

# Militants strike again

**FROM PAGE 1**  
He, however, could not give details, saying he had just received the information.  
**LAXMIPUR**  
Two bombs went off one after another with big bangs on the ground floor of the district joint and sessions judge's court building at around noon.

While the audience-packed court of Joint Assistant Judge Abu Sufian was recording statements of witnesses of a case, the attackers threw a packet containing a book-like object on the judge's desk through a window.

"The bomb fell on the floor and exploded with a big bang," said a witness.

Two minutes later, the second bomb went off on the veranda, rocking the whole area.

One Mujibul Haq of Ababil village of Raipur upazila died on the spot. Thirty other people were injured in the two blasts.

Of them, 10, including Judge Abu Sufian, court official Shafiq Ullah and parties of different cases--Delwar Hossain, Shahana Akhter, Idris Ali, Ali Ahmad, Tuka Mia and Shaheda Begum--were admitted to Laxmipur Sadar Hospital.

Meantime, injured Idris caught one young bomber named Mamun when he was fleeing the scene and handed him over to police.

Laxmipur Superintendent of Police (SP) Fazlur Rahman said Mamun introduced himself as a JMB activist.

"However, he once said he is Mamun from Chandpur but later claimed his name is Masum and he is from Narayanganj," said the SP, adding police were verifying his information.

Narayanganj police later confirmed that Mamun hails from Alinagar village of Madanganj in the district.

## CHANDPUR

A bomb went off in the courtroom of First Sub-Judge Dipen Dewan on the first floor of the Judge's Court at around noon.

While running down the stairs after the blast, two bombers blasted another bomb to clear their way out. But lawyers, police and people present in the area caught them a few yards.

Abul Hashem Bakaul, who was sitting in the courtroom, died on the spot.

Three persons, including a Sub-Judge Dipen Dewan and Advocate Kazi Mozammel Hossain, were found lying injured under thick cloud of smoke.

The two bombers were identified as Sohrab Hossain alias Belal, 23, of Kongshail village under Kachua upazila of Chandpur, and Abul Kalam, 22, of Chandania upazila of Comilla.

Locals also caught an elderly person named Jinnat Ali and handed him over to police.

During interrogation, Belal, a madrasa student, introduced himself as a JMB activist while Kalam said the JMB hired him for blasting the bomb.

Police recovered 10-12 handwritten leaflets from the blast sites after the explosion.

The leaflets bore writings--"Establish Islamic rule" and "Introduce Islamic rule" followed by "Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh".

"The bombers arrived in Chandpur yesterday and received instructions on mobile phones," Chandpur SP BM Harunur Rashid said quoting the confessions of the arrestees.

Some people asked them to meet at a place at 10:00am yesterday and handed them a packet containing the bombs and leaflets. They were told that people will get the leaflets after the bombs blast, the SP said.

"When asked who gave them the bombs, at first they mentioned one Galib but later said one Hasan gave them those. They failed to give the address of the person but said they

## More destructive

**FROM PAGE 1**  
stronger and more destructive," said Laxmipur Superintendent of Police (SP) Fazlur Rahman.

But the one blasted on the stairs was not as strong as others, which was connected to a battery like the ones in the August 17 bombs although no wire or detonator was found, he said.

A time device was used in the August 17 blasts, but yesterday's bomb had no such device.

"Today's bombs exploded just after those were hurled," the SP added.

Talking to The Daily Star, Chandpur SP BM Harunur Rashid said two bombs hurled at the Chandpur court premises were stronger than those blasted and recovered on August 17.

"These were powerful. The splinters used in those bombs were much more destructive," he said.

All four bombs were locally made.

Although the army bomb squad was likely to reach Chittagong to examine two recovered bombs and the remains of a blasted one, nothing could be known about those as of the filing of this report late last night.

A team of Rab's bomb squad, meanwhile, went to Chandpur and Laxmipur for bomb examination.

will recognise him if they see him again," Harunur Rashid said.

"They said they blasted the bombs as part of jihad but also admitted they were paid Tk 40 each," Rashid added.

## CHITTAGONG

One Laltu, 18, hurled a bomb kept inside a thick and hollow HSC Test Paper of 2003, targeting Second Joint District Session Judge Dilzer Hossain at 11:45am.

However, the bomb did not reach its target and hit the judge's desk, breaking the table-glass.

As the bomb did not explode, Laltu tried to hurl a second bomb kept inside a geometry box while fleeing.

The crowd inside the courtroom, however, caught Laltu and one Shahadat Hossain, 25, who tried to help Laltu escape.

