

**Militants proved they are in control: Hasina**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The message sent through Wednesday's orchestrated bombings is that it was Islamist militants not the government who are in real control of the country, Awami League President Sheikh Hasina observed yesterday.

"International terrorist groups have been active in Bangladesh for a long time," she said.

**CROSSFIRE KILLING Masum's father sues 8 DB men**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Father of Iqbal Hossain Masum, who was killed on August 8 in "crossfire" with crime-busting force Cheetah, yesterday filed a case accusing eight Detective Branch (DB) officers and a UP chairman of killing his son.

Khondaker Abu Khaer, father of the slain Jagannath University student, filed the case.

**More countries condemn attacks**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several countries, including the US, UK, China, Japan, and Pakistan have expressed sympathy to Bangladesh which was rattled by near-simultaneous blasts Wednesday.

Some of the countries have even offered assistance in the wake of the terrorist attacks that took place throughout the country, killing two and injuring over 100.

**Poor pay hefty sums for 'free' treatment**

NAIMUL HAQ

Poor patients admitted to public hospitals under the 'non-paying' category are forced to wait for long and spend huge amounts of money for treatment, an investigation by The Daily Star finds.

Abdul Gaffar, a 12-year-old boy from Kishoreganj, has been seeking treatment of his swollen testicles for about the last 20 days.

Son of a poor farmer, he had to drop out of school due to the disease six months ago. He has since been knocking at the doors of various hospitals to find a cure.

Such really poor patients are supposed to receive free treatment at the maximum facilities from the state owned hospitals. But investigations reveal poor patients, once admitted, are forced to pay for medicines, surgical accessories, diagnostic tests and even surgical tools and handgloves.

Abdul Gaffar's case is typical of many poor patients.

"About three weeks ago my father first took me to Johurul Islam Medical College & Hospital in Bhagalpur in Kishoreganj. A medical officer examined me and handed over a list of drugs and surgical tools

for surgery to be purchased before they admit me for the operation. When we inquired, an attendant at the surgery department of the hospital said it would cost us roughly Tk 15,000. But we were advised to keep some extra money in hand in case of any emergency," said Gaffar.

As Gaffar's family is unable to afford the cost of the surgery at a private hospital Gaffar's father, Md Yunus Gaffar, opted to consult doctors at a public hospital. After a long wait at Kishoreganj sadar general hospital, Gaffar finally consulted a doctor who agreed to

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PHOTO: STAR

Law enforcers search passers-by and their handbags outside Zia International Airport yesterday as part of beefed up security in the wake of Wednesday's countrywide blasts.

**BLASTS PROTEST Ruling alliance to demonstrate across country Aug 22**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling four-party alliance led by BNP yesterday declared a country-wide demonstration programme on August 22 protesting August 17 bomb attacks.

The ruling alliance programme came a day after the mainstream opposition parties declared a

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**COUNTRYWIDE BLASTS Attackers more powerful than state**

Says security analyst

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The perpetrators of Wednesday's blasts across the country are more powerful and organised than the state apparatus as the intelligence and law enforcement agencies failed to catch anyone red-handed, a security analyst said yesterday.

"It seems to me the attackers are more powerful than the state apparatus," Brigadier General (ret'd) M Shakhawat Hossain told a discussion

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**AUG 17 EXPLOSIONS Delhi offers 'any help' to Dhaka**

PTI, New Delhi

Conveying its serious concern over the serial blasts in Bangladesh, India yesterday offered its neighbour "any kind of assistance" while asking Dhaka to identify the perpetrators of the terror acts.

"A stable, prosperous, secular and democratic Bangladesh is not just in the interests of the people of Bangladesh, but also of India and the region as a whole," External Affairs Ministry spokesman Navtej

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**New avian flu warning as germ found in Indian vaccine**

PINAKI ROY

A Bangladeshi scientist, after allegedly finding the presence of avian flu vaccine in a poultry vaccine being produced in India, has warned not to withdraw the ban on imported Indian chickens, as this could spoil the poultry industry in the country.

The Indian government officially denies the presence of avian influenza in their chickens. But a Bangladeshi scientist, during a recent laboratory test, found the presence of avian influenza vaccine in a product called 'Newcastle' vaccine, designed to vaccinate Newcastle disease, a common poultry disease.

Sources allege that, as the Indian poultry industry wanted to cover up the avian flu outbreak, the vaccines were combined with Newcastle (Ranikhet) disease

vaccine and labeled simply as 'Newcastle disease-- Inactivated I.P. Vet.'

"In the laboratory test we found that some Indian companies are producing avian influenza vaccine, and Indian scientists also admitted that they have been facing attacks of low avian influenza in the country," Dr MM Khan, an eminent poultry scientist of the country working with Advance Animal Science Co Ltd.

Dr Khan heard from his contacts in India that avian flu was widespread and that farmers in India are vaccinating their chickens to protect their investment. Dr Khan managed to procure a few vials of the vaccines and conducted scientific trials on 25 chickens. Initially, the chickens tested negative for avian influenza antibodies.

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**Morshed says locals did blasts**

UNB, Beijing

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday termed the bomb blasts across the country a local matter and said "local hoodlums" carried out the blasts.

In his reaction over the explosions to APTN at the Great Hall of the People, he said, "It is a local matter."

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**20 injured in hartal clash at Pirganj**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between the pro- and anti-hartal activists during a half-day hartal in Pirganj in the district yesterday.

Awami League (AL) and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) upazila

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Prayer Timing		
August 19		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-25	5-00
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-38	6-41
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation