

'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.



PHOTO: STAR
British High Commissioner in Dhaka Anwar Choudhury speaks at a seminar on foreign investment and firm productivity at the World Bank Dhaka office yesterday. On his right are Advisor to the Energy and Mineral Resource Ministry Mahmudur Rahman and WB Country Director Christine I Wallach.

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 CPB-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.

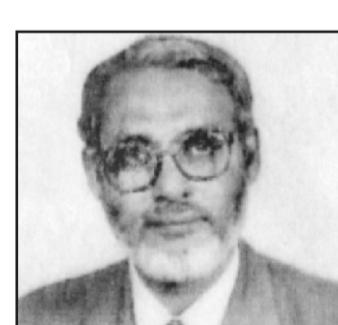
Addressing the rallies, the CPB leaders said the country is now in deep crisis and only a left democratic party can save it.

They urged the people to launch a united movement under the banner of the CPB to ensure people's 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 Chandan, Abdul Kader, Dilip Bepari, Prof Nazir Hossain, Ataur Rahman and Emmanuel Haque spoke at different rallies in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Tangail and Natore.



Prof Shamsher Ali elected WIF member

DU CORRESPONDENT

Prof M Shamsher 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, 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 cooperation between the nations.

PHOTO: STAR
Prof Shamsher Ali, a member of the Orion Infusion Limited, died in a road accident in Natore on August 20, says a press release.

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

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

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 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) Akbar 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.

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 Samonoy 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 Shahjahan, advisor of former

One killed, 60 injured in road accident

UNB, Munshiganj

Three buses in their bid to overtake each other plunged into water at Dogach on Dhaka-Mawa road at 10:45am yesterday leaving a minor boy dead and 60 injured.

Seven-year-old Sabir died on the spot. Local people rescued his body and survivors of the sunken buses before Fire Brigade from Narayanganj reached the spot in the afternoon. Some 60 passengers were injured, 20 of them were sent to Dhaka.

Survivors said two Dhaka-bound and a Mawa-bound buses in their bid to overtake hit hard each other and plunged into the water. The drivers managed to escape after the accident.

Traffic movement on the busy highway remained suspended for about an hour.

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.

Survivors said two Dhaka-bound and a Mawa-bound buses in their bid to overtake hit hard each other and plunged into the water. The drivers managed to escape after the accident.

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