

Suicide bombers kill 35 Iraq cop recruits

19 others die in separate bombings, attacks
AFP, Baghdad

Two suicide bombers attacked a Baghdad police commando base yesterday, killing 35 young men waiting to join the force, as premier Nuri al-Maliki called for a cabinet reshuffle to stem the bloodshed.

Another 19 people were killed in a series of bombs and shootings in and around Baghdad.

In the bloodiest attack, a pair of suicide bombers blew themselves up as potential recruits gathered at the Iraqi National Police base in west Baghdad's Qadisiyah neighbourhood, security officials said.

At least 60 more were wounded in the morning attack.

Insurgents regularly target Iraq's fledgling security forces, often bombing recruitment drives as the government attempts to meet ambitious targets for signing up new personnel.

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NON-GOVT INSTITUTIONS

Teachers find loss in govt's salary hike

SURANJITH DEABNATH

Teachers of non-government high schools, colleges and madrasas will actually suffer financial loss due to the October 31 circular announcing the government salary increase to 100 per cent as it put the condition of depositing the students' tuition fees to the government fund.

The government at present pays 90 per cent of the basic salary of the non-government teachers and employees.

The government will have to spend Tk 400 crore annually while around Tk 800 crore is usually collected as tuition fees, said Bangladesh Shikhhak-Karmachari Oikya Parishad, a platform of eight organisations of teachers and employees.

According to Educational Institution Survey (Post Primary)-2005, the total annual income of the non-government educational institutions in 2005 was Tk 39.36 billion (3,936 crore) of which Tk 793 crore 28 lakh and 43 thousand had been collected as tuition fees.

Discontent has emerged once again among the teachers following the issue of the circular. They termed the circular a 'bluff' and held immediate past education minister Dr Osman Farruk responsible for it.

Teachers of renowned non-government high schools and colleges in the capital have already expressed serious dissatisfaction over the government's attaching condition.

The cost of electricity, water and educational instruments is to be

paid usually from the tuition fees, they said.

"How will we bear such costs if we have to deposit tuition fees? For this reason, we want to get our job out of the purview of the MPO [monthly pay order]," said Prof Rafiq Afroj, a teacher of Ispahani Girls School and College.

Rejecting the government's offer to raise their salary to 100 per cent on condition of depositing the tuition fees to the public exchequer, most of the associations of teachers and employees of non-government educational institutions said they will agree to deposit the tuition fees if the government nationalises the non-government institutions.

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Steps soon to resolve Bhabadah waterlogging problem

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information, Water Resources and Religious Affairs Adviser Mahbul Alam yesterday said he will soon take steps to solve waterlogging problem caused by Bhabadah sluice gate in Abhoynagar, Monirampur and Keshabpur upazilas under Jessore district.

Short, middle and long term plans are needed to resolve the longstanding problem in Bhabadah area, he told an inter-ministerial meeting held at the conference room of the water resources ministry.

He will take all possible initiatives to augment flows of the rivers around the troubled areas that are needed to solve the waterlogging problem, he said, adding that solving the problem will make thousands of acres of land cultivable and lessen the distress of local people.

A few lakh people have been

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Technical glitches in gas wells up power shortage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country again reels under acute power shortage as two gas wells face technical glitches in supplying gas to power plants.

Meanwhile, the power ministry has taken steps to identify the corrupt people inside the ministry, private entrepreneurs and political groups to eradicate corruption.

The Power Development Board (PDB) sources said the country experienced 794 megawatt (MW) load-shedding yesterday.

Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury, adviser to power and energy and food ministries said the power generation was hampered as a gas well developed faults in Titas Gas Field and another leaked water at Sangu Gas Field.

He said two technical officers were

sent to the wells to take immediate actions and to assess further probable problems in other gas wells.

Mashhud said the power ministry already talked with the high officials of Cairn and Chevron, the energy companies running the wells, to overcome the technical glitches immediately.

He said the Chevron officials informed him that their company would resume gas extraction at Bibiana Gas Field soon and Cairn officials said they would repair the leakage at Sangu immediately.

