



PHOTO: COLLECTED, RASHED SHUMON, UDAY CHANDRA BURMAN, PALASH KHAN

Photos capture moments from fierce clashes that erupted across the country on the first day of the nationwide non-cooperation movement announced by the Anti-Discrimination Students' Movement yesterday. Clockwise from bottom left, agitators swoop on The Daily Star's photojournalist Amran Hossain at the BSMMU. Protesters and ruling party supporters clash in the capital's Paltan. Two police vehicles burn inside Dinajpur Sadar Police Station. A child suffered shotgun pellet injuries to his arm and torso in front of Shimanto Square in the capital's Dhanmondi. The body of Rangpur district unit Swechhasebak League member Khairul Islam Sabuj being taken to a hospital after he was killed in violence in the city's Supermarket area.

At least 93 dead as violence grips the country

FROM PAGE 1
dangerous phase after at least 208 people were killed in indiscriminate firing by law enforcers, members of Border Guard Bangladesh and ruling party activists, in a spasm of violence from July 16 to August 3.

Tension in Bangladesh has been simmering since Saturday night, following AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader's announcement that the ruling party activists would be on the streets to maintain their positions against protesters.

In Dhaka, some areas felt like battlefields yesterday as police, ruling party activists and protesters engaged in three-way violence at Farmgate, Dhanmondi, Mirpur 10, Uttara, Shahbagh and Gulistan.

Hundreds of ruling party supporters wielding sticks walked down Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue towards the Karwan Bazar intersection around 12:50pm, raising fears of violence.

The road stretching from Farmgate to Bangla Motor resembled a "battlefield" as police and ruling party men fired indiscriminately on a huge crowd of protesters, who were advancing towards Farmgate with sticks in hand. They were also carrying drums and plastic traffic barriers to the protest site. At times, they threw brickbats at the police and Awami League supporters along the way.

A clash broke out between protesters and ruling party men near the Awami League office in the capital's Dhanmondi around 12:30pm when protesters from Dhanmondi 2 moved to Dhanmondi 3. Sounds of gunshots and stun grenades rang out in the area.

Most shopping malls, shops, bank branches and other establishments were closed. Public transport disappeared from the streets, forcing people to walk home or to workplaces, while long-haul buses and trains suspended their services.

In Old Dhaka, a clash between police and protesters halted proceedings at the

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court premises.

Over a hundred protesters, along with pro-BNP lawyers, broke a collapsible gate to the court premises, which the police had cordoned off since morning. The protesters threw brickbats at the doors and windows in the court area, witnesses said. Two prison vans and two police cars were vandalised by unidentified people as violence broke out.

The Shahbagh intersection was on edge after rival groups gathered since morning, leading to a violent clash. Both groups barged into the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University premises and engaged in another round of clashes. At least 24 vehicles were set on fire with black smoke billowing skywards.

Meanwhile, the Mirpur 10 intersection turned into a hotspot as protesters arrived in droves. AL men, some of them with firearms, had already occupied the area, backed by police. Numerous gunshots rang out, sending panic through the area.

VIOLENCE BEYOND DHAKA
In Laxmipur, eight people were killed and 100 others were wounded in a clash between protesters and members of Jobo League and Chhatra League, police said. Three of the victims suffered gunshots, while five were beaten dead.

In Narsingdi, at least six AL leaders were beaten to death and several others injured in a clash between AL supporters and protesters. The incident took place in front of a mosque next to the Madhabdi Municipal Building, according to KM Shahidul Islam Shohag, additional superintendent of police.

In Feni, at least eight people were killed in clashes as Awami League men attacked protesters. Several people were injured in the incident, reports our correspondent. Their identities could not be immediately confirmed.

In the northern city of Rangpur, four people died in clashes. Abdul Jalil, an

official of the Rangpur Medical College and Hospital, confirmed two of the deaths.

One of the dead was identified as Haradhan Roy, president of the Parshuram Thana Awami League and councillor of Ward 4 in Rangpur city. The second man was his driver whose name could not be known.

In Sylhet, four people were shot dead and at least 25, including policemen and members of Border Guard Bangladesh, were injured in a clash. One of the deceased was identified as Taj Uddin, 43, a businessman of Dharabohor village in Sylhet's Golapganj upazila.

