

BNP asks not to politicise blasts

Jamaat blames it on AL
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The LGRD minister and BNP secretary general yesterday asked all not to politicise yesterday's blasts as he said the incidents will be probed and the bombers identified in four days. "Those who bomb people to death are not political activists, nor they are good citizens," Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said at Muktangan in the city. He was addressing a rally organised by the city unit BNP to protest the blasts as the chief guest.

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6 picked up in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday picked up six persons, five of them hafez (one who has memorised the Holy Qur'an), from Ramna and airport areas in the capital on suspicion of their involvement in yesterday's countrywide bombing.

The Ramna police arrested one Ruhul Amin, aged around 30, claiming he was carrying the packet of bombs that exploded in his hand on the pavement between Banglamotor and Sonargaon crossings at 11:15am.

Ruhul, clad in a lungi and a long

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Prayer Timing		
August 18		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-25	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-38	6-41
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Business another casualty of blasts

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

He flew in to Dhaka all the way from the USA a couple of days ago and was scheduled to visit a garment factory in Chittagong last evening. But instead he caught the next flight to the USA. The series of bomb blasts that literally exploded all over Bangladesh yesterday morning frightened the prospective buyer away.

That's how MA Salam, first vice president of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturer and Exporters Association (BGMEA), described his own experience about the possi-

ble fallout of yesterday's bomb blast incidents over the country's garments industry, which earns about 80 percent of our total foreign exchange income.

It's not just the business community, but also the economists, bankers, capital market actors who have expressed deep worry over the incident and have requested the government to tackle the immediate crisis and concentrate on confidence building measures in the outside world.

MA Salam told the Daily Star that he managed to bring an American buyer after three months' corre-

spondence. He came to Dhaka on Tuesday and was scheduled to fly to Chittagong to visit his garment factory. But at 2 pm the buyer phoned Salam and told him that he was no more interested to visit his factory and would catch the first available flight to USA. "That's how my three months' endeavour went in vain," he regretted.

Another BGMEA Vice president, Anwar Alam Chowdhury Parvez, said Bangladesh started to receive orders over the last two months from both the USA and the European countries following steps to restrict

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Hasina points her accusing finger at PM, govt

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday squarely blamed the prime minister and her government for the series of bomb blasts across the country.

"The bomb attacks were made at the instigation of the prime minister. She left Dhaka for China giving green signal to carry out the blasts. The Khaleda-Nizami government must have to answer to the people," Hasina said.

"Realising very well that people will not cast votes in their favour in the next general elections, the government has carried out the bomb attacks in a pre-planned way

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Extensive search on roads after explosions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Just after a series of bomb explosion rocked the capital yesterday, the law enforcing agencies started extensive search of vehicles blocking city streets and roads at different points.

Security was beefed up in and around important government offices and installations. Additional police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel were deployed at different strategic points in the city.

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PHOTO: STAR

A Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) member searches two people in front of the secretariat in the capital after yesterday's blasts.

Ties with China firmly established

Says PM at Beijing function

UNB, Beijing

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed her firm belief that the close relations fostered between Bangladesh and China over the past 30 years have now been placed on a solid foundation.

"This will bring immense benefits to the coming generations in our two fraternal countries," she told a grand function in Beijing on the first day of her five-day China visit.

The function was jointly organised by the Chinese People's

Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and Bangladesh Embassy in Beijing to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and China.

Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju also addressed the function attended, among others, by Chen Haosu, chairman of the friendship association, Xiang Guangkai of the People's Army and Vice-Foreign Minister Wu Dewei at the Great Hall of the People.

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Blasts rock dists

STAR REPORT

More than a hundred people were injured in yesterday's series of bomb blasts in major cities and 63 district towns across the country.

Bogra: Seven bombs went off at different places, including in front of Judge Court, DC office and SP Office, leaving two people injured. Police arrested five people including a madrasa teachers for their alleged involvement in the attack.

Mymensingh: At least 10 bombs exploded at nine points of the town, injuring 15 people. Of them, eight were wounded seriously.

Pabna: Four bombs exploded on the Judge Court and DC office premises in the town, injuring three people.

A few leaflets in Bengali and Arabic languages were found at blast sites in which Jama'atul Mujahideen

Bangladesh called for establishing Islamic rule in Bangladesh.

Rangpur: Eight bombs exploded or were recovered live in the town. No one was injured.

The bombs went off simultaneously near Press Club, DC office, Judge Court, bus terminal, Satmatha, Brac office and Modern crossing.

Police arrested one suspect, Rezaul Karim, from Rangpur Bus Terminal.

Jessore: Bombs went off at six places of the town, leaving three people - two freedom fighters and a police constable - injured. Police arrested 12 suspects and recovered four unexploded bombs from different parts of the town.

Tangail: Eight bombs went off in

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FBCCI directors elect top leaders today

New schedule announced

SARWAR A CHOWDHURY

The election board of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) yesterday announced a new schedule under which its president and two vice-presidents will be elected today instead of August 23.

Some disgruntled business

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JAMAL UDDIN ABDUCTION Shahid again names MP's brother as mastermind

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Prime suspect of the sensational Jamal Uddin abduction case, now on a Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) remand, once again named local ruling BNP MP Sarwar Jamal

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Bomb blasts halt courts' proceedings

COURT CORRESPONDENT

All the proceedings of the Dhaka courts were suspended yesterday after a series of bomb blasts rocked the courts' premises and other places in the city.

Judges and magistrates at the courts of district and sessions judge,

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