



A vehicle, left, of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's security personnel being vandalised at Bangla Motor intersection in the capital yesterday. A member of her security is seen battered and kicked to the ground by the attackers, middle. More attackers join in on beating up the security personnel, right. An injured driver, inset, of a vehicle which had its window smashed during the attack.

PHOTO: STAR/BANGLA CHOKH

BANK MANAGER KILLED BY ROBBERS

Promotion letter finds him dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He had been talking about his promotion for a week. His wife, who tries hard to make ends meet with his limited income, was eagerly waiting for the news. Finally, the letter bearing the good news came. But it came a day late.

Waliullah Subin, 38, executive officer at Bangladesh Commerce Bank's Kathgora branch in Ashulia, was one of the eight people who got killed during the heist that took place on Tuesday.

"I used to dream about how I'd run the family a little more easily after his promotion," said the victim's wife Marie between sobs.

His wife, whose dreams are shattered, now wonders how she would raise two toddlers and eight-year-old twin daughters.

Waliullah's colleagues said he was a very hardworking man, adding that he had great contribution in setting up the bank's

branch where he worked for the last four years.

At his last hour, he tried to save the bank from being robbed. But the robbers stabbed him to death.

Waliullah's namaj-e-janaza was held at Bangladesh Commerce Bank central office in Dhaka yesterday before burial at his village home in Jamalpur.

Waliullah's family will be compensated with around Tk 10 lakh for his bravery, Abu Sadek Md Sohel, managing director of the Bangladesh Commerce Bank, told The Daily Star. Families of other victims will be compensated Tk 1 lakh each from the Corporate Social Responsibility fund of Bangladesh Bank, he said.

Another victim of Tuesday's heist Monir Hossain, 54, owned a crockery shop beside the bank.

He was going to his shop when he heard people screaming "robbers" and rushed to help, said his son Aziz. Monir also was stabbed to death.

KHALEDA'S CAMPAIGN

RO asks Abbas to remain cautious

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The returning officer of Dhaka South City Corporation yesterday asked BNP-backed mayoral candidate Mirza Abbas to remain cautious about the electoral code of conduct whenever BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia campaigns for him.

In a cautionary letter sent to Abbas yesterday, RO Mihir Sarwar Morshed said Khaleda campaigning with her motorcade and supporters created traffic jam in the city on Tuesday.

"It was a violation of [the electoral] code of conduct," he told The Daily Star last evening.

"We have come to know about the incident [traffic congestion] from media reports. We have attached paper [newspaper] clippings to our cautionary letter," he added.

When Khaleda was passing through Fakirapool intersection around 8:25pm Tuesday after conducting a campaign for Abbas, some 15 to 20 men showed black flags to her and threw bottles, sticks and brickbats that landed on two media vehicles and

a car of Khaleda's personal security men.

The RO claimed that the media reports on the incident did not draw his attention.

"We've received a complaint about the incident and asked executive magistrates to probe into it. We will step forward on the basis of the probe report," Mihir said.

Meanwhile, the RO of Dhaka North City Corporation on Tuesday issued another cautionary letter to BNP-backed mayor runner Tabith Awal. The letter directed Tabith to follow the electoral code of conduct.

"We have given the directive as we have come to know that his [Tabith] electoral campaign had created traffic congestion," said RO Shah Alam.

However, Alam did not take any action over the attack on Khaleda's motorcade in the capital's Karwan Bazar on Monday. The attack was carried out when she was campaigning for Tabith.

"We have got an allegation and requested police to investigate it," Shah Alam told The Daily Star.

Under attack, yet again

FROM PAGE 1

BNP chief was unhurt.

Earlier on April 20, Khaleda's motorcade came under attack by pro-Awami League activists at Karwan Bazar while she was running campaigns for BNP-endorsed candidates in the city polls slated for April 28.

Around 5:20pm yesterday, a group of alleged pro-AL men chanting "Joy Bangla" slogan swooped on the BNP chief's motorcade as it was waiting at the traffic signal of the crossing, said witnesses.

Five vehicles in the motorcade and two cars of two private TV stations travelling with those were damaged partially.

The BNP chief was going to Old Dhaka for electioneering for party-backed mayoral candidate Mirza Abbas in Dhaka South City Corporation.

Following the incident, Khaleda cancelled her programme and went directly to her party's Nayapaltan central office.

Two of the injured security staffs -- Shamiul Islam and Atiqur Rahman -- along with Abdul Mannan, driver of a car in the motorcade, were taken to the United Hospital.