Both Shahadat, son of Ibrahim Hossain of Dhangarh at Haripur, and Laltu, son of Maqbul Hossain of Chunaia intersection at Sepurikura, hail from Thakurgaon.

The crowd handled the two over to police after beating them up.

In another incident, one Dulal Chowdhury, 28, hurled a bomb kept inside a thick and hollow accounting book on Metropolitan Magistrate MM Akram Hossain when he was conducting a case at 11:55am.

The bomb hit the magistrate in the hand and dropped on the floor.

A man who was present in the courtroom picked it up and put in a bucket of water.

Magistrate Akram earlier recorded confessional statements of five August 17 suspects--militant leader Asadullah Galib's nephew Sadrul Alam, Arshadul Alam, Jahangir Alam, Abdus Sattar Mollah and Ahmed Mia.

While fleeing, Dulal hurled another bomb kept inside a geometry box on the corridor just in front of the courtroom.

The bomb exploded with a big bang and injured a clerk named Abdul Wadood.

People caught Dulal, son of Shafiqur Rahman of West Baroipara in Patiya upazila in Chittagong.

An army team of explosive experts went to the spots to neutralise the unexploded bombs and to carry out a sweeping operation in and around the court building premises at around 2:30pm.

During primary interrogation, Laltu told police he reached Chittagong by train at 7:30am on Sunday while Shahadat said he boarded a bus from Gabtoli, Dhaka, and got down at the GEC intersection in the port city a few hours before the incident.

Dulal along with several other youths were staying at a house rented on October 1 on Chaitanya Lane under Kotwali thana.

Raiding the house, police later arrested Omar Faruq and Suman Sarker and another suspect.

Police were interrogating all the six at the Detective Branch (DB) office in Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) headquarters.

## CHUADANGA

Two bombs exploded at a fish market in the town at 9:00pm Sunday night, leaving Shuk Chand, 60, an employee of an ice depot, badly injured.

Jano Juddha, a faction of the Purbo Bangla Communist Party, claimed responsibility for the blast, but none was arrested as of yesterday afternoon.

## 26,000 depositors

**FROM PAGE 16**  
whole area into a virtual battlefield.

Doha was arrested along with his three staff in the morning yesterday after a probe body of the district administration found his company had no legal authority to collect deposits.

Formed in May last year, the company lured in about 26,000 clients, mostly middle class people and the poor, to allegedly garner about Tk 9 crore.

As soon as the news of their arrests spread, hundreds of clients including women rushed to the office of the company on Bogura Road and demanded their money back. The company agents told depositors that it would be impossible for them to refund the money if Doha was not released, as he solely controlled the cash.

The angry depositors then headed towards the police station, where the Officer-in-Charge Mizanur Rahman and Circle Inspector ASM Mizanur Rahman told them over a micro-phone that the company was illegal and that efforts would be made to recover their deposits.

With the depositors getting more desperate, police then resorted to a baton charge, which also injured Rafiqul Islam, Barisal Correspondent of BDNEWS.

The depositors then dashed towards the deputy commissioner's office and blocked the road for hours.

Sub-inspector Mohammad Nasir later filed a case against 47 people, including the four arrestees and some agents of the company in the afternoon.

The court sent the arrestees to jail and ordered the local authorities to freeze bank accounts of the company.

## India concerned

**FROM PAGE 16**  
general (DG) of the BSF had firmly refuted all such allegations during the talks," the high commission said, referring to the recent meetings in New Delhi between the border chiefs of India and Bangladesh.

It also pointed out that the government of India in its press release on September 30 "already rejected these allegations as baseless and scurrilous, regretting that these have been made against a friendly country, particularly after the useful and constructive talks."

The high commission reiterated that "in the interest of friendship and good relations between our two countries, it would be useful to directly discuss and clarify doubts or allegations rather than through the media."

Referring to BDR director general's allegation that the Indian Involvement was based on the reported arrest of an "Indian national" Giyasuddin in Sathkria, the release said after such reports in Bangladeshi media, the high commission on September 6 sought credible inputs and also consular access from the government about his identity.

"Regretfully, there has been no response from the Bangladeshi authorities concerned till date," it said.

Earlier on Sunday, the foreign ministry spokesman said that a section of Indian press "distorted and twisted" BDR chief's comment that 'some Indian criminals might have been involved' in the August 17 serial bomb blasts in Bangladesh.

"What he said to the press in India was also officially recorded at the DG-level BDRBSF meeting that 'some Indian criminals might have been involved' in the August 17 bomb blasts," Director General of External Publicity Zahurul Haque told newsmen at the foreign ministry.

