



AL-BNP FACE OFF CONTINUES TO HURT PEOPLE

Clockwise from top left, a rickshaw van takes already wilting cauliflowers to a market in Kanchpur outside the capital to salvage whatever is possible amid the BNP-led indefinite countrywide blockade that entered its second day yesterday. Pro-Awami League lawyers fighting colleagues backed by BNP in Narayanganj court area. And in usual savage rage in the heat of the moment, the ruling party affiliated lawyers end up attacking one of their own. Unlike the other parts of the country, the traffic scene was quite different in Dhaka city, which like any other normal day saw congestion in some places including Paltan. A female activist of the BNP-led 20-party alliance joins the ranks of marauders in Gaibandha town. Set alight by blockaders, a motorcycle burns in Hajiganj of Chandpur. A bomb explosion in Katherpool area of the capital's Gendaria. Onlookers help a man, injured by a bomb blast in the capital's Gabtoli, onto a rickshaw to take him to a hospital. Journalists, who have been at BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's office round the clock to cover the latest development of her internment there, eat lunch sitting on the footpath in front of the office, which has been under siege by the law enforcers with her inside since Saturday evening.

PHOTO: STAR, BANGLAR CHOKH



Rab not responsible

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In a reply over the alleged use of the Rab in political purposes, Benazir said a section of politicians always tried to politicise everything. "It is not our duty to pay attention to them. We will carry out our responsibilities. It may not please some."
Meanwhile, newly-appointed DMP Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mian yesterday said his top priority would be to ensure the security of the city dwellers.
Talking to journalists at the DMP Media Centre, he however ducked the question, "How would you deal with the crimes committed by the ruling party men?"
Asaduzzaman only said he would not allow any harm to people.

Two killed in capital

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Meanwhile, police recovered the body of Shapla, 18, a tailoring shop worker at Uttara-4, from a drain at Uttara-1 in the morning.
Her husband Ziaur Rahman used to torture her often, the victim's uncle Fazlul Haque quoted her mother Bedana Begum as saying.
Sources at the Dhaka Medical College morgue, where the autopsy was conducted, said she was strangled as there were bruises on the throat.
Ziaur was picked up, said Kamrul Hasan, sub-inspector of Airport Police Station.

Dhaka in awkward situation over

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all missions abroad were "cautioned against such practices and advised to strictly comply with the law of the respective countries," added the official.
"The government will take necessary action regarding Monirul Islam's case after receiving reports as well as court orders from our consulate in New York," said another senior official.
Monirul and his wife Fahima

Tahsina Prova were not immune from the lawsuit by Mashud Parves Rana, because their employment and supervision of him were not "consular functions", a Reuters report yesterday stated US District Judge Sidney Stein in Manhattan as saying.
According to the case papers, Rana stated to have been lured to the US with promises of being paid \$3,000 a month and good working conditions.
Monirul and Fahima forced Rana to work 17-hour days without a day off

for over 18 months and would not let him leave their two Manhattan homes, threatening to beat him or kill him otherwise, adds the papers.
Earlier in March, Monirul termed the charges "baseless", stating that Rana, who is from Muradnagar upazila of Comilla, disappeared suddenly and could not be traced.
He also claimed to have handed Rana's father Nasir Uddin Tk 12 lakh before bringing him to New York to work as a domestic help.

BNP leaders, affiliated

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against them on January 5 and 6, Advocate Sagir Hossain Leon, a lawyer for the accused, told The Daily Star.
Mintoo got bail in four cases and Rafiqul and Aman got bail in two cases each, Leon said. Four of the cases were filed for vandalism carried out in the capital's Paltan area on January 4.
Khokon, Sanaullah, Sharif, Fahima and Lipi got bail in a case filed for damaging a car of an HC judge, attacking policemen and preventing them from discharging their duties on the Supreme Court premises on January 5.

Sub-committee

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months to send it to the information ministry for placing it to the cabinet. Prof Alam was also included in the sub-committee.

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