

43 vie for each JU varsity Hons seat

By Shamsad Mortuza

At least 43 students are vying for each first year Honours class seat of the Jahangirnagar University in the 1992-93 academic session.

The University authorities received a total of 28,288 application forms for an approximate 650 first year Honours seats under four different units on the last day of submission Monday, sources said.

Hall sources revealed that as much as 650 seats will be vacated by the outgoing Masters examinees against which the freshers will be accommodated in the University. Only a total of 86 female students will get admission in this season due to the shortage of seats in the two women dormitories, hall sources said.

The ratio of male and female students is about 7:1, statistics said. Studies showed that many students leave the University after admission for better opportunities in the medical or engineering colleges at home and abroad, without informing the hall authorities.

Evidently, freshers cannot be admitted against these unofficial 'vacant' seats.

At least 75 seats were abandoned by the students last year and the hall authorities failed to admit students against those

seats, sources said. Besides, many of the students are residing outside the campus of the University, which is said to be an exclusively residential one.

Sufficient transport service however has been provided for the students living in the capital, some 30 km away from the campus.

Despite the 75 per cent attendance rule in the dormitories many students are not staying in their respective halls which again hampers the admission process, sources added.

From this academic session Jahangirnagar University launched two new departments: Electronics and Archaeology.

The total number of departments now stand to 20 under four separate faculties.

The Social Science Faculty received the highest number of application forms with a total of 8,800.

The Science Faculty followed with a total of 7,233 while the Arts and Humanities Faculty and Life Science Institute received 6,330 and 5,925 applications respectively.

Admission tests will begin from April 24. Schedule of the entrance exams will be announced later.



Sammilita Sangskritik Jote (combined cultural group) brought out a procession in city yesterday protesting police assault on the leaders and workers of Nirmul Samanannaya Committee on March 26 and 28. — Star photo

Sangskritik Jote backs Apr 8, 20 programmes

By Staff Correspondent

A rally of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote Tuesday at the Central Shaheed Minar premises warned that the people would go for united movement against the government if it did not behave democratically.

The rally presided by Faiz Ahmed was organised to protest the police attack on Nirmul Committee rallies late last month.

The Jote also gave all-out support to the all-party programmes on April 8 and 20.

The meeting was addressed by Syed Shamsul Huq, Ramezuddin Majumder, Mamunur Rashid, Ataur Rahman, Jamaluddin Ahmed, Golam Kuddus, and Belal Chowdhury.

CPB leaders

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that the Communist Party had to be consolidated and any attempt to abolish the Communist Party should be opposed tooth and nail. A statement issued after yesterday's meeting said the class struggle is inherent in the present global society and the realisation of the aspirations of the 'have nots' can only be realised through strengthening the Communist Party.

There are ups and downs in the long and tortuous process of socialism, the statement said and urged those who have become somewhat disillusioned about communism to remain patient and not to deviate from the noble principles of socialism.

The twelve signatories included Barin Dutta, Shanti Dutta, Hena Das, Mohammad Safiuddin Mallick, Abdus Sattar and Sayeruddin Ahmed, Rabi, Niyogi, Sunil Roy, Santosh Banerjee, Ananga Sen, Rakkhal Banerjee and Prasad Roy.

Five other leaders Nurul Islam Munshi, Abdur Razzak, Purnendu Kanungo, Mushlesur Rahman and Mirinal Biswas, who could not attend the meeting due to indisposition, expressed their solidarity with the statement.

