

12 killed in Philippine bomb blast

AFP, Cotabato
Twelve people were killed yesterday and at least 42 injured in a bomb blast in the southern Philippines, officials and police said.

The bomb exploded in the town of Makilala on the southern island of Mindanao during a celebration to mark the town's 52nd anniversary, said Mayor Honofre Respicio.

No one claimed responsibility for the blast. Earlier Tuesday four people were injured when a bomb planted by suspected Muslim extremists exploded in the busy market of Tacurong City, just 50 kilometers (31 miles) from Makilala, North Cotabato province.

In a radio interview Tacurong's Mayor Lino Montilla said the attacks were possibly carried out by Muslim extremist groups responsible for similar attacks in recent years.

The second bomb went off in a row of food and liquor stalls set up in front of the Makilala town hall at 8:00 pm (1200 GMT) where

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Nasaka abducts 30 Bangladeshis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Myanmar border security force Nasaka yesterday abducted 30 Bangladeshi nationals from Thombro point along the Gondom border in Ukhia upazila.

Ukhia police said Nasaka breached into Bangladesh territory and fired several gunshots before abducting the Bangladeshis. They took them to Dheki Bonia camp in Myanmar.

Earlier on Sunday, Nasaka abducted three Bangladeshi citizens.

EC remains silent on black money, flouting of electoral laws

Speakers tell Shujan-The Daily Star-Prothom Alo roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Legal experts and civil society members at a roundtable yesterday expressed concern over the Election Commission's (EC) inaction in the face of repeated violations of electoral laws by the pro-

spective candidates in the upcoming general election.

Failure to punish the violators has long been encouraging the use of black money in the elections, making it tough for honest people to take part in the national politics, they observed.

They said there should be exclusive tribunals for quick disposal of cases regarding election anomalies and new laws making it obligatory to reject the candidature in case of a breach of electoral laws.

Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik
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Saarc disaster management centre opened in New Delhi

UNB, New Delhi

The Saarc Disaster Management Centre, a common institutional mechanism to tackle natural disasters by the seven south Asian countries, was opened in the Indian capital yesterday.

Indian Home Minister Shivraj Patil inaugurated the centre, which is located within the National Institute of Disaster Management.

The centre came up exactly one year after the devastating earthquake, which struck India and Pakistan on October 8 last year, killing more than 80,000 people

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China issues warning to tail-up N Korea

UN weighs sanctions

AGENCIES, Seoul/United Nations

China, which holds the key to whether tough UN sanctions will be imposed for North Korea's nuclear test, warned its ally yesterday that the detonation would harm relations, but called on the United Nations to use "positive and appropriate measures."

China's Foreign Ministry vented its anger against its communist ally over the test for a second day, with a spokesman saying that relations had been damaged.

"The nuclear test will undoubtedly exert a negative impact on our relations," the spokesman, Liu Jianchao, said at a routine media briefing. He said Monday's test was done "flagrantly, and in disregard of the international community's shared opposition."

But Liu urged diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis and said that the time was not right for punishment, much less military action.

China has been North Korea's major ally and a source of both food and fuel for the desperately poor

nation of 23 million. Behind Beijing's largesse is a fear that a collapsing North Korea could bring US troops stationed in South Korea to China's doorstep, or send refugees pouring across the border, destabilising the Chinese industrial northeast.

"Taking military action against North Korea would be unimaginable," Liu said. "What we should

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Baghdad reels from series of bombings

60 bodies of victims found; 2 more GIs slain

AFP, Baghdad

Bombers triggered a series of blasts around the war-torn Iraqi capital yesterday, killing 11 as police continued their grim daily harvest of corpses from a city in the grip of a vicious sectarian war.

An explosion ripped through a crowd outside a baker's shop in a Sunni district of the capital, killing at least 10 bystanders, while another hit a police patrol and added another name to the force's long list of dead.

Meanwhile, security officials said they had gathered the bodies of 60 murder victims from the city's streets on Monday, and the US

military confirmed the deaths of two more of its own soldiers in the persistent conflict.

The killings come at a time when UN and Iraqi officials estimate that more than 100 people are being killed every day in the fighting.

Tuesday's bloodiest bombing took place outside a baker's shop in Dura, a mainly Sunni area of southwest Baghdad which has become a battlefield for the Sunni and Shia gangs involved in Baghdad's deadly turf war.

Bakers are a common target for

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PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka Nagorik Committee, an organisation of Old Dhaka residents, brings out a procession on North-South Road yesterday with pitchers and hand-fans protesting massive power cuts and poor water supply.

5 devotees electrocuted in Buriganga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five Hindu devotees died of electrocution and at least ten were injured during the immersion of Laxmi idols on the Balu river at Badda in the city yesterday.

The dead were identified as Dayal, 26, Vishnu 22, Badal, 24, Russel, 24, and Bhupal, 50.

Police said around 100 devotees went to the Balu river at Badda on a decorated engine boat for the immersion of Laxmi idols at 2:00am after performing the puja.

The boat came in contact with an electric wire dangling over the river near Kathaldia village that electrocuted the victims while the rest jumped off the boat into the river and escaped electrocution.

On duty doctors at Apollo Hospital in Bashundhara declared five of the injured dead after they were taken there.

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Sehri, Iftar timing				
Ramadan	Oct	Sehri	Ifhtar	
17	11			5-40
18	12	4-35		5-39
19	13	4-35		5-38

Prayer Timing		
October 11		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	5-40	6-00
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

