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## A dream shot down by pellets

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Asif Hasan dreamed of completing his studies and becoming a government administration cadre officer.

That dream, however, is never to come true, as the fourth semester English student of Northern University, lost his life to shotgun pellets lodged in his chest.

He and at least eight others were killed and several hundreds were injured during the violent clashes between quota reform protesters and law enforcers, who were assisted by ruling Awami League activists, in the capital's Uttara on Thursday.

Asif's father, who lost his wife to a motorcycle accident in March 2013, has been silenced by numbness, Moniruzzaman, the victim's cousin and a teacher of Hadipur Ahsania High School, told The Daily Star over phone yesterday.

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Smoke fills the sky as a building of the Directorate General of Health Services burns in Mohakhali yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Lives upended by internet shutdown

STAR REPORT

Thirty-two-year old Uttarkhan resident Noorjahan Kabir runs a Facebook-based business, for which she needs to pay her supplier weekly.

"I was supposed to pay him this [yesterday] morning, but was unable to access the bKash app without a working internet connection. Meanwhile, my supplier got concerned as he is dependent on the payments from online vendors like me to run his family."

Finding no other way, Noorjahan sent her husband to withdraw money from a nearby ATM around 11:00am. However, he came back empty-handed as the booth too was facing network issues.

Like her, people all over the country have been struggling to access essential services that rely on the internet to function, including digital money transactions, digital utility bill payments, online communication, and mobile credit recharge.

Senior photojournalist Sheikh Enam, from the capital's Mugda area, "I was supposed to pay my prepaid gas and electricity bills by today. There's no way to pay these bills with cash."

"If the meters run out, there will be no

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## Essentials' prices spiral as supply chain disrupted

SUKANTA HALDER

The ongoing unrest centering the quota reform movement has ruptured the supply chain of essentials and other commodities, causing their prices to soar.

Take the case of Mohammad Rajib, an onion wholesaler at Karwan Bazar. He had three truckloads of onions sent from Magura and Rajbari to Dhaka but only one truck reached the capital.

Like Rajib, almost all onion suppliers are on the same boat. Subsequently, the price of the local variety of onion has ticked up by Tk 2 a kg to Tk 100 in Dhaka's kitchen markets.

"If the situation persists, the price will go up every day," Rajib said.

Yusuf Bepary, a potato wholesaler at the same market, said he has been trying to bring the tuber from Bogura and Rajbari for the last two days as he could not find a truck even after agreeing to pay a substantial premium.

Usually the fare is Tk 18,000; now, it has gone up to Tk 24,000.

Yet, Yusuf could not find a trucker to come to Dhaka amid the countrywide blockade and violence.

Similarly, Mohammad Faruk, a rice wholesaler at Mirpur-1 kitchen market, was desperately searching for a truck to

**Mohammad Rajib, an onion wholesaler at Karwan Bazar, had three truckloads of onions sent to Dhaka from Magura and Rajbari but only one truck reached the capital.**

bring the rice he brought from Noagaon, Dinajpur and Kushtia.

Although the price of rice is yet to increase, Faruk is expecting it to go up if the current deadlock continues until next week.

Belayet Hossain, a wholesaler of pulse, oil, flour and sugar at the same market, said he could get any product from dealers since Thursday night.

"If the situation does not improve within Saturday, then the prices of products will go up," he said.

This correspondent found that chicken, fish and vegetables became dearer at Dhaka's kitchen markets yesterday.

Mohammad Rubel, a broiler chicken trader at Duaripara bazar, said the price has increased by Tk 10 to Tk 15 per kg in a day.

Due to supply shortage, the prices of fish such as rui, katla, hilsa have increased by Tk 100 to Tk 150 per kg, said Awlad Hossain, a fish trader at Hatirpool kitchen market.

The strike has affected the supply of commodities causing shortage of products, said Murtoza Zaman, chief executive of Unimart, one of the leading supermarkets with eight outlets.

"Our staff cannot come to the stores — three of our employees have been injured during clashes," he said.

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## QUOTA PROTESTS HC judge tasked with probing deaths

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman, a High Court judge, has taken the responsibility of the commission formed to probe the deaths and criminal activities during the quota protest across the country.

He will talk to the officials concerned of the coordination and reforms unity under the Cabinet Division tomorrow in this regard.

As the head, Justice Diliruzzaman is expected to visit the places of occurrences soon and complete the inquiry in 30 working days, Md Shafiqul Islam, public relations officer of the Supreme Court, told The Daily Star yesterday.

On Thursday, the government formed the one-member commission.

Cabinet Secretary Md Mahbub Hossain the same day issued a notification to this effect.

The coordination and reforms unity of the cabinet unit will provide the commission with secretarial assistance.

