

BLASTS AT COURTS
Six bombers
captured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police and locals captured six bombers while they were on the run after exploding bombs at the courts in Chittagong, Chandpur and Laxmipur yesterday.

Three of them were arrested in Chittagong, two in Chandpur and the other in Laxmipur, says a press release of the police headquarters.

Police also retrieved four unexploded bombs from the court premises in the portcity.

The bombs went off between 12:00pm and 12:15pm leaving eight, including a police constable, injured, the press release added.

Hashem Bakaul, 62, from Chandpur and Mojibul Haque, 62, from Laxmipur, succumbed to their injuries while undergoing treatment at the district hospitals.

According to the press release, the criminals at Chandpur and Laxmipur carried the bombs hiding them inside thick books, cut in such a shape that can contain bombs. In Chittagong, geometry boxes were used to hide the bombs.

Police seized hand-written leaflets on establishing Islamic rule from the arrestees, bearing the name of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

The press release mentioned that due to the countrywide alert after the August 17 blasts, it was possible for the police and the people to catch the criminals immediately.

The police have started massive raids to arrest the other criminals behind the blasts and requested the people to inform them about any clues.

'Treat disabled
children as part
of mainstream
society'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The disabled children should be treated as part of the mainstream society, said the speakers at a rally yesterday.

The rally was organised by National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) to mark the International Children's Day 2005 at the South Plaza of Jatiya Sangsad in the city.

Speaking as chief guest at the rally, Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed said people should not neglect the retarded children as they have already proved their quality through significant achievement in different fields.

"The government is committed to provide equal care and guidance to the disabled like the normal children. It has been working to encompass the retarded children in all development activities," he added.

The minister urged all voluntary organisations to pay more attention to protect the rights of the disabled children.

Senior Vice-president of NFOWD M A Baten said the disabled children are still deprived of their rights in family and society.

Equal rights and opportunities should be given to bring them in the mainstream of life, he added.

A 20-point demand was placed at the rally that included easy access to educational institutions and public transports for retarded children.

Social Welfare Secretary Kazi Monwarul Huq, Joint Secretary Mohammad Abdul Karim, Director General of Social Service Directorate Hafizul Islam Mia, Managing Director of Jatiya Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation M Didarul Anwar, President of NFOWD Khondker Zahurul Alam and Programme Manager of Save the Children Sweden-Denmark Kristine Zuthen Jeppsen were present at the rally.

Thousands of children, parents and development activists took part in the rally.

SSKOP demands
trial of killers of
Ittefaq employee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Sangbadik-Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SSKOP) yesterday threatened to launch a tougher movement if the killers of Kamaluddin, an employee of the daily Ittefaq, are not arrested before the Eid-ul-Fitr.

The journalists and employee of all newspaper offices and news agencies also observed a three-hour work abstention yesterday to press home their demand for the trial of the killers.

At a protest rally in front of the Ittefaq office in the city, the SSKOP leaders demanded that the special cell of the home ministry monitor the Kamaluddin murder case.

They said the employees are being killed one after another, but the Ittefaq authorities still remain indifferent. Presided over by Parishad co-convenor Gias Kamal Chowdhury, the rally was addressed by Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Fazle Imam, Ruhul Amin Gazi and Abul Hashem.

'Introduce integrated edn
system to reduce poverty'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An integrated education system combining both general and technical education should be introduced in the country in order to reduce poverty and unemployment, thereby helping the nation achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), experts said yesterday.

Such an education system, already initiated by the Underprivileged Children's Educational Programmes (UCEP) in its schools, will further open up a window of opportunity for employment and upward social mobility, they told journalists who visited the UCEP's Dhaka Technical School at Mirpur in the city.

Thousands of working and distressed children have benefited from this new education system of UCEP,

an organisation working for the welfare of the underprivileged children.

UCEP Chairperson M Sirajul Islam said that the UCEP have succeeded in bringing dramatic change to the lives of the target group and their families, resulting in a positive impact on the economy and development of the country.

He also said the UCEP has gradually expanded its different educational programmes -- general, technical and vocational training. At present, there are about 25,000 underprivileged students in 44 schools and training centres of the UCEP in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna.

