

## The pineapple-like bomb

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bombs were totally 'non-service' now and were used for creating chaos and panic. "It was made in Chile but we are yet to be sure how it was smuggled into Bangladesh and whether there were more devices like this in the same consignment."

Both police and the villagers believe that the gang might have come from the capital on the previous night and stayed somewhere in the area. One of them along with the bomb went to the church in the early morning just before the Sunday prayer began.

"The sensitive device was kept on the book shelf inside the church. And then it was booby trapped with a book or something else. The person who removed the book unknowingly caused the device explode," said the army bomb expert. The person or persons who planted the bomb must have taken time to do it. The explosion damaged the

brick wall of the church and completely destroyed the bookshelf. Shrapnel ripped through the tin roof, creating large holes. Ten people were killed and 26 injured in the explosion.

Villagers of Baniarchar, with a Christian population of over 3,000, have no doubt that the attackers were outsiders. They however did not rule out the possibility of involvement of a 'section of villagers' who had earlier committed various crimes in the area.

They think the attackers chose Sunday for the brutal act as a number of people from nearby villages also attended the prayer.

"There is no doubt that the attackers were outsiders but they could not have planted the bomb without the help of local people," said an elderly man at Baniarchar.

Officer-in-Charge of Mukshudpur thana Md Firoz Mia also believes that the attackers were from outside.

## Miladunnabi today

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prphet brought enlightenment to the benighted people.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the occasion.

In their messages, the president and the prime minister urged the countrymen to follow the ideals and path of the prophet for overall well-being.

The government and different socio-cultural organisations have chalked out programmes to mark the day.

Islamic Foundation has undertaken a fortnight programme to be inaugurated at 5:30 PM today. Food Minister Amir Hossain Amu and State Minister for Religious Affairs Mawlana Nurul Islam will attend the inaugural function.

The programme includes semi-

nar, waj mahfil after Magrib prayers, cultural competition, qirat mahfil and Islamic book fair.

Jatityatabadi Olama Dal will hold a milad mahfil and discussion on life and work of the prophet at the BNP central office.

Jatiya Party (M-M) will also hold a milad mahfil and discussion at its Lalmita office.

Torikat-e-Mawla Group will hold a seminar and milad mahfil on High Court major premises at 11:00 am. Besides, it will bring out a procession from Duttapara Khanka Sharif in Tongi at 9:00 am which will later parade the main thoroughfare in the capital.

Anjuman-e-Rahmania Moinia Majibhandaria has chalked out day-long programme on the occasion. The programme includes procession, seminar, qirat, naat and essay competition, waj and milad mahfil.

## Never on a Tuesday

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Nearby, on the highway, a truck was being loaded with locally manufactured garments. Scooters, rickshaws and pushcarts were parked haphazardly, as passengers on long-distant buses and other vehicles suffered on for hours. Ambulances with patients and their anxious relatives inside kept using the sirens in vain.

Commuters to and from Dhaka, Sylhet, Narsingdi, Bhairab and many other places said the authorities concerned simply ignored their complaints in this regard.

While thousands of people suffer regularly, the 'VIPs' have no such problem while passing through the area, they said.

"Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan

Bhuiyan, Science and Technology Minister Nooruddin Khan and many other influential people hail from the area and use this road," said a commuter from Narsingdi. "Whenever any one of them passes through the area on Tuesdays, police make sure there is no traffic jam at Bhulta."

When contacted, ASP of Narayanganj Mohammad Abdul Baten said he was aware of the problem, created by vendors who set up their shops on the road.

"In Narayanganj, there are places where markets have mushroomed on roads. We evict the vendors but they keep coming back. The Roads and Highways Department should ensure that their roads are not encroached upon," said the police officer.

## Shishu Academy

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mended establishment of a separate Directorate of Children's Affairs in the ministry to further strengthen activities of the Academy.

The IMED of the Planning Ministry also appreciated the "success" of the project and recommended its placement under the revenue budget, they said.

The IMED also recommended construction of the Academy's own buildings in each district and launching of a massive campaign through the Radio, TV and the print media to apprise people of its activities and integrate children with it.

When contacted, Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs KM Ehsanul Haq said the ministry is trying "its best" to place the project under the revenue budget. The process is on he said and hoped it will be done. He said none will lose his job.

