

US warns of attack deadlier than 9/11

AFP, Washington

The US State Department warned yesterday, two years after the devastation of the World Trade Center, that al-Qaeda could stage a new strike "more devastating than the September 11 attack."

The attacks could target European or Eurasian locations "possibly to closely coincide with the anniversary of the September 11 attack," said the warning issued through foreign consulates.

"We expect al-Qaeda will strive for new attacks that will be more devastating than the September 11 attack, possibly involving non-conventional weapons such as chemical or biological agents."

"We also cannot rule out the potential for al-Qaeda to attempt a second catastrophic attack within the United States," the statement said.

There could be "suicide operations, hijackings, bombings or kidnappings," added the warning. Likely targets are facilities where

US citizens and other foreigners congregate, "including residential areas, clubs, restaurants, places of worship, schools, hotels, outdoor recreation events or resorts and beaches."

The world paused yesterday to remember the victims of the September 11 attacks, with the spectre of Osama bin Laden returning in a videotape threatening more strikes on Americans.

A memorial ceremony at Ground Zero in New York, where the twin towers of the World Trade Center once stood, was a low-key but emotional affair, as children related to the victims read the names of all those who perished.

US concerns were heightened by the broadcast on Qatar-based Al-Jazeera television Wednesday of footage of bin Laden and right-hand man Ayman al-Zawahri that experts said could spur on new attacks by Islamic militants.

In the tape, bin Laden praised the "loyalty, sincerity, magnanimity and courage" of the suicide hijackers

who crashed airliners into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon near Washington and a field in Pennsylvania.

Al-Zawahri also called on Iraqis to "devour" their American occupiers, warning the real battle with the United States has yet to begin.

The September 11 attacks forced a dramatic change in US foreign policy and led to military campaigns in Afghanistan and in Iraq, where the death toll among US troops is mounting as they face almost daily guerrilla attacks.

US President George W. Bush warned Americans that his "war on terror" was not yet over and that al-Qaeda was plotting new strikes against the world superpower.

"The memories of September 11 will never leave us. We will not forget the burning towers," Bush said.

"We will not wait for further attacks on innocent Americans. The best way to protect the American people is to stay on the offensive, to stay on the offensive at home and to

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Police obstruct a rally by the Six-point Demand Implementation Committee of lawyers in Dhaka before the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh yesterday. The roadblock to the demonstration heading toward the Prime Minister's Office created traffic jam on the busy road.

Lawyers threaten indefinite court boycott

UNB, Dhaka

Lawyers yesterday threatened to go for an indefinite court boycott across the country protesting the amendment to the Civil Procedure Code (CPC) providing for quick dispensation of justice.

The Six-point Demand Implementation Committee of Lawyers observed 'black day' and boycotted the courts yesterday protesting the attacks on lawyers on the Dhaka District Court premises by the ruling party activists on September 6.

They held a meeting at the Supreme Court Bar Association Hall in the afternoon and vowed to resist the amendment to the CPC that will come into force next month.

The amendment provides for fine and compensation for attempting to delay the process of trial by the counsel. Defaulting lawyers are to pay fine up to Tk 10,000 for delaying the process of trial by seeking adjournment of hearing without any valid ground.

It also provides for compensation ranging up to Tk 1 lakh payable to the state by anyone indulging in filing false case to harass his opponent.

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Abbas hits back at Jamuna boss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Minister for Housing and Public Works Mirza Abbas yesterday accused the owner of the Jamuna Group of violation of the constitution and contempt of court.

The Jamuna Group concealed an earlier injunction while getting a court order on August 24 for earth filling at its Ashuliya project, which was a contempt of court. Besides, while filing writ petition, it kept the officials concerned in the dark about the injunction and this was a violation of the constitution, the minister said at a press conference yesterday.

Referring to Chairman of Jamuna Group Nurul Islam Babul's open letter to the prime minister in different newspapers yesterday regarding earth filling and housing business, the minister said, "all its contents are false."

The minister clarified his position regarding the latest controversy about Jamuna Group's Ashuliya earth filling. "I don't have any personal clash with the owner of the Jamuna Group. What I am doing is to prevent their activities for the sake of ecology of the capital. The Turag river, which is in a major flood water flow zone, will be threatened and the river channel will be closed if they continue earth filling in Ashuliya areas," he said.



Mirza Abbas

Quoting flood experts, Abbas said if they (Jamuna Group) fills Ashuliya area, floodwater from Tongi, Gazipur, Kaliakoir and part of Tangail will not flow down easily and the capital will also face water-logging during the monsoon.

"Downpour in the capital during the monsoon is increasing water logging day by day as several developers are grabbing low-lying areas and filling those," he said. Ashuliya area is also a recreation spot for the dwellers and this is another reason why earth filling of the area should be stopped, he added.

About Rajuk, the minister said, "I

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'Fakir' jailed for 60yrs for raping teenage client

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The Speedy Trial Tribunal of Barisal yesterday jailed a fake fakir for 60 years for the abduction and rape of a teenage client.

Moazzem Hossain Howlader was also fined Tk 20,000 or to spend two more years behind bars if he failed to pay the fine.

