



One killed as cops, BNP men clash

Scores injured, law enforcers storm BNP's Nayapaltan office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One man was killed and over 50 others, including four journalists, were injured as BNP activists and police clashed in the capital's Nayapaltan yesterday afternoon.

The violence further inflames the tense situation over BNP's scheduled December 10 rally in the capital.

Police fired teargas shells and baton-charged the crowd during the near 30-minute clash after which the Nayapaltan area resembled a battlefield. Top BNP leaders were among over 300 people police picked up as they stormed the party's main office in Nayapaltan, officers said.

The BNP will demonstrate across the country today in protest of the "police attack", the party said in a statement.

The BNP and Dhaka Metropolitan Police have been in talks for the last few days over the venue for the December 10 rally. The opposition party first wanted to organise the event in Nayapaltan, but the DMP gave permission for Suhrawardy Udyan. The BNP then proposed Mazar Road in front of Ideal School and College, but police denied that too.

Many believe that the sudden turn of events has put BNP's December 10 rally into uncertainty as many senior leaders are either in detention and/or in hiding.

Police identified the man who died as Mokbul Hossain, 30, but could not say whether he was a member of any political

party.

Inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of the police outpost at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said that the man died at the hospital and there were pellet injuries in his body.

According to a BNP press release, Mokbul was a joint convener of Pallabi Ward 5 unit of Swechhchasebak Dal.

Mostafizur Rahman Rumi, publicity secretary of Jagannath University Chhatra Dal, said, "The man was lying in a pool of blood in front of the party office. He had pellet injuries. We took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he died around 3:40pm."

Witnesses said the clash erupted at 3:00pm when crowds of BNP leaders and activists thronged the Nayapaltan area chanting slogans and blocking one side of the VIP Road. The clash was triggered as police tried to clear the road.

The law enforcers fired teargas shells and shotguns while the activists hurled brick chips.

Hayatul Islam Khan, deputy commissioner of DMP Motijheel, said, "We requested them to clear the street, but they did not listen. When the police wanted to disperse them, they attacked."

BNP's Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said, "It is a planned attack on the BNP leaders and activists. Police attacked at the order of top government officials."

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Law enforcers firing directly into the BNP central office in the capital's Nayapaltan yesterday. Right, injured BNP men waiting inside the office for an ambulance before it was obstructed by cops. Left, BNP activists advance towards police during the clash. More photos on page 3.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



Polls in first week of Jan 2024: PM

UNB, Cox's Bazar

The next general election will be held in the first week of January in 2024, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced at a rally in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Addressing the rally at Sheikh Kamal International Cricket Stadium, the prime minister reiterated her call to the people to vote for Awami League to sustain the country's development.

"I am urging all of you to cast your vote for the symbol of the boat," she said.

The jubilant people raised their hands when Hasina, also the president of Awami League, asked them if they would vote for her party. She expressed gratitude to the crowd.

The rally, organised by Cox's Bazar AL, was presided over by its acting president Faridul Islam Chowdhury.

Hasina said that the AL was able to come to power for three consecutive terms as the people gave their verdict in favour of the boat, the party's election symbol.

"From 2009 to 2022 there is a

democratic process in the country leading to unprecedented development in the country. Bangladesh has got recognition as a developing country," she said.

At the outset of the rally, the PM inaugurated 29 development projects, and laid foundation stones of four schemes involving Taka 1963.86 crore.

PM Hasina highlighted how her government has launched programmes to mitigate the woes of the lower middle class and low-income people.

"As the daughter of the Father of the Nation, it is my duty to look after your welfare as long as I am in power."

She once again slammed the BNP and its ally Jamaat for causing miseries to the people.

"Arson terrorism, killing, murder, looting, money laundering, smuggling country's money to abroad."

She also mentioned that Khaleda Zia embezzled the money of an orphanage and for that reason she had been convicted of corruption for 10 years.

