



Attack on cops will not be tolerated: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Blasting the BNP for attacking police on Tuesday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday warned that the government would not tolerate such attack anymore.

The PM came up with the warning after she adorned newly appointed Inspector General of Police Mohammad Javed Patwary with the IGP rank badge at the Gono Bhaban.

She said the law enforcement agencies were playing a strong role in maintaining law and order. "Even their members are sacrificing their lives in protecting people's lives and properties."

Hasina also sought cooperation from the people to root out terrorism, militancy and drug menace from the country.

Police perform many tough responsibilities, the PM said.

She also sought people's cooperation so that country's development continued.

After adorning Javed with the IGP rank badge, the PM greeted him by presenting a bouquet.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan and outgoing IGP AKM

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On alert

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public properties and put people's lives at risk".

On Tuesday, a group of BNP men attacked a prison van and snatched two detained fellow men from the vehicle near the Supreme Court area of the capital. Referring to the incident, Devdas said, "We are arresting those who are responsible for attacking police. The masterminds will be arrested and the drive will continue."

The BNP, on the other hand, is acting watchfully as Khaleda has alerted her party leaders and activists against "possible police harassment" over the verdict following the arrest of Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, said party insiders.

On Tuesday night, plainclothes police arrested BNP standing committee member Gayeshwar and party's executive committee member Onindio Islam Amit in the city.

The BNP also alleged that police raided the houses of many of its leaders, including Jamiruddin Sircar, Netai Roy Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan, Habib-Un-Nabi Khan Soheli and Shafiq Bari Babu, the same night.

A senior leader, seeking anonymity, told this newspaper yesterday that Khaleda advised her party men "not to fall in the trap of the government as it was pushing the BNP to go for confrontation".

"Madam [Khaleda] sent a special message to all the central leaders and high-ups of the party's associate bodies to be careful as the government will use law enforcers to arrest our leaders and activists," he said.

Meanwhile, party's Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that the government was provoking the BNP into creating an unstable situation ahead of the court verdict.

"Our top leaders are being arrested. The government is also issuing threats and carrying out drives to arrest them at a time when the situation is peaceful. They [government] themselves are destroying the stable political situation in the country," he said at a press conference at the party's Nayapaltan central office.

He also alleged that the government's main target was to create uncertainty centring the verdict and that's why the BNP leaders and activists were being detained.

The AL was yet to give any specific directives to its leaders and activists over the verdict. However, sources in the party said members of Dhaka City AL (South) would be on the streets "to assist law enforcers" on February 8.

"We asked our leaders and activists to remain alert and cooperate with the law enforcers to keep the situation normal. We will not allow BNP men to create any chaotic situation," Shahey Alam Murad, general secretary of Dhaka city AL (North), told the Daily Star.

3-year-old 'raped'

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being examined to know whether she had been raped.

Abu Saleh Md Masud Karim, officer-in-charge of Jhikargachha Police Station, said, "I have heard that a child has been raped in Laujani village. Police will take legal action if the family lodges a complaint."



Anti-clockwise, leaders and activists of BNP accompanying the motorcade of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia in the Supreme Court area on its way to her Gulshan home from a court in Bakshibazar yesterday. Police take position in the area at the same time. A woman and some youths being detained from the same spot later.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Police go on arrest spree

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connection with Tuesday's incident. The law enforcers yesterday detained around 20 people in the HC area.

Meanwhile, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday alleged that a huge number of police, some in plainclothes, were deployed in front of Khaleda's Gulshan residence, reports UNB.

In Bagerhat, police arrested 46 people, including Bagerhat district Chhatra Dal general secretary Nure Alam Bhuiyan Tanu, in the last two days.

The law enforcers in Satkhira arrested 26 BNP and Jamaat activists in 24 hours as of 6:00pm yesterday, reports our Correspondent in Satkhira.

Asaduzzaman Mia, commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, yesterday said detectives arrested Azizul Bari Helal and others on specific charges of attacking the law enforcers

and snatching two detainees from a prison van.

"We have started a drive and will continue it to arrest those who carried out the attack and those who were behind the scene," he told The Daily Star.

Three cases have been filed against several hundred BNP men, including some of its top leaders, over Tuesday's incidents.

The accused in the cases include top BNP leaders Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, who was arrested in Gulshan area on Tuesday night, Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, Shawkat Mahmud, Asaduzzaman Ripon, Zainul Abedin Faruk, Mahbub Uddin Khokon, Habib-un-Nabi Khan Soheli, Shyama Obayed and many others from BNP, Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal.

Ramna police yesterday produced Gayeshwar and 37 others before a magistrate's court and sought 10 days'

remand for each except Gayeshwar.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mahmudul Hassan ordered to send Gayeshwar and a BNP activist, who is a cancer patient, to jail and granted three-day remand for one and a two-day remand for the rest.