Meanwhile, protesters and police clashed around 12:00pm, half an hour after hundreds of demonstrators gathered at the Court Point area in Sylhet city. Police fired shotguns, tear shells and stun grenades to disperse the protesters.

In Bogura, separate clashes left at least five people dead and many others injured, with 32 hospitalised.

One of them, Manirul Islam, 24, was shot dead as police opened fire on protesters after they attacked Dupchanchia Police Station. He was brought dead to a local hospital, according to a doctor. Besides, two others were brought dead to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College in Bogura.

"It seems they died of gunshot wounds. But we could not confirm it," Abdul Wadud, deputy director of the hospital, told The Daily Star. At least 32 people are currently undergoing treatment at the hospital.

In Pabna, at least three people were killed and 50 others injured during a clash between protesters and ruling party men. One person was brought dead, while two others died of their injuries at the Pabna Sadar Hospital, said its assistant director, Rafiqul Hasan.

In Munshiganj, at least three persons were killed and 20 others injured near

the Super Market area.

Abu Hena Mohammad Jamal, superintendent of Munshiganj General Hospital, said two persons were brought dead and many were hospitalised with injuries. The doctors, however, could not give details on the nature of the injuries.

Police did not open fire, Munshiganj Additional Superintendent of Police Khairul Hasan said, adding that he was unaware of any casualty.

In Magura, at least four people were killed and 20 others were injured in clashes that involved protesters on one side and police and ruling party men on the other.

In Kishoreganj, at least three people, including a woman, were killed and over 100 injured in a clash between protesters and AL activists.

Witnesses reported that the AL office was vandalised and set on fire during the conflict. Subsequently, the protesters blocked the road for three hours.

In Cumilla's Debidwar upazila, three persons were killed and several others were injured in a clash. One of them was Md Rubel, 33, who was rushed to a local hospital with a head injury, where a doctor declared him dead.

The clash started as AL supporters attacked protesters with sharp weapons in the New Market area in Debidwar upazila.

In Chattogram, at least 172 people have been admitted to Chattogram Medical College Hospital, after they were wounded with bullets in a clash between protesters, police and AL activists.

In Khulna, unidentified people torched the Khulna Zilla parishad office.

In Faridpur, the district Awami League office was vandalised, while a BCL office was torched allegedly by protesters. The protesters also set fire to 10 motorcycles in front of the district AL office in the town. Besides, police fired rubber bullets, sound grenades and teargas shells when the Kotwali Police Station was attacked.

Clashes spill over into BSMMU

FROM PAGE 1
chunks back at them, witnesses said, adding that around 11:30am, some unidentified people got inside the hospital through the main entrance, and set at least two dozen vehicles on fire and damaged several others.

Around 11:50am, this correspondent found at least 10 cars and 14 motorcycles set ablaze. Two ambulances, eight cars belonging to doctors, and one microbus were vandalised.

The office of the hospital's basic medical science building and various office equipment and valuables were also damaged.

Requesting anonymity, a driver of a hospital vehicle said, "A group of people carrying sticks and rods torched and vandalised the cars outside."

"During the clash, one of the groups was about to vandalise around 40 vehicles parked underground. They left at the

drivers' request. We're too scared to leave the hospital," he told this correspondent around 5:30pm.

The mural of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the hospital was smeared with black spray paint and its nameplate was removed.

The whole incident caused panic among the patients, attendants, doctors and staffers.

Speaking to The Daily Star, a patient's relative Rumina Islam said, "I went outside the hospital to get some food. Around five to six people charged at me to attack and I ran back inside... I've never been in a more frightening situation in my life."

Didar Hossain, a patient, said, "I've been in the hospital for treatment. I saw from my room that around 30 people were attacking different parts of the building. We all [patients] locked our rooms from fear."

Resist the saboteurs

FROM PAGE 1
The one-point demand for ouster of the government is the demand of BNP-Jamaat conspirators.

"Don't destroy the country's stability and state properties. We don't want conflict, we want peace. Everyone will have to behave responsibly," said Nanak, adding that the leader of the ongoing movement will have to take the responsibility for all the killings and violence.

