



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's motorcade heading towards Chittagong on Dhaka-Chittagong highway near Jatrabari yesterday. A vandalised media vehicle, top right and middle, of the motorcade at Mohammad Ali Bazar near Feni. Alleged vandals, right bottom.



PHOTO: BNP

Khaleda's motorcade attacked

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Chittagong around 7:00pm.

After overnight stay at the port city's circuit house, she will leave for Cox's Bazar today to visit four Rohingya camps at Balukhali, Boalmari and Jamtoli in Ukhia upazila.

She will be back in Dhaka on Tuesday.

Khaleda left her Gulshan residence at 10:40am yesterday, accompanied by BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Vice Chairman Shamsuzzaman Dudu. Party leaders and activists joined her from the Nayapaltan central office.

Around a hundred vehicles, including that of different media outlets, were in the convoy. Hundreds of activists and supporters carrying banners, festoons and placards thronged the roadsides on their way to Chittagong.

Led by BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed, the party and its front organisations attempted to bring out a procession in front of BNP's Nayapaltan office yesterday evening to protest the attack on Khaleda's convoy.

But police dispersed them by charging batons and arrested three party men from the spot, a BNP press release said. Pro-BNP student body Chhatra Dal called a nationwide protest programme for today.

The BNP blamed ruling Awami League men, including Chhatra League and Jubo League activists, for the Feni incident, saying the government became fearful of Khaleda's public support. It also alleged that the attack was aimed at blocking people's wave on roads during her trip.

The BNP chairperson's trip to

refugee camps was planned on humanitarian grounds. Government's men attacked such a programme," Mirza Fakhrul told The Daily Star at Feni Circuit House.

On the assault of newsmen, Fakhrul said it proves that the government does not believe in media freedom.

Not only in Feni, he alleged, the ruling party also attacked BNP men and created obstacles at different points on Khaleda's way to Cox's Bazar.

Earlier, before leaving the capital, Fakhrul said the party sought cooperation from the police and the administration to make Khaleda's trip a success.

Enamul Haq Shamim, AL's organising secretary for Chittagong division, claimed the internal feuds of BNP's Feni district unit led to the attack and that no AL man was involved in it.

Talking to this correspondent, he also said the government had taken all measures to make Khaleda's tour a smooth one but BNP men launched an attack on newsmen's cars to get media attention.

Kusum Dewan, additional deputy inspector general of police (Chittagong Range), said they were probing the incident and the culprits would definitely be found out.

Following the attack on Khaleda's motorcade, when some journalists went to a restaurant at Lalpur in Feni town to take lunch, a group of rowdy youths ransacked the hotel and asked the journalists to leave immediately.

Kazi Abul Bashar, general secretary of Dhaka South City BNP, who is with Khaleda, said the ruling party goons damaged nearly 15 vehicles

that were under his supervision and beat up a number of leaders and activists of his party.

Eyewitness said miscreants attacked the tail end of Khaleda's motorcade. The BNP chief's vehicle was at the front.

According to multiple sources, 40 to 50 men, who had gathered at Star Line filling station, about a hundred yards from the place of occurrence, were involved in the attack. Some of them carried firearms, said eyewitness.

Shafiq Ahmed, a senior reporter of Ekattor TV, said he and his cameraperson were assaulted by the attackers during the incident in Feni. Their camera was damaged too.

Our Feni correspondent reports that big logs were put on roads at different points of Dagonbhuuya upazila, including Tulatoli, Duhmukha and Beker Bazar, apparently to stop BNP men from going to Feni Sadar upazila to receive Khaleda.

Locals had to suffer immensely as plying of passenger vehicles on Noakhali-Feni route got suspended due to the barricades.

The ruling party men also tore up BNP's posters and banners at different parts of Feni Sadar upazila, alleged Mizanur Rahman, president of BNP Feni district unit.

In Morsorai upazila in Chittagong, unidentified people hurled brick chips on a microbus of private TV channel nTV around 7:00pm injuring its senior reporter Hasan Mahmud, broadcast engineer Sayeed Ahmed and cameraperson Ajit.

In Comilla, ruling party activists reportedly attacked BNP men who gathered on different roads to welcome their leader.

