

FROM PAGE 2
capital's Shahbagh to disperse them.

Narrating the ordeal, Alim told The Daily Star over phone that, "I was on-duty to cover the hartal. Around 12:45pm, I was standing beside Shahbagh Police Station gate. Suddenly, a pro-hartal activist was trying to climb up the water cannon truck of police."

"But police picked up the protester and took him inside the police station while beating him up. I was taking footage of the incident and entered the police station," he said.

"At one stage, some policemen started shouting, saying the journalist is taking footage of us, catch him. Within a moment, around 15 to 20 policemen swooped on me and started beating me up," Alim said.

"Seeing this, my colleague Ishan Bin Didar came to the spot to rescue me. But policemen also beat him up," he said.

Meanwhile, police authorities suspended Assistant Sub-Inspector Ershad of Shahbagh Police Station for his alleged involvement in the assault.

Besides, 12 other policemen were initially found involved in the incident and an inquiry was going on, Maruf Hossain Sorder, deputy commissioner (Ramna division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star. A three-member probe committee, led by additional deputy commissioner (Ramna division) of DMP Navid Kamal Shaibal, has been formed to investigate the incident.

The ATN News authorities sent a written complaint to Shahbagh Police Station against four policemen, including ASI Ershad, and several other policemen without naming, said Abu Bakar Siddique, officer-in-charge of the police station. In a press release, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust condemned the incident of beating up the journalists.

Trump to cut funds to UN

FROM PAGE 20
abortion or any activity that circumvents sanctions against Iran or North Korea.

It would also terminate funding to organisations that are "controlled or substantially influenced by any state that sponsors terrorism," or are blamed for systematic violations of human rights.

The order has singled out peacekeeping, the International Criminal Court and the United Nations Population Fund.

The order calls for an overall decrease of at least 40 percent in all other US funding to international organisations and sets up a committee to look specifically at US financial contributions for UN peacekeeping operations.

The United States is by far the UN's biggest financial contributor, providing 22 percent of its operating budget and funding 28 percent of peacekeeping missions, which currently cost \$7.8 billion annually.

A US funding cut to peacekeeping would deal a severe blow to the 16 peace missions worldwide, most of which are in Africa.

Trump dismissed the UN last December as a "club" for people to "have a good time".

The second order calls for a review of all current and pending multilateral treaties and requests recommendations on which negotiations or treaties the US should leave.

This review applies to treaties that are not "directly related to national security, extradition or international trade," according to the draft.

The Paris climate deal could be affected by the proposed order.

Trump has openly questioned climate change and campaigned on a pledge to renege on US commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and

Experts visit

FROM PAGE 2
the Mexico-based International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), inspected the affected wheat fields on Monday.

The team of scientists and experts collected samples from the affected fields.

Meherpur was the worst affected district by the fungus last year where 8,000 out of 14,000 hectares of wheat fields was damaged.

As the government discouraged cultivation of wheat in some of the worst affected districts, farmers in Meherpur have reduced wheat acreage to less than 4,000 hectares this year.

Caused by a fungus -- Magnaporthe oryzae -- wheat blast is one of the most fearsome and intractable wheat diseases in recent decades. Mostly confined within the continent of South America since 1985, its attack on Bangladeshi wheat fields last season was the first case in Asia.

BARI DG Dr Abul Kalam Azad told The Daily Star that despite discouragement some farmers went for wheat and only a few of them experienced blast.

WRC Director Dr Naresh Chandra Dev Barma attributed the blast attack to heat stress because of some early plantation. He said during the field visit they have observed partial bleaching of the spikes and typical eye-shaped necrotic disease lesions with grey centres in the leaves of some wheat plants.

Trump refused to be pinned down on which countries he was talking about, but did say that he believed that Europe "made a tremendous mistake by allowing these millions of people to go into Germany and various other countries, and all you have to do is take a look, it's a disaster what's happening over there."

According to a draft executive order published in US media, refugees from war-torn Syria will be indefinitely banned, the broader US refugee admissions program will be suspended for 120 days, and all visa applications from countries deemed a terrorist threat -- Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen -- will be halted for 30 days.

