong hartal in the district today.

CHANDPUR
At least 50 people, including 20 policemen, were injured in a clash between police and BNP men at Toragarh in Hajiganj municipality on Tuesday night.

Police and witnesses said BNP-Jamaat men damaged 30-40 motorcycles and rickshaws on Tuesday evening. When police advanced towards Pilot High School and College, the blockaders

started hurling brick chunks and Molotov cocktails at the law enforcers who retaliated by opening fire.

A case was filed against 800 people in this connection.

NARAYANGANJ
Police arrested two pro-BNP councillors of Narayanganj City Corporation in connection with an incident of violence on Monday. The arrestees are Abdul Hannan Sarker of Ward 21 and Sultan Ahmed of Ward 22, police said.

Meanwhile, at least five lawyers were injured as pro- and anti-government lawyers engaged in a scuffle on

Living in panic

FROM PAGE 16

A sense of fear and tension nonetheless was all-pervading.

"The streets may turn into battle fields all of a sudden. It is indeed frightening to take my daughter to school. Whenever we see people clustering together in a place, my daughter looks scared," said Shormy Rahman, a mother in the capital's Indira Road.

"Sometime I ask my daughter to stay home. Although a new academic year has begun, she is yet to concentrate on her studies. She is confused as to what to do," said the mother, whose daughter studies at Holy Cross High School.

More than four crore primary to secondary level students are beset with political uncertainty at the beginning of their new year. They received new textbooks but could not start their classes properly. Though many schools have remained open despite the blockade, presence of students is thin.

"If students turn up, we take classes. But their attendance is still less than what is expected," Shahan Ara Begum, principal of Motijheel Ideal School and College, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Gaffar Mia's case was no different. A tea vendor at Ramna, he had to run the risk of keeping his stall open for it was his

bread and butter.

"The business has been bad for the last two days as number of customers dropped. However, I've got more customers today [yesterday] than the previous two days," he said.

Abid Islam, too, had a little respite yesterday. A private banker, he had found it difficult on Monday and Tuesday to get to his Gulshan office from his Mirpur residence. He had to change vehicles thrice and then walk quite a distance to reach his office. But it was a pretty smooth journey yesterday. Only his nerves remained stretched all the way.

"I had to spend Tk 150 to 200 to go to

my office on the first two days of the blockade because I had to take rickshaws and a CNG-run three-wheeler to make it to my office. But today I've got a direct bus to Gulshan-2. Then I walked to my office," he said. "We saw some violent fighting on television. It scares me. Yet I have no alternative as I need to attend my office. The politicians have made daily lives of people like us very difficult."

Abid had another fear. His wife works at a bank at Karwan Bazar. "I remain anxious about her safety and security," he added.

Rafiq Mia, a rickshaw puller, has been

going through some difficulty for the last few days. He was sitting idle in the Naya Paltan area, waiting for a passenger. "Obviously it feels risky to pull rickshaws these days, but what should I do? I find it hard to make ends meet if I don't work everyday," he said.

Just a few faces away, another rickshaw puller was waiting. His problem is a bit different than Rafiq Mia's. "I don't feel good staying in Dhaka amid this situation. I want to go home but all bus services to my Gaibandha home have been suspended," he said.

Apart from the common people, businessmen are also facing difficulties in

Narayanganj court premises yesterday.

Reports on incidents of arrest, vandalism, and crude bomb and arson attacks came pouring in from Comilla, Sylhet, Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Chandpur, Netrakona, Gazipur, Feni, Moulvibazar, Rangpur, Jamalpur, Khagrachhari, Bogra, Barisal and Thakurgaon districts.

The Sylhet BNP yesterday called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the district for today to protest the "illegal confinement" of Khaleda Zia and arrest of BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

In Barisal, the district and the city units of Islami Chhatra Shibir, the student front of Jamaat-e-Islami, called a half-day shutdown in the district for today demanding immediate release of 14 leaders and activists of the units.

ANOTHER DEATH IN SIRAJGANJ

A man died in Ullapara upazila after the CNG-run three-wheeler he was travelling in went off the road, and fell in a ditch.

The victim, Ismail Hossain, 40, was the son of Shamsheer Fakir of Janglidadh village in Shahzadpur upazila.

With a severe head injury, Ismail was whisked off to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in Bogra. He died there around 12:30pm, police said.

There have been conflicting accounts as to what caused the accident, Superintendent of Sirajganj police SM Amran Hossain told The Daily Star.

