

Manmohan vows to win 'war against terror'

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said the war against terror will be won and "no one can make India kneel."

"This is not the first time that the enemies of our nation have tried to undermine our peace and prosperity. These elements have not yet understood that we Indians will never let them win," he said in an address to the nation over television last night.

His speech came a day after the series of blasts in Mumbai suburban trains that left some 200 dead and over 700 wounded.

"Let me say, no one can come in the path of our progress. The wheels of our economy will move on," the

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District judge forced to leave courtroom amid chaos

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

The district and sessions judge of Narayanganj was forced to leave a courtroom yesterday during the third consecutive day of the court abstention programme of lawyers demanding his removal for his alleged corruption and misconduct.

The Law, Justice and Parliamentary Ministry formed a probe committee to investigate the allegations brought against the District and Sessions Judge Abul Mansur.

The lawyers staged protest yesterday morning after the judge began hearing of a case at 11:00am

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Traffic disrupted on Dhaka-Tangail highway for 10 hours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Vehicular movement had been disrupted on Dhaka-Tangail Highway for nearly 10-hours yesterday, as a truck got stuck on a bridge in Kaliakoir causing immense sufferings to the people travelling.

The Dhaka-bound overloaded truck from northern region got trapped in a hole on the faulty bridge over Bangshai river at Latifpur in the early hours. As a result several hundred vehicles got stranded creating a nine-kilometre long traffic gridlock from Board Ghar to Chandra.

To ease the sufferings of the passengers, the Kaliakoir police set

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Babar, IGP, 200 cops sued for Milon murder

Court orders judicial probe

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered judicial inquiry after a woman filed a murder case against state minister for home, around 200 police officials including the former and present IGPs, and a forensic expert.

Ayesha Akhtar Rekha, wife of DCC ward-19 Swechchhasebak League activist Golam Mostafa Milon who was killed in Dhaka during the opposition's July 2 blockade programme, lodged the case with the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate yesterday.

Taking the case into cognisance, Metropolitan Magistrate Syed Mujibul Haq ordered to conduct judicial inquiry.

The accused include State Minister for Home Lutfozzaman Babar, present and former inspector general of police (IGP) Anwarul

Iqbal and Abdul Quiyyum, additional IGP Khoda Bakhs Chowdhury, DMP Commissioner SM Mizanur Rahman and Additional Commissioner Faruq Ahmed.

The other accused are Deputy Commissioner (DC, North) Obaidul Rahman Khan, Assistant Commissioner (AC, Uttara Zone) Jannatul Hassan Khan, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Gulshan Police Station Mahbub Alam Khan, about 200 other police officials and Dr Quamrul, an expert of forensic department of Dhaka Medical College.

In the complaint, Rekha said Milon along with a huge number of leaders and activists of Awami League (AL) and its wings gathered in front of Titumir College at 9:30am on July 2.

The Gulshan Police OC came to

the spot at about 10:30am. Policemen deployed in the area under his directive lobbed teargas shells, fired shots and charged batons to disperse the opposition activists.

As Milon fell on the ground receiving bullets, the law enforcers beat him up mercilessly leading to his death, the complainant said.

The AL leaders tried to recover his body but the policeman stopped them, dragged it onto a police van and took it to an unknown place.

Later, the complainant and the other AL leaders came to know that the OC hid Milon's body following the order of other accused, which includes the higher police officials and state minister.

Rekha tried to find the body at Gulshan Police Station, Rajarbagh

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Editor, publisher of Prothom Alo get bail in case filed by Pintu

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to the editor and the publisher of the daily Prothom Alo in a defamation case filed by the ruling BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu on June 25.

The daily's Editor Matiur Rahman and Publisher Mahfuz Anam along with their lawyers appeared before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court and prayed for bail.

After the hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Selina Akhter granted them bail upon a bond of Tk 10,000 with two guarantors.

Moving the bail petition, the defence counsels told the court that the daily ran factual news but the case was filed as part of a conspiracy to harass their clients, adding that the charges brought against them were baseless and concocted.

Advocates Syed Ahmed Gazi, Mahbubul Haq, Prokash Ranjan

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Deny polls nomination to loan defaulters, criminals

Suggests Prof Rehman Sobhan in memorial lecture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A conscious decision must be taken to deny poll nominations to people with criminal records or who remain in default of their credit and fiscal obligations, observed Prof Rehman Sobhan, chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue, yesterday.

"Political parties will themselves need to democratise their leadership, make their finances more transparent and reach out to include the marginalised in their membership," Sobhan said in a memorial lecture titled "Identity and Inclusion in the Construction of a Democratic Society in Bangladesh" yesterday.

Affirmative action by political parties will be needed to provide nominations to women, minorities and people with few resources, to contest elections with full party backing, the CPD chairman noted.

The Asiatic Society of Bangladesh organised the Barrister

Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Memorial Lecture 2006 at the National Museum in Dhaka.

Prof Sobhan said, "Whilst we have two all-powerful women who dominate their respective parties, in individual constituencies it is rare for women to be nominated because they are perceived to be deficient in the anti-democratic currency needed to win elections."

"Today, most candidates have to bring their own dowry to ensure nomination. Party workers with strong credentials of service to their constituencies find that they are losing ground to money and mastaan power," he stated.