About non-allocation of funds in the ADP for 2001-2002, he said it is not required as "the project is going to be placed under the revenue budget."

The Shishu Academy was set up

in 1976 in Dhaka to help children develop their talents. Its branches were set up in 20 more districts in fiscal 1981-82 and in another 44 districts in 1992. All these were brought under the revenue budget.

But the decisions of the May 27 inter-ministerial meeting surprised all, especially officials of the Women and Children Affairs Ministry and the Academy.

Officials at the Academy said a total of 255 officials and employees will have to be retrenched and all development programmes closed if the project is not placed under the revenue budget as per recommendation of the Women and Children Affairs Ministry.

They said the Academy is understaffed. There are five officials and employees at district offices and three at thana offices now.

It will be difficult for the Academy to implement the UNICEF funded Tk 37 crore 5-year project for development of children and creating awareness among mothers if adequate manpower is not recruited, they said.

## Petrobangla likely to sign

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these two blocks. Outlined in the shadow of Shell's PSC for offshore Block 16, Maersk PSCs spell a 50:50 profit split formula with Petrobangla. For Petrobangla, this profit share is lower than Shell's PSC, as Maersk's operation would require higher initial cost and investment.

While Blocks 19 and 20 spread more than 200 kilometres into the Bay of Bengal, Maersk's exploration activities in the first five years would be limited within 200 metres of water depth.

Specialised in deep-sea exploration, the Danish company Maersk would undertake its oil and gas drilling programmes on the basis of its own market study. Maersk says that after the fifth year of contract it would undertake a gas field development programme only if the reserve prospect in these two blocks showed a total of at least three trillion cubic feet (TCF).

Maersk has also proposed, as per the guideline of the Model PSC, that it was interested in the option of

exporting gas in the form of liquefied natural gas (LNG). The other option for selling gas to Petrobangla would mean installing up to 200 kilometres of gas pipeline in the Bay of Bengal.

Like Maersk, Shell would also conduct seismic surveys in Blocks 5 and 10 and drill two exploratory wells in each. Parts of both these blocks overlap with the Sunderbans.

The oil giant would refrain from conducting any seismic survey in the whole Sunderbans region - a world heritage site - considering the environmental sensitivity. Instead, it would conduct aero-magnetic survey to pinpoint prospective areas in the region. It has primarily decided to drill in areas outside the mangrove forest.

Like Maersk, Shell's PSCs envisage exploration and development after five years of contract, given availability of gas market.

If there is not enough opportunity to sell new gas, Shell and Maersk will refrain from exploration activities after five years.

## Protect environment for interest of future generation: PM

**UNB, Dhaka**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged all to make effective contributions to the effort for protecting environment that is essential for survival and future development.

"We will have to protect our environment for the interest of our future generation so that they don't have to suffer from air and environmental pollution," she said inaugurating the Environment Bhaban at Agargaon.

On the eve of World Environment Day today, the Prime Minister yesterday inaugurated the five-storied building of the Environment Department to expedite its activities.

Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, State

Minister for Environment HN Ashiqur Rahman, Alhaj Moqbul Hossain MP, UNDP Resident Representative Jorgen Lissner and DG Environment Department Khandeker Rashidul Huq also addressed the function, presided over by Environment Secretary Mahfuzul Islam.

She said the government had introduced environment policy and implemented programmes, introduced national environment management plan, national conservation law, environment prevention guidelines, environment court law and sustainable environment management programmes.

She said following the decisions of the National Environment Committee, banks and financial institutions are ensuring pragmatic

steps for controlling environment pollution in their processing of credits to the mills and factories.

"We have taken up Dhaka City Transport Project and Air Temperature Observation Project at national level to control air pollution, the import of baby-taxi has been banned identifying it as a cause of air pollution."

The Prime Minister said the government had also banned the establishment of new polythene industry for five years trying to minimise the use of the pollutant.

Identifying air pollution as the main cause of environmental problem of the capital, she said the use of catalytic converter and petrol diesel particulate filters in the diesel vehicle has been made compulsory from August 1, 2001.

The government has developed infrastructure for management and development and developed accommodation for preservation of wildlife in the reserved areas.

As a result, bio-diversities would be properly reserved and developed, she said, adding this would contribute greatly to natural tradition, preservation of environment and ecosystem, development, education, research and recreation.

