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Swechchhasebak Dal leader killed in attack by ‘AL men’

50 injured; Gopalganj AL refutes the allegation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A Jatiyatabadi Swechchhasebak Dal leader was killed and 50 others were injured in an attack allegedly by Awami League men in Gopalganj town yesterday.

The deceased, Shawkat Ali Didar, 40, was the sports affairs secretary of the Swechchhasebak Dal central committee, police said.

Of the injured, 21 were admitted to Gopalganj 250-Bed General Hospital.

Sharif Rafikuzzaman, convener of Gopalganj district BNP, said the party’s motorcade left for Tungipara after holding a rally at Bedgram intersection around 5:00pm.

As the vehicles reached Ghonapara, 200-300 leaders and activists of the AL and its affiliates intercepted them and attacked BNP and Swechchhasebak Dal leaders, he said.

The attackers also vandalised 10 cars and injured at least 50 activists, he said.

Swechchhasebak Dal President SM Jilani and his wife Roshan Ara Ratna, president of Gopalganj District Mohila Dal, were sent to Dhaka for better treatment, he added.

Mohammad Anisur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Gopalganj Sadar Police Station, said the incident occurred around 5:00pm.

Upon receiving information, police went to the spot

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Palestinians work to rescue a child from under the rubble following an Israeli strike in Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip. The photo taken on Thursday was released yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Drop names from cases if involvement not found

Directs police HQ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Police Headquarters has issued directives regarding arrests in cases filed with police stations and courts over killings and other crimes during the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement that led to a mass uprising.

The letter, signed by Deputy Inspector General Kamrul Ahsan, said steps have to be taken to drop the name of any officer or individual if their involvement in murder or other cases is not found during primary investigation.

It further said no government employee can be arrested without proof in cases filed by the families of those killed during the movement, or by any aggrieved person.

The directives, citing the minutes of the first meeting of advisory committee on law and order, were issued on September 10, DIG Kamrul told The Daily Star yesterday.

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Bid to destroy unity among parties, people must be resisted

Says Mirza Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday emphasised the importance of maintaining unity to solidify the success of the student-led mass uprising.

“The victory achieved through the student revolution will only be consolidated if unity is maintained,” he said.

Stating that there is a well-planned attempt to destroy the unity of the political parties and the people, the BNP leader said, “It must be resisted.”

Fakhrul was speaking at a reception at the Jatiya Press Club hosted in honour of journalist Mushfiqul Fazal Ansari, marking his return home from the US after a decade-long exile.

The event was organised by the Jatiya Press Club, BFUJ, DUJ, Dhaka Reporters’ Unity, and the Journalists’ Cooperative Society Limited.

Fakhrul criticised former prime minister Sheikh Hasina for resorting to coercive policies to suppress her political opponents and dissent.

“Many people were subjected to



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US must intervene to stop Gaza carnage

Says ‘helpless’ UN chief as 16 more die in the Palestinian enclave

AGENCIES

UN chief Antonio Guterres, in an exclusive interview with Al Jazeera, said that the US must put more pressure on Israel to end its war on Gaza as the violence on the ground raged on yesterday.

The message conveyed by Guterres to the US in the interview with Al Jazeera is that it must intervene, Tamer Qarmout, professor at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, said.

Guterres said the US being “the only superpower that is enabling Israel to continue its war through funding weapons, arms and providing diplomatic protection,” he said.

“The message is loud and clear: the US has to intervene”, Qarmout quoted the UN chief as saying. “The US administration has been enabling this war to continue for too long.”

However, Guterres acknowledged that the demand is very unlikely to be heard.

“I know the American political life sufficiently to know that will not happen,” Guterres said.

The UN chief said it is, however, important to keep pressuring the US and make it clear that “the two-state solution must not be undermined”.

Meanwhile, medical sources in Gaza yesterday confirmed at least 16 Palestinians’ death in Israeli attacks since the early hours of the morning.

This number includes five members of the same

family who, according to the Palestinian Civil Defence, were killed in an attack on al-Mawasi in south Gaza this morning. It said two children were among those killed.

Meanwhile, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus yesterday reiterated his “call for a ceasefire, which is critical for rebuilding the health system to cope with escalating needs” in Gaza.

He said on X: “Amid the ongoing hostilities, it is critical to ensure access to all essential health services, including rehabilitation to prevent illness and death.”

