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## Khaleda's adviser shot in Gulshan

Reaz Rahman comes under attack minutes after meeting BNP chief at her office; his car torched; 20-party calls hartal for tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified people shot BNP chairperson's adviser Reaz Rahman and then torched his car at the capital's Gulshan-2 last night.  
Two bullets hit the 74-year-old in the left leg and two below his waist, said Fowaz Shuvo, a doctor at United Hospital where he was being treated.  
"The bullets did not cause major injuries to his internal organs. We could not remove the bullets yet, but we can say he is out of danger," he told The Daily Star after examining the X-ray report.



Reaz Rahman out of danger, say doctors

In protest, the BNP has called a 24-hour nationwide hartal for tomorrow.  
In a statement, Khaleda blamed the government for the attack, saying it was "an act of cowardice and terror".  
Reaz, also former state minister for foreign affairs, was attacked following some instigating remarks by the government high-ups, the BNP chief said.  
"The ruling party will have to shoulder the full responsibility for the evil attempt to create anarchy in the country by resorting to terrorism, killings, secrete attacks and enforced disappearances," the statement reads.  
Six attackers took part in the action movie-style shooting around

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The car of BNP chairperson's adviser Reaz Rahman in flames near Westin Hotel in the city's Gulshan area after gunmen attacked him last night. Inset, Reaz Rahman is being taken to a cabin from the operation theatre at United Hospital.



PHOTO: STAR/COLLECTED

## 5 JCD men held on charges of subversive acts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leaders and activists who were picked up by "detectives" in plain clothes on Saturday were produced before a Dhaka court yesterday.

Police said all the members of JCD's Kabi Nazrul Government College unit were shown arrested in a case filed in connection with subversive activities. The lawsuit was filed with Mirpur Police Station on January 7.

The court placed each of them on one day remand after they were produced before it by members of the Detective Branch of police yesterday morning. Investigators had sought a 10-day remand.

The five are Jasimuddin, Nazmul Hossain, Rumon Ahmed, Sajal Chandra Das, and Irfan Ahmed.

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## 20-party to toughen blockade, AL to resist

RASHIDUL HASAN and PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The BNP-led alliance plans to intensify its ongoing blockade to force the government to have dialogue for holding fresh polls, while the ruling Awami League-led combine has started forming committees to resist "the opposition's subversive activities".  
The opposition alliance also wants to hold a huge rally in the capital early next week after the last phase of Biswa Ijtema to strengthen its anti-government agitation.  
"We plan to hold a rally in the city next week to mark the 79th birth anniversary of

Shaheed president Ziaur Rahman. The party will seek permission from Dhaka Metropolitan Police to hold the rally," a BNP leader close to the BNP chairperson told The Daily Star last night.

If the DMP gives permission, the BNP-led 20-party alliance would relax the country-wide non-stop blockade. Otherwise, it would tighten the blockade further by mobilising its activists and supporters, said the BNP leader.

The BNP would put pressure on the government to let Khaleda Zia move freely and

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## AL's allies split on dialogue

Talks can be held if BNP cuts ties with militants: HT Imam

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Several partners of the ruling Awami League-led 14-party alliance yesterday stressed the need for a dialogue to overcome the current political tension, and urged the government to work to this end.

They said political crisis should be resolved politically instead of using the administration, sources said.

Several other partners of the alliance, however, backed the use of the administration to tackle the anti-government movement by the BNP-led 20-party alliance.

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## Blockade violence takes 2 more lives

STAR REPORT

Two more people died in violence yesterday, raising the death toll to 13 in the ongoing BNP-led combine's indefinite blockade.

On the eighth day of the blockade, pickets torched and vandalised scores of vehicles including a newspaper carrying microbus. Thirteen vehicles were burnt across the country; six of them were torched in the capital, police and fire service officials said.

Pro-blockade supporters blasted a string of crude bombs in the capital as well as several districts.

Police sources said law enforcers recovered at least 10 crude bombs from the capital and 32 from Rajshahi. They picked up over 150 BNP-Jamaat men from five districts and sued several hundred activists of the parties for carrying out subversive activities.

The launch service was normal yesterday but a top railway official said trains were still running behind schedule and it would take one more week to get them back on schedule.

Although the number of long-route

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The wreckage of MV Sundarban-8, which collided with another launch at the confluence of the Meghna river yesterday, killing at least three people.

PHOTO: STAR

## 3 killed in launch collision in Meghna

STAR REPORT

At least three people, including a minor boy, were killed and nine others injured in a collision between two launches in Meghna river in Chandpur Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The dead are Shahana Begum, 56, Rupa, 27, and Abrahah Shakil, 6. All of them hail from Barisal.

Dhaka-bound MV Sundarban-8 from Barisal collided with Barisal-bound MV Parabat-9 at the confluence of Meghna river around 1:30am.

Four cabins and a large area of the deck of

Sundarban-8 were severely damaged in the collision. All the victims were passengers of Sundarban-8, reports our Barisal and Chandpur correspondents, referring to government officials and passengers.

However, the launch carrying around 1,500 passengers narrowly escaped sinking, said passengers.

Nigar Sultana Hanufa, a passenger of Sundarban-8, said, "Most of the passengers were sleeping at that time. Suddenly, the launch got hit and started to tilt. Panic gripped us all."

"We are very lucky that our vessel's

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## Drone for reporting

CNN ONLINE

CNN will explore the use of drones for reporting, after receiving special permission from the US government.

In the first programme of its kind, the FAA will allow CNN to test camera-equipped drones for news gathering and reporting purposes.

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*Congratulations*  
**Mr. Rubel Aziz**

City Bank heartily congratulates its Chairman Mr. Rubel Aziz on being elected as Vice Chairman of Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB).

In addition, Mr. Aziz is the Managing Director of Partex Group, Chairman - EC of IDLC Finance Limited, and Advisor to Banani Club & Banani Society. He has also served as Chairman of Janata Insurance Company Limited and as President of Gulshan Club for two terms.

Under his visionary leadership, we are confident BAB will reach further heights of success.