



BNP'S COUNTRYWIDE BLOCKADE

3 deaths, arson mark first day

18 cops among at least 66 hurt in clashes; long-haul buses mostly off highways

STAR REPORT

A clash between police and BNP men left two activists dead in Kishoreganj while a Jubo Dal leader fleeing police on a motorcycle died after crashing into a tree in Sylhet on the first day of BNP Jamaat's nationwide blockade yesterday.

Clashes involving the Awami League, the BNP and law enforcers were also reported in Bogura, Narayanganj and Manikganj. At least 66 people, including 18 policemen, were injured.

In the capital, four buses were set on fire near Jatiya Press Club, Postagola, Madhya Badda, and Basabo. Arsonists also set alight a lorry and three motorcycles in Bogura, several vehicles in Rajbari and a truck in Raiganj, Sirajganj, according to firefighters.

The BNP and Jamaat separately called the three-day countrywide blockade of roads, railways, and waterways in protest of what the parties said were police action on their events and arrests of activists.

The BNP also called hartal in Kishoreganj and Sylhet for today protesting the deaths of its activists.

Transport association leaders said long-haul bus services remained mostly suspended due to shortage of passengers. Buses on local and regional routes operated in small numbers.

The blockade also significantly reduced river traffic. Only train services remained unaffected.

In the capital, very few private vehicles were seen on the streets.

Most of the offices and a few educational institutions were open.

Teams of police, Border Guard Bangladesh, and Rab patrolled the roads and highways across the country.

In Kishoreganj's Kuliarchar upazila, Krishak Dal leader Billal Mia,

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Two women running for safety after police launched teargas at a group of garment factory workers demonstrating for better pay on Abdullahpur-Baipile road in Ashulia yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

BNP leaders Abbas, Alal held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Mirza Abbas and Joint Secretary General Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal were arrested in the capital's Shahjahanpur and Kathalbag areas last night.

Detective Branch chief Harun Or Rashid told The Daily Star that the two were taken to the DB office.

They were arrested in a case filed with Paltan Police Station on October 28 over the death of a police constable.

Police said the BNP leaders will be produced before a court today.

On Sunday, DB picked up BNP



Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir from his Gulshan home. He was later shown arrested in a case and a Dhaka court sent him to jail.

In Dhaka alone, more than 6,500 people have been sued in 37 cases on Sunday and Monday. Of them, 1,544 are named, according to police.

LT GEN (RETD) SARWADY DETAINED
Detectives yesterday held Lt Gen (retd) Chowdhury Hasan Sarwady

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PM snubs calls for talks with BNP

Says polls to be held on time; 'arsonists to be punished'

STAR REPORT

Ruling out the possibility of any dialogue with the BNP, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the people do not want any talks with the "killers".

Speaking at a press conference at the Gono Bhaban, she also reaffirmed that

proved through "resorting to violence" on October 28 that it is a "terrorist" party.

The premier threatened to go tough on the BNP if it did not stop the violence. She said those who burn buses would be identified, arrested, and punished.

"I think the hands they use to set a bus

Is Biden holding a dialogue with Mr Trump? The day Mr Trump and Biden hold talks, I will do as well.

Prime Minister
SHEIKH HASINA



the next general election will be held on time and no one can stop it.

The event was organised to brief the media about the outcome of the PM's recent visit to Belgium, reports UNB and BSS.

Hasina denounced the recent "violent activities by the BNP-Jamaat" in the name of an anti government movement. She said the BNP has once again

on fire should be burned immediately. If this is done, they will learn a lesson, else not," the PM said responding to a query.

Hasina said if the BNP do not stop, they will face the consequences. "These won't be allowed to go unpunished. As a terrorist party, they need to get a good lesson.

"The BNP actually does not want an election. They want to create an unusual situation."

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Ensure escort for trucks

Govt asks DCs to secure supply chain during blockade

BAHRAM KHAN

The government has given six special directives to the deputy commissioners (DCs) with the view to maintaining the supply chain of food, essential items and medicines at any cost during the ongoing blockade.

The DCs were asked to ensure police escort at the "vulnerable" districts for transporting food-laden trucks to Dhaka and the other major cities. The Daily Star has learnt from officials of the home ministry and cabinet division with knowledge of the development.

Five more directives were sent out to the DCs as well as eight divisional commissioners on Monday following a meeting at the home ministry with Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan in the chair.

The high officials of the field administration who head the core committee at the districts and divisions were asked to hold meetings at their respective committees.

They were asked to ensure the presence of security forces at every bus and railway station. If possible, two members of Ansar and village police can be deployed every four kilometres.

The government asked the field level officials to increase vigilance on rail stations and rail lines through Ansars

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BETTER-PAY DEMO Outsiders attack RMG workers in Mirpur factory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over two dozen workers of an Epyllion Group factory in Mirpur-11 were injured as unidentified outsiders allegedly entered their workplace and assaulted them with rods during a silent protest for higher minimum wages yesterday.

The Daily Star spoke to dozens of eyewitnesses and victims who confirmed the attack.

However, Reazuddin Al Mamoon, chairman of Epyllion Group, claimed that no outsiders could have entered the factory and that the workers fought among themselves.

As of the filing of this report at 8:30pm, law enforcers were yet to inspect the CCTV footage of the factory to determine what had really happened.

The workers further alleged that when they were protesting on the streets the previous day (Monday), ruling party activists came to the area and threatened to beat them with rods if they did not return to work.

They claimed Tajul Islam Bappi, councillor of Dhaka North City Corporation ward-6, was present there.

Yesterday, workers showed up but abstained from working. Some of them said they refused to work until the

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Tigers' freefall not just the batters' making

AL-AMIN



There was a lot of discussion in the Bangladesh camp about how to stop the slide ahead of the Pakistan game at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata yesterday.

But those pep talks had little impact in arresting the freefall, which saw the Tigers slump to their sixth straight defeat in this World Cup, with Pakistan romping to a seven-wicket victory.

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Captain Shakib Al Hasan leads a dejected Bangladesh team out of the ground following their seven-wicket defeat against Pakistan - their sixth defeat in seven matches in the ongoing World Cup - at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh first to get knocked out

MAZHAR UDDIN from Kolkata

Bangladesh's abysmal run in the ICC World Cup continued yesterday with a seven-wicket defeat against Pakistan in Kolkata. The result means the Tigers became the first team whose semifinals dream was dashed in the 10-team tournament.

Batting failure was on display once again at the Eden Gardens, playing a significant role in Bangladesh's sixth consecutive defeat. Pakistan, on the other hand, will be relieved to have finally returned to winning ways following four successive defeats.

Bangladesh bowlers looked helpless in the evening as Pakistan easily chased down a 205-run target with a whopping 17.3 overs to spare, riding on a flying 128-run opening stand between Fakhar Zaman and Abdullah Shafique. Mehedi Hasan Miraz took all three Pakistan wickets but it only delayed the inevitable.

Earlier, Bangladesh started the game with the boost of winning the toss. Choosing to bat first was the way to go but the Tigers were soon in troubled waters, having lost three inside six overs with just 23 runs on the board.

First to depart was Tanzid Hasan Tamim when he was trapped in front by Shaheen Shah Afridi to become his 100th ODI scalp. Najmul Hossain Shanto and Mushfiqur Rahim came and went in quick succession, with the latter not being able to capitalise on his promotion in the batting order. Mushfiqur, however, was undone by a superb Haris Rauf delivery.

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