THE WALL
Tensions between Donald Trump and Mexico's Enrique Pena Nieto over the US leader's vow to make Mexico fund a new wall on the neighbours' border boiled over yesterday with the cancellation of talks in Washington set for next week.

Trump had been scheduled to receive Pena Nieto at the White House on Tuesday, for their first meeting since the inauguration. Instead, the Republican president is managing a foreign policy spat during his first week in office.

Protests in NY over curb

FROM PAGE 20
decide on how to implement the so called "extreme vetting" policy that his campaign had promised.

The Protest also focused on opposing Trump's United States-Mexico border wall, that he ordered construction the same day. CAIR's face book page for the event urged New Yorkers "As a city of immigrants, we cannot stay silent in the face of such hate. We ask you to gather tonight (Wednesday), to show President Trump that all New Yorkers stand with our Muslim and Latino neighbors. Together, we will form a beacon of light against the coming darkness."

People of all faiths, from Jewish to Hindu, and all cultural backgrounds stood together in solidarity with the Muslim and Latino community as people shouted in unison "Lock him [Trump] up!"

A young woman stood upon the park benches while cheering as the speakers that evening spoke of their support for the immigrant community.

Aya Aziz, a 23-year-old Egyptian student and artist, came out to the rally because of her faith in fundamental human rights. "I came here because my family immigrated here, struggled, and was repeatedly denied documentation and were essentially threatened with deportation and pushed out," she said, in a hushed voice. "I'm here because the landlord called the FBI on me and my dad and surveillance is a very real absurdity," she said. Even in the face of negative experiences, she was upbeat, laughing off the ridiculousness of her experience.

"We all have a responsibility, all of our lives are on the line. But this is also an opportunity to reimagine the country we want to live in," she concluded, sounding a little hopeful.

A 29-year-old Bangladeshi-American woman also attended, joining the crowds who yelled ferociously, as if to let Trump know they could not be silenced. She spoke about her reason for joining the

demonstrators that evening stating, "I know that this [immigration ban] would be a very dangerous, slippery slope to begin with. I think that the ban from Muslim majority countries would be illegal just due to the fact that he's targeting people based on religion which is an immutable characteristic of your identity. To ban it unilaterally across many countries is just completely unfair."

The organizers and speakers that evening called upon New York City to offer sanctuary to anyone who is a victim of Trump's platform of bigotry and to continue to resist his presidency even with such restrictive policies in effect.

Aya believes, "We should be supporting organizations like the Arab American Action Network, we need to be writing our congressmen. I have the privilege of documentation, so as a citizen of this country I know I will be doing everything I can to put myself on the line because I can risk it and not face deportation. We need to be stepping up and looking out for people."

The 29-year-old feels that stereotypes need to be broken first in order to protect the Muslim population in America. "We need to look at the policies that are coming down. What are really coming down are White Supremacist policies and we need to look at that mentality and change it," she began. "Part of that mentality is lacking in education and swimming in a sea of ignorance. Breaking the barrier of seeing who normal Muslims are, who peaceful Muslims are versus the small .1 percent of the Muslim population that ISIS would represent. They need to recognize that difference."

Muslim and immigrant Americans as well as allies are responding quickly and with vigor as Trumps first 100 days in office continues. New Yorkers are not giving into Trump's vision for America and will not back down without a fight.

Arrest order issued for Tarique

FROM PAGE 20
Miah seeking adjournment of the hearing.

In the petition, Sanaullah said his client Tarique could not appear before the court yesterday as he had gone abroad for treatment. Sanaullah also said Khaleda could not appear before the court due to her physical illness and concern over her security.

Zia Uddin Zia, one of Tarique's lawyers, said following the issuance of this arrest warrant, Tarique will no longer be able to defend the case through any lawyer. So far, four arrest warrants had been issued against Tarique in four other cases including one linking him with the August 21 grenade attack.

Ever since Tarique left for London on September 11 of 2008 for better treat-

ment, Sanaullah had been representing Tarique in his absence.

The first verdict against Tarique, accused in over 19 cases, came from the High Court in July last year when he was handed down a sentence of seven years' imprisonment and a Tk 20-crore fine in a money laundering case.

The court fixed January 30 as the date of hearing and asked BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia to appear before it. In case she fails to comply, her bail would be cancelled, the court warned.

The court also fixed February 2 for placing Khaleda's self-defence statements in connection with the Zia Charitable Trust graft case.

Tarique was arrested on March 7 in 2007 and he was released on bail on medical grounds on September 4 of

2008.

On December 29 last year, the same court had directed all six accused including BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia and her son Tarique to appear before it whenever the court fixed dates to question about their involvement with the corruption.

Earlier in the day, the court read out charges to two other accused -- former BNP lawmaker Saleemul Haq Kamal and businessman Sharfuddin Ahmed -- from statements of 32 prosecution witnesses.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case on July 3, 2008 with Ramna Police Station accusing Khaleda, Tarique and four others for misappropriating over Tk 2.10 crore that was received as grants for orphans via a foreign bank.

Police pounce on campaigners

FROM PAGE 1
the time. The committee will hold countrywide demonstrations tomorrow to protest the police attack on its activists, said Prof Anu Muhammad, member secretary of the committee.

Meanwhile in Rampal upazila of Bagerhat, local lawmaker Talukder Abdul Khalek along with Awami League leaders and activists attended a human chain demanding quick construction of the coal-fired power plant.

The human chain was organised under the banner of Dakkhinanchal Unnayan Parishad by the Khulna-Mangla highway around 11:00am, reports our Bagerhat correspondent.

Pro-hartal activists brought out processions peacefully under police watch in the capital's Paltan intersection, Shantinagar, Mohammadpur, Agargaon and Mirpur 10.

They were, however, prevented from marching towards Shahbagh intersection. Police's frequent firing of tear gas canisters left the place shrouded in smoke.

Officer-in-Charge of Shahbagh police Abu Bakar Siddique said at least 70 gas canisters were discharged.

Asked about the use of water cannons and tear gas, Maruf Hossain Sorder, deputy commissioner of Ramna Division, said police tried to keep the Shahbagh intersection clear "as there are two major hospitals in the area."

Two journalists were physically assaulted by police when they were covering an incident of law enforcers beating up an activist.

The victims -- Abdul Alim and Ishan Bin Didar -- are cameraperson and reporter of private TV channel ATN News.

Staff of the channel said filing a case was underway against policemen for attacking the journalists.

Prof Anu Muhammad said police had also scuffled with pro-hartal activists at Mirpur and Sutrapur.

The national oil, gas committee will stage sit-ins on February 25 on highways across the country demanding the cancellation of the Rampal plant and hold a grand rally in Khulna pressing home the same demand on March 11.

Anu Muhammad told The Daily Star that people support the cause of saving the Sundarbans.

"Transport workers also wanted to participate in the strike. But we learnt that the government, with their police,

intimidated them and forced them to run their vehicles".

Protests against the coal-fired power plant have spread worldwide to save the world's largest mangrove forest. Environmental concerns have been issued from several quarters, including the Unesco.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Chhatra Union and Bangladesh Chhatra Federation among other leftist political parties condemned the "police attack on activists" in separate statements.

Police had detained four to five people during yesterday's hartal. They were released later on.

DEMONSTRATIONS IN CHITTAGONG AND RAJSHAHI
The national oil, gas committee held a rally at Cheragi Pahar Intersection of Chittagong in the afternoon, condemning the attack on pro-Sundarbans activists in Dhaka. A procession was also brought out from the rally.

Activists at Shaheb Bazar Zero point in Rajshahi city demonstrated against the Rampal plant.

Students of leftist political parties held protests on the campuses of Rajshahi and Chittagong universities.

Cops wary of 'IS link'

FROM PAGE 1
some of them have already been motivated and are trying to join the militant outfit," the source quoted the top police official saying.

Some of them have already been motivated and are trying to join the militant outfit," the source quoted the top police official saying.

Later, the IGP asked the field-level members of the force to ensure strong vigilance so that the Rohingya could not go out of their designated places.

The police boss gave the instruction while addressing a views-exchange meeting with field-level police officials at the capital's Rajarbagh Police Auditorium yesterday, the fourth day of Police Week-2017.

Rohingyas' link to militant outfits is nothing new.

Some arrested top militants of banned outfits Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and Harakat-ul-Jihad-al Islami (Huji) Bangladesh had earlier confessed to their links with Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO), an insurgent group in the Arakan state of Myanmar.

'Boma' Mizan, a top leader of JMB, earlier admitted to the law enforcers that some JMB operatives received training from RSO arms

experts in a camp near Myanmar border in 2002. Executed JMB chief Shaekh Abdul Rahman sent them for the training.

IGP Shahidul Hoque also instructed the field-level officials at the bordering districts to be very careful during the verification of identities for passports, saying militants might flee the country using fake identities.

"Neo JMB" top leader Sarwar Jahan also had a valid Machine Readable Passport that he had got using a fake identity. Sarwar did he allegedly jumped off a five-storey building while trying to flee during a Rab raid in Inshulia in July last year.

Due to continuous anti-militancy drives in the cities, the IGP said, militants were opting to build their dens on their outskirts.

He asked the police officials to stay alert so that the militants cannot build such dens.

Recently, officials of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police and Rab busted some dens of "Neo JMB", an offshoot of JMB, in several areas of Narayanganj, Gazipur, Savar and Keraniganj.

According to a press statement issued by

the Police Headquarters yesterday, the IGP claimed that militancy in the country has been contained. He, however, asked all the field-level officials to stay alert.

The IGP also said the imams of the mosques and the madrasa teachers must come up with the true interpretation of Islam. He also suggested using community policing to combat militancy.

Militants' information must be gathered and their relatives' information also needs to be updated, he said.

In yesterday's meeting, CITC unit chief Monirul Islam gave a presentation on combating militancy, while the field-level officials took part in the discussion.

The IGP also asked the officials to increase vigilance on highways so that no three wheelers could use them.

He instructed the officials to take all necessary steps and not to listen to any request even if they are from ruling party men, according to meeting sources.

As part of the views-exchange meeting, the police chief also held a special meeting with the Special Branch of Police and the Criminal Investigation Department.

Stray dogs

FROM PAGE 5
Prof Kabirul Islam Khan of the Department of Genetics and Animal Breeding at Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University said culling of dogs is not the solution. "It is inhumane," he said, adding, "Rather, making them (street dogs) 'sterile' is the effective solution to stop reproduction."

Trisa Bhattacharjee, founder of the Rise for Paw -- an organisation working to save dogs and cats, said it is the "duty of CCC" to vaccinate dogs and make them sterile. Without making them sterile, the CCC started killing dogs, which is not only inhumane but also illegal, she said, claiming that around a hundred dogs had been culled in the last few days since January 21.

Contacted, CCC Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin said it is not the duty or responsibility of CCC to save people from the nuisance of dogs. "There is nothing like that mentioned in CCC's organogram," he said, brushing aside the allegations of culling dogs by the CCC confidentially.

Contacted, former CCC mayor M Manjur Alam said he took an initiative for building a shelter for the street dogs in Bayezid Bostami Arefin Nagar area of the city after the 2014 HC order banning dog culling. But the project could not be completed as his tenure expired, he said.

Asked, Nasir said he did not know anything about the initiative. CCC is undergoing manpower crisis and it is not possible to take an initiative for building shelter for dogs at present, he added.

JS adopts notice

FROM PAGE 20
Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury announced she received a notice with the newspaper clipping from Enamul on violation of his special privilege.

She then allowed the lawmaker to raise his notice under section 166 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

Speaking about his notice, Enamul said a section of newspapers has started to "malign lawmakers and politicians' image" when the country is making progress under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Pointing to media reports on AL MP Manzurul Islam Liton of Gaibandha-1, who was shot dead on December 31 in his village home, Enamul said "media created the plot" to kill the lawmaker by running "false news against him over firing shots in the air in self-defence".

He requested the Speaker to summon the chiefs of the newspapers "involved in character assassinations of MPs and politicians" and to quiz them on their "false, fabricated and biased reports".

Enamul said the lawmakers would resign if the Daily Observer can produce evidence in favour of its report. "The newspaper should be punished if it fails to produce evidence."

He also supported the statement of AL MP Shamim Osman who in parliament on Wednesday blasted The Daily Star and the Prothom Alo for running "false reports" on Liton and the seven-murder in Narayanganj respectively.

Enamul demanded the Speaker summon and quiz Editor Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, also the prime minister's media adviser.

"We want a remedy from you as you are our guardian," he said.

Woman lives 6 days

FROM PAGE 20
In fact, Melissa Benoit, then 32, had been suffering for years. A cystic fibrosis patient, she had been struggling with an on-again, off-again infection that had ravaged her lungs over the course of three years.

She'd been taking antibiotics intravenously, but then she came down with the flu, which triggered coughing fits so terrible, she fractured her ribs.

In mid-March, she landed in St Michael's Hospital in Toronto.

She was suffering from "severe bacterial infection involving her lungs, and the bacteria was very drug-resistant, so despite being on antibiotics, it was not very well-controlled," said Dr Atul Humar, director of the transplant program at Toronto General Hospital.

To help her breathe and to gain more time, physicians placed her on Extra-Corporeal Lung Support, a temporary life-support medical device often used to help bridge patients waiting for a transplant.

For other patients waiting for a lung donor, this machine is enough to help them survive. In Benoit's case, her condition only worsened.

The infection took over her lungs,

spilled into her bloodstream and caused septic shock, she said, adding that it "meant they couldn't do a lung transplant. You cannot transplant someone who is in septic shock."

Conferring with her family, a "radical decision" was made, said Dr Shaf Keshavjee, surgeon-in-chief at University Health Network. "Because her lungs were so infected, we took both lungs out... and that had never been done before."

A team of 13, led by Keshavjee, entered the operating room and removed her lungs in a nine-hour procedure.

Once they'd removed her lungs, the surgical team put a Novalung in on the right side of her heart to work with the Extra-Corporeal Lung Support machine in replacing respiratory function, Keshavjee said.

"I waited six days before receiving my perfect pair of donor lungs," said Benoit, who describes her new lungs as "night and day" compared with her original lungs.

Cystic fibrosis will not recur in her transplanted lungs, according to her doctors. However, she still has the genetics of cystic fibrosis, which can affect other systems in her body, including the digestive system.

UNSC meets, but takes no action

FROM PAGE 20
Palestinian Ambassador Riyad Mansour told reporters the council must ensure that its own resolutions are upheld and that Israel must not be allowed to "get away with it" by building more settlements.

The Swedish ambassador said that despite taking no immediate action, "everyone in the council that spoke today is eager to make sure we find ways to minimize the effects of unilateral action."

Haley told her Senate confirmation hearing that she supports President

Donald Trump's plan to move the US embassy to Jerusalem, an action Arab governments would consider provocative.

Guterres is due to follow up on the resolution in March by reporting to the council on Israeli settlement activity.

153 MORE SETTLER HOMES
Israeli officials yesterday gave final approval to 153 east Jerusalem settler homes, the deputy mayor said.

Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Meir Turgeman told AFP the approvals by a city planning committee were among those held up due to pressure from

former US president Barack Obama's administration.

Following Trump's inauguration, Turgeman spoke of plans for some 11,000 homes in process for annexed east Jerusalem.

"I'm going to deliver permits for thousands of homes in Jerusalem in the coming months," Turgeman said.

Yesterday's approvals were for the settlement neighbourhood of Gilo.

Israel has announced a major settlement expansion in the days following Trump's January 20 inauguration.