



'Confront all plots on the streets'

Tarique tells MPs at BNP Parliamentary Party meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister and BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday urged party lawmakers to remain on the streets and take on conspiracies.

"The message is loud and clear. We are on the streets; we must remain on the streets, and it is on the streets that we must confront all plots."



He made the remarks at a meeting of BNP Parliamentary Party at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in the afternoon ahead of the fourth session of the 13th National Parliament, according to sources present at the meeting.

Tarique, who chaired the meeting in his capacity as leader of the House, sought detailed updates from ministers on the activities of their respective ministries, according to several sources who attended the meeting.

Discussions covered ongoing road development projects, the country's fuel and power situation, and the market conditions for essential commodities ahead of Ramadan.

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed also briefed lawmakers on the country's law-and-order situation.

The possible return of ousted prime

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6



A bus burns under the Farmgate Metro Rail Station in the capital yesterday evening. PHOTO: STAR

UGC drafting rules for foreign univ campuses here

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

The University Grants Commission is drafting a policy to allow selected foreign universities to set up campuses in Bangladesh, as local private universities call for a level playing field.

Several universities from Australia, England and elsewhere have expressed interest, UGC Chairman Prof Mamun Ahmed told The Daily Star. The commission hopes to finalise the policy this year.

"But we will be very selective," he said.

The UGC is considering restricting eligibility to universities ranked among the world's top 100, 200 or 500, but no decision has been made.

The Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh (APUB) supports the entry of reputed foreign universities but wants them to meet requirements similar to those imposed on local institutions.

APUB Secretary General Ishtiaque Abedin said newer private universities could be the hardest hit, as many are still developing their campuses and struggling to attract students.

"If it is healthy competition, that is good for us," he said, adding that foreign universities should establish proper campuses rather than operate poorly equipped study centres.

WHAT UGC IS CONSIDERING

The proposed policy will cover the operations of foreign universities, tuition fees and their arrangements with parent institutions.

Prof Mamun said local involvement

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Another day of blasts, arson

19 held over recent attacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six buses were set on fire in Savar, Dhaka and Gazipur yesterday, while crude bombs exploded in several parts of the capital.

At least 19 people were arrested in connection with recent blasts and attacks on police, according to the Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

In Savar, two buses parked along the Dhaka-Aricha highway were set on fire in the Genda and Baliarpur areas around 1:00am and 4:00am, said Jahangir Alam, senior station officer at Savar Fire Service.

The first bus, used to transport garment workers, was parked beside the highway in Genda. The second, belonging to Itihash Paribahan, was parked in Baliarpur.

> **Many of those arrested were linked to the Awami League, whose activities are currently banned.**
>
> **AKHTER HOSSAIN,** DMP Deputy Commissioner (Media)

Firefighters brought both fires under control. The buses' seats and interior fittings were damaged.

Saiful Alam, officer-in-charge of Savar Model Police Station, said police suspected Awami League, whose activities are currently banned, involvement in both incidents. Police were investigating the fires and trying to identify those responsible, he added.

In the capital, a Lovely Paribahan bus was set on fire beneath the Farmgate metro station in the evening.

Rojina Akter, duty officer at the fire service, said firefighters received information around 6:35pm. Two units brought the blaze under control by 7:09pm.

She could not immediately confirm whether anyone had been injured or what had caused the fire.

Around 9:15pm, unidentified assailants set fire to a bus parked under the metro rail line in Mirpur-11, said Jalal Uddin, officer-in-charge of Pallabi Police Station.

"A Basumati Paribahan bus was parked by the roadside when miscreants set it on fire. No one from the bus was around at the time," he said.

In Gazipur, criminals set fire to two parked buses in Kaliakair

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

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