Shamsul Haque murder Police arrest five, recover evidences from FP office

By Staff Correspondent

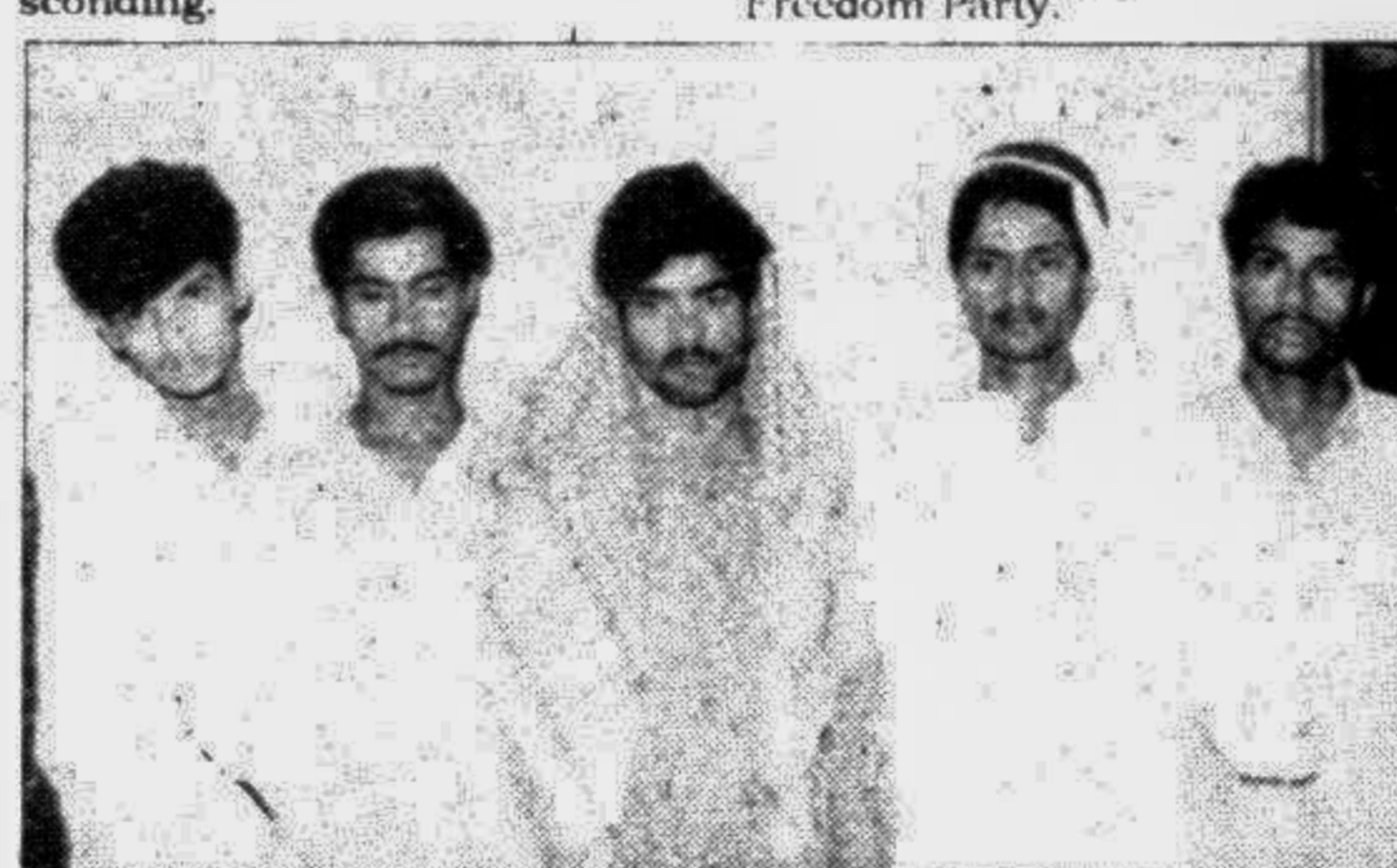
Detective Branch (DB) of Police arrested five persons Monday in connection with the murder of a businessman, Khandker Shamsul Haque.

Shamsul Haque, 62, a Class-I contractor, was shot dead by a group of gunmen in the bedroom of his Mohammadpur residence on March 9 evening.