The Dhaka Technical School offers a number of courses such as auto mechanic work, welding, plumbing,

electronic technology, electrical work, refrigeration & air conditioning, printing technology, wood working, industrial sewing machine operation and tailoring and dress-making.

"Over 94 percent students attends the classes regularly and the dropout rate is less than four percent. Ninety-nine percent of students can find suitable jobs after completing the training course," said Brig. Gen. (ret'd.) Aftab Uddin Ahmad, executive director of UCEP.

"More than 30 lakh children are born in the country every year, but around 10 lakh students sit for the SSC examinations, which means the remaining 20 lakh children are being deprived of education," said Dr Obaidur Rob, vice-chairman of UCEP.



PHOTO: STAR

The National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled took out a procession in the city yesterday to mark the International Children's Day.

2 killed in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikangaj

Two garment workers were killed and 35 others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Aricha highway at Kelia in Dhamrai upazila in Dhaka yesterday.

The victims were identified as Amjad, 34, and Munni, 35, of Goail village under Dhamrai police station and workers of 'Red Point' garments of Savar Export Processing Zone

(EPZ). Most of the injured are garment workers.

The accident occurred when the EPZ bound bus with about 40 passengers from Joypura collided with a truck coming from the opposite direction at Kelia, killing the two on the spot and injuring 35 others.

The injured were taken to Bangshai Clinic, Dhamrai Health Complex and Savar Enam Clinic.

DURGA PUJA

Parishad seeks
cooperation
of all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad yesterday sought cooperation from all in celebrating the forthcoming Durga Puja, the greatest religious festival of Hindus, and in upholding the sanctity of the holy month of Ramadan.

To avoid any untoward situation during the holy month, the central committee of the Parishad has revised the schedule of Puja festival and sent it to around 18,000 Puja observance committees across the country, said Parishad General Secretary Jayanta Sen Dipu at a press conference at Dhakeshwari National Temple in the city.

He said the state minister for home has already instructed the law enforcers to step up security measures during the five-day Puja festival beginning on October 9.

The Parishad has asked the Puja committees not to play any musical instruments or use loudspeakers during Iftar and Sehri and Tarabih prayers, said Jayanta.

The Parishad leaders demanded a seven-day Puja vacation for the students instead of one day, so that they can take part in Puja rituals on all five days of the festival.

Guardians of the Hindu students also staged a hunger strike from 9:00am to 1:00pm on the premises of the temple to press home the demand.

The Parishad leaders also urged the government to return the land of Ramna Kali Mandir and Ma Anandamoyee Ashram to the committee.

Chief Advisor to the Parishad Maj. Gen. (ret'd.) CR Dutta Bir Uttam, Advocate Subrata Chowdhury, acting President CR Sarker, Organising Secretary Mangal Chandra Ghosh, Joint Secretaries Satyendranath Bhakta and Bires Chandra Shaha and Prof Nim Chandra Bhowmik were present at the press conference.

Death anniversary



Today is the second death anniversary of M Enayetullah Khan, former general secretary of Dhaka University Central Student Union (Ducusu), says a

press release. Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

AMCH lottery
prize money
distributed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) distributed the prize money among the winners of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH) Lottery - 2005 at a ceremony yesterday.

The Mission organised the lottery programme to raise funds for construction of the cancer hospital.

Hi Helen, a housewife and resident of Khilgaon Chowdhurypara, Dhaka, won the first prize of Tk 30 lakh.

Expressing her feelings, she said, "I always buy tickets. This time I bought 10 tickets. I have not yet decided what to do with the money, but I wish to donate a part of the money to the poor."

The second prize winner, Firoza Begum, a housewife, came from Keshabpur in Jessore to receive the prize money of Tk 5 lakh.

"I will spend a part of the money on the education for my two children and invest the rest in my husband's business," said Firoza, who purchased only five tickets.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain gave away the prize money among a number of winners.

Speaking as the chief guest, he said, "Although the primary health sector has achieved enough progress, we are still lagging behind in the specialised medical service sector. So, the patients are still going abroad for better treatment."

Appreciating the Ahsania Mission's initiative to set up a 500-bed cancer hospital of international standard, he hoped that this hospital would ensure better treatment for cancer patients at home.

Barrister Rafique-ul Huq, Kazi Rafiqul Alam, president and chief executive of DAM, Md Fazlur Rahman, managing director of AMCH, also spoke while Dr Enamul Haque, former IGP and member of the Law Commission, presided.

People now
insecure

Say Jubo League leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People have been living in utter insecurity and uncertainty since the BNP-led coalition government came to power four years ago, said the speakers at a rally yesterday.

They said religious extremists are blasting bombs one after another under the protection of the government.

This is clearly evident from the statements of Mufti Abdul Hannan who is now on a 10-day remand, they added.

The speakers said price hike of essentials and fuel has further increased the miseries of the common people.

The rally was organised by Awami Jubo League City Unit (North) at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city.

Speaking as chief guest, Jubo League Joint Secretary Mojibar Rahman Chowdhury said frequent bomb blasts prove that the fundamentalist forces are gathering ground in the country.

"If the government fails to contain the price hike of essentials during the month of Ramadan, there will be no alternative but to oust the government forcibly," said Jubo League City Unit (North) President Abul Bashir.

Jubo League leaders Advocate Mamunur Rashid, Moinal Hossain Nakhil, Badiul Alam Bodi, Fazlul Haque Atique, Sheikh Mohammad Hangir Alam, and Taslim Chowdhury also spoke at the rally.

Earlier, Jubo League brought out a rally with vegetables, banners and placards from Muktangan that ended in front of the Awami League Central Office at Bangabandhu Avenue.

Dhaka elected
Cirdap
chairperson

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Bangladesh has been elected chairperson of the governing council of Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (Cirdap), the highest policy making body of Cirdap, for the period of 2005-2007.

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, as the Local Government Rural Development (LGRD) and Cooperatives Minister of Bangladesh, will discharge the responsibilities of Cirdap governing council chairperson.

The 15th regular meeting of the 14-member Cirdap governing council held in Dhaka, on October 2 and 3, also elected Gerundio Khalig C. Madueno, Vice Minister of Agrarian Reform Department of the Philippines, the vice chairperson of the governing council.

The next meeting of Cirdap governing council is likely to be held in the Philippines in 2007.



PHOTO: STAR

Health Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain gives away a cheque for the prize money of the Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital Lottery to a lottery winner at a ceremony in the city yesterday.

Civil Society Forum seeks market access

FROM PAGE 16

UNCTAD and immediate past DG of the WTO were supposed to attend the forum but they could not due other preoccupations. Messages from them were however read out at the inaugural session.

Ambassador Love Mtesa, Zambia's permanent representative at the WTO, read out a message from Zambian Trade Minister Dipak Patel, also spokesperson of the LDC at the WTO.

Altat said the facilities offered by the developed countries under preferential tariff margin are often nullified by the application of non-tariff barriers (NTBs).

The NTBs faced by the LDCs should be addressed separately, and on a priority basis, he said. "Exports from LDCs are so insignificant that we fail to understand the difficulties of providing such market access to us."

The commerce minister mentioned that the LDCs are predominantly agricultural countries, yet they account for an insignificant fraction of agriculture trade. The LDC products should be exempted from anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard measures, he thought.

In his message, Pascal Lamy said he would pay special attention to the needs of the LDCs. He considers it his duty to rebalance the system by facilitating and promoting the interests of small delegations.

"We cannot allow the Hong Kong conference to represent a 'standstill', or worse to bring us backwards. It is our last chance to move this round to a successful conclusion by the end of 2006," he observed.

The negotiating process must be all-inclusive and transparent, Lamy

said.

He would ensure an early circulation of the draft Ministerial Declaration to allow enough time for small delegations to comment. He would create ample opportunity for the LDCs to comment and be part of the process, the DG of the WTO added.

Supachai Panitchpakti in his message said civil society has an important responsibility in its advocacy role about the marginalisation of the LDCs in the global economic system.

More important perhaps is ensuring the active participation of the LDCs in the negotiations at all stages, he said. There is no substitute for this in articulating and defending one's interests.

"But we also need to look beyond trade negotiations and improve the productive capacity in Least Developed Countries," said the UNCTAD secretary general's message, read out by Toufiq Ali, Bangladesh's permanent representative at the WTO.

Mahbubur Rahman, chairman of the National Advisory Committee of the LDC Forum 2005, said trade cannot be free unless it is fair.

In his introductory speech, Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive director of the CPD, said the road to the Hong Kong Ministerial promises to be both slippery and bumpy.

LDCs are not a black hole, as some would like to project them, he said.

"What we need is support of the global institutions such as the WTO to help us actualise the potentials about which we are aware, potentials which we are capable of realising."

The Hong Kong Ministerial is not

Blasts won't affect Saarc meet: FM

FROM PAGE 1

The Foreign Minister, who returned from the USA yesterday morning, said he had a meeting with Saarc foreign ministers in New York, where all the foreign ministers had expressed their eagerness about the summit. Some said the Dhaka summit will be a "landmark summit" for implementation of Saarc programmes.

Replying to a question whether the BDR Director General's remarks alleging Indian criminals involvement in the August 17 serial blasts would affect the summit, he said that such trivial matters of who said what and who reacted how would not affect the summit.

Morshed Khan said although the SAARC member states had not expressed any concern about the summit, the opposition leader Sheikh Hasina expressed her doubt about it.

About the Indian Ministry of External Affairs' (MEA) statement on the BDR Chief's remarks, he said the MEA has not yet informed anything about it.

Asked whether the relations between Bangladesh and India deteriorated during the BNP regime as claimed by Sheikh Hasina, he said, "I don't know how the relation was when Sheikh Hasina was in power. But I can say that currently we have a very cordial and friendly relation between the two countries."

On another question, he said despite the bombing of the Twin Towers in New York, some 160 heads of state and government attended the world summit in New York. "Where don't bombs burst? Every capital city is on alert notice and the world is moving forward."

Asked about any foreign assistance for investigating yesterday's bomb attack in three districts, he said, "We are cooperating with the international community on terrorism and if necessary we will seek their assistance."

"Terrorism is now a global phenomenon and it needs the united effort of all countries to combat it," he added.

Turning to the Tuesday Group, the Foreign Minister said, "We will not allow anyone or any group other than the 140 million people of Bangladesh to interfere in the internal affairs as long as BNP is in power. All diplomats must follow the diplomatic norms, manners and rules."

When asked that BNP leaders, including he himself, met several times

with members of the Tuesday Group during the 2001 national election, Morshed Khan said there was no existence of any such group at that time. "We did not ask anyone to arrange such an electoral reforms conference," he added.

On a question about 16 US senators and congressmen's letter to the US Secretary of State to take up Bangladesh's issue in the UN session, the Foreign Minister said the letter was not at all a joint statement of the 16 US lawmakers because the draft was prepared in Bangladesh and then the signatures were collected.

The signatory lawmakers were from different parts of America and it was not a matter which can be taken up in a UN session, as there is no such mandate to raise someone's death at such a level.

"If the UN has such a mandate, then the killing of many world leaders, including John F. Kennedy, might be taken up in a UN session," he said, adding, "The planners of the letter were so immature and totally ignorant about the UN system."

Turning to his participation in the UN Summit and General Assembly, meeting with Saarc Foreign Minister, bilateral meetings with his counterparts

of different countries, NAM and OIC Foreign Ministers meetings, he said he took up global, regional, Muslim worlds issues and also briefed about Bangladesh issues.

He said he had a series of meetings in Washington, D.C. with important US Senators, Congressmen and high officials when they raised the issue of the August 17 bomb blasts.

He said he assured them the Bangladesh government took a tough stance against the criminals and is determined to check terrorism in the country and also to work together in halting global terrorism.

The US lawmakers and officials agreed that terrorism is a global phenomenon and all countries should fight together against it.

On the fate of US Trade Bill 2005, the Foreign Minister said the senators and congressmen with whom he met assured him they would extend their support to the bill when it will be tabled. "The bill is not lying...it is in the serial," he said and added that the US State Department has nothing to do with the Bill.

Foreign Affairs Advisor Reaz Rahman and other high officials were present at the press briefing.



Nishat Parveen Huq, regional chairperson of Lions Clubs, receives a prize for Lions Club of Dhaka South for its HIV/Aids awareness programme from Commerce Minister Altat Hossain Chowdhury at a ceremony at the National Press Club yesterday.