



Protesters vandalise a boundary fence of a plot at the capital's Gulshan-2 intersection after a bomb went off in the area yesterday, leaving several injured. They also damaged a motorcycle and glass plates of several shops at Metropolitan Shopping Plaza. Later a rally was held protesting blockade and hartals enforced by 20-party alliance.



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ/ BANGLAR CHOKH

Govt using judiciary to stop opposition movement

Alleges BNP; vows to continue blockade till its demands met

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday alleged the government was using the judiciary to take steps to stop the opposition movement.

It comes a day after the High Court ordered the government to take steps to prevent violence, terrorism and other subversive acts in the name of blockade and hartal.

The court also directed the relevant authorities to take measures to keep all the educational institutions across the country open during shutdowns and to ensure that students can take the SSC exams without any disturbance.

In a statement, the BNP said the Awami League proved itself to be "politically bankrupt" by resorting to the court to foil what it said a justified

movement.

"A democratic movement can never be suppressed by a court order," said the statement, signed by party Joint Secretary General Salahuddin Ahmed.

"The government has turned the judiciary into a weapon to suppress the opposition and dissenting views," it added.

According to the BNP, all the state organs are now in the grip of the executive branch.

"Today, the judiciary and the legislative and the executive branches are the reflection of one person's will," the statement said.

The BNP vowed to continue the ongoing blockade until its demands, including a fresh election under a nonparty government, are met.

8 hurt

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Khaleda's office protesting the ongoing blockade and hartals.

But as police put up barricades at the two entries to Road-86, protesters held a rally in the area, around thirty yards off the BNP chief's office.

Speaking at the rally, organised by Sramik-Karmachari-Peshajibi-Muktijoddha Shamannay Parishad, the minister blamed Khaleda for instigating the attack on the procession.

After the blast, a joint team of Rapid Action Battalion and police conducted a search in the market for about three hours.

"Police locked all the four entries to the market around 15 minutes after the blast," said Shahriar Emon, an employee at National Computers.

The building houses around 40 shops on the ground floor; a bank, a food court, several money exchange and courier service offices on the first floor; an abandoned garment factory on the second floor, and an English medium school on the top floor.

Normal banking was disrupted at the bank branch while the school was shut. Gulshan police said they detained at least seven people at the market for quizzing.

The shipping minister at a press briefing in the afternoon claimed 18 people were injured in the blast.

Relocate Khaleda's office

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protest the BNP-led alliance's blockade and hartal.

In a rally about 30 yards from Khaleda's office, the minister, also a top transport leader, demanded that the government arrest Khaleda and relocate her office immediately from the diplomatic zone.

Over a thousand protesters, mostly road and water transport workers, started marching towards Khaleda's office after a brief rally at Gulshan Wonderland Park, addressed by the minister.

But they could not go close to the office on Road-86 as police put up barricades on both ends of the road earlier in the morning.

The protesters then held another rally just inches away the barricade.

"While sitting in her Gulshan office, Khaleda Zia is hatching a conspiracy against the people in the name of a movement. So, we demand that the government immediately shut her office," the minister told the rally.

He also vowed to return to lay siege to her office should the government fail to arrest the BNP chief.

Other speakers slammed Khaleda for the BNP-led 20-party alliance's blockade that passed its 43rd day yesterday.

A band group was seen playing

drums at the rally that began around 12:00noon and ended around 2:00pm.

At one stage, Shajahan Khan asked the group to beat their drums as loudly as they could so that Khaleda woke up to its sound.

As protesters marched towards Khaleda's office after the Wonderland Park rally around 11:40am, miscreants hurled a petrol bomb from a nearby building, leaving several people injured.

Earlier on February 8, Shajahan announced a series of protest programmes, including a march led by himself towards Khaleda's office where she has been staying since January 3.

And hours after his call on the government on January 31 to cut off power and gas lines to Khaleda's office, authorities snapped electricity and cable connections and internet and mobile networks to the office.

The government restored the power connection after 19 hours and mobile networks last week. But the cable, internet and land phone connections remain still snapped, party sources said.

Police have also been barring food and mineral waters meant for about 30 BNP leaders and office staff from entering the office for the past six days.

Reshuffle in admin

Azad principal secy at PMO

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a latest reshuffle in the civil administration, the government yesterday transferred 10 public servants to new offices.

Abul Kalam Azad, secretary at Prime Minister's Office, has been made principal secretary at PMO, while Suraiya Begum, secretary of Statistics and Information Management Division, has been posted at PMO as secretary, according to public administration ministry.

The immediate past principal secretary at the PMO went on LPR on February 15 after completing his tenure in service.

Begum Kaniz Fatema, DG of Bangladesh Employees Welfare Board, has been made acting secretary of Statistics and Information Management Division.

AN Samsuddin Azad Chowdhury, additional secretary of health and family welfare ministry, has been transferred to Planning Commission as an acting member.

Md Moyezuddin Ahmed, chairman of Bangladesh Land Port Authority, has been made additional secretary at the land ministry.

Md Moazzem Hossain, additional secretary at land ministry, has been transferred to jute directorate as its DG, while Tapon Kumar Chakraborti, member of Bangladesh Land Port Authority, has been promoted to the post of chairman of the land port authority.

Emdad Hossain, additional secretary (OSD) of public administration ministry, has been designated to take over the position of project director at Birth and Death Registration Project.