Shahid, Niaz Ahmed Pintu alias Masud, Ismail, Mostafa alias Razu, and Akkas alias Liton arrested in connection with the murder were detained in the Detective Branch office at Minto Road for questioning. The accused persons are expected to be produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) today (Wednesday).

Following the statement of the nabbed persons, the DB police raided the Freedom Party Office at Dhanmondi Monday night and recovered two robes hidden under the stage in the conference room there, said Deputy Commissioner of Detective Branch M. Mojibur Rahman.

Briefing the journalists in his office last evening Rahman said that four others involved in the murder were still absconding.



Persons arrested for their alleged involvement in the murder of Khandker Shamsul Haque. — Star photo

Corruption cases against 3 rlymen

CHITTAGONG, Apr 6: District Anti-Corruption Department here today filed two cases with Kotwali thana against three employees of Bangladesh Railway for alleged misappropriation of several lakhs of railway money, reports BSS.

An official sources said, Pay and Cash office pay assistant Shahidullah, junior auditors Sukanti Narayan Sen and Abdul Hannan misappropriated 320,034 taka from April 5, 1989 to August 18, 1990 through fake memos. District Anti-Corruption Department detected the irregularities in Pay and Cash Office of the railway during an inquiry.

Child labour

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he said, "Instead, the industry and the government, should look for creative solutions to provide education and training to these children," he said.

"Bangladesh will then be able to boast that it does not exploit children, but rather supports them," Milam added.

The United States government will provide approximately 110 million US dollars in development and food assistance to Bangladesh this year, the US Ambassador stated.

The US has also provided over three billion US dollars in such assistance since Independence," Milam said, adding that "We are working in such areas as family planning, rural electrification, food policy, fertilizer distribution, agricultural research, flood control, environmental assessment and health services, small and medium enterprises and financial sector reforms."

Speaking on US investment in Bangladesh, the Ambassador said that US firms had shown interest in investing in natural gas, coal and more recently, power generation.

"Procedures under which such proposals are evaluated should work much faster," Milam stated.

Talking about the friendly relationship between Bangladesh and the US, the Ambassador said, "It is a mistake to think that there are some strategic geopolitical interests behind US interests in Bangladesh. I believe that Bangladesh is fortunate that US interests are the straight-forward, enduring kind -- democracy, human rights, economic development -- and not the often elusive and opaque strategic geopolitical kind," he added.

The meeting chaired by Tayabuddin Ahmed was attended among others by Rtn Raquibuddin, M A Wahab, Jalal Ahmed and a number of US embassy officials.

Rtn M Mosharrar Hossain, District Governor nominee 1994-95 while speaking on the occasion said the relationship between Bangladesh and the US was very vital because of the economic involvement of the two countries.

The Midnight File

Croats, Serbs sign ceasefire accord

GENEVA, Apr 6: Croatia and its rebel Serbs signed a ceasefire accord today to end over two months of conflict in the disputed Krajina enclave, officials said. But Slobodan Jarevcic, Foreign Minister of the self-styled Serbian republic of Krajina, told reporters the agreement would not come into effect unless Serb deputies approved it at a special session on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Russian FM in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Apr 6: Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev arrived here late today on a three-day official visit to Pakistan, officials said. They said Kozyrev would hold talks with Pakistan's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Siddique Kanju, as part of the process of strengthening bilateral relations, reports BSS.

13 bus passengers shot dead in Sind

HYDERABAD (Pakistan), Apr 6: Bandits held up a bus and shot dead 13 passengers in a tribal feud in Pakistan's lawless southern province of Sind today, officials said, reports Reuter.

Golam Azam: Campaign

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to Pakistan," the Attorney General added. Justice Chowdhury read out several pages of the two books placed before him by the Attorney General but said that it was difficult on his part to mention the name of Prof Syeed's book in the judgement as the author had not explained the basis of his book.

The learned Judge, however, said that the book could be considered as hearsay-evidence.

Justice Chowdhury also cross-checked and clarified some of the points of the Attorney General.

