

# 'Govt's indifference encourages blasts'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government's indifference to growing religious fanaticism has encouraged repeated bomb blasts across the country pushing national security at stake, said the speakers at a rally yesterday.

They said fanatics are carrying out bomb attacks without any resistance killing progressive political leaders, civil society members and intellectuals one after another.

The rally was organised by Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city.

Earlier Duta brought out a silent procession from Aparajeyo Bangla protesting the August 17 bomb attacks across the country. The rally ended at the Shaheed Minar after marching different roads on the campus.

Addressing the rally, the teachers said despite the existence of the Islamist militants in the country the government remained complete indifference to them leading to August 17 attacks.

Duta President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said police are obstructing the processions brought out to protest the bomb blasts, but allowing the processions taken out to demand the release of Mirza Galib, chief of Ahle Hadith Andolon Bangladesh (AHAB).

"This proved that there must be a quarter within the government which has a direct link with the extremist groups," he said.

"Bomb and grenade attacks will not stop unless the government dissociates itself from the fanatic elements," said Prof M Akhtaruzzaman, general secretary of Duta.

He threatened to go for tougher agitation if stern measures are not taken immediately against the fanatics.

"It is clear to all that the extremist forces with the assistance of Jamaate-e-Islami, a partner of the alliance government, have carried out bomb and grenade attacks at different places leaving hundreds of people dead and injuring many others," said Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, former Vice-chancellor of Dhaka University.

Social Science Faculty Dean Prof Harun-or-Rashid, Mass Communication and Journalism Department Chairman Prof Golam Rahman, Prof Hossain Monsoor and Prof Anwar Hossain also spoke at the rally.

## Integrated Multi-modal Transport Policy finalised

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday finalised the Integrated Multi-modal Transport Policy for appropriate coordination among rail, road, waterway and air traffic systems for the first time.

A cabinet committee at a meeting at the Ministry of Communications endorsed the policy. Committee chairman Communications Minister Nazmul Huda chaired the meeting.

The objectives of the policy are to make passenger and commodity transport easier on road, rail, air and waterways, determine logical transport fare, and strengthen total communications network.

All this is aimed at "alleviating poverty, creating new employment opportunities and reinforcing rural and urban economies", said an official announcement.

Shipping Minister Colonel (Retd) Akbor Hossain, Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam, Water Resources Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed, State Minister for Civil Aviation Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin, State Minister for Home

Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar and State Minister for Communications Salah Uddin Ahmed attended the meeting.

Highlights of the new policy include the formation of a permanent fund for road management, making all national highways at least one metre high during construction or rehabilitation to ward off the impact of recurring floods and making ports and shipping sectors time-worthy for boosting trade and business on the international market.

Other aspects of the policy are to make transport taxation systems and provision easier and logical, update the transport law, evolve a strategy for long-term port development and make air-traffic system more dynamic and profitable.

The Integrated Multi-modal Transport Policy will also help develop domestic and international airports, ensure service standard and make the shipping sector safe, effective and affordable for passengers and freights.



PHOTO: STAR

Jatiya Oikya Mancha President Dr Kamal Hossain addresses a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right is Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury.

## 13 Bangladeshi cow traders detained by BSF on Kushtia border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on Sunday picked up 13 Bangladeshi citizens from the river Padma along Ramkrishnapur border under Daulatpur upazila in the district.

All of them are cow traders from Inshan Nagar village in the upazila, sources said.

A BSF team of Jalangi Company in Nadia district during their patrol on a vessel caught the Bangladeshis on the river when the engine boat carrying them crossed the Indian water line at about 2:00pm, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in Kushtia said.

The BSF picked them up along with their boats and handed them over to police.

"We sent letters on Sunday and yesterday but the BSF did not respond," Lt Colonel Sakhawat Hossain, Commanding officer (CO) of Kushtia sector of BDR, said.

Mahiskundi BOP (border observation post) commander Subedar Abdur Rahman, who is still waiting at Ramkrishnapur border point to sit with the BSF, failed to meet the BSF officials at the time of filing this report at about 4:45pm.

"We are still waiting for BSF's response," Lt Sakhawat told over cell phone.

The nabbed Bangladeshis are Tipu, Jokan, Astak Ali, Jeker Ali, Badal, Mannan, Arif, Haqu, Liton, Biltu, Jhantu, Chhoton and Taru Mia.

## United platform a must to stop repression on women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A united platform irrespective of political parties and opinions is imperative to stop repression on women, said the speakers at a press briefing yesterday.

The press briefing was organised by Karmojibi Nari, a forum of working women, to mark the launching of a three-day programme in observance of Women Repression Resistance Day tomorrow.

The day is being observed since 1995 to mark the killing of a 14-year-old girl Yeasmin by the members of the law enforcement agency.