In the Al-Jazeera interview, Guterres laid bare his helplessness in stopping the war. We have a voice, and that voice has been loud and clear to say from the beginning this war must stop. The suffering of the Palestinian people must stop and the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people must be recognised.”

Accusing the Security Council of “systematic failure” in ending the most dramatic conflicts that we face today, the UN chief said, “The geopolitical divide that exists among the major powers has created a situation in which any country or any movement anywhere in the world feels that they can do whatever they want because there will be no punishment.”

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- WHO chief calls for ceasefire to rebuild Gaza health system
- West Bank city holds funerals after Israeli army withdraws
- US shifts one of two aircraft carriers away from Middle East

At least 875 killed in July mass uprising

Says rights organisation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 875 people, including students and labourers, were killed in the recent student-led mass uprising, according to a report released by Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) yesterday.

The report was prepared based on the statistics from 12 national newspapers and data from the rights body’s own fact-finding units and volunteers across the country.

“We have so far received information on 875 deaths from the victims’ families, eyewitnesses, hospitals, and national dailies. Among them, 743 have been identified,” said the HRSS report.

It also mentioned that the actual death toll could be at least 1,000.

According to the report, 327 people were killed between July 16 and August 3, and 548 between August 4 and September 9.

Notably, 748 people were killed during the seven days between July 18 and 20 and August 4 and 7.

At least 222 people were killed on August 5, the day of the fall of Hasina-led government, it added.

Among 619 victims, 107 were children under 18 years of age, 327 young adults, 158 middle-aged, and 27 were elderly people.

Around 70 percent of the identified victims were aged below 30. Also, 13 female children and women were among the deceased.

The report said the professions of 352 victims have been identified. About 52 percent of them were students.

Specifically, 184 of the deceased were students, 70 labourers, 51 members of law enforcement agencies, six

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

India SC grants bail to Kejriwal in graft case

REUTERS, New Delhi

India’s Supreme Court yesterday granted bail to opposition leader and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a graft case, paving the way for his release almost six months after he was arrested.

Kejriwal’s release is expected to boost the morale of his decade-old Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) as it will allow him to campaign in regional elections next month in the northern state of Haryana, where AAP is trying to make inroads, and in Delhi early next year.

Kejriwal was first taken into custody in March by India’s financial crime-fighting agency, weeks before the country’s national elections, in relation to alleged irregularities in the capital city’s liquor policy.

Although he was granted bail in that case in July, he remained in detention due to his arrest a month previously by the federal police in a graft case



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Shrine comes under attack in Gazipur

Vandalism went on for an hour

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The Shah Sufi Fasih Paglar Mazar was vandalised in Gazipur’s Porabari area yesterday afternoon.

Nearly 100 people went to the shrine on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway around 3:00pm and carried out the attack. The vandalism continued for an hour, said witnesses.

The attackers barred ordinary people, including journalists, from taking pictures and videos.

They alleged that the devotees of the shrine organised dance and music programmes, and they also used to take drugs at the shrine. Besides, the devotees collected money as toll from the people on the highway in the name of the shrine, they said.

The attackers demanded that the shrine be demolished and a mosque be built in the area.

Zakir Hossain, a local involved in the shrine’s management, said drugs were prohibited there and so they strongly protest the attack.

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Workers are busy assembling battery-run rickshaws in front of a factory in the capital's Rayerbazar on Thursday. The demand for such rickshaws increased recently as the last government allowed the three-wheelers to run on the city streets.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

‘Comrade Kamala’

Trump paints Harris red in quest for votes

AFP, Washington

“Everyone knows she’s a Marxist,” Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump has repeated loudly and often, referring to his Democratic rival Kamala Harris, who he is hoping to tar with one of the oldest brushes in the US political playbook.

The aim? To portray Harris as a dangerous left-wing extremist, and to invoke the infamous Cold War-era “red scare” in the United States.

In recent weeks, the former president has stepped up his rhetoric against the vice president, describing her as both a “Marxist” and a “communist” at almost every opportunity.

Harris has not directly addressed the taunts, but her policies over decades of holding public office do not appear to conform to either the 19th-century German theorist’s views or the various left-wing schools of thought that followed him.

“She’s not a Marxist, she’s not a communist,” said Thomas Zeitzoff, a professor at American University and a specialist on political violence.

For the Republican camp, using such terms is “a way of trying to say that she’s extreme,” he told AFP.

Trump, experts say, is using an age-old US political



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