The prosecution lawyer said that five subsequent governments had not questioned the notification that "Golam Azam is not a citizen of Bangladesh."

He said further that the Court should weigh and interpret the law in accordance with the changing circumstances and that declaring the notification illegal would tantamount to rehabilitating Azam to the political community which would be a catastrophe for Bangladesh as because it was a public issue.

"Law needs to be interpreted in accordance with public interest, time and necessity," Huq argued.

UNB added: The Attorney General argued that Golam Azam's position is exactly the

same as that of the stranded Biharis in Bangladesh.

A non-Bengali who was born here, his father and grandfather may also have been born in Bangladesh on or before March 25, 1971, but they are construed as citizens of Pakistan.

Golam Azam is no exception to them although he was born within the soil of Bangladesh. The notification issued by the government on April 18, 1973 had been done within the framework of Article 2 of the Citizenship Order.

Thus, the Attorney General argued, the notification stating that Golam Azam was not a citizen of Bangladesh had been done within the scope of law and there was no illegality in doing so.

Golam Azam also formed the so-called East Pakistan Recapturing Committee in London with the objective of annulling the independence of Bangladesh.

Even on coming to Bangladesh, the Jamaat leader had registered himself as Pakistani citizen and extended his visa twice, he added.

The Single-Judge Bench was constituted by the Chief Justice after the Two-Member Bench gave a split verdict over the citizenship issue of Azam.

The Court will resume today (Wednesday).

Health Day

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will arrange a symposium tomorrow at the conference hall of PG Hospital.

Dr Abeyesundere, Representative of WHO (World Health Organization) in Bangladesh, will attend the function as the main speaker. Professor T A Chowdhury, Director of IPGMR, will preside.

A discussion on "Health policy of Islam" will be held today under the auspices of the Islamic Foundation Bangladesh at its auditorium.

Bangladesh Palli Chikitsahawk Samity has drawn up an elaborate programme in observance of the day. Its programmes include discussion on the importance of the day at district and thara levels and public meetings and over the country to create public awareness about population explosion, mothers and child-care and diarrhoea.

The newspapers do not know the real situation of present rates of house rent. Rate of house rent in Saudi Arabia has increased as Saudi men build new and modern houses in and around the Haram Sharif, Mannan said.

He said a five-member delegation went to Saudi Arabia to hire houses for those pilgrims who will go for hajj under the government supervision.

The minister said that the allegation of corruption is completely baseless, false and untrue and urged the newsmen to remove confusion among the people in this respect.

The press conference was attended, among others, by hajj committee members M Hamidullah Khan MP, Moulana Ataur Rahman MP, Secretary of Religious Affairs Ministry Abdul Awal, Joint Secretary Abdur Rashid and Director General of Hajj Affairs in Foreign Ministry A K M Fazlur Rahman.

PM: Stability

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tion of democracy loving people of the country.

Begum Zia said the government which had initiated the rural based development policy was providing loans for establishing small and medium sized industries including poultry and dairy farms. She called upon the people to avail these opportunities to help her government in its initiative to solve the unemployment problems.

She said the government had reduced its control over the industrial sector and giving stress on private sector initiative in the field. She pointed out that at present the foreign investment had increased many times.

The Prime Minister called upon the rural people to stop coming to the city areas for seeking jobs rather to take the opportunity provided by the government to establish industries at their own places.

Begum Zia said "We have to increase production to meet our national demand." Otherwise, she said, the smuggling which was the greatest threat to the country could not be resisted.

The meetings were addressed, among others, by LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, Deputy Minister for Health Sirajul Huq, Dr Sirajul Huq MP, Rahima Khondokar MP, Sramik Dal vice president Nazrul Islam and local BNP leaders.

Hajj

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introduced such provision following a series of complaint that the pilgrims had been cheated by some people in Saudi Arabia in the past and to maintain discipline during the hajj.

The provision is also aimed at ensuring the pilgrims' safe return to their countries. In recent years more than four thousand Bangladeshi hajjis did not return to the country.