## Aug 17 blasts

**FROM PAGE 1**  
said their observation of statements by the arrestees has so far revealed this fact.

In all the courts where Galib's bail petition was moved, state lawyers have denied Galib bail on the commonly used argument that 'bomb blasts stopped after Galib's arrest'.

Bombs went off at most of the areas close to courts that had repeatedly rejected the bail prayers of Galib and his men.

In addition, a letter of Bangla Bhai's Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMB) to a local press club in early March this year threatened to wage 'militant actions' across the country if Galib was not immediately released.

The letter, signed by JMB's military section spokesman, Mutallib Hossain, said, "Dr Galib, an envoy of Islam, and our other members arrested across the country should be released by March 24."

"If our demand is not met, we will launch a militant drive in Rajshahi and elsewhere in the country," it read.

"Our words are not derived from any extremism; we have made our decision in very cool blood."

Addressing journalists, the letter said, "We have been compelled to take these actions to protect Islam and to establish the rule of Islam in Bangladesh".

Sources have said that Galib's spiritual leader, Uttar Pradesh resident Abdul Matin Salafi, who was expelled from Bangladesh for his militant activities in the late 80s, had a hand in the bombings.

"No big militant activities occur without his knowledge," commented a source.

The sources also said the blasts were the joint operations of Harkat-ul Jihad (HUJI), Abdur Rahman's Jama'atul Mujahidin Bangladesh (JMB), Bangla Bhai's Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) and Galib's Ahle Hadith Andolon Bangladesh (Ahab).

## Low turns

**FROM PAGE 16**  
"Squally weather may continue to affect the seaports."

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to hoist local cautionary signal number three.

All fishing boats and trawlers over the north Bay have been asked to remain close to the coast and proceed with caution.

## 35 mobile courts

**FROM PAGE 1**  
secretariat with State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar in the chair.

The mobile courts will also take action against unfit vehicles, illegal parking and encroachment of foot-paths in the city.

The courts will enforce the newly enacted 'Pure Food Ordinance' in the drive against food adulteration and selling of unhygienic foods.

They will check commodities without expiry dates and visit slaughterhouses to prevent selling of the meat of buffalo and ram in the name of beef and mutton.

The magistrates will strengthen their surveillance from October 10 to 14 to ensure security for the upcoming Durga Puja, the biggest Hindu festival.

The magistrates will be replaced in every 15 days.

# Security tightened

## FROM PAGE 1

forces in all the districts ahead of Durga Puja. They have been given fresh instructions to be alert amid today's blasts," Rab Director General Aziz Sarkar told The Daily Star yesterday.

Both uniformed and plainclothes members of the Detective Branch (DB) have been deployed in the sensitive points in the capital. "Our teams are keeping vigil," said Shafiqul Islam, assistant deputy commissioner of DB.

The security at Zia International Airport (ZIA) has also been beefed up. "We have alerted all our security personnel and instructed them to be more watchful," Azad Zahirul Islam, chief security officer of ZIA, told The Daily Star last night.

## GAIBANDHA

The police declared a 'red alert' in Gaibandha town and adjacent areas after the superintendent of police (SP) of the district yesterday received an anonymous phone call threatening bomb attacks on important establishments.

The caller said a bomb was planted in the Boali Quami Madrasa, one and a half kilometre off Gaibandha town. SP Bhanu Lal Das along with his force rushed to the spot and encircled the madrasa. However, no bomb was found at the spot.

The SP told the press that the police have received letters claiming that bombs have been planted in different establishments but none of the claims proved true.

He said additional police forces have been deployed in all important

establishments of Gaibandha town including the deputy commissioner's office, judge court, public library and municipality office for stricter vigilance.

## MYMENSINGH

Panic gripped the students, teachers and parents of Government Bidyamoyee Girls High School and city dwellers following a bomb hoax on the school premises yesterday.

Kotwali police rushed to the spot and recovered a bomb-like pot, which contained nothing but ash. SP Abdullahel Baki later told local journalists that someone might have kept the pot on the school compound to create panic.

## KHULNA

Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) has also beefed up security in the divisional city following yesterday's serial blasts in three districts.

Police and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel have been deployed in all key-point installations and several striking forces of KMP have intensified their patrol.

Meantime, army has been deployed at Goalpara Power Station, one of the major installations in the city, fearing attacks.

## SIRAJGANJ

The police launched a massive search at the collectorate office, judge court and magistrate court in the town following the fresh serial blasts yesterday.

The law enforcers evacuated everyone from the court premises except the magistrates, lawyers and the court officials and searched the area thoroughly.