Khaleda left her Gulshan residence at 4:50pm to carry out election campaigns for BNP-backed mayoral candidates Tabith Awal and Abbas in Dhaka North and South for the fifth consecutive day.

When the motorcade stopped at the Bangla Motor signal, the group reportedly led by two BCL leaders swooped on the vehicles, according to a media person who was travelling with Khaleda.

At least nine vehicles were moving

with Khaleda's SUV that was third from the front. The BNP chief's security staffs were in the first four vehicles, and her adviser Qaiyum was in the fourth one.

The first five vehicles seemed to be the target of the alleged ruling party men. As soon as they started throwing brick chips at the motorcade, traffic police allowed the vehicles to pass, said witnesses.

But the vehicles couldn't proceed as the youths had surrounded those, they said.

Six of Khaleda's security staffs then stood guard around her SUV to protect it. As some of the youths hit Khaleda's SUV with wooden sticks, the vehicle sped away.

Khaleda's security staff Shamiul fell on the road and failed to board any of the vehicles in the motorcade that quickly left the scene. The unruly youths then beat him up. He was later taken to the United Hospital.

Around 7:30pm, the BNP held an impromptu press conference at its Nayapaltan office, and accused ruling party men of attacking Khaleda's motorcade with a "motive for killing her".

Khaleda's adviser Khandker Mahub Hossain said the government must bring the attackers to book and ensure her security.

After spending more than three hours at the party office, the BNP chief returned to her residence around 11:30pm.

On her way back, she visited the wounded security staffs at the United Hospital.

Talking to this correspondent, Moshir Rahman, officer-in-charge of Ramna Police Station, said a team of pro-

BNP lawyers led by Barrister Mahub Uddin Khokon came to the police station last night for filing a case over the incident.

Police received the complaint and would take steps after conducting probe, said the OC.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Adorsho Dhaka Andolan, a platform of pro-BNP professionals, went to meet Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad but failed.

Journalist Abdul Hai Sikhdar, a member of the platform, told this correspondent that the team led by its convener Prof Emajuddin Ahmed went to the CEC's Baridhara residence around 8:30pm to lodge a complaint over "recent attacks" on the BNP chief's motorcade.

But a policeman there told them that the CEC was asleep. The team then handed him a letter addressed to the CEC.

"In the letter, we mentioned that Khaleda Zia came under attack thrice while she was carrying out city polls campaigns. It is the commission's responsibility to give directives to police to ensure her security as the force works under the EC during elections," said Abdul Hai.

ATTACKS ON ELECTION CAMPS

Several hundred supporters of Asaduzzaman Asad, councillor candidate from ward-21 in Dhaka South, allegedly attacked election camps of his two rival candidates in Paribagh area.

Asad, assistant secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League, didn't get AL blessing, but members of Dhaka University BCL unit have been campaigning for him,

according to BCL sources.

Wielding sticks, rods and hockey sticks, Asad's supporters marched from the DU campus towards Ruposhi Bangla Hotel around 6:00pm, and vandalised the election camps of BNP-backed Khaza Habibullah Habib and AL-endorsed MA Hamid Khan opposite the hotel, said witnesses.

They also damaged Habib's car and a vehicle of private TV channel ATN Bangla.

They attacked Peacock Restaurant and Bar, and looted valuables and money from the cashbox, said Habib's brother-in-law Omar Faruk who owns the bar.

Habib's election camp was on the bar compound.

Habib's wife Nargis Mahmuda said Asad's supporters carried out the attack to create panic among the voters.

"Carrying sticks, rods and hockey sticks, they crossed the Shahbagh Police Station and returned to the university campus after carrying out acts of vandalism for over half-an-hour. We contacted the Shahbagh Police Station repeatedly but the law enforcers arrived just after they had left," she alleged.

Hamid told this correspondent that the attackers were Asad's supporters.

Asad, however, refuted the allegations and said none of his supporters was involved in the incident.

Contacted, DMP Assistant Commissioner of Ramna zone Shiblee Noman said he was unaware of such incident.

Despite repeated attempts, Sirajul Islam, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station, couldn't be reached over the phone.

Promises of help unkept

FROM PAGE 1

After the disaster on the morning of April 24, 2013 that killed more than 1,135 people and injured more than 2,500, mostly garment workers, promises were made that the victims and their families would be provided with full financial support that would include their monthly as well as medical expenses for their treatment.

But the support received by the victims and their families so far is insufficient to meet their needs, according to the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

The eldest among her three siblings, Rehana came to Dhaka from Pabna for a job and she lost her legs in less than a month after her joining. She and her mother had been running the family since her father died.

