

# MOTORCADE ATTACK Cops sue 65 activists of Jubo Dal, JCD

Also blame it on feud between 2 ex-BNP MPs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Police have filed a case against 65 leaders and activists of Jubo Dal and Chhata Dal on charges of setting fire to two empty buses in Feni's Mohpal just after the BNP chief's car crossed the area on Tuesday afternoon.

Sub-inspector Nurul Haque of Feni Sadar Model Police Station filed the case with the police station yesterday afternoon. Twenty-nine of the accused, including Nayem Ullah Chowdhury, president of Feni Chhata Dal, were named.

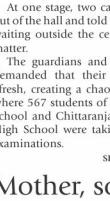
Misscreants hurled two petrol bombs at the buses parked near a filling station on Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

The incident happened when BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was returning to Dhaka following her visit to the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar.

Immediately after the incident, police detained six people, including the bus drivers and their helpers, a local leader of Sramik Dal and a Chhata Dal activist.

Feni Sadar Model Police Station

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Ruling party activists vandalise vehicles of BNP chief Khaleda Zia's motorcade at Karwan Bazar on April 20, 2015.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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## Hasina hails

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officially began later that month on March 26.

"Ebaor sangram amader muuktir sangram, ebar sangram swadhinatar sangram [The struggle this time is a struggle for emancipation, the struggle this time is a struggle for independence]," Bangabandhu proclaimed in a thunderous voice at a mammoth rally at the Racecourse Maidan (now Suhravaray Udyan) that day.

"Turn every house into a fortress, resist the enemy with everything you have... Having mastered the lesson of sacrifice, we shall give more blood. God willing [Inshallah], we shall free the people of this land," he went on to proclaim.

The speech touched every Bangalee's heart across the then East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, and mobilised the whole nation, excepting a few pro-Pakistani elements, to prepare for the liberation.

In the statement, Hasina said, "I'm extending my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the Unesco and its director general and all concerned on behalf of Bangladesh and the Bangalee nation for including Bangabandhu's 7 March speech in the Memory of the World International Registry."

The PM said the then West Pakistani rulers had started showing a "step-motherly" attitude towards Bangalees soon after the formation of Pakistan in 1947 based on the two-nation theory. "In addition to economic exploitation, they attacked our language and culture."

She said the Pakistanis moved to make Urdu as the state language instead of Bangla, mother tongue of most of the people. "Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman first put up a resistance against the oppressions of the Pakistanis and led a movement for sovereignty of the nation."

While the PM said the Bangalees were subjected to harassments and intimidations, it is also notorious for the high levels of stress suffered by its citizens, from school children to adults, who are placed under huge pressure to do well from an early age.

"Everyone in Singapore -- no matter where you come from, what your background is, whatever you do, whatever age you are -- everyone is stressed

## Probe fails to find AL men!

FROM PAGE 1

But in the same incident, the same police official found evidence against 15 BNP men and Khaleda's security personnel in a counter-case filed by a local AL leader.

The official submitted charge sheet against them to a Dhaka court on October 3 last year, and the court accepted it.

Sub-inspector Abdul Halim Mia was the investigation officer (IO) in both the cases.

Inquired whether police probe didn't find any proof of attack on Khaleda's convoy, Halim said yesterday: "Attackers were carried out by both sides."

Asked if that was true, then why charge sheet was submitted in one case not in the other, the police official said, "Why do I have to tell you that? I will only talk about this to my senior officials and the court."

Most of the attackers on Khaleda's motorcade in the city are known faces of Karwan Bazar and Tejgaon areas. Photographs of many of them attacking her convoy with bricks and sticks were published in newspapers and even on TV channels.

Yet, police didn't find involvement of any of them in the attack.

On April 20, 2015, around 150 ruling party men led by Chhata Dal leaders swooped on the motorcade with brick chips and sticks, leaving 15 people, including BNP chief's security personnel, injured.

Six vehicles, including four from the motorcade, were damaged. Two counter-cases of attempted murder were filed with Tejgaon Police Station a day later.

Over a hundred AL men were accused in the case filed by Khaleda's security chief Maj Gen (retired) Fazle Elahi Akbar while around a hundred BNP men and members of the party chairman's security force (CSF) were sued by AL's Dhaka Ward-26 President Jahirul Haque Zillu.

In the charge sheet of Zillu's case, the IO stated that AL men were holding a rally in front of Petro Bangla in support of Dhaka North City Corporation mayoral candidate Annous Huiq and councilor candidate Shamim Hasan while Khaleda was addressing another rally, around 100-150 yards away, for mayoral candidate Tabinor Ali.

"This was the time when the BNP rally and also beat up AL leaders and activists indiscriminately and OI mentioned."

The CSF members opened fire in a bid to kill. In the investigation, it was found that before leaving the spot, they [CSF] threatened them [AL men] with death if they went for campaigning again," it added.

The 15 charge-sheeted accused include BNP chief's personal assistant Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas, Senior Vice President of Sweekchabekar Dal (Dhaka north) Azizur Rahman, Tejgaon Thana Juba Dal Vice President Abdul Quader, and CSF members.