Tribunal Judge Md Abdul Quddus Mia gave the verdict under the Prevention of Repression on Women and Children Act.

Shiuli Akhter, 13, of village Kokila and a student of class seven of Nalchity Merchant School in Jhalakati, was going to her uncle's house on October 3, 2002 when Moazzem called her for treatment and abducted her.

Police rescued Shiuli from Palashpur of Barisal on November 4

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BB questions re-election of a Rupali Bank director

STAR REPORT

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has asked the Rupali Bank to explain legality of the re-election of M Hafiz Ibrahim as one of its directors.

Hafiz, who became MP from Bholu on a ruling coalition ticket, was re-elected at the bank's annual general meeting on August 6, 2003 from the private shareholders' quota.

Hafiz became a director of the state-owned bank in 1994 and has been holding the position since then, although the recently revised Bank Company Law stipulates that a director cannot hold the post for more than six years at a stretch.

The central bank in a letter sent yesterday to the chairman and

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Another bond in the offing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) is going to issue 'Bangladesh Bond' of five-year and ten-year terms shortly.

It will hold auction for the bond once in every two months and interest rates for the bond would be determined on a market basis, sources at the central bank said.

The bond would help commercial banks manage excess liquidity, and general investors will have an alternative to invest their savings, said a high official of the BB.

Primarily, the banks and financial institutions will be the main clients of the bond, but anyone can buy the bonds through banks and financial institutions.

The BB has also taken an initiative to introduce a secondary bond market in the country. Some banks and financial institutions would be

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Tk 400 crore more to be sought in farm subsidy

REAZ AHMAD

The agriculture ministry will seek an additional Tk 400 crore from the government to increase farm subsidies to Tk 700 crore.

A meeting at the ministry yesterday finalised the decision to seek more funds to subsidise diesel used for irrigation and soil-testing facilities in upazilas and to provide farmers with quality seeds at lower than market price.

Yesterday's decision came after last month's government plan to scale up the level of farm subsidies, one of the lowest in the world.

Agriculture Minister MK Anwar

earlier indicated that both the prime minister and the finance minister are willing to make the money available for subsidies and yesterday revealed to newsmen his ministry's decision on asking for the additional funds from the finance ministry.

The budget envisages Tk 300 crore in farm subsidies. The agriculture ministry estimated that it would spend Tk 200 crore on fertiliser and Tk 100 crore to be spent on subsidising diesel used to run irrigation pumps is not enough.

Meeting sources said at least Tk 300 crore would be required to subsidise 865,213 diesel-run shal

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Swedish FM dies from stab wounds

REUTERS, Stockholm

Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh died in hospital yesterday, a day after being stabbed by a mystery attacker, stunning a normally peaceful nation as it prepared for a crucial referendum on the euro.

Lindh, 46, who had been tipped as a future prime minister and was a leading campaigner for Sweden to join the European Union's single currency in Sunday's referendum -- now in doubt -- was stabbed repeatedly in a Stockholm department store.

"Her family has lost a mother and a wife. Social Democracy has lost one of its most gifted politicians. The government has lost a skilled politician and a good colleague. Sweden has lost its face toward the world," said Prime Minister Goran Persson.

Tributes to one of Sweden's most popular politicians had poured in

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Pakistan seeks FTA with Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

Pakistan Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri has expressed his country's willingness to sign a free-trade agreement (FTA) with Bangladesh to enhance bilateral economic cooperation.

"We have the political will," he told newsmen, following a meeting with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman at his secretariat office yesterday.

The FTA framework will be decided at the commerce ministry-level talks soon, he said. Bangladesh Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury is scheduled to visit Pakistan on September 20.

Kasuri noted that the FTA would not be dealt with diplomatically, rather the two countries would try to bring all bilateral issues under the cover of the proposed free-trade accord.

"We want special relationship with Bangladesh than any other

parts of the world," he said, referring to Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's visit to Bangladesh when they signed an agreement to import jute and tea from here.

Bangladesh suffers a trade deficit with Pakistan the gap being about \$14 million, by last fiscal's count, when Bangladesh exports earned \$16 million against import payments of \$30 million to Pakistan.

The ministers mainly discussed Saarc issues and macroeconomic situation of the two countries and the ways of strengthening bilateral cooperation in the economic fields.

Kasuri apprised Saifur of his country's current foreign-exchange reserve position, which had plunged as low as equal to only two weeks' payment requirements.

"Bangladesh economy is now in right path," Kasuri said.

"We discussed about possibilities of mutual cooperation in all respects," said Saifur, emerging

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Two dredgers, launch fined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special team of shipping department yesterday fined five dredgers and a small motor launch on the river Turag in Ashulia for plying without valid documents.

A team led by Magistrate Fazlur Rahman found the dredgers working without registration and survey

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 12		6-06 pm
Sept 13	5-44 am	

Prayer Timings		
September 12		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-10
Juma	12-15	1-20
Asr	4-33	5-00
Maghrib	6-13	6-17
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



The World Bank country director in Bangladesh, Christine Wallich, talks with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.