He added that yesterday's violence was caused by cadres of BNP, Jamaat, Chhatra Dal, and Shibir.

He urged the parents not to be confused by the propaganda and keep children at home.

The AL also postponed a mourning procession, which was supposed to be

held from the Engineers Institute to Bangabandhu Bhaban on Dhanmondi 32 today over the curfew.

At another briefing, Mohammad Ali Arafat, state minister for information, said the government was willing to resolve the crisis through talks, but "if the terrorists carry out violence, the law will be enforced," he told reporters at a briefing on Jatiya Sagsad Bhaban premises, reports BSS.

The student movement has lost its direction and now it has turned into terrorism and violence, he said.

The judicial commission has invited the foreign experts to help in the investigation process to ensure full transparency of the probe, Arafat said, adding that the perpetrators will be brought to justice.

13 cops killed in attack

FROM PAGE 1
Police sources said eight bodies were found near a mosque, three in a pond, and one in a field. Another body was found hanging from a tree. Most of the bodies did not have any shirts on.

"We are verifying how many people were on duty at the police station and whether anyone is missing," Hannan said.

At least 15 policemen of the station were admitted to a hospital and 20 others had primary treatment.

He said police took control of the station with the help of the army around 7:00pm.

Locals said a group of protesters were marching in the morning when police dispersed them by firing shots and teargas. This enraged locals and the protesters who around 1:00pm attacked the police station.

In Eliotganj, the agitators attacked the police station around 1:30pm, said police headquarters. They assaulted policemen and set fire to the station. Many policemen went to the roof of the station to save themselves.

Highway DIG Eastern Zone Khairul Alam told The Daily Star that constable Ershad was killed.

Firearms kept at the Hatikumrul Highway Police Station in Sirajganj were looted and the station was set on fire, said Officer-in-Charge Abdul Wadud.

He said numerous protesters suddenly attacked the police station and beat up policemen. He could not say how many firearms were taken.

In Netrakona, police sources said criminals attacked and looted a vehicle carrying arms and ammunition from the police lines.

Several high officials at the police headquarters yesterday said they have never seen such attacks on police.

At least 300 police personnel were injured in attacks on establishments belonging to the police.

The police headquarters said at least four offices of the superintendents of police, 20 police stations, two police outposts, and a range office were vandalised and torched.

They said the SP offices in

Houses of 2 ministers, 9 MPs come under attack

FROM PAGE 1
Bangla road known as "Sheikh Bari", was ransacked once at noon, and then again at 3:30pm.

In addition, the district's AL office and the district magistrate's office were ransacked.

In Chandpur, Social Welfare Minister Dipu Moni's home in the town's Natun Bazar, was vandalised. She was not home at that time, sources said.

In Habiganj, the residence of Habiganj 3 MP Md Abu Zahir was besieged for four hours and then set on fire. The fire completely engulfed the first and second floors. The protesters had taken control of the house around noon. Later, the army had intervened and convinced the protesters to leave around 10:00pm.

In Dinajpur, the residence of Jatiya Sagsad Whip Iqbalur Rahim, also the Dinajpur 3 lawmaker, was attacked, looted, and torched in the town's Munshipara area around 11:45am.

In Barishal, the residence of State Minister for Water Resources Zaheed Farooque was vandalised at the city's Nobogram road area around noon.

In Sylhet, the offices of Sylhet 3 MP Habibur Rahman was vandalised and set on fire, around 3 pm in the afternoon. The office is in the district's South Surma upazila.

In Tangail, the residence of Tangail 2 MP Tanvir Hasan Choto Moni came under attack in the town's Adalatpara area around noon. Around an hour later, a petrol pump owned by Choto Moni was torched in the town's Turun area.

Besides, district unit AL General Secretary Zuayer Islam's personal vehicle was vandalised around 11:00am in the town's Bot Totala area.

Later in the afternoon, the municipality building and the district

unit AL office were torched. Tangail Sadar UNO office in Ashekpur was also vandalised.

In Nilphamari, the residence of Nilphamari-2 AL lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor in the Upazila Parishad Road area came under attack around 2:00pm. Around 15 motorbikes were torched there at that time.

