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Won't spare BNP-Jamaat this time: PM

Businesses urge quick restoration of normalcy

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday warned that the government will not spare the "BNP-Jamaat clique" this time so easily like in the past, reports UNB.

"They are trying to carry out terrorist activities during the curfew. Who are these people? They are not unknown faces. You saw BNP extended its support, and convicted criminal Tarique Rahman who tried to kill me through grenade attack gave the order [to carry out violence]," she said.

Branding Islami Chhatra Shibir as a militant organisation, she accused it of being involved in destruction in a planned way.

The PM made the remarks during a meeting with leading businesspeople at her office.



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The burnt wreckage of 30 garbage trucks and other vehicles parked at the DNCC zone-4 office in the capital's Mirpur-10. The vehicles and the office were torched on July 18 and since then, garbage has been piling up on many city streets.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

4hr break in curfew from 1pm in Dhaka, 4 other dists
General holiday today as well

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to continue the nationwide curfew until further notice and to give a four-hour break from 1:00pm today in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur, Narsingdi and Sylhet.

In Barishal, the curfew will be relaxed from 11:00am to 5:00pm, and in Chattogram, the break will be from 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

In other districts and metropolitan areas, magistrates and police commissioners will decide on the curfew breaks.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal made the announcements at a press conference at his Dhanmondi residence last night.

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'Normalcy to return soon'

The army chief urges cooperation from all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Army Chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman yesterday said normalcy will return to the country soon with everyone's help.

"We think the situation has started to improve within 48 hours of the deployment [of the armed forces]," he told journalists in front of Sheikh Russel Skating Complex after inspecting various places across the city.

"If we can work together, we will be able to improve the situation further," he said thanking the media for their objective coverage.

"We want your cooperation," he added. Noting that the destruction of public property is beyond description, General Waker said it could take a few more days to return to the normal way of life.

"I don't know how much longer it will take to recover from the losses. I cannot



Waker-Uz-Zaman

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Quota reforms on PM's table for final nod

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The public administration ministry yesterday afternoon sent a proposal to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for making 93 percent recruitments in the civil service on merit and the rest from quotas.

The ministry also recommended that the reformed quota system be applicable to recruitments for 9-20 grades in government, semi government, and autonomous bodies, said Public Administration Minister Farhad Hossain.

He told The Daily Star that the reformed quota system would be applicable to appointments that require recruitment tests.

Public administration ministry officials, however, said the PM would decide whether the new quota system would be applicable to recruitments for grade 9-20 or grade 1-20.

The appointments in grade 9 to 20 are made through recruitment tests.

There are 20 grades in government jobs. The quota system was applicable to grade 13-20, following a 2018 government circular that

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Public Administration Minister Farhad Hossain last night aborted a press briefing twice, held a meeting with ministry officials, and then deferred announcement on circular until today.

6 more hurt in previous days' clashes die

At least 146 dead so far

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six more people, who were injured during the previous days' clashes between agitators and law enforcers, died yesterday, said police and hospital authorities.

Four died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital having suffered either bullet or shotgun pellet injuries, according to the hospital's death register and police.

Three of the four deceased were identified as Rasel, 20, Azizul Mia, and Razu, 36. The other person who died at DMCH was an unidentified person, aged around 35.

Besides, police received two bodies from the National Institute of Neuroscience and Hospital and sent those to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College morgue for autopsies, said Ahad Ali, officer-in-charge of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station.

They were injured in clashes that broke out in Uttara and Gulshan areas in the previous few days, he said.

With yesterday's deaths, at least 146 lives have been lost since last Tuesday, when six people were killed in violence.

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Parts of Dhaka left charred

MD ABBAS and SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The six burnt cars that lie at the entrance to the Department of Disaster Management at Mohakhali can hardly give a sense of the scale of destruction inside the 11-storey building.

In the parking space alone, there were 50 other private cars and minibuses -- all burnt to the skeleton. The acrid smell of the charred vehicles and other objects wafted through the air in the small space. A sub-station, an emergency response coordination centre and a resting room for Ansar members on the ground floor too were burnt down.

Lifts; transmitters used for making contact during natural calamities; television screens; computers; air conditioners -- nothing was spared.

The entire building, now enveloped in darkness, came under attack on July 18.

"Nothing was left untouched by the fire," said Mahub Rahman, a DMD staffer who saw it all first-hand, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said around 200 miscreants, carrying sticks, suddenly appeared around 4:00pm that day and started throwing brick chunks at the building. Those at the front of the line, he said, appeared to be aged under 18.

"Within a minute, they started vandalising the cars, and poured petrol on them and set them on fire. Three on-duty Ansar members stationed there were helpless. The mindless destruction went on for

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The organisers of the [quota reform] movement have vehemently denied any protesting student's involvement in the destruction.

BUSINESS

Pharma production disrupted

Production and distribution of medicines have been disrupted for the last four days due to violence centring the quota reform movement and the curfew imposed by the government, drug makers said yesterday.

Industry operators said they were unable to receive imported raw materials from Chattogram port and Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport as customs assessment and clearance was suspended for the ongoing internet blackout.

This may subsequently affect drug exports too, they added.

STORY ON PAGE 7



DON'T TAKE BABA AWAY! ... Little Tayeba runs after the prison van that is carrying her father to jail, while her mother, Mona, tries to stop her. Mizan, a CNG driver, was arrested from their home in the capital's Jatrabari in a violence case on Sunday night. He was produced before the CMM court, which sent him to jail yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

ONGOING VIOLENCE

More than 1,400 arrested in three days

Scores of BNP, Jamaat men among them; raids going on in Dhaka, elsewhere

STAR REPORT

Law enforcers have arrested 1,427 people across the country over the last three days in connection with the recent violence.

Of them, 692 were held in the capital alone and the rest in 16 districts.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police has been conducting block raids since Sunday to arrest suspects, said DMP Commissioner Habibur Rahman.

"We are looking for conspirators and criminals hiding in nearby places," the DMP chief told journalists while visiting the capital's Jatrabari yesterday.

Around 50 cases were filed with different police stations in the capital in the last few days accusing 20,000 unidentified people of resorting to violence, Habibur said.

Police said 735 people were arrested in 16 districts over the last three days. They were accused in 43 cases filed over violence.

Of them, 98 were held in Chattogram, 50 in Dhaka district, 35 in Sylhet, 10 in Patuakhali, 120 in Narayanganj, 42 in Kushtia, 33 in Barishal, 104 in Tangail, 59 in Khulna, 10 in Jamalpur, 33 in Mymensingh, nine in Pirojpur, 47

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