



The Daily Star

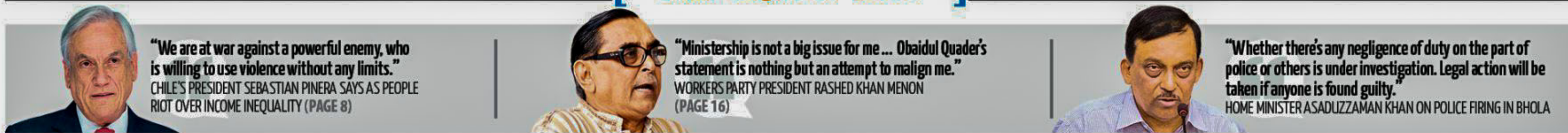
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SECOND EDITION



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PREVENTING BLOODY CLASH IN BHOLA

Local admin, cops were ill-prepared

Biplob lands in jail; Islamist group places 6-point demand, denied permission to hold rally in Bhola



MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR, SHARIFUL ISLAM and M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL from Bhola

For two days, hate speech was spreading via Facebook messenger and the local administration and police failed to grasp the gravity of the situation and act accordingly, locals of Bhola's Borhanuddin upazila said.

They said police had plenty of time act and had they taken proper steps, Sunday's clash could have been averted and four

people would not have died.

Locals said during the two days, the administration and police failed to show that they were trying to find a solution and did not even circulate the news that the rally organised by zealots on Sunday to demand punishment of a Hindu man had been called off.

According to the zealots who attacked police, Biplob Chandra Baddya spread the hate speech.

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People cram onto pickups after failing to find any public transport in Chattogram city's Nimtola area yesterday morning. Thousands of people in the port city suffered as a section of transport workers enforced a sudden strike, protesting jail sentences handed down to three, including a driver and his helper, for running an unfit bus. Story on page 2.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

He was the victim of a plot

Claim Biplob's family members

SHARIFUL ISLAM, M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR, from Bhola

The first phone call which awoke Biplob Chandra Baddya on Friday, right after lunch, may have been the most life-changing one he had ever received.

Sitting at their home in Borhanuddin upazila's Kaicha village, Biplob's uncle Ashim Kumar Baddya recounted what happened at the start of one of Bhola's darkest chapters.

After Biplob received the call, the caller apparently informed him that some messages, tantamount to hate speech against Islam, had been sent from Biplob's Facebook account to other accounts.

After the first call, came many others. And all the

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COMMENTARY

LESSONS from Bhola

Trial of perpetrators in previous incidents could have prevented this

MAHFUZ ANAM

We express our deepest sorrow at the loss of lives and regret the killings and injuries suffered by the people in Borhanuddin of Bhola. As a people we abhor violence and as such cannot but be sad at the loss of lives. However, we need to examine why this happened and if there is any lesson to learn for the government, the law enforcers and us as a society.

Circumstantial evidences gathered so far leave no doubt in our mind that the Bhola incident did not happen, it was made to. And the purpose was also very clear -- to embarrass the government and to show that our claim of universal religious tolerance is based on a weak foundation.

The incident also revealed that in spite of all the training of the law enforcement bodies our capacity to handle agitated mob forces much to be desired.

Let us start with the last. We are fully sympathetic to the police and know the dangers they face in handling mob particularly those who use violence. The claim

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Cricket rocked by players' strike

Top national players place 11-point demand

MAZHAR UDDIN

In one of the most dramatic scenes in Bangladesh cricket history, around 50 of the country's top cricketers convened in Mirpur announced yesterday that they would boycott all cricketing activities unless the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) met their 11-point demand put forward by the cricketers.

Beloved national players Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal, Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah Riyad were leading figures in the announcement, which was made during a press conference at the Academy Ground in Mirpur yesterday.

The players' strike means that the upcoming third round of the National Cricket League (NCL), the national training camp from October 25 to prepare for the tour of India, and the tour itself may be in jeopardy.

The cricketers read out their demands one by one. The 11-point demand included the resolution of payment irregularities in the Dhaka Premier League (DPL), a return to the players' transfer system from the players-by-choice system in the DPL, a return to the franchise-based model of the



Bangladesh Premier League from next edition, improvement in infrastructure, facilities and increased payments for first-class cricketers.

The cricketers even raised questions about the standards in first, second and third division cricket which have been beset by corruption with Shakib saying that teams know who will win the match even before going to the field.

News of the cricketers' action spread like wildfire when journalists were informed that the players

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Settle disputes with GP, Robi

PM's ICT affairs adviser tells authorities about BTRC's Tk 13,446cr audit claim

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

Prime Minister's ICT Affairs Adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy yesterday asked the authorities concerned to settle the dispute over the telecom regulator's claim that Grameenphone and Robi owe the government Tk 13,446 crore.

During a meeting with officials at the Gono Bhaban, Joy said he would prefer an out-of-court settlement, said an official who attended the meeting.

The meeting was attended by officials of the carriers, National Board of Revenue (NBR), and Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC).

"From what he [Joy] said, we got the message that he didn't like the idea of appointing administrators for Grameenphone and Robi on such a short notice," the official said, requesting anonymity.

A number of options have been discussed to resolve the ongoing battle, but

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READ ONLINE: ADMINISTRATOR CHALLENGES THE 5G POTENTIAL

Road safety remains as elusive as ever

3,488 killed and 5,863 injured in 3,131 road crashes till Oct 18 this year

Plying of unfit vehicles a key reason for road accidents

Several lakh vehicles do not renew their fitness certificates annually

Road Transport Act-2018 passed a year ago, but not yet in force

Recommendations on bringing discipline to transport sector yet to be implemented

STATISTICS - ACCIDENT RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF BUET

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Whenever a fatal accident occurs, the road safety issue draws the attention of the people right away. They vent their anger on roads and social media, probe committees are formed, meetings held at different forums, recommendations made and directives given.

But the issue falls into oblivion within a few days. The number of casualties keeps on rising despite the fact that Bangladesh earlier had set a target to cut the number of deaths from road crashes by 50 percent by next year.

Amid such a situation, National Road Safety Day is being observed in the country today for the third year, with different government and non-government bodies drawing up elaborate programmes.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will attend a discussion at the capital's Krishibid Institution Bangladesh, marking the occasion.

Road crashes have now become a matter of great concern in Bangladesh. The country saw two major student agitations for safe road since July last year following deaths of students in road crashes in the capital.

UNFIT VEHICLES RULE ROAD

According to transport experts and road safety campaigners, plying of unfit vehicles is a key reason for road accidents.

In a report submitted to the High Court in July, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) said 4.79 lakh vehicles without valid fitness certificates were running on roads.

On July 23, the HC directed the owners of vehicles without valid fitness documents to collect fitness certificates in two months, starting from August 1.

BRTA statistics show that only 89,269 vehicles renewed their fitness certificates in August and September. However, the state-run organisation has no specific data about how many vehicles among the 4.79 lakh

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