Except for Gayeshwar, the leaders and activists were arrested on Tuesday in Paribagh area.

Shabbagh police also produced 18 BNP leaders and activists before the same court and sought seven-day remand for each. The court granted two-day remand for each.

On Tuesday, hundreds of BNP men swooped on police and snatched away two of their fellows who were detained. In the process, three policemen were injured and a prison van was vandalised.

The incident occurred around 3:00pm when the motorcade of Khaleda Zia was crossing the area on

way to her Gulshan residence from the court in Bakshibazar, said witnesses.

Following the incidents, police were put on high alert on the roads on Khaleda's way to and from the court yesterday. The police did not allow anyone to stand for a moment near the HC area from where BNP leaders usually escort the chairperson's motorcade.

The police were seen picking up around 20 people from the spot. The BNP chairperson came out of the court around 3:30pm.

Detectives are also analysing video footages to identify who actually attacked the police and damage the prison van and a gun.

Unlike the previous days, BNP leaders and activists yesterday joined Khaleda's motorcade near Ramna Park, Matsya Bhaban and the press club areas.



Khaleda's trial sees heated arguments

Proceedings interrupted for 10 minutes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Trial of the Zia Charitable Trust graft case was halted for around 10 minutes yesterday as the judge left the courtroom amid heated arguments between the defence and the prosecution.

The Special Judge's Court-5, however, resumed the trial and the defence placed their arguments before the proceedings were adjourned until today.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case in August 2011 with Tejgaon police accusing four people including BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia of abusing power to raise funds for the trust from unknown sources.

The three other accused are Harris Chowdhury, Khaleda's political secretary when she was in power between 2001 and 2006, Ziaul Islam Munna, assistant private secretary to Harris, and Monirul Islam Khan, APS of former mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka.

Of them, Harris is on the run.

On Tuesday, Public Prosecutor Mosharraf Hossain Kajal completed the closing arguments and sought the highest punishment, seven years'imprisonment, for the accused.

Khaleda appeared before the court around 11:30am yesterday.

Aminul Islam, defence counsel for Munna, started his submission pointing to "discrepancies" in the testimonies of Harun-or-Rashid, the complainant and investigation officer of the case.

The prosecution alleged that huge money was collected in the name of the trust but was not used for it. Aminul refuted the allegation saying 42 kathas of land was bought in 2005 for the trust.

The land was purchased for the trust and not in Khaleda's name, said the defence counsel, adding that the trust's activities did not proceed due to violent movement by the Awami League-led opposition after 2005 and later as the caretaker government took over.

The prosecution placed "lame arguments" as the trust owns land and building, Aminul argued.

According to the prosecution, when Khaleda Zia opened a bank account for the trust, she hid that she was the prime minister but used the address of her hantomon residence.

Refuting this argument, Aminul said as Zia Charitable Trust is a private trust,

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Hasina outlines polls-time govt

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Introduced in 1996 through a constitutional amendment, the caretaker government was constituted after the then partisan government's tenure expired.

Comprised of a chief adviser and 10 advisers, it had jurisdiction to carry out only routine work. Its main functions were to provide the EC with all sorts of assistance to hold free and fair parliamentary elections.

However, the non-partisan caretaker government system was abolished in 2011, generating a political crisis which resulted in the holding of a one-sided election in January 2014.

On the completion of four years of the current government on January 12, Hasina in an address to the nation said the next parliamentary election will be held under a polls-time government in line with the constitution, meaning she will hold the office of the head of government during the election.

After around three weeks, she yesterday outlined the framework of the polls-time government.

Earlier in January last year, an AL

delegation led by Hasina placed the same proposal before President Abdul Hamid during talks initiated by him over the EC's formation.

In addition, the AL suggested empowering the EC with supervising authority over the administration, law enforcement agencies and all other departments engaged in the election process.

However, no further discussion was held on the proposals in the last one year.

The last caretaker government was constitutionally barred from making any policy decisions. Its size was also fixed by the constitution.

But there will be no such constitutional bar on the polls-time cabinet led by Hasina.

Amid growing political crisis before the 2014 parliamentary election, the then PM Hasina proposed forming an all-party election-time cabinet, and offered the then main opposition BNP to join it and take ministerial portfolios of its choice.

But the BNP rejected the offer. Defending the decision, some of the

BNP-led alliance leaders referred to the PM's absolute power to overrule decisions of the ministers.

Against this backdrop, some eminent citizens at a meeting with the president in 2013 proposed limiting the PM's power by amending the government's rules of business.

In November 2013, Hasina formed a polls-time cabinet of 29 ministers with MPs from the AL, the Jatiya Party and the Workers Party.

The BNP boycotted the 2014 parliamentary election.