# First charge-sheet

## FROM PAGE 1

financed the district's seven blasts.

The arrested accused are Shafikul Islam, chief of Ahab's cultural wing Al Hera Shilpi Gosthi, Bazla Ahab mosque Imam Hafez Shafikul Islam, Ahab adherents Azizul Bari Mintu, Jahangir Alam, Rabiul Islam, rickshawpuller Atwar Rahman, Dulal Hossain, Majnu Mia, Abdul Mabud, Dulal Hossain, Mozammel Haque, Idris Ali, Md Selim, Abdul Jabbar, Aminul Islam, Ziaur Rahman, Rezwam Bari, Mustafizur Rahman, Hobibor Rahman Hobi and Afaz Uddin Poheli.

The accused at large include Montezar Rahman and Golam Mostafa.

Militant kingpin Asadullah Al Galib, Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) chief Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai were mentioned as top militant leaders, but were not accused in the charge-sheet.

"Bangla Bhai is not their leader, he had just led the anti-outlaw operations in Rajshahi zone. There are many like Bangla Bhai inside Ahab and JMB," said an investigator quoting statements of the Joypurhat militants.

He said Ahab has two wings -- one open and political and another underground. "The August 17 attacks were targeted to free Galib from jail," the investigator said asking not to be named.

Some of the accused including Dulal, Azizul, Jahangir and Rabiul gave confessional statements before magistrates.

Azizul in his statement said 10 people were involved in the blasts and Hafizar Rahman funded and directed them.

He also said the bombs were distributed through the Bazla Ahab mosque.

Hafizar, superintendent of Sikta Madrasa in Kalai upazila, went into hiding after extorting about Tk 50,000 from local traders on August 14.

He had submitted an application

## Hasina

**FROM PAGE 16**  
and patronised by the alliance government, blasted bombs in 63 districts.

"...But the government blamed the Awami League instead of arresting the culprits and bringing them to book," said Hasina, also the president of the Awami League.

"As a result, those who were involved in the attack and those who masterminded the act remain out of the reach of the law and have been committing subversive incidents one after another."

Hasina said yesterday's blasts were the sequel to the August 21 grenade attack on Awami League's rally, assassination of former finance minister SAMS Kibria and the August 17 nationwide bomb blasts.

She urged people to build unity of all pro-liberation forces against the "failed, corrupt, killer and bomber BNP-Jamaat alliance".

Hasina strongly protested and condemned the incidents of bomb blasts and expressed deep condolence at the sad demise of two people and injuries to Laxmipur judge Abu Sufian, a number of lawyers and other people.

She prayed for the salvation of the departed souls and expressed deep sympathy to the bereaved family members.

# Maizbhandari floats new political party

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former lawmaker and ex-BNP leader, Syed Najibul Bashar Maizbhandari, yesterday launched a new political party comprising mainly spiritual leaders.

He resigned from the ruling BNP on September 26 protesting the government's 'failure' to act against the party's coalition partner Jamaat-e-Islami which, he says, bears direct links to different blasts across the country.

Maizbhandari was the international affairs secretary of BNP and former convener of the Jatiyatabadi Olama Dal, religious wing of the party.

He formally announced the floating of 'Bangladesh Tariqat Federation' (BTF) through a press conference at a city hotel, declaring himself as its chairman.

Maizbhandari said prominent politicians, businessmen, judges and former army officials and secretaries are going to join BTF soon.

He said all the political leaders go to mazars (shrines) seeking blessings before standing in election but when bombs explode in those mazars, they do not express any concern. He accused the Jamaat again of the bomb blasts in mazars.

Formed with a 19-member presidium, 201-member advisory council and 101-member executive committee, the BTF will hold its maiden grand conference at the Paltan Maidan in the city on November 30.

Additional Secretary General of Zaker Party Munshi Abdul Latif also spoke at the press conference, expressing their support to the newly formed party.

Syed Shahjada Golam Chishti, leader of Bangladesh Dargah Mazar Federation, said as a partner of the coalition, Jamaat influenced the home ministry to issue the notification to disallow any religious gathering in mazars.

BTF Secretary General Maulana Zakir Hossain read out a 21-point manifesto of the party. The symbol of BTF would be a garland of yellow flowers.

He said BTF will never form alliance with anti-Liberation War forces.

## Aussie duo wins

### FROM PAGE 16

Adelaide in South Australia and now lives in Perth where he worked as a pathologist at the Royal Perth Hospital until 1999.

"Thanks to the pioneering discovery by Marshall and Warren, peptic ulcer disease is no longer a chronic, frequently disabling condition, but a disease that can be cured by a short regimen of antibiotics and acid secretion inhibitors," the jury said.

