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Curfew extended indefinitely Govt announces general holiday for 3 days from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the wake of a sharp escalation of violence across the country, the government yesterday decided to extend the ongoing curfew for an indefinite period in the capital and all other divisional cities, city corporations, district and upazila headquarters.

The government also announced a three day general holiday starting today.

The home ministry, in a statement released in the afternoon, said the curfew would be effective from 6:00pm yesterday.

At least 90 people, including 14 policemen, were killed and several hundreds injured yesterday as fierce clashes took

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Protesters by the hundreds swarm the Shahbagh intersection in the capital yesterday, where later a fierce clash broke out between them and ruling party supporters on the first day of the nationwide non-cooperation movement announced by the Anti-Discrimination Students' Movement. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Mobile internet, social media blocked again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mobile internet, along with popular social media and messaging platforms like Facebook and WhatsApp, are once again blocked in Bangladesh amid escalating violence that has cost dozens of lives.

A government agency under the home ministry instructed mobile operators to shut down 4G services, which facilitate mobile internet, around 12:40 pm yesterday, according to officials of the telecom operators.

"The authorities have shut down the mobile internet. We are in continuous communication with the relevant authorities regarding this issue," said Grameenphone regarding the government's instruction. Banglalink gave out a similar statement.

The telecom regulator ordered the international internet gateway (IIG) companies to block Meta Platforms - Facebook, Messenger, WhatsApp, and Instagram -- from broadband internet, around 1:45 pm, according to officials of IIG operators.

IIG operators supply wholesale internet to broadband internet providers. Zunaid Ahmed Palak, the state

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Six AL activists beaten to death in Narsingdi

STAR REPORT

Six Awami League leaders and activists were beaten to death yesterday after they opened fire at protesters in Madhabdi upazila of Narsingdi, locals said.

The incident took place at a mosque near Madhabdi Municipal Building around 1:00pm, reports our correspondent, quoting Additional Superintendent of Police KM Shahidul Islam Shohag.

Police said the deceased are Delwar Hossain Shaheen, 37, chairman of Chardighaldi Union Parishad and former general secretary of Madhabdi Chhatra League; Babul Hossain, 47, councillor of Ward-12; Moniruzzaman Bhuiyan, 48, organising secretary of Madhabdi Swechhasebok League and member of Zilla Parishad; Delwar Hossain Delu, 48, former Chhatra League activist; Kamal Mia, 45, who had no post in the ruling AL, but was known in the area as a supporter; and Anisur Rahman Sohel, 43, leader of Madhabdi Swechhasebok League.

Witnesses said hundreds of protesters blocked the Dhaka-Sylhet highway around 12:00pm.

Around an hour later, hundreds of AL leaders and activists first asked the protesters to leave and then opened fire at them, injuring several protesters, locals said.

As the protesters chased the AL men away with sticks, some of them went inside Boro Masjid.

The protesters then caught and beat up at least 10 people inside the mosque, leaving six of them dead, locals said.

The bodies were lying there for hours.

Around 8:00pm, the dead bodies were sent to Narsinghdi Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Upazila Parishad Chairman Anwar Hossain's younger brother Jakaria Hossain said the AL men were attacked by BNP leaders and protesters without any provocation.

Of those who got shot, Alamin, 25, and Suman, 30, were admitted to Narsinghdi Sadar Hospital, and two others were taken to a private facility.

Israel presses on with deadly raids in Gaza

33 Palestinians killed; Hezbollah, Israel trade projectiles along Lebanon border

AGENCIES

An Israeli airstrike hit a tent inside a hospital compound in central Gaza, killing at least five people, bringing the total number of Palestinians killed yesterday to 33, Gaza health officials said, after another round of talks ended without result.

The airstrike hit a tent area inside the Al-Aqsa Hospital compound, starting a fire, wounding at least 18 people in addition to the five killed, medical authorities said.

The attack came hours after a strike on two Gaza City schools-turned-shelters. At least 25 Palestinians were killed and several others were injured in the strike.

The Israeli military said it struck a Hamas member who "conducted terror activities" and that secondary explosions were identified, indicating the presence of weaponry in the hospital compound.

