

Rockets, blast spark fresh fears for Musharraf

Rockets pointed towards Pak president's residence

AFP, Islamabad

Bomb disposal experts defused two rockets near President Pervez Musharraf's residence and the Pakistani parliament in Islamabad yesterday, hours after a blast in a park near his army home. The rockets were fixed to launchers and hidden in bushes at a construction site about half a kilometre (a third of a mile) from the key government buildings, Interior Minister Aftab Sherpao told AFP.

A mobile phone was linked by wires to both launchers, apparently as a remote triggering device for the Russian-made rockets, security officials said on condition of anonymity.

"These two rockets were not target-specific," Sherpao said, adding that the placing of the rockets "appears to be aimed at creating chaos and confusion in the capital and harassing the general public."

"It could also be an attempt to undermine the successful visit of President General Pervez Musharraf to the EU headquarters

in Belgium, Cuba, United States and United Kingdom."

But a security official said the rockets were "apparently pointing towards the presidency."

"Luckily some labourers working at a construction site saw the rockets and reported it to police," the official said.

Police cordoned off the area and security forces detained 80 people working at the site for questioning, officials said.

The fact that the 107 mm calibre rockets were made in Russia indicated they had come via Afghanistan, which borders on ex-Soviet Central Asia, and possibly implicates extremist Taliban rebels, security sources said.

Later Musharraf arrived by helicopter at an Islamabad conference hall to give a speech -- shortly after three heavily guarded but empty motorcades had driven up in an apparent decoy security measure.

Musharraf, who has survived at least four previous assassination attempts, did not comment on the

rocket find.

The rockets were discovered about 12 hours after an explosion in a public park near General Musharraf's army residence in the garrison city of Rawalpindi, which adjoins Islamabad, late Wednesday.

Chief military spokesman Major General Shaukat Sultan told AFP the blast "had nothing to do with the president or army house".

Sultan, who is also Musharraf's press secretary, said some explosive material was found at the blast site and that police were investigating. Police said they sent another bomb disposal team and search parties to the site.

One security official earlier told AFP that the blast in Ayub Park was caused by a rocket but senior authorities later denied this. Officials also rejected reports that a large quantity of unexploded material was found.

Musharraf, a key ally in the US "war on terror", seized power in a



Labourers sleeping during the day at Karwan Bazar kitchen market in the capital. They work at night to earn Tk 80 to Tk 100 a day.

PM accuses opposition of lacking patriotism

AGENCIES, Kaliganj, Sathkhira

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia again said the next general elections will be held on time and the trend of democracy and development will continue in the country.

"The coming general election is very important for the country and people will thwart all conspiracies to foil the polls," she said while addressing a public rally at Samad Smriti Maidan at Kaliganj yesterday.

2 major power units resume operations from Oct 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The grim power situation of the country is expected to improve slightly from October 15 as two major power units -- one at the 450MW Meghnaghat power plant and a 210MW unit at Ghorashal -- are likely to resume partial power generation.

Last week, the two units of the Meghnaghat power plant had to be shut down completely as their maintenance work have become long overdue.

Khatme Nabuwat to lay siege to Ahmadiyya mosque at Tejgaon today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Ahmadiyya outfit International Khatme Nabuwat Movement Bangladesh will lay siege to Nakhla Ahmadiyya mosque at Tejgaon in the capital after Juma prayers today.

The Nabuwat leaders announced the programme Wednesday from a demonstration at Tejgaon after their demand of passing a law in the last session of parliament declaring the Ahmadiyyas non-Muslim went unheeded.

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ORIENTAL BANK GRAFT Board rejects BB probe report, claims innocence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The board of directors of the Oriental Bank yesterday rejected the Bangladesh Bank (BB) investigation report about embezzlement of huge sums of money and claimed that no member of the board was involved in any corrupt practices.

"The board is not involved in any irregularities in the Oriental Bank and if there is any, the management is responsible for it," Mehedi Hasan, a member of the board of directors, told a press conference at a city hotel.

He also said that the board is not involved in any routine work of the bank, adding that only the management of the bank maintains records of all transactions.

CHANDPUR POWER PROJECT Ecneec rejects revised budget proposal, asks for re-tender

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Executive Committee on National Economic Council (Ecneec) Wednesday rejected a proposal to approve revised budget for the 150-megawatt (MW) Chandpur power scheme -- which was already all set to be awarded to an incompetent Chinese company Harbin -- and asked the power ministry to re-tender the project.

In January, the Cabinet Purchase Committee had approved the Power Development Board's (PDB's) arbitrary selection of Harbin's bid and brushed aside a decision of a government review

Comilla Jubo League man murdered

Victim's bloodstained shirt found at Jamaat leader's house

UNB, Comilla

A Jubo League activist was murdered after abduction allegedly by Jamaat-Shibir activists in Chouddagram upazila early yesterday.

The victim, Hedayetullah, 35, of Shaktola village was kidnapped while he was returning home from local Dhorkora Bazar at 9:00pm on Wednesday.

On information, police searched for Hedayet at different places and recovered his bloodstained shirt from the house of Jamaat leader Abu Taher in Payer Khola village at 1:00am yesterday.

Pressure builds for sanctions on Iran

World powers sit today to defuse nuke crisis

AFP, London

Foreign ministers from the six major powers seeking to defuse the Iran nuclear crisis were expected in London today, diplomats said, amid growing pressure for sanctions to be slapped on Tehran.

The British Foreign Office was refusing to confirm the talks, but sources said plans were going ahead for Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States and Germany to try to thrash out a joint stance.

The six powers agreed to set a new deadline this week for Iran to comply with a UN resolution demanding it freeze its uranium

Sehri, Iftar timing

Ramadan	Oct	Sehri	Iftar
12	6		5-44
13	7	4-33	5-43
14	8	4-34	5-42

Prayer Timing

October 6		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-33	4-43
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	5-44	6-00
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