The PDB sources said, the overall requirement of power was 3800 megawatt yesterday and the production was 3004 megawatt in the day.

CORRUPTION
Hasan Mashhud said the ministry

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Huji leader Hannan, brother remanded

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Mufti Abdul Hannan, operations commander of banned Islamist outfit Harkatul Jihad (Huji), his brother Huji member Mahibullah alias Mafizur Rahman and their close associate Badrul Alam Mizan on a five-day fresh remand for each in the Badda double murder case.

Earlier in November, they were shown arrested in the case and placed on an eight-day remand for interrogation.

The case was filed with Badda Police Station in connection with the killings of Shahidul Islam and Sayem near a Bashundhara project on September 19, 2003.

On completion of the eight-day remand, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) produced them with the help of the Rapid Action Battalion before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM)

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PHOTO: PID

Visiting US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher, accompanied by US Ambassador to Bangladesh Patricia Butenis, meet President and Chief Adviser to the Caretaker Government Prof Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Iajuddin sits at CA's office today

UNB, Dhaka

President and Chief Adviser Prof Iajuddin Ahmed will do his official work sitting at his Tejgaon office today as the head of caretaker government.

This will be Iajuddin's maiden attendance at the chief adviser's office (former PM office) after taking over charge of the CA on October 29.

Separation of the secretariats of president and chief adviser was

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Saudi prince eyes rest govt shares in Rupali for \$134m

SARWAR A CHOWDHURY

Saudi Prince Bandar Bin Mohammad Bin Abdul Rahman Al Saudi has offered in principle \$134 million to buy the remaining 26 per cent government-owned shares of Rupali Bank, Privatisation Commission sources said.

"We will place the prince's offer at the commission meeting tomorrow [Monday] and if the proposal is acceptable we will send the offer to the government for consideration," said Privatisation Commission Chairman Enam Ahmed Chaudhury.

He said the prince has offered the price on the basis of the rate of his taking over of Rupali Bank's 67.26 per cent share, which was around Tk 2,700 per share.

"Experts told me that it's a good offer," he said, adding that no other party would like to make such an offer as buying 26 per cent shares of the bank will give no controlling power.

Earlier on August 27, the commission declared the Saudi prince the highest bidder. On October 5, the then prime minister Khaleda Zia okayed the bid of \$330 million to buy 67.26 per cent stake in Rupali Bank.

Asked about whether the caretaker government could give its consent to selling off the remaining stakes in the bank, Chaudhury said he does not see any legal complexity in giving nod to selling off the rest of the shares. "It will be a routine decision for the caretaker

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Prayer Timing		
November 13		
	Azan	
Fajr	5-00	5-35
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-22	5-25
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

4 criminals killed in 'shootouts' with cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Four listed criminals including a leader of the outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) and a robbers' gang leader were killed in two separate incidents of shootout between the police and the criminals in the district early yesterday.

The dead were identified as BCP regional leader Habibur Rahman Bablu, 40, BCP cadre Abbas Ali, 26, Safirul Islam, 36, a robbers' gang leader and his accomplice Mizanur Rahman.

Tipped off that Bablu was holding a secret meeting with his accomplices at Mahishdanga village in sadar upazila, a team of Islamic University (IU) police raided the village at about 4:30am and managed to close in on them at an open place. Ignoring the police's call for surrender, the outlaws opened fire trigger-

ing a one and a half hour-long fierce gunfight.

The bodies of Bablu and Abbas were discovered at the spot after the gunfight ended, while other outlaws fled the scene. Police also recovered a light-gun (LG) and 50 bullets from the spot.

According to police, Bablu was accused in several cases including four for murder.

In the second incident, acting on a tip-off, a team of Daulatpur police raided the house of Abdul Gafur at Hosnabad village, some 45 kilometers off the district town at about 3:30am, where some robbers were holding a meeting.

When police asked the criminals to surrender, they opened fire on the law enforcers. Police also retaliated sparking off a half an

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