Earlier in the day, the AL office in the town's Chaurangi intersection was vandalised around 12:30pm.

In retaliation, AL men attacked the office of the district unit BNP President Alamgir Sarder in the Babupara area.

In Narayanganj, the office of the deputy commissioner was attacked around noon and a state-run amusement park came under arson attack.

Besides, the attackers also set fire to the Rifles' Club in the city's Chasara area.

In Jamalpur, the Bakshiganj upazila unit AL office was vandalised and torched. Bagarchar union parishad chairman's vehicle was also set on fire.

Witnesses said the protesters brought out a procession from Noor Mohammad High School and marched on different streets of the upazila.

Later, the protesters attacked the AL office at around 1:00am. AL leaders left the office at that time. The vehicle that was kept near the AL office premises was torched.

In Sirajganj, protesters attacked the Raiganj upazila AL office and beat up AL men at the office. A few of them rushed to the nearby Press Club for shelter where they were again attacked, said witnesses.

In Pabna, a vehicle of Abu Sayeed, organising secretary of Pabna Sadar upazila unit, was torched around 12:30pm at the town's Joykali Bari area.

Besides, a local Jubo League office at Bulbul College area was also vandalised

around that time, said witnesses.

Besides, around 30 motorbikes that were kept in front of his home were torched.

Around half an hour later, agitators vandalised six more motorbikes of AL men and an ambulance in the Chaumatha area.

Later, AL men set fire to the BNP office in the city's Sadar road area.

In Chandpur, protesters attack the Haziganj municipality office, torching 12 motorbikes, three vehicles, and vandalised the office.

In Kushtia, protesters vandalised AL office and a traffic police box at Saddam Bazar intersection area at around 12:00pm.

In Bogura, the offices of Dupchachia UNO and assistant commissioner (A-land) came under attack around noon.

In Gaibandha, the town's municipality office was vandalised around 2:00pm and several motorbikes were torched there.

In Rajshahi, Mohonpur upazila food warehouse and upazila AL office were attacked in the morning.

In Gazipur, AL office was vandalised at Kapasia upazila in the morning.

In Bogura, the residence of Bogura 6 MP Ragibul Ahsan Ripu, also general secretary of the district unit AL, at the town's Shibbari area was vandalised around noon.

In Thakurgaon, the district AL unit's office was vandalised and torched around 1:30pm in the town. Many shops were also vandalised at that time.

In Panchagarh, the house and two vehicles of lawmaker (reserved seat for women) Rejia Islam were set on fire yesterday afternoon. They later torched the houses of Panchagarh Municipality Mayor Zakia Khatun, former upazila chairman Amirul Islam, and councillor Shafigul Islam.

In Faridpur, protesters attacked

the district unit AL office in the town's Niltoli area around 11:00am and the district unit BCL office near Rajendra College area around 11:30am.

In Brahmanbaria, an office of Housing and Public Works Minister RAM Obaidul Muktedir Chowdhury in the district headquarter came under attack.

BUSINESSES ALSO ATTACKED

At least five garment, textile, and plastic factories came under arson attacks yesterday in Dhaka's Ashulia and Gazipur's Sreepur.

Rozina Islam, duty officer at the Central Control Room of the Fire Service and Civil Defence in Dhaka, said Sinha Textile, Beximco Synthetics, a warehouse of scrap fabric owned by Ha-Meem Group, Bengal Plastic at Zirani in Ashulia area were set on fire between 6:30pm and 7:30pm.

In Gazipur, a spinning mill was set on fire in Sreepur area.

In the capital's Dhanmondi, a showroom of the clothing brand "YELLOW" was set ablaze around 3:30pm.

Mentionable, Faridpur-3 MP AK Azad is the managing director of Ha-Meem Group; Salman F Rahman, adviser to PM, is the co-founder and vice chairman of BEXIMCO Group, which owns YELLOW; and Noakhali-2 MP Morshed Alam is the chairman of Bengal Group.

In Manikganj, a business establishment owned by Manikganj municipal unit AL General Secretary Zahidul Islam was vandalised around 11:00am.

Protesters also vandalised the AL office and DC office there. In retaliation, AL men vandalised the district BNP office in the evening.

[Our respective districts correspondents contributed to this report.]