But in the other case filed by the BNP the same police official submitted a final report, saying the probe didn't find any proof of attack on Khaleda's convoy.

The IO, however, didn't mention how the vehicles in her motorcade were damaged or how the BNP men were hurt.

Contacted on Tuesday, Fazle Elahi, the plaintiff of the case, said, "Police did not contact us. We do not know anything about the fate of the case."

Talking to The Daily Star, Muhammad Nurul Huda, former inspector general of police, said one can file a no-confidence motion if he is not satisfied with the investigation. The aggrieved person may appeal to court for further probe by another agency.

Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said, "Although this is nothing, it shows how law enforcement agencies are becoming congenitally agents of pro-governmental or anti-governmental political agenda or interest."

"This happened in greater or lesser degree when the present ruling party was in opposition. Disturbing the trend is for the future of democratic accountability, it also accelerates the process of erosion of professionalism and hence lack of public trust in such public institutions," he added.

WHO WERE THE ATTACKERS?

Those who hurled bricks at Khaleda's motorcade and vandalised several vehicles were mostly leaders and activists of the ruling AL's associate bodies and Chhata League men from ward-26, Tejgaon and Dhaka Polytechnic Institute, according to witnesses.

The Daily Star had identified about a dozen of the attackers from the photos and footage published by different newspapers and TV channels. Locals and sources in the BCL, the pro-AL student body, confirmed their identity. Their own Facebook pages also validated their party posts.

These attackers were frequently seen with the then top BCL leaders, includ-

ing its then president HM Badruzzaman Sohag. They also had many photos with Sohag on their Facebook pages.

Following the incident, AL leaders claimed that traders at Karwan Bazar, who incurred losses due to the BNP-enforced blockade in early 2015, carried out the attack. Facebook page of Tejgaon thana unit BCL also claimed that the attack was a result of BNP's internal conflict.

However, the photos and the video clips say otherwise.

### PROBE INTO BANGLA MOTOR ATTACK

Two days after the Karwan Bazar incident, a group of around 70 people attacked Khaleda's motorcade with wooden sticks and threw brick chips at it in Bangla Motor area.

On April 22, 2015, she was on her way to Old Dhaka for electioneering in city corporation polls.

Abdul Qosim, an advisor to the BNP chairman, and six of her security personnel were injured.

A window of the sport utility vehicle carrying Khaleda and several other BCL members was shattered.

Qosim filed a case with Rama Police Station against 50 unidentified people over the attack while Babu Hasan, a BCL leader, filed another case against 25 anonymous people.

The investigations in both the cases are still pending.

Sub-inspector Masud Zamaddar, the IO in both the cases, said the probes were not naming time as the accused were not named in the cases.

No one had been arrested, he added.

## Singaporeans get 'rage room' relief

FROM PAGE 16

While Singapore is ultra-modern and affluent, it is also notorious for the high levels of stress suffered by its citizens, from school children to adults, who are placed under huge pressure to do well from an early age.

"Everyone in Singapore -- no matter where you come from, what your background is, whatever you do, whatever age you are -- everyone is stressed

out," Royce Tan, the founder of "Fragrance Room", told AEP.

"Be it school, be it work, be it like your own personal relations, everything is stressful."

He set up one of several such "rage rooms" in cities around the world, has two main offerings: half-hour slots with a limited amount of items to smash for S\$33.88 (\$28) or the S\$8350 "annihilation pack" that lets custom-

ers smash as much as they can in half an hour.

Most items are provided by the "Fragrance Room", located in a disused mobile factory in central Singapore, but customers can also bring their own.

And the most popular item to smash? Printers.

On a recent afternoon at the shop, four students, aged 18 and 19, who had just finished their exams were

enjoying a session, and the thud of bat on printer was just audible through the concrete walls.

Law student Kylie Low, drenched in sweat and with her shoes covered in printer ink, described it as a "cathartic experience".

"When we're in school we're always printing things for class -- so to be able to smash up a printer, it feels amazing," the 18-year-old said.

## US assures help in repatriation

FROM PAGE 1

The state minister highlighted the five-point proposal given by the Prime Minister at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly in September and also requested for continuation of the support in this regard, said a foreign ministry press release.

Other members of the delegation are Deputy Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labour Scott Busby, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs Tom Vajda and Director of the Office of Mainland Asia Patricia Mahoney. US Ambassador to Bangladesh Marcia Bernicat was also present during the meeting.

The US delegation will visit different Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar today and tomorrow.

EU STANDS WITH BANGLADESH

EU foreign minister Federica Mogherini for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides, who returned to Dhaka from Cox's Bazar after visiting the Rohingya camps, said "EU stands by Bangladesh in this difficult time."

Talking to reporters after a meeting with Foreign Minister AHM Mahmood Ali yesterday afternoon at the state guest

house Padma, Christos Stylianides said that "dialogue between Bangladesh and Myanmar is the only way to bring a political solution to the Rohingya crisis."

"I strongly believe that there can be a political solution to the crisis," he said, adding that the root cause lies in Myanmar. "The government of Bangladesh and Myanmar should continue dialogue. This is the only way to ensure safe, dignified, and voluntary return of those who were forced to cross the border and want to return home," he said.

