



**LIFELINE FOR BEXIMCO**  
Agrani Bank to reschedule Tk 775cr loans of the conglomerate  
PAGE B1

**ISIS VIDEO AGAIN**  
The militant group threatens to kill two Japanese hostages  
PAGE 8

**OUR APU, OUR FELUDA**  
At 81, Soumitra Chatterjee keeps inspiring cinemagoers  
PAGE 9

## 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-and-run 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



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.

## 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 pro-blockaders 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

## '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 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.

## 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 yesterday termed the BNP chief a killer, and said Khaleda would be put on trial for murdering innocent people in the name of

## 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 housewife 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

**BLOCKADE VIOLENCE 2015**  
(JAN 5-20)

**DEATH 26**

**INJURED MORE THAN 800**

**VEHICLES TORCHED AROUND 250**

SOURCE: THE DAILY STAR REPORTS



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

## 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 political 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 current 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. 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."

**অভিনন্দন**

স্ট্যাভার্ড ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর পরিচালনা পর্ষদের সম্মানিত চেয়ারম্যান, এফবিসিসিআই-এর প্রেসিডেন্ট দেশের বিশিষ্ট শিল্পপতি, সমাজসেবক এবং আন্তর্জাতিক লায়ন ব্যক্তিত্ব

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