Hasina said, "We have taken up a project on bio-diversity conservation in the Sundarbans Reserve Forest at a cost of Tk 382 crore for multidimensional management and development of forest resources in the Sundarbans. We are a member of the Global Tiger Forum and Bangladesh is the current president of the forum."

## Protests in Kathmandu

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palace has insisted since then that the deaths were the result of the accidental firing of an automatic weapon during a family dinner.

That explanation was met with derision by many Nepalese and their anger exacerbated by the crowning of the unpopular Gyanendra as king.

In a statement, Gyanendra called for "patience and unity" and said "constitutional and legal complications" had initially prevented a comprehensive account being given of the palace massacre.

"But that situation no longer exists, so we will bring out the real truth before the public as soon as possible after an investigation," he said.

A home ministry statement was also broadcast on state radio, denouncing the spreading "of false and unfounded rumours."

"Please remain calm, the truth will come out soon," it said.

As the new king paraded through the streets here in a horse-drawn open carriage, some people chanted slogans against him including "Death to Gyanendra."

Baton-wielding police charged the protestors, who responded by throwing stones. The police then resorted to firing tear gas

rounds.

Warning shots were also fired over the heads of demonstrators outside Ratna Park, about one kilometre from the royal palace.

"We do not accept the thief Gyanendra," chanted the protestors, who also shouted slogans against the new king's only son, the widely disliked Prince Paras Shah, who is now next in line to the throne.

He was allegedly involved in a hit-and-run accident last year in which at least five people died.

Troops had been deployed outside the main gates of the city's two palaces to allow the crowning of Gyanendra to proceed, but were later withdrawn.

"There's going to be serious trouble," said one 22-year-old college student. "People feel they are not being treated with respect."

The number of royals slain in Friday's massacre rose to 10 Monday, as hospital officials confirmed the death of the youngest brother of the late King Birendra and Gyanendra, Dhirendra Shah.

Absolute rule by the Nepalese monarchy ended in 1990 when King Birendra agreed to assume a purely constitutional figurehead role in the wake of a mass pro-democracy movement.

## BNP: Undemocratic law

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The BNP has requested the President to stop the ruling party from enacting such anti-people law.

Referring to AL leaders' argument in favour of the proposed law in a meeting with the President, Prof Chowdhury said the AL leaders only brought up the security issue of the former PM but avoided the fact that the law will contradict the caretaker conception, obstructing free and fair polls.

He said the BNP will not object if the ex-PM and other AL leaders are provided security as per existing laws.

He said both Khaleida Zia and Sheikh Hasina were given equal status and security during the caretaker regimes of 1991 and 1996. He reminded that the government has withdrawn more than half of the security provided for the Leader of the Opposition in June 1997 and has not restored it yet.

Denying the AL claim, Prof Chowdhury said the then government after a unanimous decision in cabinet and parliament provided some facilities to the inheritors of late President Ziaur Rahman but they were not given the residence of the President or the Prime Minister.

He said the house where Khaleida Zia and her family members live was allotted when Ziaur Rahman was made Deputy Chief

Army Staff and that Zia lived there even after being elected President. After Zia's death, he said, there was no shelter or wealth left for his family and thus the then government through a unanimous decision in parliament donated the house to Zia's family as his two sons were still under-aged.

Prof Chowdhury said Sheikh Hasina who was abroad during her father Mujib's death was handed over the house at Dhanmondi 32, platinum worth Tk 7.80 lakh, diamond, pearl sets, gold crown and other ornaments, foreign currency equivalent to Tk 17,500, Tk 9,461 and 621 cancelled notes of one hundred Taka etc on her return to Bangladesh.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said that the opposition will not object if Sheikh Hasina after her resignation is provided additional security under the existing laws. So, there is no need to introduce new law.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed said the AL did not talk about such special security and privileges in last 21 years including last five years of its rule.

Saifur Rahman said according to the existing statecraft, the ex-PM can not get special privilege and can not live in the PM's designated residence.

## Pakistan level Test series

**AFP, Manchester**

Pakistan pulled off a dramatic 108-run victory against hosts England in the second and final Test here at Old Trafford Monday, the tourists taking eight wickets in the final session.

The result means Pakistan draw the two match series at one piece after England's innings and nine runs victory at Lord's.

