

Dhaka urges Delhi, Yangon to hunt bomb fugitives

REUTERS, Dhaka

Bangladesh has asked neighbours India and Myanmar to hunt down Islamist militants who may have fled there after carrying out serial bombings on August 17, a foreign ministry official said yesterday.

"We have made the request to our immediate neighbours to look around, arrest and return any Islamist militants who might have crossed over there," said the official, who asked not to be named.

"These countries surrounding us are most likely safe haven for run-away fugitives," he added.

India condemned the blasts on Aug 17 that killed two people and wounded about 100 across Bangladesh, and offered help to

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JMB regrouping in Rajshahi, Rangpur

Holds meetings in char areas of Teesta

STAR REPORT

Militants of Ahle Hadith-based Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) have started reorganising themselves in different northern districts, holding secret meetings in remote char areas (land mass arising in river) and in the houses of their patrons, despite the ongoing crackdown on the banned outfit across the country.

The intelligence agencies have information that the militants are preparing for the next attacks in the near future, but they seem rather

hesitant now.

Sources in the local law enforcement agencies said they often heard of the secret militant activities. But all operations against the Islamist militants are now being controlled from Dhaka, they said.

Although law enforcers and local people keep watch on mosques and madrasas, at least 100 trained JMB militants are learnt to be holding regular meetings in several remote villages under Gangachhara upazila of Rangpur.

The militant kingpins have chosen some 200 students from differ-

ent madrasas, colleges and universities across the country to train them up in "exclusive warfare" and form suicide squads.

Our staff correspondent Anwar Ali from Rajshahi said quoting a JMB source that in the last three months several thousand students divided in 130 groups were tested at three to ten-day training camps to select the 200 "skilled militants" in the districts.

The chosen students will be divided into 10 groups and 20 skilled militants with warfare experience

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Dr Kamal Hossain, left, makes a point while talking to Sheikh Hasina, as Barrister Rakan Uddin Mahmud, centre, looks on at the inaugural function of the Anti-terrorism Convention at the Engineers' Institution in the capital yesterday.

Hasina vows to fight terrorism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday pledged that her party would work tirelessly to combat all types of terrorism and build Bangladesh as a country of peace, prosperity and communal harmony.

"I promise... I swear on the blood of the martyrs, our fight for establishing truth and justice will continue. We will free the country from terrorism. We will save the people from terrorist and communal evil forces," Hasina told an anti-terrorism convention in the capital.

"For that, I am prepared to sacrifice my life," she said at the inaugural session of the two-day convention on 'Unity Against Terrorism', organised by some professional bodies and held at the Institution of Engineers.

Hasina, also Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad

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Dhabi Group chief arrives in Dhaka today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The chairman of the Abu Dhabi Group, Sheikh Nahiyun Mubarak Al Nahiyun, arrives in the capital today to sign a memorandum of understanding

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56 killed in US air strikes in Iraq

Heavy tribal fighting kills 35 more

AP, AFP, Baghdad

At least 56 people were killed in multiple US air strikes in Iraq against suspected al-Qaeda hideouts near the Syrian border at dawn yesterday, an Iraqi security source said.

Besides, heavy fighting broke out in western Iraq between pro and anti-government tribes, leaving at least 35 people dead from both sides, hospital officials said.

The outcome could affect the ease with which foreign extremists move in and out of the border area.

The clashes between the pro-government Bumahl tribe and the pro-insurgent Karabila tribe began after 2 a.m. in the western city of Qaim near the Syrian border, said the officials at the Qaim General Hospital. They spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation from insurgents.

The officials said 20 members of the Bumahl tribe and 15 from Karabila were killed in the clashes. He said dozens were also wounded.

Recent fighting in Qaim, 200 miles west of Baghdad, has left

several people killed and wounded. Meanwhile, at least 56 people were killed in US air strikes against suspected al-Qaeda hideouts.

The attacks, the second such raid in less than a week, came as Sunni Arabs, believed to be the backbone of the raging insurgency, were seeking alliances to defeat Iraq's newly-drafted charter.

"At least 56 people were killed in the air strikes carried out by US forces near Qaim close to the Syrian

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Zafar of 4-party bags Faridpur-1 by large margin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling alliance candidate Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar won the Faridpur-1 by-election by a huge margin of 44,954 votes from his nearest rival independent candidate Mufti Sharafat Hossain.

Zafar polled 96,580 votes and Sharafat, also a leader of 4-party coalition member Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ), 51,626 votes.

A poor voter turnout and fake vote casting marked the otherwise peaceful parliamentary by-polls.

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COP MURDER Shaikul Hadith's son, others acquitted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Despite having specific allegations, all the accused in the constable Badsha Miah murder case have been acquitted due to negligence of the prosecution.

Judge Mohammad Rabiul Hassan of the Second Additional Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka on

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Bomb threat to Meherpur edn institutions

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Academic activities in four educational institutions in Gangni upazila of Meherpur have remained suspended since Monday following bomb threats by unidentified criminals.

"We will attack the institutions with powerful bombs within August 31..." the letters that were posted from Jessore on Saturday read.

As the news of bomb threat

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Militant forces, absence of rule of law threat to human rights

Convention on terrorism told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Growth of militant forces, absence of rule of law, extra-judicial killings and impunity to criminals are posing a great threat to human rights in the country.

Moreover, repression on religious minorities and violation of the constitution in the running of state affairs are damaging the country's image abroad.

This was the unanimous view of speakers at different sessions of a two-day convention titled 'Unity against Terrorism' that began in the

city yesterday.

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina spoke at the inaugural session of the convention.

Presenting the keynote paper at a session on "Terrorism: An environment without justice", Prof Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir said a secular republic is being butchered systematically to create a religion-based state.

He said law enforcers are killing people without trial, which is not acceptable in a democratic society.

Zealots are preparing themselves

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ANTI-TERROR MEET EU parliament member skips on security grounds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A member of the European Parliament has declined to attend an anti-terrorism convention in Dhaka on security grounds in the wake of the August 17 bomb blasts across the country.

"...I was scheduled to go to Dhaka on August 28 but due to the countrywide bomb attacks on August 17, the security service of the European Parliament has advised me not to travel to Dhaka at this moment," Johan Van Hecke said in a message read out at the inaugural session of the two-day convention that began yesterday.

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Speaker's PS in parliamentary delegation to join CPA meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Personal secretary to the speaker has been included in a parliamentary delegation to the upcoming Commonwealth Parliament Association (CPA) conference in Fiji while his boss Jamiruddin Sircar

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Blasts, oil price hike threaten economy Says MCCI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The law and order situation following the August 17 blasts and the spiralling import bills for the latest hike in prices of oil and food grains

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PHOTO: STAR

A mobile court seizes dead chickens from Aftab Bahumukhi Farm at Segunbagicha in the capital yesterday.

Hurricane kills 55, floods Mississippi

AP, New Orleans

Gulf Coast residents staggered from the body-blow inflicted by Hurricane Katrina, with more than a million people sweltering without power, miles of lowlands swamped and at least 55 dead a number likely to increase as rescuers reach the hardest-hit areas.

People were rescued in boats as they clung to rooftops, hundreds of trees were uprooted and sailboats were flung about like toys after Katrina crashed ashore Monday in what could become the most expensive storm in US history.

The federal government began rushing baby formula, communications equipment, generators, water and ice into hard-hit areas of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, along with doctors, nurses and first-aid supplies.

The Pentagon sent experts to help with search-and-rescue operations.

The death toll jumped late Monday when Harrison County emergency operations centre spokesman Jim Pollard said an estimated 50 people had died in the county, with some 30 dead at a beach-side apartment complex in Biloxi.

"This is our tsunami," Biloxi Mayor A.J. Holloway told the Biloxi Sun Herald.

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency officials refused to confirm the deaths. Three other people were killed by falling trees elsewhere in Mississippi and two died in a traffic accident in Alabama, authorities said.

The total does not include 11 deaths in South Florida when a much-weaker Katrina first made landfall last week.

Katrina knocked out power to more than a million people from Louisiana to the Florida Panhandle, and authorities said it could be two

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7 journos get death threats in Bagerhat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven journalists of Bagerhat have received separate anonymous letters in which they have been given death threats for writing against BNP lawmaker MAH Selim, also president of the party's district unit.

The journalists are Hasanul Qaiyum of the Manabzamin, Ahad Haider of the Prothom Alo, Rob Molla of the Janmabhami, Babul Sarder of the Janakantha, Nihar Saha

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Prayer Timing		
August 31		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-30	5-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-23	6-26
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