Driver Shipon Mia told police that he had picked up Ismail along with three others from Sirajganj's Gol Chatter area and was going to Shahzadpur.

When his three-wheeler reached Shyamoli para on Nagarbari-Bogra highway around 7:00am, some pickets started hurling brick chunks at it. As the driver tried to speed away, the vehicle veered out of control and overturned into the ditch, SP Amran said quoting Shipon.

However, a passenger, who survived the accident, said the driver lost control due to hitting a rickshaw van in thick fog before the three-wheeler went off the road.

Matarbari, Paira on fast track list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to fast track Matarbari coal-fired power and Paira seaport projects.

Including the two, eight projects are now on the government's priority list. The six others are Padma bridge, Rooppur nuclear power plant, 1320MW Rampal thermal power plant, metro rail, deep sea port and liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal.

Following the decision at a meeting of the Fast Track Project Monitoring Committee yesterday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina directed the ministries

concerned to implement the projects in time. Once implemented, the projects would reshape the country's economic outlook, improve communication and accelerate GDP (gross domestic product) growth.

The meeting chaired by Hasina at the Prime Ministers' Office reviewed the progress of the projects, said PM's Press Secretary AKM Shameem Chowdhuri while briefing reporters.

Under the \$4.6billion Matarbari power project, two plants each having a power generation capacity of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Tail of AirAsia plane found

FROM PAGE 16

The Indonesian meteorological agency said weather was the "triggering factor" of the crash in the Java Sea, with ice likely damaging the engines of the Airbus A320-200.

But a much clearer explanation is not possible without the black boxes, which record the pilots' voices as well as flight information. They were housed in the aircraft's tail.

"I am led to believe the tail section has been found. If right part of tail section then the black box should be there," AirAsia boss Tony Fernandes wrote on Twitter after the announcement.

"We need to find all parts soon so we can find all (our) guests to ease the pain of our families. That still is our

priority."

Despite a huge operation assisted by US, Russian and other foreign military assets, progress in finding the wreckage of the plane and its passengers has been patchy with stormy weather severely hampering the search. So far 40 bodies have been found, all of them floating at sea.

And despite the discovery of the tail, authorities could not say when the black boxes would be found and retrieved.

One problem is the tail being deep into the seabed, according to chief maritime affairs minister Indroyono Soesilo.

The search for the rest of the plane would now focus on a two-nautical-mile area surrounding the tail, with a

remotely controlled mini-submarine a key part of the effort, Soesilo and other senior Indonesian officials told a press conference.

Many of the bodies yet to be recovered were likely in the main parts of the plane that have yet to be found, they said.

Indonesia's transport ministry said yesterday that it had fired one transport official and disciplined several others in a crackdown following the crash, as it investigated how the flight was able to depart without permission.

Indonesia alleges the plane was flying on an unauthorised schedule when it crashed and AirAsia has since been suspended from flying the Surabaya-Singapore route.

"To date, we have taken action

running their business due to the blockade.

"Nobody has security during a blockade. Businessmen have been running their daily works with fear and apprehension," said Helal Uddin, vice-president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

"Passenger buses and good-laden trucks are getting burned everyday. Such incidents are causes of concern for common people as well as businessmen.

"We want relief from this situation for the smooth running of our business," Helal said.

Terror attack kills 12 at Paris weekly

FROM PAGE 1

Chilling amateur video footage shot after the carnage then showed them outside, running toward a wounded policeman as he lay on the pavement.

One attacker says "you wanted to kill me?" before shooting the officer execution style.

Large numbers of police and ambulances rushed to the scene and shocked reporters spilled into the streets. Witnesses saw bullet-riddled windows and people being carried out on stretchers.

Prosecutors said 11 people were also injured in the attack, with four in critical condition.

One man who witnessed the attack described a scene like "in a movie."

"I saw them leaving and shooting. They were wearing masks. These guys were serious," said the man who declined to give his name. "At first I thought it was special forces chasing drug traffickers or something."

Authorities said their cold and calculating manner suggested they had been well-trained.

French authorities placed the Paris region on its highest alert level and beefed up security with soldiers deployed at major transport hubs.

European capitals over fallout from the wars in Iraq and Syria, where hundreds of European citizens have gone to fight alongside the radical Islamic State group.

Some shoppers flocking to the first day of the winter sales voiced the fears of a nation: "Have we got them yet or are they still at large? Do you think they could come here?"

Jitters were also felt in other capitals, with a media group's office in Madrid evacuated later in the day after a suspicious package was sent there.