## Human chain

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Even passengers got down from their vehicles and joined the human chains.

Local Awami League leaders Dr Syedur Rahman, former lawmaker Md. Ishaq Mia, and Khorshed Alam Sujan joined the human chain in front of the local press club.

BNP Joint Secretary General Abdullah Al Noman participated in the chain at Nomin Road.

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) President Farid Ahmed Chowdhury joined the chain in Agrabad Choumohuni area.

Although Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury missed the human chain, he advised his party men and employees in Chittagong City Corporation to join it before leaving for Singapore three days ago.

## Share scam

**FROM PAGE 1**

Beximco Pharma and Shinepukur Holdings on Sunday moved the petition in the High Court bench comprising Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury and Justice Mohammad Abdur Razzak.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) lawyers along with Additional Attorney General Mahub-e-Alam objected to the petition by the companies on Sunday. The High Court had fixed yesterday for delivering its judgement on the petition move.

While reading out the judgement, Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury observed that the order of the Second Additional Metropolitan Session's Judge's Court was in accordance with law.

The two companies along with thirteen others were accused of manipulating the share market in 1996 when the indices nosedived to an unreasonable low after hitting an abnormal high.

The capital market regulators, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), formed an inquiry committee, and based on the committee report fifteen cases were filed against the accused.

The cases went to the Appellate Division twice, once for quashment and then for transfer of the cases to another court.

## Jail Killing Case

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Investigation Officer during the time of investigation into the matter.

The witness also told the court that his elder brother Nurul Haque was an MP during the rule of the then Awami League Government but he (Nurul Haque) died before his (witness) promotion to the post of Inspector General (IG) in 1973.

Nuruzzaman further told the court that a coup was done under the leadership of Brig Khaled Mosharraf and Ziaur Rahman was arrested but he could not remember the date of incident. The leaders of the coup d'etat (Khaled and Shafayet) did not commit the jail killing with the help of the then jail authorities, Nuruzzaman added.

The witness told the court that at about 10 am on November, 1975 he went to the then Home Secretary to inform the incident. But he (Home Secretary) did not comment on the incident, he added.

He further said, Khondaker Mushtaque was not his relative and he (witness) did not talk to him (Mushtaque) before the incident.

The witness told the court that he could not remember whether Khondaker Mushtaque was arrested by the rebels on November 2, 1975.

The witness also told the court that he could not remember whether Shah Moazzem Hossain, K M Obaidur Rahman and Nurul Islam Manzoor were indirectly involved in the jail killing.

Eight of the 21 accused Taheruddin Thakur, Shah Moazzem Hossain, K M Obaidur Rahman, Nurul Islam Manzoor, Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farookur Rahman, Lt Col (Retd) Sultan Shahrir Rashid Khan, Maj (Retd) Bazul Huda and Maj (Retd) Khairuzaman are now detained at the Dhaka Central Jail.

They were produced in the court during the hearing.

Meanwhile, a petition for bail of K M Obaidur Rahman was moved stating that the Parliament session would begin this week. So as an MP he may be granted bail to join the JS session under police custody.

The prosecution side opposed the petition.

After hearing both the sides, the court turned down the prayer.

Metropolitan P P Quamrul Islam appeared for the state while Advocate Khondaker Mahub Hossain, T M Akbar, Anwar Zahid Bhuiyan, Mohammad Arshadul Haque, Abdul Majid Munshi and Mohammad Hanif for the accused.

## Hedayet Ahmed in coma at CMH

**BSS, Dhaka**

Veteran civil servant and retired secretary to the government Hedayet Ahmed was admitted to Combined Military Hospital (CMH) as his condition deteriorated on Sunday night, family sources said.

Hedayet, a 1957-batch CSP officer, is in deep coma at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the hospital, the attending doctors said.

He has been suffering from multiple Myeloma cancer for long.

Hedayet, currently chairman of the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh and vice-chancellor of the Asia Pacific University, retired as education secretary in 1990 after a long career in civil service.

Beginning his career as a journalist of the daily Sangbad, he also served as ambassador of Bangladesh to Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

## Three possible reasons

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But they declined to presume who could be behind the incident.

Another group of people said it might be an act of fundamentalist forces to create a law and order situation in the country.

There has been a row over a former priest of the church, Father Lalit, who was "implicated" in a "scandal" involving a Sister, some local people said.