Its statement added it struck 50 military targets across the enclave in the last 24 hours, including Hamas cells.

The hospital compound is in the Deir Al-Balah area, which is crowded with thousands of people displaced by fighting in other parts of the enclave have sought shelter, reports Reuters.

Sirens went off in the area of Ashdod, further north than seen in recent weeks, and the Israeli military said five rockets were launched from southern Gaza. No injuries were reported.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said yesterday at least 39,583 Palestinians have been killed in the Israeli offensive. The toll includes 33 deaths in 24 hours, according to ministry figures.

- Foreign nationals told to leave Lebanon
- Gaza talks in Cairo failed to deliver progress
- Death toll in enclave rises to 39,583

Israeli forces have continued strikes and shelling in the Gaza Strip after diplomatic efforts in Cairo on Saturday ended without progress, and as Israel braces for a serious escalation in the north.

Chances of a breakthrough appear low as regional tension has soared following the assassination of Hamas' leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on Wednesday, a day after an Israeli strike in Beirut killed Fuad Shukur, a top military commander from Lebanese armed group Hezbollah.

Meanwhile, urgent calls for foreign nationals to leave Lebanon grew yesterday with France warning of "a highly volatile" situation, reports AFP.

France, Canada and Jordan were among the latest governments to call for their citizens to leave Lebanon. The United States and Britain have issued similar warnings.

Comply with curfew rules: army

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Army has urged all to comply with the rules of the curfew that was extended for an indefinite period yesterday. It also sought everyone's cooperation in this regard.

The government took the decision which will apply to the capital and all other divisional cities, city corporations, district and upazila headquarters.

The curfew came into effect at 6:00pm yesterday.

According to a statement signed by Inter-Services Public Relation Director Lt Col Sami Ud Dowla Chowdhury, the army will play its role as mandated by the constitution and laws in ensuring the security of the people and protection of the important state infrastructures.

"The curfew has been imposed for an indefinite period considering the deterioration of the country's overall law and order," said the ISPR statement yesterday.

Journo killed in Sirajganj

Daylong attacks leave 25 media personnel, including 3 Star journalists, injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A journalist was killed during clashes between protesters and local Awami League activists in Sirajganj yesterday.

At least 25 other journalists were also injured across the nation.

Three of the injured are journalists of The Daily Star.

In Sirajganj, Pradip Kumar Bhowmik, Rayganj correspondent of Daily Khoborpatra, died after he was assaulted during agitators' attack on Rayganj Press Club around noon.

His colleagues later took him to a hospital where doctors pronounced him dead.

He was also a member of the Communist Party of Bangladesh.

Earlier, the protesters vandalised the local Awami League office.

In the capital, The Daily Star photographer

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Djokovic beats Alcaraz to win Olympic gold

AFP, Paris

Novak Djokovic defeated Carlos Alcaraz on Sunday to claim a maiden Olympic title and become just the fifth player to complete a career Golden Slam.

The 37-year-old Serb, competing in his fifth Games, came through 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7/2) in an enthralling final at Roland Garros to add Olympic gold to his 24 Grand Slam triumphs.

Victory allowed him to join Andre Agassi, Rafael Nadal, Steffi Graf and the watching Serena Williams as the only players to win all four Grand Slam tournaments and Olympic singles gold.

He also became the oldest singles champion since tennis returned to the Olympics in 1988 and shattered Alcaraz's bid to add gold to the French

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Police lob teargas canisters and fire rubber bullets to disperse protesters after they torched around 25 motorcycles in front of the residence of State Minister For Water Resources Zaheed Feroque on Nabagram Road in Barishal city yesterday afternoon. PHOTO: TITU DAS

Will not allow 'March to Dhaka'

Says DMP chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Habibur Rahman said yesterday that they would not allow today's "March to Dhaka" programme called by the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement to happen as it violates the curfew restrictions that have been put in place in light of the ongoing unrest in the country.

"Our instruction is clear. Since the curfew is in effect until further notice, no one is allowed to leave their homes during this period. If anyone violates the curfew, legal actions will be taken against them. We will show zero tolerance in this regard and will take lawful actions," he said.

Speaking at a press briefing last night, the DMP chief requested everyone adhere to the curfew

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