

Nepali Maoists bomb US cultural centre

AFP, Kathmandu

Suspected Maoist rebels hurled a bomb inside the compound of the US cultural centre in the Nepalese capital Kathmandu yesterday that exploded but caused no casualties, police said.

"The Maoists seem to have hurled a bomb from outside the compound aiming at the audiovisual house and toilet," an official of the police emergency service told AFP.

"It is believed to damaged the audiovisual and toilet besides breaking the window panels but there were no casualties."

There was no immediate comment from the US embassy in Nepal.

Earlier, Maoist rebels fighting to oust Nepal's monarchy forced nearly three dozen companies to shut yesterday on top of 12 firms the militants closed last month, the country's leading business group said.

The labour union arm of the Maoists ordered 35 companies to

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FBI TEAM IN DHAKA US ploy to set up base, alleges 5-party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The leaders of left-leaning five-party alliance yesterday alleged the US will set up a 'base' in Bangladesh through involvement of Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the probe into the August 21 carnage.

The leaders urged the general public to resist any US plot of entering Bangladesh for its own interest in the name of giving assistance.

The alliance is comprised of the Jatiya Gonofront, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD), Biplobi Oikya Front, Gonotantrik Majdur Party and Gonoshanghati Andolon. The parties yesterday organised a rally in Muktangan to protest the arrival of the FBI and the government move to offer indemnity to the World Bank (WB) for its policy that may bring in any negative result.

Zonayed Saki, coordinator of the alliance, urged all to resist imperialist US forces from establishing any base in the country.

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Prayer Timing		
September 11		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-14	6-17
Esha	7-45	8-15
Source: Islamic Foundation		

BTTB plans caller ID for most phones by yearend

MUSTAK HOSSAIN

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) has initiated steps to introduce caller identification for most telephones by the year end.

The state-owned BTTB's initiative followed instructions from the higher authorities in the wake of rising bomb hoax and threat over telephone, BTTB officials said.

"BTTB is in the process of upgrading its exchanges to enable

caller line identification and we hope to complete this by the year end," BTTB Chairman Nurul Islam told The Daily Star.

The BTTB will require an investment of about Tk 30 crore to upgrade and expand its network to provide interconnection to new fixed phone operators and calling line identification presentation (CLIP), commonly known as caller ID.

Members of the law enforcing agencies, struggling hard to tackle numerous fake phone calls to them

as well as to others, have sought introduction of telephones with caller ID to track down criminals.

Police, airport and fire service officials suffer a lot due to anonymous phone calls giving misleading information on planting of bombs and fire incidents.

Some international flights were delayed and passengers were disembarked in recent months as anonymous callers told airport officials there were bombs in spe

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PHOTO: STAR

Awami League leaders and other adherents take part in the namaz-e-janaza of Abul Kalam Azad, a Jubo League leader, who died yesterday from wounds he suffered in the August 21 grenade attack on an AL rally.

Abduction fear stalks rape victim

NAIMUL HAQ, back from Comilla

At the age of 14, she was subjected to sexual assaults and now lives under protection in an undisclosed location in her village for fear of being abducted.

Ever since going through the ordeal in December last year, Raima (not her real name) does not go to school and avoids social contacts due to the stigma but her agonies and sufferings have not ended there.

Raima's father, a local teashop owner, received numerous threats including death and eviction from his ancestral village home, from the alleged criminal who is locally influential.

And finally, the culprit and his accomplices raided the house on Saturday night and forced the family to leave the village.

Shafiqur Rahman, 42, the alleged criminal who happens to be a distant relative of Raima, offered

her a garment factory job in Dhaka. In good faith, she travelled to the capital with Shafique on December 9 last year.

At night, Shafique, father of two, tried make sexual advances on Raima. She made a frantic bid to free herself from his grip but he overpowered her.

"Shafique took me into a dark room and raped me while I cried for help. He slapped me several times

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Army action in Waziristan could create another Bangladesh, says Imran

ANI, Islamabad

Imran Khan has equated the military operation in Waziristan to events that led to the eventual creation of Bangladesh in the 1970s from what was then East Pakistan.

The former cricketer-turned-politician claimed that spokespersons of the current ruling dispensation were calling Waziristan tribals as miscreants, a term that was used to describe Bengalis killed by the army in former East Pakistan.

"At that time also, the official media had misled the nation and now again irreversible damage was being done to the federation," the Dawn quoted Khan as saying.

Squarely blaming the present day military rulers for the situation evolving in the tribal areas along the Pakistan- Afghanistan border, Khan said that the military junta had not learnt its lessons from the tragic past when half the country was lost because a military despot (read Yayha Khan) didn't allow the restoration of democracy.

'Jakarta was warned 45 minutes before embassy attack'

Jemaah Islamiah claims responsibility

REUTERS, Jakarta

Indonesian police were warned 45 minutes before a suicide car bombing outside the Australian embassy that Western missions would be attacked if a prominent militant cleric was not freed, Australia said yesterday.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer told a news conference in Jakarta the warning to release Abu Bakar Bashir, the accused spiritual leader of an al-Qaeda-linked militant group, was conveyed in a phone text message.

"(They) received an SMS message about 45 minutes before the attack yesterday that there would be an attack on Western embassies unless Abu Bakar Bashir was released," Downer said.

Bashir, 66, is in police detention awaiting formal charges over accusations of involvement in terror acts. He has denied any wrongdoing or links to Jemaah Islamiah, a shad-

owy Southeast Asian Islamic organisation seen as the regional arm of al-Qaeda.

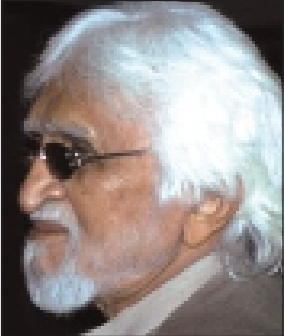
Indonesian police have already blamed Jemaah Islamiah for the attack on the Australian embassy, which killed nine people and wounded 182. Most of the victims were Indonesian.

Thursday's bombing underlined the vulnerability of the world's most populous Muslim nation to militant violence.

It came days before Indonesia's presidential run-off, two days before the third anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States and a month before Australia's general election.

Jemaah Islamiah appeared to admit responsibility for the attack in an Internet statement that could not immediately be authenticated. The statement warned of more attacks unless Australia withdrew its forces from Iraq.

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Fida plans mega movie after Rs 100 cr deal for 100 works

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Who says art is not big business?

An Indian technocrat-turned-businessman has announced to pay Rs 100 crore to buy 100 paintings by internationally-acclaimed artist Maqbool Fida Hussain in the biggest deal in art. Hussain, who has already directed three films, plans to use part of the money to make a mega movie.

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