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PAGE 8

OUR APU, OUR FELUDA

At 81, Soumitra Chatterjee keeps inspiring cinemagoers

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All-out steps to contain violence

Govt toughens stance as law and order worsens amid nationwide blockade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the BNP hell-bent on continuing the nationwide blockade, the government plans to go tough to contain the ongoing hit-andrun attacks on people's life and property.

The government is considering options such as giving law enforcers orders to shoot arsonists on sight, reward for giving information on troublemakers and filing lawsuits against the BNP chairperson for instigating violence.

It wants to muster public support by going tough on troublemakers, and make public life as much normal as possible to show that the BNP-led alliance's blockade

has fizzled out.

Speaking at an unscheduled discussion in parliament last night, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said those responsible for the killing of innocent people in the name of blockade would be tried for murder.

She also announced giving rewards to those who would help arrest the arsonists.

Meanwhile, home ministry sources said some tough decisions may come today at a special meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order.

"A number of steps will be discussed there to protect people's life and property. The committee will decide on the issues SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Two-and-a-half-year-old Safir, burnt in a petrol bomb attack in Narayanganj town on Sunday, fighting for life at the HDU of City Hospital in the capital. Photo taken yesterday.

PHOTO: **PALASH KHAN**

What was his fault?

JAMIL MAHMUD

Safir, aged only two and a half years, had already been in pain from burns caused by boiled water that had spilled on his leg two weeks earlier. The wounds were enough to make him bawl every now and then.

But when he fell victim to an arson attack that problockaders carried out on a bus in Narayanganj on Sunday evening, it badly burnt his body putting his life in peril and causing him pain that his delicate body could hardly bear with.

With 17 percent burns, mostly in his forehead, face, hands and legs, Safir is undergoing treatment at the High Dependency Unit (HDU) of burn and plastic

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

'GUNFIGHT' WITH DB Another JCD leader killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal was killed in an alleged shootout with detectives in the capital early yesterday, hours after his arrest in an arson case.

It is second such death in the city in two days.

Yesterday's victim, Nuruzzaman Jonny, was general secretary of Khilgaon Thana unit JCD, a pro-BNP student body. Dhaka Medical College morgue sources said he was: terday termed the BNP shot 10 times in the chest and abdomen. Though detectives claimed he was hit during a gunfight

between law enforcers and his associates, the victim's family alleged police killed him because of his political link.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4 -

: Khaleda to be tried

PM blames BNP chief for killings in the name of blockade:

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a blistering attack on · Khaleda Zia,

. Prime : Minister Sheikh · Hasina yes-

chief a killer, and said Khaleda would be put on trial for murdering innocent people in the name of SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Innocents the main victim of violence

16 of 26 dead had no link to politics; 1 more arson victim dies; 11 burnt in fresh attacks; bid to torch launches; 48-hour hartal in Dhaka, Khulna divisions begins today

STAR REPORT

As the two major political rivals stick to their guns, violence rages on killing and injuring mostly the · innocent people.

From two-and-a-half-year-old Safir to octogenarian Abu Taher, from schoolteacher Altaf : Hossain to priest Alok Chakrobarty, from house-· wife Rahima Begum to truck helper Sohag Biswas --none was spared.

Businessmen, who are counting loss to the tune of several hundred crores everyday; farmers, who are standing helpless with their crops rotting away in the fields; and parents, who are worrying about their children's future day and night -- are calling for an end to the crisis that has been plaguing the nation for over two weeks now, but to no avail.

Another victim of Rangpur arson attack died yesterday, taking the death toll in the violence since

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

BLOCKADE VIOLENCE 2015 (JAN 5-20) **VEHICLES TORCHED** AROUND





Relatives mourning Nuruzzaman Jonny, killed in an alleged gunfight with police in the capital's Khilgaon, at **Dhaka Medical College** Hospital yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

POLITICAL PARTIES ENGAGED IN VIOLENCE

Egypt envoy for ban

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

. Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali yesterday said several member countries of the · Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) · had urged the government to ban the politi-· cal organisations involved in terrorist activities in Bangladesh.

Ali said this to reporters after briefing diplomats from the OIC and Saarc-Asean · countries separately on Bangladesh's cur-· rent political situation at the state guest-· house Padma.

The minister named Palestine and Egypt when he was asked to specify the OIC countries which made the call to the government.

SOURCE: THE DAILY STAR REPORTS

Egyptian Ambassador Mahmoud Ezzat confirmed this correspondent that he had made the call during yesterday's briefing.

"I was the only person to raise the issue," he said. "We have banned such terrorist organisations in our country because we're suffering. Yes, parties which are committing terrorist acts should be banned. We expect the same from Bangladesh."

POST STUDY

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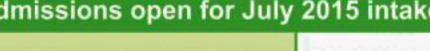
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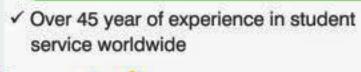
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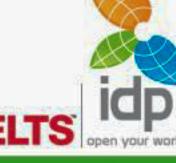
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