

# Khaleda must be arrested for 'killing people'

Says Shajahan Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia must be arrested immediately as she is responsible for killing people in the name of blockade and hartal, Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan said yesterday.

"We would like to urge the Prime Minister to arrest Khaleda Zia and take legal action against her for the sake of protecting people and the country's independence," he said.

The minister claimed the BNP-Jamaat alliance is now killing people in the same way as the Pakistani occupation forces began genocide in 1971.

"Khaleda Zia is the mastermind of this genocide. We, the cross-section of people, will protect the country's independence by breaking her fangs," he said.

"Pakistanis have become active to foil our independence. They now want to get rid of the anguish of defeat. That is why the Pakistanis are providing financial assistance and patronising the anarchists," he claimed.

Yesterday Shajahan was speaking at a rally organised by newly floated Bangladesh Sramik-Karmachari-Peshajibi-Muktijoddha Samannay Parishad at the Central Shaheed Minar.

At least 50 people were killed, nearly 350 people got burnt in arson attacks and thousands more got

injured since Khaleda called the indefinite blockade from January 6.

Addressing the rally, Shajahan, also convener of the parishad, said Khaleda Zia would have to take responsibility for these subversive acts.

He also announced a series of programmes to resist the ongoing violence in the name of blockades and hartals.

Officials, employees and workers of all offices, business institutions and industries are to stand on streets for 15 minutes from 12:45pm tomorrow.

All vehicles are to honk for one minute, all shop owners and workers are to play the flute for one minute and all farmers are to stand up for one minute at 1:00pm the same day, according to the parishad's call.

On Saturday, the parishad will hold a national convention from where its leaders will announce tougher programmes to protest the blockade and hartals.

"We will announce such programmes that Khaleda will not get the chance to flee from the country," the minister said.

Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad Central Command Council Chairman Helal Morshed Khan and former Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority chairman Abdul Malek Miah, among others, spoke at the rally.



## FUNNY pics

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

"Take the picture right, give it a good coverage." If these cats could talk, what else could they have said to the photojournalist, looking straight into the lens? The photo was taken in the capital's Lalbagh area on the election day last year.



## READER'S eye

Life has its own bloopers and oops. They all make our life colourful and fun-filled. Now pick up your mobile phone and click. Capture the funny side of life and send those to [starreaderseye@gmail.com](mailto:starreaderseye@gmail.com). We will share your lighter moments with others.

# Seven burnt alive

FROM PAGE 1

the bomb was thrown from the left side of the road.

"I was in sleep but suddenly woke up sensing that something was wrong. Then I saw fire all around," said Mita Mahfuza, who lost her husband Nuruzzaman Poplu and ninth-grader daughter Mysha Tasnim in the firebomb attack.

The couple along with their daughter went to Cox's Bazar on holiday.

"I have lost everything. The trip turned out to be a curse for me," she wailed, lying on a hospital bed in Comilla.

Mita jumped through a window

of the bus and lost consciousness. She was later brought to the hospital.

The other dead are: Abu Taher, 35, and Abu Yusuf, 50, from Chakoria in Cox's Bazar; Asma Begum, wife of Manik Mia from Narsingdi, and their son Shanto; and Mohammad Wasim from Kaptanbazar in the capital.

Asma's son Munna, who suffered minor injuries, said they were supposed to get off at Kanchpur to go to Narsingdi.

"Everything was over before we could make it ...," said Munna, who was in a state of shock.

Six of the arson victims were

brought to the DMCH burn unit in the morning.

Of them, Rashidul Islam suffered 80 percent burns, Mohammad Hanif seven percent, Shafiqul Islam 28 percent, Zilqad Ahmed 20 percent, Ariful Islam 10 percent and Faruk Ahmed two percent.

With damages to respiratory tract, Rashidul, Hanif and Shafiqul were in a critical condition, said doctors.

Faruk, receiving treatment at the DMCH, said he was asleep but woke up sensing trouble.

As he saw fire all around, he jumped through a window of the bus.

"As I got out, I saw my friend

Zilqad roll on the ground trying to put out the fire on his body," he said.

Faruk suffered burns on hands while trying to save Zilqad.

"I don't know for how long the horrors of the gruesome attack will haunt me," he said.

Zilqad and Faruk along with two friends went to Cox's Bazar on vacation a week ago. But they couldn't return home because of shutdowns and blockade. They finally got bus tickets for Monday's trip.

Harun-ur-Rashid, manager of the Icon Paribahan bus counter at Chakoria, said 36 people, including the driver and his helper, were in the bus.

It left Cox's Bazar with 17 passengers around 9:30pm on Monday. Sixteen more boarded the vehicle at Chakoria and another in Chittagong city, he said.

The bus was supposed to make a stopover at a highway restaurant in Comilla.

Talking to BBC Bangla Service last night, Mallick Fakrul Islam, deputy inspector general (highway) of police, said the bus was not escorted by law enforcers.

Sergeant Nazim Uddin of Comilla highway police said the casualty in the arson attack was high, as most of the passengers were asleep.

A case was filed with

Chouddagram Police Station last night against 56 local BNP and Jamaat activists in connection with the arson attack.

Tutul, SP of Comilla, said police arrested eight people, including Delwar Hossain, secretary of Jamaat's south Comilla unit, for their alleged involvement in the incident.