His visit comes a week after the EU and its Member States pledged more than 50 percent of the total \$434 million funding raised at the International Conference on the Rohingya Refugee Crisis held in Geneva.

He visited Rohingya camps and said the scale of this emergency was "painfully clear to see; this is the fastest-growing refugee crisis in the world".

"Our help will continue. I hope [they]

Rohingyas will be able to return to their home in a safe and dignified way," he said.

"Our promise is that we'll continue to provide assistance as long as it takes," he added.

The foreign ministry in a statement also said that during the meeting, the foreign minister briefed Christos about the current situation and assured that over 1 million Rohingyas are now living in Bangladesh.

He also mentioned that the presence of this huge number of Rohingyas created "massive socio-economic and environmental challenges for Bangladesh".

"I encourage all Canadians to donate to the organization of their choice. Your donation will save lives. It will allow them to recover their sense of dignity until they can return to their homes," International Development Minister, Marie-Claude Bibeau, said while inviting Canadians to "be generous".

She announced that for every eligible donation made by individual Canadians to registered Canadian charities between August 25 and Nov 28, the government of Canada will contribute an equivalent amount to the fund.

The relief fund for the Myanmar crisis has no ceiling, the minister said, adding "these donations will be made to the Myanmar Crisis Relief Fund."

The UN launched an appeal for over \$434 million to respond to the crisis. Canada has committed over \$25 million in humanitarian assistance funding in Bangladesh and Myanmar.

heavily fled in Myanmar to seek refuge in Bangladesh.

The Federal Government says that it will match every dollar Canadians donate to registered charities helping the Rohingya refugee crisis at the end of August and until November 28.

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## Exam this year's, question paper last year's!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Fifteen JSC examinees sitting for the tests at Narayanganj Girls High School and College center had a terrible start yesterday as the authorities allegedly provided them last year's question papers.

The students taking the exam at two rooms -- 208 and 209 -- of the centre got the wrong question papers.

Five minutes into the beginning of Bangla first paper tests, they informed the invigilators, who were on duty at the rooms, of the matter. But the invigilators forced them to sit for the tests for an hour, threatening to expel them, alleged the candidates and their guardians.

The examinees of Junior School that began across the country yesterday asked the invigilators to change their question papers, but they did not pay heed to it.

At one stage, two candidates came out of the hall and told their guardians waiting outside the centre about the matter.

The guardians and students then demanded that their tests be held afresh, creating a chaos at the centre where 567 students of Academy High School and Chittaranjan Cotton Mill High School were taking part in the examinations.

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## Mother, son

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house just after Magrib prayers. Shamsuzzoha Nahar opened the main door for her and Rasida went straight to the kitchen. She said that she did not see anyone else when she entered the house.

"When I was cleaning the kitchen utensils, someone suddenly locked the kitchen door from outside," she told The Daily Star.

"I shouted and knocked on the door, asking for someone to open it but no one responded. Moments later, I heard someone shouting for help from one of them," she added.

The guard was last night opened and after coming out, Rehida said, "Nahar's bloodied body. She also saw Shaon's body lying on the staircase."

Reaching the spot, this correspondent saw the area cordoned off by RAB and police officials and no one was being allowed access to the crime scene. The main gate was shut and even the guards could not leave.

Around asking, no one could say anything regarding the murder and there were no witnesses to be found. Some people said they heard the guard saying, "please come, they have killed madam."

Speaking to locals, it was known that the people offered their Magrib prayers right outside Shamsuzzoha Nahar's main gate, as the nearest mosque was quite far.

Right after prayers, a resident of the building informed the guard, Abdullah Noman, that there was an attempt going on upstairs.

Noman then rushed upstairs and saw Shaon's body. Afterwards, seeing the door to their apartment ajar, he went in and found Shamsuzzoha Nahar's body.

Locals said that they heard Noman shouting, "someone has killed the mother and son" five minutes after Magrib prayers. Locals then gathered around the building hearing the screams.

Krishna Pada Roy, joint commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), said that they have detained the guard, Abdul Karim, and the maid for interrogation and to verify whether they were involved in the murder.

The house owner was not present at home at the time of the incident, he said, adding that they did not see anything displaced inside the house.

Asked about whether anything was missing, he said that it was not possible to clearly say about that right now as they did not get the estimated property details from the owner.

Regarding family conflict or business rivalry, the joint commissioner, while addressing the briefing on the spot, said that they were investigating the case keeping "all the possibilities in mind".

A police official also informed that Abdul Karim had been beaten twice and they were looking into that as well.

The forensic team of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) was examining the crime scene.

The bodies have been sent to the morgue of Dhaka Medical College.

Abdul Karim's nephew, informed The Daily Star that Abdul Karim had died from Munishganj. His two other sons, Anik and Munira, are respectively in Canada and UK on student visas. He also added that he did not know of any rivalry and said he was unaware of the second marriage.

According to sources, karim has several types of business, including a shop in capital's Shyambari. Another six-storey building next to the one where the murders took place, also belonged to him.