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DESERT FEST Upset oasis stays fertile



KHALID HOSSAIN

"Fantastic atmosphere, great goals, incredible excitement, surprises, small teams beating big teams," FIFA president Gianni Infantino said yesterday. 56 of the 64 matches have so far played out but, prior to it, the World Cup has almost seen it all in the 48 matches in its group-stage fixtures.

Scripts were flipped in

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TIGERS TRUMP INDIA Miraz magic SEALS SERIES

Bangladesh win by 5 runs to take unassailable 2-0 lead in ODI series

SPORTS REPORTER

A Bangladesh-India game without a thrilling finish is unusual and it was yet another dramatic encounter that saw the hosts end up on the winning side to clinch the three-match ODI series with a game to spare after a five-run win at Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Bangladesh continued their dominance at home, having now won 17 out of their last 20 ODIs, as they recorded a second bilateral ODI series win against India after 2015. It was also Bangladesh's sixth win from their last seven bilateral series in the 50-over format.

Mehedi Hasan Miraz again shone brightest in a crisis situation, going on to strike a maiden ODI century. He and Mahmudullah Riyad added a record 148 runs seventh-wicket stand to help Bangladesh recover from 69 for six and post a match-winning 271 for seven.

Mahmudullah was dismissed for a 96-ball 77 with seven fours, while Miraz remained unbeaten on 100 off 83 deliveries with six fours and eight sixes.

But it was a hard-fought win for Liton Das and Co. in the end.

After suffering an injury while fielding in the first innings, India skipper Rohit Sharma came to bat at number nine with India needing 59 to win off 29 balls.

The right hander almost took the game away from the hosts with a blistering unbeaten fifty off just 27 balls, but Mustafizur Rahman held his nerve and

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Bangladesh all-rounder Mehedi Hasan Miraz raises bat after reaching his maiden ODI hundred during a five-run win against India in the second ODI of the three-match series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Miraz's heroics in first two matches helped the Tigers seal the series with one match in hand.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Key BNP leaders among 300 held Rizvi, Annie, Aman among those detained

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a major crackdown police yesterday detained over 300 BNP leaders and activists, including six central leaders, following a clash in front of the party's Nayapaltan headquarters.

All of them were detained from near their party headquarters following a clash around 3:00pm between police and BNP men, that left one dead and over 30 injured.

The detained leaders included BNP's senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed; and Amanullah Aman and Abdus Salam, conveners of BNP's Dhaka city south and north units respectively, who are key organisers of the much-hyped rally.

BNP's Joint Secretary General Khairul Kabir Khokon, Publication Secretary Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annie, and Shimul Biswas, personal special assistant of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia were also among those detained. After the raid of the BNP office following the clash, Harun or Rashid, Dhaka Metropolitan Police additional commissioner (detective branch), told journalists that they detained over 300 people who were responsible for exploding bombs, vandalism and attacking police.

Many of the detainees were accused in different cases and there are arrest warrants against them, he said,

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DHK-SYL HIGHWAY EXPANSION RHD to hire firms with poor record

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The Roads and Highways Department is going to give two contractors with poor track records the job of implementing the Dhaka Sylhet highway expansion project.

The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase (CCGP) has approved their appointments for one of the project's six packages; and the RHD is expected to sign contracts with them today (Thursday), department sources said.

Sinohydro Engineering Bureau 8 Corporation Ltd, a subsidiary of Chinese firm Sinohydro, which earned a bad name for its work in the Dhaka-Chattogram highway expansion, is going to be awarded a Tk 576.05 crore contract.

Toma Construction & Company Ltd (TCCL), a local company accused of being being reluctant in several projects, along with a Turkish company, is going to be awarded a Tk 896.81 crore contract.

The RHD is implementing the Tk 16,918.59 crore project to turn the 210km Dhaka-Sylhet highway into a four-lane one by adding a service lane on each side.

The authorities decided to conduct implementation under six packages and hire 13 contractors for quick execution.

They have already signed contracts with two China-Bangladesh joint ventures to implement package-1.

The RHD placed its proposals before the CCGP following the tendering process to appoint the two contractors for package-6.

The CCGP on November 10 gave its approval.

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