The State Minister said a section of newspapers reported that the hajj committee authorities took the path of corruption showing high rent rates in the name of so-called facilities for the pilgrims.

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Cuts in ADP

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ucation a Tk 118 crore slash, industries a Tk 48 crore slash, water resources a Tk 74 crore slash and health a Tk 15 crore slash.

However, allocations have been increased by Tk 76 crore in the power sector, and Tk 36 crore in rural development sector.

In the technical assistance allocation, agriculture faced a Tk five crore cut, rural development Tk three crore, water resources Tk 33 crore, industries Tk seven crore, education Tk three crore and health Tk four crore cuts.

In the self-financed outlay, both the industries and power sector faced Tk 27 crore and Tk 50 crore cuts respectively.

ROK traders keen to invest in Bangladesh

Korean entrepreneurs now rate Bangladesh as one of the most prospective countries for investing their capital, said leader of a visiting South Korean economic delegation here yesterday, reports UNB.

"Increased number of our investors are taking immense interest in Bangladesh," said Byung Joong Kang, Vice-President of Korea's Pushan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), in a meeting with the members of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) over a luncheon.

Kang is leading a 14-member PCCI delegation which arrived here Monday night on a week-long investment exploration mission. The delegation includes leading Korean industrialists representing various sectors including rubber and chemicals.

Mentioning that South Korea's investment in Bangladesh during the last one year totalled 10 million US dollars, he said the trend demonstrates the recent attitude of Korean entrepreneurs towards Bangladesh.

Kang, a leading manufacturer of automobile tyre and tube of his country, appreciated Bangladesh's incentive packages which, according to him, is competitive.

Trade and investment tie between Bangladesh and Korea has enough potentials to grow, observed the delegation leader.

He, however, told UNB that although incentives are quite competitive the country requires to improve its infrastructure including telecommunications and port facilities.

Kang also stressed the need for improvement in "atmosphere" for foreign investors. In this context, Kang resented the procedural hiccups his delegation had to face

with immigration and customs at the airport last night.

The very first impression of the foreign investors is important, he added.

Earlier, welcoming the Korean delegation at his office, DCCI President M Yunus called for reducing the imbalance in trade between Bangladesh and South Korea that has extremely been in favour of Seoul.

The country's trade deficit with South Korea accumulated to an estimated 900 million US dollars as Dhaka imported more than forty times as much commodities as it exported to Seoul.

In 1991-92, Bangladesh's export to Korea amounted to 4.4 million US dollars while its import bill was about 182 million dollars.

"This is possibly the worst instance of trade imbalance," said Yunus, suggesting increased investment here from Korean side which, he said, would help reduce the wide gap.

Apprising the delegation of existing policy supports to foreign investment, the DCCI President identified some areas -- petro-chemical complex, fertilizer, textile, leather, canning and preservation of deep sea fish -- where prospective Bangladesh-Korea joint ventures can be initiated.

He also suggested the Korean investors to avail of the opportunity of Bangladesh's recent offer for foreign private investment in power and telecommunication sectors of the country.

During its stay here, the Korean delegation will visit Chittagong Export Processing Zone and meet government leaders and officials besides finding out prospective Bangladesh partners for joint ventures.

BCS FF officers threaten movement

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Freedom Fighter BCS Officer Welfare Association is planning to launch a movement to press home its demands including proper promotion of the freedom fighter officers.

In an emergency meeting on Monday the executive committee of the association decided to launch the movement after April 23.

Indefinite transport strike in Joypurhat

JPYPURHAT, Apr 6: Local Bus-Truck Workers Union enforced an indefinite transport strike in the district from this (Tuesday) evening after a clash with students, reports UNB.

At least 10 people were injured and several motor vehicles damaged in the clash that occurred at 11:00 am in the town.