She has been undergoing treatment at the Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) at Ganakbari in Savar.

She receives Tk 15,000 as monthly assistance from the savings schemes donated by the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund (PMF). After meeting her family's needs, she does not even have enough money left to buy

her medicines.

She said she also needs to have her left leg operated upon, which will cost her about Tk 50,000.

"I can't have my legs operated as I don't have the money," she said.

Among the injured workers, a few are employed locally at off-farm jobs after receiving training under various initiatives. However, in most of the cases their income is lower than what they used to earn as they cannot engage in regular work for their poor physical condition, said the CPD.

Despite various initiatives, the severely injured workers like Rehana have been living in abject conditions. Besides, the families of those who died but are yet to be identified are living in equally poor conditions, according to the CPD.

The story, however, ended with some hope for Rehana. 15 months after the disaster, an office assistant at the CPR appeared as her knight in shining armour. She got married to Khokon Mia. Despite all her loss, the couple now hopes to begin a new life.

Yeanur Akter, another injured, is not

as lucky. The 16-year-old girl from Barisal worked for Ether Tex when the building caved in just five months after she had joined.

Although none of her limbs have been amputated, she finds it very difficult to stand on her feet. She too has been receiving treatment at the CRP at Ganakbari.

"My legs, head and waist pain a lot. I can't keep sitting for a long time and if I fall down, I can't stand up on my own," she told The Daily Star.

The disaster also killed her mother, Anowara, who had worked for six years at different garment factories housed in the building. She and her mother were the breadwinners of their eight-member family.

The Tk 10,000 assistance Yeanur receives every month from a government-fixed deposit scheme, arranged by the PMF, is spent over maintaining the family, including the educational expenses of her five junior siblings. Unable to move on her own, she is also concerned about her future.

"What will I do when I grow up? Who will look after me? I can't live like this forever. If my condition deterior-

ates further, where will the money for my treatment come from?"

For Rebecca, 23, the disaster came with the added shock of losing a child. When the disaster struck, she was four months pregnant which ended in a miscarriage. Then her doctors warned her against conceiving again. But she did not relent and gave birth to a boy last her through a caesarian operation.

Two years later, after a total of eight surgeries her left leg was amputated below her waist and her right leg below the knee.

The couple now live on the interest they get from the Tk 10 lakh savings certificate given by the government.

Rebecca said she and the others had yet to get justice.

"We demand capital punishment for Rana [the owner of the building] but don't hear any news about his trial," she said.

A total of Tk 127 crore was deposited with the PMF from local sources but only Tk 19 crore was spent so far for the victims and their families, according to Transparency International Bangladesh.

KILLING OF BANGLADESHI WOMAN IN INDIA

Bangladesh seeks details from India

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh government has sought details from India regarding the death of Bangladeshi citizen Nargis Begum whose family alleges that she was raped and killed by criminals in Firozabad of Uttar Pradesh state about a month ago.

"We have already established contact with the department concerned of the government of India seeking details about the incident," Salahuddin Noman Chowdhury, deputy high commissioner of the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi said.

Noman said, "New Delhi has not yet responded... we are waiting for a reply."

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh police Chief Pijush Sreebastab told BBC Bangla that Nargis was not raped. According to the post mortem report, she was killed after she was run over by a train,

he claimed.

Nargis, 32, of Sonadanga in Khulna went to India on March 7 for treatment for herself and her visually impaired mother Anowara Begum. Her daughter Kakoli was also with them on the trip.

On March 9, the three started off for New Delhi from Kolkata by a train. When they reached a station around 3:30am the following day, some people approached them and said they had arrived in New Delhi, Nargis's mother Anowara told The Daily Star.

After they got down from the train hurriedly, leaving a bag behind, Nargis stepped back onto the train to collect it. When she returned, criminals waylaid her and took her away in an auto-rickshaw.

Uttar Pradesh police said they found the body of Nargis near the railway line in Firozabad district in the second week of March.



Daughter Salma tries to comfort her crying mother Fatema at the Enam Medical College Hospital yesterday. Salma's father Noor Islam, who sells spicy puffed rice, is in the ICU of the hospital. Bank robbers had attacked Noor as they were trying to make their getaway after robbing the Bangladesh Commerce Bank branch in Kathgora of Ashulia on Tuesday. Robbers Borhan, top, and Saiful, bottom, who had been captured and beaten up, are also being treated at the hospital.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN