



Police and ruling Awami League activists together, *top right*, chase BNP activists away so that they cannot carry out their sit-in programmes on Dhaka-Chattogram highway at Matuail on Saturday. AL activists and police did the same in other entrances to the capital. There was violence, vandalism, and arson. Many who were caught out by the violence had to run for cover, and walk miles to find transport. Teargas and stones were used to force BNP activists to retreat. Bus passengers and journalists on duty became the victims of the gas. Police picked up BNP standing committee member Gayeshwar Chandra Roy from Dholaikhal area. He was injured in the clash. The law enforcers took him away in a police van. BNP leader Amanullah Aman became ill in Gabtoli. He was taken to hospital from there.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN/PRABIR DAS/COLLECTED



Two journos sued under DSA in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

An editor and a reporter have been sued under the Digital Security Act in Savar yesterday.

Nazmus Sakib, the editor of Dainik Fulki and president of Savar Press Club, and Emdadul Haque, a reporter of daily Amader Notun Somoy, have been accused in the case filed by Shahinur Islam, a resident of Shyampur in Birulia Union of Savar.

According to the complaint, the Fulki on July 27 published a fabricated report under the headline "Asia's longest-serving prime minister is finally resigning" with a photo of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, said Dipak Chandra Saha, officer-in-charge of Savar Model Police Station.

Shahinur, the complainant, told our Savar correspondent that he is a reporter of a national daily named Amar Somoy.

The news for which he filed the case was published with an intent to tarnish the image of the media, he claimed.

Police are investigating the matter and looking for the accused, says OC Dipak.

Emdadul told The Daily Star that he left Fulki four years ago, and has no association with the newspaper.

He said he now works as the Savar correspondent of Amader Notun Somoy.

"It is absurd that I am charged for a report in a newspaper that I quit four years ago," he said.

Nazmus Sakib said the report in question was about the resignation of Cambodian prime minister, and Hasina's photo was printed due to an inadvertent mistake.

The newspaper published a corrigendum and an apology on July 28, he adds.

"The case has been filed under the Digital Security Act over this unintentional error. These acts may suppress the voice of journalism," he added.

Two found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Two bodies were recovered in Bakshiganj and Sadar upazilas of Jamalpur yesterday.

The deceased are Manna Mia, 18, of Ghasirpara village of Bakshiganj upazila, and Ibrahim Hossain, 86, of Jamira village of Sadar upazila in Jamalpur.

Sohel Rana, officer-in-charge of Bakshiganj Police Station, said Manna left home after dinner on Saturday night, but didn't return. Locals found his body hanging from a tree nearby his house yesterday morning and informed police.

In another incident, police recovered the body of Ibrahim from his younger brother's house, said OC Shah Newaz of Jamalpur Sadar Police Station.

2kg of heroin, yaba pills recovered, two held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Law enforcers in separate drives recovered 2kg of heroin and 50,000 yaba pills in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Two people were apprehended during the drives, law enforcers said.

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Narcotic Control Department in a joint raid arrested Mohammad Selim, 41, of Chiringa area of Chakaria upazila from a bus around 10:00am, said Lt Colonel Mohammad Saiful Islam Chowdhury, commanding officer of BGB 34 Battalion.

Around 2kg of heroin was recovered from his possession, he said.

In Ukhiya upazila, police recovered 50,000 yaba tablets and arrested Nurul Amin Bhutto, 24, raiding a village near the Myanmar border in the morning.

Cops sue over 600 BNP activists

FROM PAGE 1

The opposition party claimed over 300 of its leaders and workers were injured. Several vehicles were set on fire and around dozen others vandalised.

Mashiur Rahman Ranga, president of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Malik Samity, and its Secretary General Enayet Ullah in a statement yesterday claimed that seven vehicles were torched, while 24 were vandalised during BNP's sit-ins.

Md Sanaulah, driver of a Trisha Travels Bus that was torched in Matuail on Saturday, said three men on motorcycles ordered him to get off the bus before setting it ablaze with petrol.

"Will you get off the bus, or shall we set it on fire with you inside?" the driver quoted the arsonists as asking.

He immediately got out.

