



Block raids unnerve city residents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

City residents, still reeling from the shocks of deaths and destructions over the quota protests, are now feeling a fresh wave of fear.

Almost every day, a column of vehicles carrying law enforcers reaches some neighbourhoods, in some cases after sundown. Members of different forces jump off their vehicles, quickly cordon off the area and take position at different points. In some cases, their left hands grip the gun barrels with the right hand index fingers placed on the triggers.

An announcement through a megaphone hits the building walls and reverberates through the area: Go inside your home, don't try to come out.

Panicked, locals do as they are told – a block raid begins.

Soon, internet connections at targeted homes get snapped and street lights go off one by one. Only the searchlights mounted on the law enforcers' vehicles light parts of the area. In the next one to two hours, additional forces are called in, who then split into different groups and start raiding different houses.

This is how residents of at least eight areas in the capital shared their experience to The Daily Star.

“Before conducting a drive, we collect the digital footprint and information provided by local sources including the ruling party men to identify the troublemakers and trace their whereabouts.”

A police officer, requesting anonymity.

The raids are creating further worries among the residents whose trauma is still fresh from the deaths of at least 162 people (according to this newspaper's count; actual figure could be much higher) in recent violence centring the quota protest.

The eight areas that saw such raids are Matuail, Shanir Akhra, Jatrabari, Kajla, Bashundhara, Shahinbagh, Mirpur DOHS, ECB Chhattar and Matikata.

During the raid, law enforcers knock on the door, get inside and arrest anyone suspected to have been involved in violence or were in contact with any troublemakers, police and locals said.

Joint forces have been conducting the block raids in different areas of the capital and other parts of the country to arrest those suspected to have been involved in the violence centring the quota protests.

STUDENTS ARE TOP TARGET

Till yesterday police confirmed 2,536 arrests while Rab arrested 71 in the capital alone.

“Before conducting a drive, we collect the digital footprint and information provided by local sources including the ruling party men

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Hasnatul Islam Faiyaz, a first-year HSC student of Dhaka College, is tied up with ropes as cops take him back to jail on a seven-day remand after he was produced before the CMM's Court in the capital. Hasnatul was picked up from his Jatrabari home on Wednesday night in connection with a case filed over recent violence.

PROTEST ORGANISERS 2 more in DB custody 'for their security'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday took two more organisers of the quota reform movement – Sarjis Alam and Hasnat Abdullah – into their custody.

Junaed Alam Sarker, additional deputy commissioner of the Detective Branch of police, told The Daily Star that they took the two into custody “to ensure their security and to get information

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

INTERNET OUTAGE, CURFEW Default loans to soar, banks' profit to dip

MD MEHEDI HASAN

Bankers are dreading a big drop in their profits as their defaulted loans are likely to increase further due to the curfew and the five-day internet blackout.

The defaulted loans are likely to increase further as business people are suffering due to the ongoing unrest, said Naser Ezaz Bijoy, chief executive officer (CEO) of Standard Chartered Bangladesh.

At the end of March, total defaulted loans stood at a record Tk 182,295 crore, which is 11.10 percent of total disbursed credit, as per the latest published data of the central bank.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



It was a plot to cripple the economy

Says PM while visiting wounded in Nitor

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the recent violence in the country was part of a conspiracy to reduce Bangladesh to a nation of beggars by crippling the economy.

She said this after visiting the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedic Rehabilitation (Nitor), popularly known as Pangu hospital, in the capital.

Hasina, also the chief of Awami League, once again said it is up to the country's people to try the culprits who were behind the deadly violence.

“So many families have been affected. Who is responsible for this?” she asked.

She narrated how the BNP-Jamaat alliance unleashed a reign of terror and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Hold law enforcers accountable for wrongdoings

14 foreign missions urge govt

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

In a letter to Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud, 14 foreign missions in Dhaka urged the protection of human rights and fair trials for those arrested in the wake of last week's violent clashes.

They also expressed deep concern over the casualties and destruction of public properties during the unrest centring the student protests demanding reform to government job quotas, diplomatic sources said.

The joint letter sent to the foreign

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

MORE NEWS

China's teen duo grabs first gold P15

An entity with serious cracks P12

Yasin wakes in pain, every time P3

BIZLI CABLES

German Based AI Supported CCV Line

Capacity 11 kV, 33 kV and 66 kV (Max 1600 RM)

CPRI and BUET (Capacity and Competence) Certified

www.bizli.com.bd | Toll Free: 0800 777 7777

Syed Abdus Samad, Ph.D.

December 23, 1942 - July 28, 2021

Your presence may not be with us, but you will always remain in our hearts and prayers. Your exceptional honesty, extensive knowledge, dedication, confidence, vision, kindness, and compassion will never be forgotten. May Allah SWT forgive you and grant you Jannatul Ferdous.

With heartfelt prayers,
Syeda Amatul Mowla (Sister),
Friends, Colleagues, Well-wishers
and Other Family Members

NON STOP Connected All The Time

FASTEST 4G | **banglalink**

৳97 Validity 7 Days	115 Minute	৳167 Validity 30 Days	175 Minute
৳297 Validity 30 Days	400 Minute	Dial *121*2# or Visit MyBL App	

For emergency balance, dial *121*5# or visit MyBL App

Also, to recharge, dial *247# (bKash), *167# (Nagad), *322# (Rocket), or *268# (Upay)

*Conditions applied