The crisis remains unresolved till date. With the next parliamentary election getting nearer, the issue of the mode of election-time government is dominating the political landscape as the BNP continues to demand a neutral polls-time administration.

REACTION TO PM'S FORMULA
BNP Standing Committee Member Moudud Ahmed said the PM's outline of the next polls-time government is actually a framework of a partisan government.

"The national polls will not be free, fair and inclusive under a partisan

government. The Election Commission will not be able to play a strong role."

The BNP policymaker also said the PM's statement is part of the AL's plan to form a one-party government.

He mentioned that his party will sit to discuss the matter and then give a formal reaction.

About the PM's statement, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon said the PM has the jurisdiction to decide on the size of the polls-time government.

In reply to a query, he said Hasina in 2013 invited the BNP to join the polls-time interim government but it turned down the offer. This time, the reality is different as the BNP has no representative in the current parliament.

Contacted, Ruhul Amin Hawlader, secretary general of the main opposition Jatiya Party, said the PM rightly outlined the framework of the next polls-time government as per the constitution.

"We have no option to go beyond the constitution regarding the polls-time government," he added.

A whale

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It was hard not to jump for joy when Wikie first "spoke", Abramson told AFP, adding the research team had not quite known what to expect.

"When we tried 'hello' and she did the sound... some emotional responses came from the trainers. For us (the scientists) it was very difficult not to say anything..."

Seeking to measure orcas' ability to copy new sounds, Abramson and a team turned to Wikie, a captive killer whale at the Marineland Aquarium in Antibes, southern France.

Trained to perform tricks for Marineland visitors, Wikie was a good candidate as she had already learnt the gesture commanding her to "copy" what her trainer does.

As part of the trial, the killer whale was asked to mimic never-before-heard sounds made by other orcas with different dialects from different family groups.

Then, she was made to repeat human words.

In recordings of the experiment, Wikie takes several stabs at "hello". Every time, she voices two syllables with something resembling an "l" in the middle and an "o" at the end.

The most convincing attempt is a deep, throaty sound, a bit like a cartoon demon might say "hello".

The orca also manages an eery whisper that does sound remarkably like "Amy".

But she seems to have more trouble with "One-Two-Three". The last syllable sounds a bit like a "raspberry" -- that sound of contempt humans make by pushing the tongue between the lips and forcibly expelling air to produce a vibration.

Abramson said the orca's ability to mimic does not mean she understands what she is saying.

The experiment was designed in such a way that no meaning or context was attached to any of the words.

But it does show, once more, that orcas are very smart animals indeed, he added.

Imitation skills are a sign of intelligence, as they allow animals to learn lessons from peers.

First super blue blood moon in 35 years

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the beach near the Santa Monica Pier, some snapping photos and others reclining in the sand, their faces turned upward.

John Cook joined fellow photography enthusiasts at the pier, using the Ferris wheel and roller coaster for his foreground.

"It was incredible," said Cook, a visual effects artist for films. Photographers also gathered at the Telegraph Hill neighbourhood of San Francisco, striving to get the famous Coit Tower in their moon shots.

The US East Coast, Europe and most of South America and Africa were out of luck for the eclipse. But at Cape Canaveral, Florida, where a rocket deliv-

ered America's first satellite to orbit exactly 60 years ago — Explorer 1 — the blue super moon loomed large in the sky.

The second full moon in a calendar month is a blue moon. This one also happened to be an especially close and bright moon, or supermoon. Add a total eclipse, known as a blood moon for its red tint, and it was a lunar showstopper.

Nasa called it a lunar trifecta: the first super blue blood moon since 1982. That combination won't happen again until 2037. The next total lunar is in July.

Nasa lunar scientist Noah Petro said he was astonished — and thrilled — by all the attention and fuss. The total solar

eclipse that swept across the US in August contributed to yesterday's buzz, he noted. Missing out on the eclipse from his home in Virginia, he watched the event online yesterday morning with his two children, ages 3 and 7.

"I hope that people use this as an opportunity to dig in a little more and learn about our own planet, our wonderful sister planet, the moon, and the sun and all the other great objects in the solar system," Petro said on his way to work at Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

A total lunar eclipse — considered the most scientific of yesterday's threesome — occurs when the sun, Earth and moon

line up perfectly, casting Earth's shadow on the moon.

Scientists were keen to study the sharp, sudden drop in temperature at the lunar surface as Earth's shadow blankets the moon. During the more than one hour of totality, the temperature was expected to plunge 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 Celsius), said Petro.

He is deputy project scientist for Nasa's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, circling the moon since 2009. His team took special precautions to keep the spacecraft warm during the eclipse.

For the trivia crowd, the moon was 223,820 miles (360,200 kilometers) away at the peak of the eclipse, close enough for supermoon status.