US President Barack Obama led the global condemnation of what he called the "cowardly, evil" assault.

British Prime Minister David Cameron called it "sickening", German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the attack was "despicable" and Russian President Vladimir Putin as well as the Arab League condemned the violence.

Saudi Arabia, the home of Islam's holiest sites, condemned "this cowardly terrorist attack which is incompatible with Islam".

The imam of Drancy mosque in the northern suburbs of Paris, Hassen Chalghoumi, visited the scene, calling the shooters "barbarians, they lost their soul, sold their soul to hell".

The attacks revived fears of a return to the dark days of the 1980s and 1990s when France, which is home to Europe's largest Muslim population, was hit by a wave of extremist violence.

In 1995, a bomb in a commuter train blamed on Algerian extremists exploded at the Saint Michel metro station in Paris, killing eight and wounding 119.

Al-Qaeda inspired gunman Mohamed Merah killed seven people in and around the southern city of Toulouse in 2012. His victims included three French soldiers and four Jews -- three children and a rabbi.

Charlie Hebdo's offices were fire-bombed in November 2011 when it published a cartoon of Mohammad (PBUH) under the title "Sharia Hebdo".

Despite being taken to court under anti-racism laws, the weekly continued to publish controversial cartoons of the Muslim prophet.

In September 2012, Charlie Hebdo published cartoons of a naked Mohammad (PBUH) as violent protesters were taking place in several countries over a low-budget film, titled "Innocence of Muslims", which was made in the United States and insulted the prophet.

Prohibit publicising

FROM PAGE 1

and the media to explain in four weeks as to why publicising his statements should not be declared illegal.

The inspector general of police was asked to inform the court the status of Tarique's passport.

The HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman came up with the order and the rule following a petition by Supreme Court lawyer Nashreen Siddiqua Lina on Tuesday, seeking its directives to restrict publicising Tarique's statements.

Tarique Rahman, secretaries to the ministries of information, home, law and foreign affairs, the inspector general of police, the director general of Bangladesh Television, the chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, the chief news editor of Ekushey Television and the editors of Kaler Kantho, Janakantha and bdnews24.com are respondents to the rule.

Deputy Attorney General Biswojit Roy told The Daily Star that the information secretary and the home secretary would have to take steps so that the media refrains from circulating statements of Tarique, who has been

living in London since leaving the country in 2008 during the caretaker government rule.

In the petition, Nashreen said Tarique, being a fugitive accused, had been making abusive and seditious statements about Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, violating the constitution.

Tarique is a fugitive in the eyes of the law as he did not surrender to any court although several arrest warrants have been issued for him in different cases, the petitioner said.

He even termed the Father of the Nation a Razakar, a friend of Pakistan and a man of corrupt disposition, Nashreen added.

Along with the petition, she submitted clippings of newspaper reports on Tarique's recent speeches.

During the hearing, petitioner's lawyer Yusuf Hossain told the court that Tarique violated the proclamation of independence, which recognised Bangabandhu as the declarer of independence of Bangladesh.

No derogatory comments are made against the founder of the nation in any country in the world, he said.

Although the BJP is in power in India, no one makes any statement

against eight officials -- two from the transport ministry, four from state navigation operator AirNav, and two airport officials," Hadi Mustofa, an official with the transport ministry's public affairs office, told AFP.

"One of the transport ministry officials was fired and the other official was temporarily suspended. As for the other six officials, some have been temporarily suspended and some have been transferred."

AirAsia Indonesia has declined to comment on allegations it violated its permits.

Dozens of military and search officials saluted coffins containing the latest recovered bodies as they were carried by pallbearers to an air force plane.

against India's Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, he added.

SM Rezaul Karim, another lawyer for the petitioner, told the court that Tarique violated the constitution by undermining Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, as the charter mentioned Bangabandhu as the nation's founding father.

If the media continues to run Tarique's statements, there will be anxiety, anarchy and unrest in the country. Hence, publicising his statements should be stopped, he argued.

Sahara Khatun, Sanjida Khanam and Momtazuddin Ahmed Mehedi also argued for the petitioner.

Meanwhile, Khaleda Zia's adviser advocate Khandker Mahbub Hossain yesterday told reporters that the HC would determine whether publishing statements of Tarique Rahman in the media was legal or illegal as it gave the government and the media four weeks to explain the matter.

He added that many fugitives, including al-Qaeda leaders and notorious terrorists, have been making statements and the media across the world runs those. But there is no example of restricting the media from publishing those speeches. 2 BNP men shot dead in Noakhali