"A united platform could not be formed due to difference of opinions among the women community for political reasons. But it is high time to form the united platform for the development of as well as checking repression on women," said President of Karmojibi Nari Shirin Akhter.

The speakers said long ten years have passed since Yeasmin was killed but no positive change is seen in the society. It has rather deteriorated.

The religious extremist groups

which oppose women's empowerment as well as women's leadership organised a countrywide bomb blasts recently to capture state power, they added.

While reading out a statement at the press briefing, Arifa Akhter Anu said a negative change has been made in Women's Development Policy deleting the provision for direct election to women's reserve seats in parliament.

The statement demanded cancellation of the amended policy and restoration of the original one with the provision of direct election to women's seats and ensuring women's security everywhere.

To observe the Women Repression Resistance Day, Karmojibi Nari will form a human chain in different areas of the city today and rallies across the country tomorrow.

Rokeya Rafik Baby, Ziaul Haque Mukta, Alok Sarker and Mahmuda Imam of Karmojibi Nari were present at the press briefing.

## Int'l probe into Aug 21 grenade attack demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday demanded an international investigation into last year's August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally.

They also expressed their doubt about getting justice under the present administration, saying that the four-party alliance government itself has been patronising the attackers.

The Awami Jubo League organised the discussion in the city to commemorate the victims of the grenade attack, which left a total of 24 leaders and activists, including veteran AL leader Ivy Rahman, dead.

AL presidium member Motia Chowdhury said the government did not even allow the opposition to discuss the August 21 carnage in parliament, whereas the British parliament has condemned the grenade attack.

"We will launch a tougher movement to oust the government and establish a national government to get justice for the August 21 carnage and execute the verdict in the Bangabandhu murder case," she added.

Dhaka University Teachers' Association President Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, journalist Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, IT expert Mostafa Zabbar, AL leader Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Mirza Azam MP and Benzir Ahmed also spoke.

Dhaka district Awami Jubo League President Shafiq Azam Khan presided over the discussion.

## 2 spice shops looted in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two spice shops were looted by robbers in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

A gang of robbers broke into Al-Amin Traders and Anwar Enterprise at Lalbagh at 3:00am and held the staff as hostage.

They took away cash and spices worth about Tk 2.45 lakh and stabbed two staffs before leaving the place.

The injured staffs are Abdur Razzak, 50, and Mohammad Yunus, 40, of Anwar Enterprise.

Motiu Rahman, owner of Al-Amin Traders, filed a case with Lalbagh Police Station in this connection.

Police could not recover anything as of filing this report at 8:00pm.

## Obituary

Major (Retd.) Syed Ahmad, former director (planning) of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at a hospital in the city on Saturday, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife, one son and one daughter.

Md Babul Akter



Md Babul Akter, a member of the Orion Infusion Limited, died in a road accident in Natore on August 20, says a press release.

## Death anniversary



Today is the 5th death anniversary of Alhaj Kazi Rezauddin Ahmed of Kazi Bari, Sholohgar, Srinagar, Munshiganj, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

## CPB demands action against fundamentalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) held rallies and brought out processions across the country yesterday to realise its 11-point demand.

The demands included ouster of BNP-led alliance government, measures against fundamentalist forces, and price reduction of essentials.

The rallies were held at 200 places across the country including 20 in the capital.

Addressing the rallies, the CPB leaders said the country is now in deep crisis and only a left democratic power can save it.

They urged the people to launch a united movement under the banner of the CPB to ensure peoples' safety.

The left leaders said the fanatic groups have become powerful with the help of the coalition government.

They termed the intelligence agencies a dead horse as they failed to find out any clue after five days of the blasts.

CPB leaders Mahbub Alam, Shahidullah Chowdhury, Sajjad Jahir Chandra, Abdul Kader, Dilip Bepari, Prof Nazir Hossain, Ataur Rahman and Emamul Haque spoke at different rallies in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Tangail and Natore.



## Prof Shamsheer Ali elected WIF member

DU CORRESPONDENT

Prof M Shamsheer Ali, vice-chancellor of Southeast University, has been elected honorary member of the World Innovation Foundation (WIF), the highest award of the organisation.

This was communicated to Prof Ali by WIF President Nobel Laureate Prof Jerome Karle and Chief Executive David Stuart recently, says a press release.

The mission of the WIF is to work for world peace and help set up a new world order based on equality, human dignity, and economic co-operation between the nations.

## JAMALUDDIN ABDUCTION

# Rab starts quizzing Shahid Chairman, 3 other suspects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday started quizzing Shahid Chairman, the prime suspect in Chittagong business magnet Jamaluddin abduction case, and three other suspects at its headquarters at Patenga.