The public administration ministry yesterday issued separate gazettes in this regard.

MALI EXPLOSION

4 Bangladeshi peacekeepers injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four Bangladeshi peacekeepers including three officers on the UN mission suffered critical injuries in an explosion at Tabankort in Mali on Sunday.

The injured, Major Ashraf (AMC), Major Shahriar (signal core), Major Tushit Barua (armoured core) and soldier Shariful (infantry), are undergoing treatment at a French hospital in Mali, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release said yesterday.

The blast occurred around 18:30 local time when a team of infantry division was on patrol in Tabankort area, the release added.

Good news via Google Glass

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Dhaka on February 8.

With a Google Glass app, Augmedix employees at the back office remotely sit in on live conversations between doctors and patients and enter the data into the EHRs, relieving the doctor of doing it manually whilst talking to a patient. The system also allows doctors to call in patients' records to be displayed on the Google Glass screen before his or her right eye.

Manual data entry into EHRs by doctors degrades the patient-doctor interaction.

"Physicians are no longer able to focus on what matters most: providing patient care," said Shakil. "Doctors hate it, and the patients don't like it either when they have to look at doctors' backs as they type or run away because they have no time. We make a service for doctors that eliminates the biggest pain point in their lives, the fact that they spend a third or more of their day documenting and charting in electronic health records."

When doctors wear the Glass and use the service, they don't spend a third of their day in front of the computer and almost all of that time is reclaimed and redirected to patient care, said the 30-year-old, who studied biomedical engineering at Duke University and received his MBA from Stanford

Graduate School of Business in 2012.

"Doctors can have natural conversations with their patients. From the audio-visual of that conversation, we're able to extract structured data and put it right into the EHR in real time."

After patient data is in the EHR, the Augmedix solution serves doctors with information on demand. Doctors can simply say "show me the labs," or "show me the cholesterol," and the results of their queries pop right up.

"From an efficiency standpoint, we turn three doctors into four," said Shakil. "Our system has made doctors' lives easier while improving efficiency and accuracy in medicine."

"Now patients are happier because they receive more attention. Doctors are happier because their lives have become easier and they can devote more time to their patients and families," Shakil said.

Doctors pay Augmedix a monthly fee and in return, the company gives them everything they need: Google Glass, implementation, the accessories, the service, and the support.

At present, Augmedix has more than 150 employees worldwide, and plans to significantly expand its workforce in 2015.

So far, more than 25,000 patients in the US have seen doctors using the Glass-based service. The company plans

to serve 1,000 doctors by the end 2015.

Eventually, Augmedix wants to expand its services to doctors all over the world.

Bangladesh could be involved in the transformation of healthcare even in the early days, because the company's software engineering team and much of its operations team is based in Dhaka, said Shakil.

Shakil said it would take more time to bring the service to Bangladeshi doctors, who haven't yet adopted modern electronic health records in large numbers. But as the cost of the Glass comes down and the service gets more efficient, he believes Augmedix could begin serving doctors outside of the US and eventually in Bangladesh.

Augmedix is backed by established Silicon Valley venture capitalists Emergence Capital and DCM. The startup is different from many others in that it isn't purely driven by profits; it also considers itself to be a "mission-driven" organisation that strives for positive impact in the world.

Shakil's advice to young entrepreneurs in Bangladesh is that there has never been a better time than now for a startup in the country because the tools to develop software and go-to-market are easily accessible online and are mostly free.

In pain, in panic

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loudly, he gets frightened. He is often incoherent."

The 25-year-old auto-rickshaw driver was admitted to the hospital after suffering more than 20 percent burns in an arson attack last month.

He was returning home when some 10 suspected pickets intercepted him and hurled petrol bombs at his vehicle at Harinabazar in Chandpur around 2:00am on January 23.

He managed to escape and jumped into a nearby pond, but both his legs and left hand had already got badly burned.

At least 137 arson victims have taken treatment at the DMCH burn unit since the blockade began on January 6.

Of them, more than 68 patients, including Anwar, have got psycho-social services from Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), known internationally as Doctors without Borders.

"About 58 percent of the burn patients at Dhaka Medical College Hospital were found to have post-traumatic stress disorder," said Parthesarathy Rajendran, country director of MSF, a medical humanitarian organisation.

"The trauma of suffering serious burns, coupled with the permanent disfiguring of the face and body, can

lead to severe and long-term psychological problems that impact a person's ability to live and work," said Rajendran.

The violent scenes recurrently flash through their minds. They get frightened hearing loud sound; sometimes, they have suicidal thoughts.

Psycho-social care and support, primarily bedside counseling, help them overcome the trauma, experts say.

Zahidul Islam, a psychologist working with the Acid Survivors Foundation, said the whole life plan of the burn patients gets shattered.

"We use mental therapy for their relaxation, distract them from the traumatic memories and build confidence in them and their relatives," said Zahid, who also provides psycho-social care to the burn victims.

Dr Samanta Lal Sen, adviser to the DMCH burn unit, said the victims, mostly from the poorer section of the society, remain worried about how they will earn their livelihood.

If the victim is a woman, she fears whether her husband would now accept her.

Victims' psycho-social care and rehabilitation are very important. Apart from the NGOs, the Department of Social Services needs to come forward, Dr Sen said.

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