Asked about three people torching a bus in the presence of law enforcers, the home minister told journalists at the secretariat, "Police were able to catch the arsonists red-handed."

Clashes in some areas looked almost like "a joint operation" by AL leaders and police when they attacked BNP supporters, witnesses said.

Ruling party activists were seen attacking their rivals with sticks, rods and even hammers, they added.

Faruk Hossain, deputy commissioner (media) of DMP, said, "Awami League men took position at their party offices in a bid to protect the offices after BNP started the mayhem."

"They did not attack police, so I do not see any reason to file any case against them."

He said they would, however, scrutinise CCTV footages and if any ruling party member is found involved in violence, cases would be filed against them.

According to police documents, three cases were filed with Uttara East Police Station, two cases each with Uttara West and Jatrabari police stations, while one case each were filed with Kadamtali, Sutrapur, Airport, Bangshal, Darussalam and Demra police stations.

BNP leaders Nipun Roy Chowdhury, Aminul Haque, Nabiullah Nabi, Salah

Uddin Ahmed and Jubo Dal President Sultan Salahuddin Tuku are among the 628 named accused.

In the cases, police brought charges of illegal gatherings, carrying dangerous weapons, deteriorating law and order, attacking police with intent to kill, hurling crude bombs at law enforcers, vandalising and setting fire to public and police vehicles.

DHOLAIKHAL CLASH

Police tried to break up the gathering of BNP leaders and activists at Dholaikhal around 11:30am on Saturday when they tried to sit in.

BNP members were first seen retreating. But they regrouped later and many were seen chasing the cops away, which led to a 45-minute-long clash leaving several opposition activists injured.

BNP Standing Committee Member Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Senior Joint Secretary-General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, Dhaka division Joint Organising Secretary Abdus Salam, and other leaders were present at the spot.

Gayeshwar suffered a head injury after brick chips were thrown at him. Witnesses said that after he fell to the ground, police were seen beating him.

He was then taken to the Detective Branch of Police's Minto Road office, where he was given food and then dropped home in the afternoon.

Police also picked up BNP leader Amanullah Aman from the city's Gabtoli, where the party was observing one of their scheduled sit-ins.

However, as he fell sick after being picked up, he was taken to the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases for treatment.

Instructed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her Assistant Personal Secretary-2 Gazi Hafizur Rahman Liku visited Aman at the hospital and handed over lunch and a bouquet of various seasonal fruits and juices sent by the PM, according to a PMO press release.

ABDULLAHPUR ATTACKS

Soon after BNP supporters took out a procession from the BNS Centre in Uttara's Sector-7 around 11:30am, ruling party activists swooped on them

with sticks, iron rods and hammers. Police then joined in to disperse the opposition supporters.

Witnesses said it seemed "almost like a joint operation" by police and AL men against BNP activists, which left several opposition members injured.

The situation was "normal" after 1:00pm as police and AL members stood guard to chase away anyone from opposition.

MATUAIL MAYHEM

Matuail turned into a battleground as clashes erupted between BNP activists and ruling party activists, along with police, in and around the area.

The opposition initially planned their programme in front of Danila College at Jatrabari, but due to the huge presence of law enforcers and AL activists, they had to relocate to Matuail.

Witnesses reported that the first clash occurred around 11:30am between the cops and BNP members, who were holding a sit-in in front of the Institute of Child and Mother Health.

Police dispersed the protesters by firing tear gas shells and chasing them as they entered different alleys.

The clashes continued until 1:15pm in phases, and the traffic movement on the Dhaka Chattogram Highway was suspended till noon.

As the clashes came to an end, armoured police vehicles, including riot cars and Armed Personnel Carriers, were seen leaving the area.

Three buses, including a Gulistan-bound Swadesh Paribahan bus, a Turag Paribahan minibus, and a Trisha Travels bus, were torched at the spot.

SHYAMOLI CHAOS

Several vehicles, including a police van, were torched and vandalised in Dhaka's Shyamoli area during the sit-in there.

Witnesses said a group of people brought out a sudden procession, shouting slogans in favour of BNP around 1:00pm.