Before the discovery of the bacterium in 1982, stress and lifestyle were considered the major causes of ulcers. But it has now been firmly established that Helicobacter pylori causes more than 90 percent of duodenal ulcers and up to 80 percent of gastric ulcers.

In rich countries, infection with the bacterium is less common than in the developing world "where virtually everyone may be infected", the Nobel citations said.

Last year, the award went to two American researchers, Richard Axel and Linda B. Buck, for pioneering work on our sense of smell, explaining how we recognise thousands of odours and remember them.

The Nobel prizes, founded by Swedish industrialist Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, were first awarded in 1901.

This year's laureates will receive a gold medal and share 10 million Swedish kronor (1.1 million euros, 1.3 million dollars).

The formal awarding of the prizes will take place at Stockholm's City Hall on December 10.

The Medicine Prize kicks off the coveted Nobel awards.

The Physics prize will be announced on Tuesday and Chemistry on Wednesday, and the Peace Prize on Friday. The Economics prize, awarded by Sweden's central bank, the Riksbank, is scheduled for October 10.

The Literature prize is traditionally awarded on a Thursday, though the actual date is only announced 48 hours in advance.

## Ramadan

### FROM PAGE 16

Anyone sighting the Ramadan moon anywhere in the country has been requested to contact the committee immediately over telephones 9559493, 9556407, 9555951, 9558337, 9559643 and 9555947, and fax number 9563397.

## OFFICE HOURS

Meanwhile, the government yesterday announced the office hours for all government, semi-government and autonomous and semi-autonomous organisations during the holy month of Ramadan.

All these offices will remain open from 9:00am to 3:30pm from Sunday to Thursday (including prayer break from 1:15pm to 1:30pm) during the month.

Bank, postal, telephone, railway and state-owned industries and factories and other organisations, whose services are considered essential, will announce their respective office hours as per their rules and regulations considering public interest, said an official handout.

# Tour boat capsizes

## FROM PAGE 16

survived the accident had been accounted for.

The boat's captain, Richard Paris, a Canadian, survived the accident and was visibly shaken, witnesses said.

The National Transportation Safety Board and the Coast Guard will begin an investigation of the accident on Monday.

Local resident Frank Sause, who went to the lake after hearing emergency sirens, told CNN that several boats rushed to the accident scene to help rescue more than a dozen survivors who clung to the capsized boat for several minutes before it sank in the placid waters on a sunny afternoon.

Fire and other rescue teams were on the scene within minutes to pull the elderly tourists out of the water. Many

pleasure boats also responded and threw cushions and other life-saving devices to people in the water.

Some witnesses reported seeing smoke coming from the boat just before it sank by the stern.

"That's my wife, she's dead," Sause quoted one elderly survivor as saying as he was brought to shore. A temporary morgue was set up at a nearby campground, and bodies lay on the ground under white covers.

Media reports said the Ethan Allen was about 50 feet to 100 feet from shore when the accident happened.

Several local residents said the tour boat company had a good reputation with no known serious accidents and that nothing of the sort had occurred on the popular lake in memory.

# China company lodges

## FROM PAGE 16

Indian competitor Bhel by 24 million dollars.

But Harbin did not submit any technical bid as required, making its offer invalid. Yet the PDB's Technical Evaluation Committee (Tec) accepted the offer. To cover up this major flaw, the project's director on July 9 sought Harbin's technical evaluation afterwards, although the bid was already closed. Again this was a violation of the PPR.

While the Tec accepted Harbin's offer, its sub-committee in a report admitted that acceptance of Harbin's bid was in violation of the rules.

The Tec itself admits that the seemingly low price offer of Harbin is flawed. In its report it said, "Harbin has quoted some major items of lesser quantity and did not quote some consumables... it is evident that the price of Harbin is less due to lesser quantity."

The CMEC had also warned the government of legal action for this, saying the PDB is violating the PPR.

But under the influence of the business lobby behind Harbin, the PDB and the PMO went ahead with the project triggering the CMEC to for-

mally lodge a complaint with the IMED as per the government's procurement rules.

To lodge this complaint, the CMEC paid a registration cost of Tk 5 lakh, sources mentioned.

"Already a good number of reputed firms have stopped participating in the country's power sector tenders since corruption and irregularities have gripped the sector and the government is failing to ensure transparency," a PDB source pointed out.

An industry insider said, "It will be interesting to see whether the IMED review panel can work independently - free from the influence of money and power."

In the last four years, the BNP-led coalition government signed only two power project agreements - one for the Tongi