Shahid Chairman was taken on remand for the second time while three others -- Sobhan Driver, Kala Mahbub and Md Shahjahan, chairman of Hileddhar union, -- were placed on remand on Sunday. All the four were brought to the Rab-7 HQs yesterday for interrogation.

Rab sources said they were quizzing all four suspects, but refused to say whether they were brought face to face.

Shahidul Islam alias Shahid Chairman, a Union Parishad chairman, has given the same information he divulged during the first phase of his remand, they said.

Sobhan, the driver of a microbus used in the abduction

who earlier made a confessional statement, did not give any new information on the first day of his four-day remand.

## Fake bombs found at Tejgaon College

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two fake bombs were recovered from the Tejgaon College premises yesterday that triggered panic among the students and teachers.

Students found two white electric bulbs, wrapped in red tape, in a toilet on the 2nd floor of the college's administrative building at around 9:00am.

Police recovered the bombs at 10:30am.

Bangladesh Chhatra League was scheduled to organise a milad mahfil at the college yesterday evening and the bombs might have been planted to foil the programme, said the duty officer of Tejgaon Police Station.

## FOOD ADULTERATION

# Death sentence demanded for unscrupulous traders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday demanded death sentence for unscrupulous traders responsible for adulterated foods.

They urged the government to enact new laws to safeguard the life of people from the clutch of dishonest traders.

The seminar on 'Issue of good governance and human rights: Review of candidate, party and national election' was organised by Bangladesh Manobadhikar Samonnoy Parishad (BMSP) at WVA auditorium in the city.

"Government should enforce tough law against the dishonest traders with a view to safeguarding the life of 15 crore people in the country," said ASM Shahajahan, advisor of former

caretaker government as well as BMSP while addressing the seminar.

Terming the dishonest traders as food terrorist, renowned columnist ABM Musa called upon all concerned to come forward to join the campaign against adulterated food.

At the seminar Abul Khaer, staff correspondent of the Ittefaq, was awarded 'Media Hero of the Year 2005' for publishing a series of reports on adulterated food.

The seminar was presided over by BMSP President AHM Noman

## Protests against serial blasts today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Different political parties, student and cultural organisations will bring out processions and hold rallies across the country today protesting the countrywide serial bomb blasts on Wednesday, which claimed two lives and injured more than 100.

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh will bring out a procession from its central office at Segunbagicha and hold a rally at Muktangan in the city protesting the blasts. Party Secretary General Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan will lead the procession.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, student wing of the ruling BNP, will stage a demonstration in all public universities and districts across the country.

Samillita Sangskritik Jote will hold a rally and cultural function at the Central Shaheed Minar at 5:00pm.

Biplobi Chhatra Moitri, a left leaning student organisation, will hold a rally at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla at 11:30am.

## BTTB LAUNCHES E-GOVERNANCE

# Sher-e-Bangla Nagar exchange goes online

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Subscribers of the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) under the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar telephone exchange will now be able to know their billing status and payment history through the Internet.

They will also be able to lodge complaint and resolve their connection problems online as the authorities launched the e-Governance application software at the telephone exchange yesterday.

As part of a project to introduce e-Governance at all government offices, the Support to ICT Task Force Programme (SICT) has provided funds to install the system at a cost of Tk 33.26 lakh. The Business Automation Limited, a local IT firm, has installed the software.

Post and Telecommunications Minister M Aminul Haque formally inaugurated the system at a ceremony as the chief guest while GM Fazlul Haque MP, chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, and Dr Kamal Uddin Siddique, principal secretary to the prime minister, attended the function as special guests.

Intending subscribers, who have registered for telephone connections, will be able to view their subscription status on the website with a tracking number. The address of the website is <http://sbn.bttb.gov.bd>.

Subscribers can also download various forms and information about different procedures such as shifting of telephone lines. But they have to collect passwords from the BTTB's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar office.

Telecoms Minister Aminul Haque said the project has been taken with a view to introducing e-Governance at the government offices and the subscribers will immensely benefit from the system.

Listing development activities in the telecom sector, he said the number of fixed phones in the country has crossed 10 lakh.

The country will be connected with the information super highway by year-end when the service will be commissioned globally, the minister said.

SASM Taifur, project director of SICT, Abdul Malek Akhand, chairman of BTTB, and Zahidul Hasan Mithun, executive director of Business Automation Limited, also spoke.



## Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over the country with moderately heavy to heavy falls till 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 34.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 24.4 degree Celsius at Maljidee Court.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:25pm today and rises at 5:37am tomorrow.**

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.2	26.5	92	80
Chittagong	29.5	25.0	89	92
Rajshahi	31.0	26.6	89	94
Khulna	30.0	27.2	89	89
Barisal	27.2	25.2	97	100
Sylhet	30.2	25.0	97	96
Cox's Bazar	29.5	25.8	95	88