Meanwhile, in a press statement last night, BNP claimed that 650 of its activists were injured in Saturday's clash, while 250 other were arrested.

BNP weighing up options

FROM PAGE 1

The party held a huge rally at Nayapaltan on Friday, but the presence of party leaders and activists in Saturday's sit-ins was comparatively thin, party leaders said.

The sit-ins were also marred by violence, attacks and counter-attacks with police and ruling party activists.

Asked why the party went for sit-ins, BNP Standing Committee Member Abdul Moyeen Khan said that for the last one year, BNP has consistently demonstrated that it is fighting for the restoration of democracy.

"Thus, all our programmes have been absolutely peaceful and disciplined. What happened on Saturday was possibly an outburst of accumulated frustration and desperation on the part of those who have been protesting against cumulative persecution, intimidation, and extrajudicial terrorisation of

the opposition who want to restore democracy in the country," he said.

The BNP leader also said that besides, there should not be a need for permission for protesting against undemocratic activities of a government because this is a fundamental right of every citizen.

Earlier last week, BNP said it plans to continue the anti-government programmes till August 10 and pause for a while ahead of the National Day of Mourning on August 15, the day Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was killed along with most of his family members in 1975.

The party will resume their programmes on August 20, and the movement will intensify after that.

Party sources said there was a discussion within the party that programmes like sit-ins may come from Friday's rally, but they were not

aware where those will be.

One standing committee member delivered his speech early and then went to the party office to finalise the schedule of the sit-ins and distribute it among the other like-minded parties.

Party sources said they were not properly briefed about their role in the sit-ins. Initially, there were plans to stage the sit-ins at four points, but one more point was added later, and some senior leaders were communicated about it around midnight.

"Usually, programmes of this scale require a few days' preparations," one leader said.

BNP sources said they had a plan to assemble at least 20,000 party leaders at each of the five points. But although party supporters gathered in high numbers in Jatrabari and Nayabazar, their presence was comparatively thin in Gabtoli and Uttara.

July, deadliest month in 22 years

FROM PAGE 1

number of patients increases, deaths also go up.

Second-time dengue infection with a different strain is one of the reasons for the increasing number of deaths this year, she added.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said there were a large number of patients getting admitted to the hospital who are already suffering from dengue shock -- a critical stage of the disease.

The number has increased so much that these patients are now visiting his Mirpur private chamber, where they are advised immediate hospitalisation.

"This is for the first time I and my colleagues are seeing this...," Nazmul added.

There are many who cannot tell that they're having the symptoms and end up not getting hospitalised. These patients are most like to go into shock, he added.

Prof Nazmul said severe stomach aches, breathing difficulties, severe

weakness, bleeding from gums or nose, and vomiting are the signs that a patient needs to be hospitalised immediately.

"If a patient is not hospitalised within 24 hours, they may go to the stage of dengue shock syndrome," he said.

There are two types of dengue shocks -- compensated shocks and decompensated shocks. If a patient is hospitalised immediately after their compensated shock, they don't reach decompensated shock, where the chance to be cured is only 50 percent, he said.

"The patient's blood pressure may remain normal during a compensated shock, which is why many don't realise it. Some of the signs of compensated shock may include a drop in body temperature, increased heart rate, and increased breathing rate," Prof Nazmul added.

There are four types of dengue strains -- Den-1, Den-2, Den-3, Den-4 -- of which Den-2 and Den-3 are mostly active this year and the severity of these two types is high. This is also

a reason for so many deaths this year, he said.

The horror

FROM PAGE 1

referring to the torching of buses in the city yesterday.

The PM said this while opening 50 more newly constructed model mosques and Islamic cultural centres across the country in the fifth phase.

She inaugurated the mosques through a virtual inaugural ceremony from the Gono Bhaban.

Hasina said BNP does politics in the name of Islam but they have no sincerity towards religious work. Whatever BNP did, they did to show off, she said.

"You know their character. They are terrorists. You saw the arson violence even yesterday. They burnt a number of buses," she said, adding that they burnt running buses, trains, launches, offices and schools in 2013 and 2014 too.

The PM asked the people to remain vigilant so that such terrorists could not hurt the country again.