Tigers looking

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end to a punishing tour. South Africa, on the other hand, will be eager to complete a clean sweep of the tour having blanked their guests in the Tests and ODIs.

Today's match, which gets underway from 6:30pm (Bangladesh time), will mark the first T20I at the venue. While Bangladesh will have bad memories of Seneves Park because of the tour-opening 333-run loss in the first Test here, they should be inspired to make up for that on a pitch that will suit them.

"It is hard to tell how it might play until the match starts," said Shakib yesterday. "Everyone is saying it will be slow but I think it will be a good batting track. It is likely to be a high-scoring game. We will have to try to stop them for a lower total if we field first; if we bat first, we have to score at least 180 if we want to win."

Bangladesh took the unusual step of going in with six bowlers in Bloemfontein, but because of poor bowling Mohammad Saifuddin, Shafiqul Islam and Taskin Ahmed were given just two overs each. With Shafiq being the most expensive among the three, he may make way for Nasir Hossain or Litton Das.

Height

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my home," Sattar said, and outright denied that his daughters could do something like stealing a phone.

Two days later, however, Beauty's mother Tanuza Begum suddenly came to their house and said that she came to know through witchcraft that Aziza and her sister Mabia had stolen the phone, Sattar said.

An intense altercation followed, although Tanuza and her other family members left Sattar's house soon afterwards.

Then around 8:00pm on Friday, Sattar went to the poultry farm, leaving Aziza and his son home.

On his way home about an hour later, Sattar saw a fire nearby and rushed there.

Finding that it was Aziza, he then took her to a nearby hospital with the help of locals. She was later shifted to the DMCH as her condition worsened.

Quoting Aziza, Sattar told The Daily Star that Beauty's cousin Rubel picked up Aziza from their home.

"She was taken half a kilometre away from the house at a jackfruit orchard where three more youths were waiting. Later, they tied her to a tree and beat her badly."

At one stage, the four set her alight as they failed to coerce her into admitting the theft, Sattar said.

Police arrested Tanuza in this connection and are trying to arrest the other suspects, said Syeduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Shibpur Police Station.

Sattar filed a murder case last night against seven people, including Beauty, Rubel and Tanuza.

Snubbed

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even went to school with Coburn's older brother. But, it wasn't until 1978, when he directed a play that she was taking part in, that they got to know each other better.

After asking her on a date to the local pub, Coburn was forbidden from going by her father and the pair remained strangers until 2008 when they coincidentally met once again while working on a school project.

Four years later, he plucked up the courage to ask her out again and took her to the pub he had originally intended to decades before.

When the couple appeared on BBC Radio 4's The Listening Project, Brookman decided it was time they finally made things official and he proposed live on air.

Although Coburn didn't give an answer straight away, the bride-to-be said yes as they posed for a photo afterwards.

"The fact we didn't go out together when we were younger meant that we've both lived very rich lives," said Madeleine.

"Then we found each other again, and it was a special thing that happened to us, so I think we're very lucky."

department of city and regional planning of the University of California, urged focusing on Dhaka's transportation problems.

He said, "Yes, we need flyovers but there has to be other facilities and strategies to address the city's transportation problems."

He emphasised the need for introducing mass transportation facilities to curb traffic congestion.

Ralph Becker, former mayor of Salt Lake City, Utah, said galvanising collaboration among all stakeholders with a common goal of public good is what a mayor could facilitate.

Chief guest Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said a comprehensive approach of professional groups and experts was needed to address the complex urbanisation issue.

Md Abdul Baten, president of Municipal Association of Bangladesh, chaired the inaugural session in which 300 mayors, councilors and urban practitioners took part.

Mel Senen S Sarmiento, who had been the mayor of Calbayog city of the Philippines for nine years, also spoke on the occasion.

Boy killed

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object and fled from the scene," he added.

Hasan was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital soon after the incident, where he succumbed to his injuries around 5:00am, said assistant sub-inspector Shariful Islam of DMCH police outpost.

Ibrahim Khan, deputy commissioner of Lalbagh division, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, confirmed to The Daily Star that the clash happened over a senior-junior issue. Police detained Ali in this connection, he said.

The violent nature of these teenage gangs came to light after ninth grader Adnan Kabir was killed in Uttara in January this year. At least six other teenagers lost their lives in the capital apparently fighting for earning "respect" and establishing supremacy in local areas.

Akter said every year the country loses one percent of arable land due to unplanned urbanisation.

Robert Cervero, a professor at the

They celebrate

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"We normally go overseas," he told The Straits Times. "But I decided to make it special this time."

The couple, who have no children, went to several Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh -- including the Kutupalong refugee camp in Ukhia -- along with a Singapore-based volunteer group called SG Qurban.

More than 600,000 refugees have fled into Bangladesh from Myanmar since August.

During their week there, they distributed aid to hundreds of refugees from 8:00am to 5:00pm daily.

"We gave out rice, bottled water, milk, bread, biscuits and snacks and toothbrushes," said Firdaus, who has been with the Singapore Police Force for nine years.

"For the women, we also arranged to buy sarongs [a traditional dress in

Southeast Asia]."

Firdaus, who has gone on aid missions before as part of his work and also privately, said he was worried about Najihah, 32, who was doing such work for the first time.

"She has asthma and is not that sporty. And Bangladesh can be tough. It was very hot, I was quite concerned, but she did well."

Firdaus and the other volunteers distributed 2,400kg of rice a day.

"But that was not enough," he said.

He said after reaching Bangladesh, they visited a designated area where volunteer groups get approval from the authorities.

The group brought its own aid supplies bought with donations they received. "Even \$1 can mean 2kg of aid," said Mr Firdaus.

The couple returned to Singapore on Oct 27.

Humiliated, college girl

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Kajol said Shekor and his accomplices attacked Karmaker Para, the area of the incident, on their motorcycles at 11:00 in the morning. At the time, the location was almost deserted. They then snatched her scarf.

At one stage, the miscreants assaulted her physically and cut off her hair with a pair of scissors. Joyshree's cries led to local people gathering on the scene and that is when the criminals fled.

Makhon Chakraborty, on October 27, two days after the incident, filed a case against the stalker Shekor Mondal and three to four unnamed accomplices with Shyamnagar police station.

When this correspondent went to Shekor Mondal's house at Barakupote village, it was found locked.

Shyamnagar police station OC Syed Mannan Ali said, the incident took place on October 25 but they were informed of the matter on October 27. The OC said, as Joyshree's family informed them later, by then the accused had fled. He said several police officers have been working to arrest the accused persons.

Women at helm

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Urme Binte Salam is the UNO of Kuliarchar upazila and the recipient of the best UNO of Dhaka and Mymensingh divisions award this year for standard primary education.

The quality of education and attendance are the two main elements to achieving this, said Urme, who completed her honours and masters in English from Dhaka University in 2005 and joined the service in 2006. She also got a PhD from Malaysia later.

The UNO provided bicycles to 300 meritorious students so that they can commute to school easily. She also organised Science and ICT practical classes for students from fifth to seventh grades. The classes were participated by some 3,200 students of the upazila in January.

Taslima Ahmed Poly, the first female UNO in Kishoreganj upazila, is reputed for her services towards people in the remotest of areas.

Upon completing her masters from Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) in Mymensingh, Taslima joined cadre services in 2010.

The people of the haor suffer mostly for poor communication, and surprisingly, it is better during monsoon as they can use boats to go from one union to the next, said the only female employee at the upazila office.

When the rains subside, commuting becomes next to impossible in some upazilas, as the roads are muddy.

There is a dearth of playing grounds for children though authorities distribute sports equipment to the schools in the upazila.

"The conditions are extreme, but I still visit the unions using row and speed boats for my work," she said.

Sultana Akter, UNO of Tarail, acquired masters in Public Policy from the United Kingdom and joined the service in 2008.

"Although I grew up in Dhaka and studied abroad, I was mentally prepared to work for rural Bangladesh. The people of these upazilas still view the UNOs as the solver of all problems and they come to me with their personal and social problems. I try to find



The eight female upazila nirbahi officers of Kishoreganj. The district in the haor region has 13 upazilas. PHOTO: STAR