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SAARC officials sit today

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Senior Foreign Ministry officials of the member nations, he said, would start meeting from today to draft the declaration for the end of the summit on April 11. Gamar Rahim, Director General of the SAARC Desk at the Foreign Office, will chair the meetings.

The Foreign Secretaries, who constitute the SAARC Standing Committee, would meet Thursday morning and the Foreign Ministers, who make up the SAARC Council of Ministers, would meet Friday.

Bhutan's Foreign Minister Lyonpo Tsering has already arrived in the capital while Indian Foreign Secretary J N Dixit and Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary Bernard K Tilakaratne are both scheduled to arrive today.

Indian Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh, the Maldives Foreign Minister Fatullah Jamil and Foreign Secretary Salah Shihab and Nepalese State Minister for Foreign Affairs Manesh Acharya and Foreign Secretary Silwal are expected to arrive Thursday.

The Pakistan State Minister for Foreign Affairs M S K Kanju and Foreign Secretary Shahriyar Khan, Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Harold Herat and the Kathmandu-based SAARC Secretary General Ibrahim H Zaki are all also scheduled to arrive Thursday.

"The main thrust of SAARC," Foreign Secretary Rahman said, "would be on socio-economic aspects of the region and on how to improve living standards of the common people in an environment of peace."

He added that agendas including those at the summit would be "open-ended" and noting that the agendas in the summit would be open-ended, Rahman pointed out that they would include discussion on the report of the Independent South Asian Commission on

poverty alleviation, adoption of the South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement (SAPTA), setting up of a South Asia regional fund and a regional meteorological centre in Dhaka.

The summit would also consider providing recognition to apex professional regional organisations and setting up relationships with other regional bodies like ASEAN and the European Commission.

On April 10, Rahman said, separate honour guards would be awarded to the visiting heads of state and government during the pre-inaugural ceremony and after the inaugural session of the summit the SAARC leaders would go on a retreat aboard the riverboat Ostrich from Meghna Ghat.

Alternate arrangements, in case of inclement weather, would be made elsewhere in the capital for the retreat, he added. The SAARC leaders would attend a banquet hosted by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the evening.

On April 11, the Foreign Secretary said, the morning hours would be kept open for bilateral talks between the

leaders while they are scheduled to call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas, who would host a luncheon for them which would be followed by a cultural show.

The concluding session of the summit is scheduled for 5:00 pm Sunday which would be followed by a press conference addressed by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, as the incoming chairman of the regional forum.

Replying to a question, Foreign Secretary Rahman ruled out any radical changes in the broad-based SAARC Charter. He added that there were no proposals to amend the Charter to include political issues.

However, he said, practical issues like holding the summit, which is currently held every year, may be discussed at the summit.

Replying to another question, the Foreign Secretary noted that the budget for holding the summit would likely exceed the Taka eight crore limit earlier set, because of the two postponements.

Asked about the planned demonstration against Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao by the Babri Mosque Action Committee, Rahman noted that the government is very much aware of the fact. "Nothing that might embarrass any dignitaries will be allowed to happen," he added.

Shaikhul Hadith Maulana Azizul Haq, who earlier led an abortive march towards Ayodhya on January 4, has called for a mass rally at Baitul Mukarram on April 9 as part of his campaign to press the Indian government to rebuild the Babri Mosque.

Assuring that everything would be alright, the Foreign Secretary noted that the Home Minister is heading a committee on security during the SAARC Summit.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police last night, in an announcement, banned all meetings in the capital from 9 pm Thursday.

Indian troops fought the LTTE for more than two years in a bid to end the group's separatist campaign in Sri Lanka's northeast, returning home in 1990.

LTTE forms hit squad

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about 1,250.

But Indian authorities have since blamed Pakistan's military intelligence and Muslim members of the Bombay underworld for the explosions, which prompted increased security measures at targets vulnerable to terrorist attack.

The LTTE was banned in India after it was accused of masterminding the May 1991 assassination of former Premier Rajiv Gandhi by a female suicide-bomber at an election rally in southern India.

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