Meanwhile, a three-member government committee was formed to probe the incident. It was asked to submit its report in seven working days, said Hasanuzzaman Kallol, deputy commissioner of Comilla.

[Reporters from Comilla and Cox's Bazar contributed to this story]



Chouddagram arson victims being treated at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital; the bus that was firebombed. Inset, a photo of Mysha Tasnim with her parents at Inani beach of Cox's Bazar. The mindless arson took away the lives of the girl and her father. The picture was the cover photo on her Facebook page.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN/COLLECTED



# 2 Jubo Dal men killed

FROM PAGE 1

police informed me that they were killed in an accident," said Mannan.

Khabir Uddin, officer-in-charge of Monirampur Police Station, said Liton and Yusuf were killed while trying to set ablaze a truck around 5:00am. The two died on the spot, he added.

Police recovered the bodies and sent them to Jessore Medical College morgue for autopsies. Two petrol bombs and a motorcycle were recovered from the spot.

Shahid Iqbal, president of Monirampur upazila unit BNP, confirmed that the deceased were Jubo Dal activists.

Meanwhile, another arson victim, a pick-up van driver, died of his wounds at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital early yesterday.

Kamal Hossain was declared "brought dead" at the DMCH around 4:00am.

Kamal, his assistant Milon and nephew Jewell were burnt when block-

aders hurled several petrol bombs at his rice-laden vehicle in Laxmipur Sadar upazila around 9:00pm on Monday.

Milon and Jewell have been undergoing treatment at Laxmipur Sadar Hospital.

At least 14 vehicles came under arson attacks on the third day of the BNP-led alliance's countrywide 72-hour hartal. Of them, five were set alight in the capital, said fire brigade sources.

Law enforcers rounded up around 200 people across the country for their alleged involvement in subversive activities during the shutdown.

In Dhaka, a Shibir activist was shot in his legs during a clash with Kadamtali police. Police said the clash broke out around 8:00am when some Shibir men tried to bring out a procession.

A student of Dhaka College, injured Abdul Hamid, 22, is undergoing treatment at the DMCH. Cops said an ASI was also injured in the incident.

Jamaat activists Nazmul Hossain and Abul Kashem Fazlul Haq received bullets in their legs during a clash with Mohammadpur police on Rajia Sultana Road around 8:30am. They have been admitted to Pongu Hospital under police custody.

An angry mob beat up a suspected petrol bomber in Gulistan around 5:30pm. Police rescued him and sent him to the DMCH.

Khilgaon police recovered 16 crude bombs from a house in the area, but could not arrest anyone.

In Gaibandha, blockaders set fire to a truck on Palashbari-Ghoraghat road after taking the driver and helper out of the vehicle.

Five people suffered splinter injuries as criminals threw several crude bombs at a cattle-laden truck on the Rangpur-Bogra highway.

In Sunamganj, a clash ensued when some BCL men brought out a procession to counter a BNP procession in the district. The incident

left at least 20 people, including six BNP activists, injured, said police.

Criminals stormed Muktagachha Fire Service and Civil Defence office in Mymensingh and threw five petrol bombs at the vehicles parked inside the office compound. Two vehicles were partially burnt.

In Bogra, arsonists torched a truck and vandalised several more vehicles. Police arrested 55 people, including 17 Jamaat-Shibir men, on charges of sabotage and arson attacks.

Police in Gazipur arrested 15 people for their alleged involvement in an arson attack on Jamalpur Commuter Express on Monday that left four people injured. Detectives detained at least 39 Jamaat-Shibir men during a raid at a coaching centre in the city and recovered four crude bombs from their possession.

In Chittagong, police and Border Guard Bangladesh detained 13 people, including seven Shibir men, and recovered 27 petrol bombs in two separate

drives.

Sitakunda police said the driver of a pick-up van and his helper suffered burn injuries when miscreants torched the vehicle at Sheikhpara of Sitakunda around 7:15pm last evening.

In Bagerhat, a truck narrowly escaped an arson attack by jumping out of his vehicle minutes before some blockaders set it afire.

Police in Narayanganj recovered a crude bomb from the DC office premises around 5:00pm.

In Khulna, at least three people were injured when criminals hurled a cocktail at a Dhaka-bound bus of Sohag Paribahan around 9:45pm in Daulatpur, said law enforcers.

The LGRD ministry has suspended Mirsarai upazila Chairman Nurul Amin, also convener of the upazila unit BNP, for his alleged involvement in arson attacks and sabotage on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway. The ministry has sent a letter to the Chittagong district administration in this regard.

# Tigers downed

FROM PAGE 1

while Shakib Al Hasan scalped one.

Bangladesh fielded 13 players in the side and as a result got an opportunity to witness a majority of the squad. Al-Amin Hossain and Tamim Iqbal, who is recovering from an injury, are the only players who did not feature in the match. Despite the defeat, the team management was not disappointed.

"It was our aim to experiment with the squad and to give as much opportunity to the players as possible. We called Mominul back because we wanted the others to get a chance. Unfortunately they lost their wickets, something that we did not predict," said Mahmud.

He further added that the batsmen handled the bouncy conditions well and that he expects them to do much better in the next match.

They will face Australia XI again tomorrow in a match that will feature Australian skipper Michael Clarke.