"Today, we are divided by politics, by class, by gender and by our communal denominations. We cannot afford to persist with a democratic order where electoral office remains the privilege of men of property, drawn exclusively from the

majority community." Such a democracy will be unsustainable because it will lack legitimacy based on the support of the majority, Sobhan said, adding that voting in free and fair elections does not assure democracy.

The manifestations of injustice in the political system itself originates in the injustices in the economic order which have been accentuated by the policy regimes put in place over the last two decades, the CPD chairman said.

"Law enforcement remains a hazard rather than a source of security where access to the law is determined by who you are and what you are willing to pay so that there is one law for the rich and one for the poor," he noted.

Within the rich there is one law for those with political access and another for those who compete in

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PHOTO: STAR

Toxic wastes from battery factories pollute the Shitalakhya river.

DEEP SEAPORT

Deal signed with Japan firm for feasibility study

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday signed a deal with a Japanese firm to conduct a feasibility study for setting up a deep seaport in the country.

Under the deal, Pacific Consultant International (PCI) of Japan will complete both technical and economic feasibility of the proposed deep seaport within a year.

Joint secretary of Shipping Ministry Nepal Chandra Sarker and PCI Director Mototoshi Kakiuchi signed the deal on behalf of their respective sides at a simple ceremony at the ministry.

State Minister for Shipping M Quamrul Islam, Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Chairman SM Shahadat Hossain and Mongla Port Authority (MPA) Chairman Abu Taher were, among others, present

on the occasion. The PCI won the contract offering the lowest cost of Tk 11.27 crore among the three bidders. But the total price of the contract stands at about Tk 13.24 crore after inclusion of different taxes.

The state minister told journalists that with the signing of the deal, the government has virtually entered into the process of constructing a long-awaited deep seaport, which will immensely benefit the nation. "The government has taken the move to construct the deep seaport keeping the country's future business potentials in mind."

The shipping ministry officials said the contracting firm will carry out its study in nine locations of Bangladesh deep sea territory.

As per the deal, the Japanese firm will cover different aspects of

the project, including the review and analysis of the present situation, port administrative and public service participation models, assessment of potential market and business opportunities, site selection, site surveys and investigations, planning, layout plans, conceptual designs and cost estimates, project appraisal and the project management for deep seaport development.

The ministry officials said the PCI will conduct the feasibility study while three local and one Bangkok-based firms will be its associates in work.

The local firms are Dexterous Consultants Ltd, JEP Consulting Bangladesh Ltd and Dev Consultants Ltd while the Bangkok-based one is Asian Engineering Consultants Corp Ltd.

9 killed in Baghdad bombings as Rumsfeld flies in

AFP, Baghdad

At least nine people were killed in two bombings in Baghdad Wednesday as US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld arrived to review the security situation in Iraq, security sources said.

A suicide bomber walked into a restaurant in the capital's eastern suburb of Baghdad Jadida, killing seven people and wounding 20, an interior ministry official said.

Two people were killed and two others wounded in a car bomb attack against a police patrol in the Sunni neighbourhood of Adhamiyah. Also in Adhamiyah a civilian was wounded in a roadside bombing.

In another bomb attack, six policemen were wounded in cen

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Prayer Timing		
July 13		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-55	7-00
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Six Palestinians killed in Israeli air strike

AFP, Gaza City

Six Palestinians were killed Wednesday and Hamas's top militant leader reportedly wounded in an Israeli air strike that decimated a Gaza house, as troops pushed a new offensive in the territory.

The armed wing of the governing Palestinian movement, which claimed joint responsibility for the capture of an Israeli soldier, sparking a three-week Israeli aerial offensive, vowed a "strong and painful" response to the attack.

Opening a new front in the Middle East crisis, the Israeli army also launched a ground and air assault on Lebanon after militants from the Shiite movement Hamas said they had captured two soldiers on its northern border.

Israel said Mohammed Deif, the top militant leader of Hamas's armed wing, was wounded in the air raid, without being able to say how seriously.

A Palestinian medical source told AFP that Deif had been operated on but his life was not in danger, adding that another three Hamas military leaders were being treated at the hospital.

But Abu Obeida, a spokesman for Hamas's Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, categorically denied Deif had been hurt and slammed the "deceitful information intended to cover up Zionist crimes".

Israeli army radio reported that

Deif, considered one of Israel's top enemies and wanted for years, had been wounded while in a meeting with at least three other senior Hamas military commanders.

The strike was reportedly carried out following a tip-off received by the domestic intelligence service Shin Beth and after Defence Minister Amir Peretz personally gave the go-ahead.

Local medical sources said the six dead were all from the same family and included a Hamas political leader, Nabil Abu Salmeeyah, who owned the house and taught at the Islamic University, his wife and two of his children.

Security sources said an F-16 jet demolished the house in the latest wave of air strikes in Israel's deadly offensive that has killed 60 Palestinians in a week in the hope of freeing a captured soldier and ending rocket attacks.

"Our reaction to this massacre will be painful and strong for the Zionists and we will make the enemy leadership sorry for their crime," the Qassam Brigades vowed in a swift response to the attack.

"Our message to the Zionists is that your leaders are leading you to violence from which no one will be safe and when they target civilians they decided for you to be the target of our resistance."

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