The commission will find the reasons behind the deaths of six persons on July 16 and identify those responsible for the deaths and recent incidents of violence, arson, lootings, and criminal activities, the notification said, adding that it will come into effect immediately.

Earlier in the day, Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan nominated the name of Justice Diliruzzaman as the member of the commission following a request from the law ministry, Law Secretary Md Golam Sarwar told The Daily Star.

## Horror engulfs Badda, Rampura as bullets fly

ASIFUR RAHMAN, MASHFIQ MIZAN, NAFIS ALMAS SIAM, and AHMED DEEPTO

It was absolute mayhem in Rampura and Badda areas yesterday.

Quota protesters clashed with police and BGB personnel since morning to dusk, leaving at least 13 killed and over 500 injured. Many of the victims had bullet and shotgun pellet wounds on the upper part of their bodies.

These correspondents visited the areas between Rampura and Mouchak yesterday and found all alleys blocked by the demonstrators with tree trunks and electricity poles.

Many teenagers were seen joining the protesters.

The situation took a turn for worse after Juma prayers as BGB opened fire on demonstrators who were marching towards the Rampura Bridge.

In retaliation, the demonstrators hurled brick chunks at police and BGB personnel. Some of them were seen vandalising CCTV cameras in front of buildings and shops.

Police and BGB personnel were stationed in front of BTV building. They had to deal with protesters from five sides — Mouchak, Banasree, Aftabnagar, Badda, and Hatirjheel.

The clashes continued until 7:30pm. The demonstrators burnt tyres and rubbish on the street and vandalised a few shops.

The agitators vandalised and set fire to the PBI office in Banasree. They also ransacked the Rampura Police Station.

Between 3:30pm and 5:00pm, demonstrators from Badda area attempted to get to the Rampura Bridge at least five times, but they had to retreat in the face of firing by law enforcers.

A group of agitators were seen throwing brick chunks at law enforcers from in front of East West University at Aftabnagar.

Some locals were seen providing the demonstrators with drinking water. They also gave old cloths, which the agitators burnt to save themselves from the teargas.

BGB used bullets, hundreds of teargas canisters, and sound grenades to disperse the protesters.

The doctors in at least three hospitals nearby said most of the patients they received were shot by real bullets, not rubber bullets.

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## Glitch causes global tech outage

Millions affected as airlines, businesses, emergency services hit

CNN ONLINE

An enormous IT outage hit hard banks, grocery stores, TV networks, airlines and even emergency services across the world causing suffering to millions yesterday.

The problem occurred when cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike was conducting a software update of its popular product Falcon Cybersecurity Software, said its CEO.

The company stressed that the issue was not due to a cyberattack. The CEO of the firm said the system was sent an update and that update had a software bug in it and caused a problem with Microsoft operating system.

"We identified this very quickly and remedied the issue. As the system came back online, it rebooted and working. And now we are working with each and every customer to bring their service back online," he said.

The Falcon is used by numerous fortune 500 companies including Microsoft. CrowdStrike also provides cyberattacks investigation.

## Scores hurt as Islami Andolan activists clash with cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The capital's Purana Paltan area turned into a battleground yesterday as activists of the Islami Andolan Bangladesh and Gana Sanghati Andolan clashed with police, leaving scores injured.

Sporadic clashes between the political party activists and law enforcers took place for about five hours from 11:30am.

The BNP and Islami Andolan were scheduled to hold rallies in front of the Jatiya Press Club and Baitul Mukarram, respectively, at 3:00pm to express solidarity with the ongoing student movement demanding reforms to quotas in government jobs.

A procession of Gana Sanghati Andolan, led by Chief Coordinator Zonayed Saki, marched towards the Jatiya Press Club around 11:30am.

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Palestinians mourn a relative killed in an Israeli strike, at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Prisoners escape after Narsingdi jail comes under attack

### Firearms looted from armoury

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Several hundred people yesterday afternoon attacked the Narsingdi district jail and set its main building on fire, leading to the escape of a large number of prisoners.

There were 826 prisoners in the jail.

Witnesses said the attackers, carrying sticks and iron roads, broke open the main entrance to the jail around 5:00pm.

They broke a part of the boundary wall, vandalised the office of the jail superintendent and set ablaze the main building.

Abul Kalam Azad, jail superintendent of Narsingdi, last night said, "We could not stop the attack as only eight guards were on duty at that time. The attackers broke into the armoury and looted firearms."

Asked how many inmates fled, he said they could not ascertain the number till 9:00pm.

Azad said they did not get support from the law enforcers on time.

Mustafizur Rahman, superintendent of police in Narsingdi, said, "Soon after hearing about the incident, we sent a police team to the jail. But criminals put up barricades on their way to the prison at different places."

He said that they were trying to take the situation under control.

Till the filing of this report around 10:00pm, gunshots were heard in the jail area every 10 to 15 minutes.