In the village, Lalit had earned a "bad name" as he started to befriend some local "mastaans", they claimed. This divided the local Christian community. He allegedly used the "mastaans" against his rivals in the village.

As discontent grew among a section of the Christian community, Lalit was transferred from the church in November last year. This angered his supporters.

His supporters tried to bring him back, but could not due to strong protest by his opponents.

On December last year, newly-appointed Italian-born Father Mimmo called a meeting in the village. Some "mastaans" attacked the meeting, injuring some villagers including one Milton Baroi who reportedly organised the villagers

against Father Lalit.

A case was also filed with local police, accusing some of the "mastaans".

Many villagers believe that the attack prompted Lalit's men to plant the bomb inside the church.

Asked by this correspondent, Father Mimmo admitted that there was "a problem" with the church in the past. "But the problem is over now," he said.

Local member of parliament Faruk Khan also admitted that there was "a crisis centering the former Father of the Church". But the problem was not so big that it may lead to such a disastrous incident, he said.

Like many people, police and local leaders and activists of Awami League blamed fundamentalist forces for the bomb explosion. They believe that these forces did it to create unrest in the country. Local AL MP Faruk Khan also held the same view.

"The bomb attack was not an isolated one. It followed a series of bomb blasts in the past," Home Minister Mohammad Nasim said while addressing a meeting in front of the church yesterday.

## Non-collection of BTTB

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failed to supply different types of registers, sources said. They said the computer centre has supplied only two types of registers out of a total 38 required. The BTTB maintain separate registers under the headers of all type, type wise, ITX call details, exceptional report, zero calls, 100 calls, share wise, ISD registers, etc.

Registers are maintained by the BTTB mainly for monitoring of revenue collection and different kinds of track records of internal and international revenue payments.

Foreign currency earnings from incoming international calls would sharply decline due to non-availability of ITX call details register and the BTTB would not be able to compare overseas operators tariff due to absence of a ISD incoming call register.

The BTTB started distribution of digital telephone subscriber bill for the month of January from April 22 and completed it by end of May.

Now, BUET has prepared the bill for February, which will be distributed soon. The bills for the month once again are full of errors like those for January.

The data processing centre of the BTTB has sent back bills of two exchanges including Jinjira and Demra for correction.

Meanwhile, the BTTB is yet to take any step to prepare bills for telex subscribers from April 2000 to May 2001.

The fresh tender floated with a view to awarding the job still hangs in balance. The BTTB is yet to respond to a rule nisi on its chairman and four other officials for their refusal to supply tender documents to Lithi Enterprises Limited. Post and telecommunications secretary has also been asked by the High Court to explain the matter.

On May 23, the High Court on issued the rule nisi to show cause within 15 days as to why the director of finance and accounts had refused to supply tender schedule.

## Wailing relatives demand

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anguish and demanded proper investigation and exemplary punishment of the killers.

Bimananda Mallik, who lost his only son Michael Mallik, was frequently bursting into tears. "I went to the church along with my son. As the bomb exploded, I looked for him, but could not see him. His body was later found in a pool of blood," the wailing father said.

Priti Zetra, mother of victim Rodrics, said she was cooking while the bomb exploded. "I ran to the church and saw my son's body among many others on the floor," she said and fainted. Two women carried her away.

Anna Halder lost her only son Suman. Suman was married to Sujala Halder in January. He worked in Dhaka and went home some days back. Both the mother and the wife were wailing.

Victim Jintu Mondal was the only son of his family. He was learning the job of an electrician at Caritas in Dhaka. He went home a few days back. His mother Nani Mondal said her son was not involved in a party

politics.

"I fell unconscious when the bomb went off during the prayer. When I regained sense, I saw my son lying on the floor," said Manmata Sikder, father of victim Pranjanar Sikder.

Police still cordoned off the church.

Villagers alleged that police, failing to arrest the culprits, picked up some innocent people and harassed them.

Gopalganj thana police nabbed seven persons from Baniarchar Sunday afternoon and released them yesterday evening after interrogation. Police said the interrogation did not reveal any clue to the incident.

Our Gopalganj Correspondent adds: Home Minister Mohammad Nasim visited the spot yesterday.

Blaming fundamentalist forces for the bomb explosion, he assured local people that the culprits would be nabbed and punished.