

Ctg judges get death

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In Chittagong, following Monday's bomb attack on one judge and yesterday's bomb threats to three, the judges are now feeling too insecure. Some them even asked for bullet-proof jackets and stepped up security at and around their residences and offices, sources said.

Court sources said the unknown callers made phone calls to the offices of the three judges between 9:30am and 9:45am.

The callers first asked about the identities of the judges and hung up. A few minutes later, they again rang the judges and threatened them with bomb attacks on their courtrooms, the sources added.

BDNEWS adds: The higher authorities were immediately informed of the anonymous phone calls.

The judges, officers, employees, lawyers and litigants in Chittagong Court Building were reeling under bomb phobia for the third consecutive day yesterday as security measures were not foolproof.

Many judges and magistrates were found shortening the court proceedings. An assistant judge, who received bomb threats yesterday, had to adjourn hearing on Tuesday for security reasons.

"I took the chair but left the court saying the proceeding could not be held for security reasons," said the judge.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports: The three judges who were threatened yesterday informed the matter to District and Sessions Judge Abdur Rahman Patwary and Metropolitan Sessions Judge Anwar Hossain.

Later, a large contingent of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) led by the deputy commissioner (special branch) reached the court premises. They were put on guard in front of the judges' rooms.

The Chittagong District Bar Association at a protest rally yesterday demanded resignation of the state minister for home for what it said failure to ensure security in the court, BDNEWS added.

The rally held to protest Monday's bomb attacks on three district courts blamed Jamaat-e-Islami, a component of the coalition government, for 'patronising' militant fundamentalist outfit the JMB, which orchestrated the recurrent bomb attacks on courts.

Vice President of the Bar Association Didarul Alam Chowdhury, former general secretary Montosh Barua and advocates Kamaluddin Iftekher Saimul and Jashimuddin, among others, addressed the rally held in front of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

Terminating courts as the last resort of the people for justice, the speakers urged the government to beef up security measures so that judges, magistrates, lawyers and litigants feel secure on court premises, the news agency added.

UNB adds: The judges of the Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Chittagong at an emergency meeting on Tuesday asked the government to take

JMB planned second

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Galib in Kachua thana in Chandpur through a friend in February this year and joined the party," the JMB activist said.

He, however, failed to locate Galib yesterday, saying he does not know the address of Galib or if it is his real name at all.

The JMB activists used to sit at motivational meetings in Kachua once or twice a month, he said.

Mahfuz, whose organisational name is Faruq, confessed to having been assigned to blast a bomb in front of the Feni Press Club on August 17.

"But seeing a lot of people moving around there at the scheduled time [11:00am] that day, I abandoned the bomb without switching it on and left the area," Mahfuz told police during primary interrogation yesterday.

Verifying the information, Chandpur police confirmed that an unexploded bomb was recovered in front of the Feni Press Club.

"Mahfuz admitted to assigning Kalam and Belal for bombing at Chandpur court but said he did not go there to blast any bomb himself," Chandpur Additional Superintendent of Police (SP) Harunur Rashid told The Daily Star last night.

Mahfuz, Galib, Kalam, Belal and a few other JMB men met at Rahimanagar mosque two-three days before Monday and chalked out the details of the bombing at Chandpur court, according to Mahfuz's confession.

He also revealed the names of six local JMB leaders, which police did not disclose for the sake of probe. Police said they are looking for them.

LAXMIPUR
JMB militant Masum, caught red-handed while blasting two bombs in the district on Monday, told police that he hurled the bombs despite knowing its consequences.

"We don't have faith in the laws created by humans and consider that the existing judicial system is against the law of Allah," the militant said during interrogation.

Since the judges, magistrates and lawyers "act against Allah", they are kafirs (non-believers), he said, adding, "We'll go to heaven for jihad against the kafirs and killing them."

He disclosed the names and addresses of some JMB leaders and activists, which police are verifying. "Most of the names appear to us as

Food tightens

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village under Hakimpur upazila were killed when a wall collapsed on them during rain on Tuesday morning.

Besides, two children drowned in floodwater at Tarpanghat village under Nawabganj upazila. They are Russell, 12, son of Ansar Ali, and Farhad, 9, son of Abul Kashem.

Some 50,000 people were marooned and around 5,000 others rendered homeless due to the continuous downpour since Saturday. Most of the homeless people took shelter on high lands and in educational institutions.

The flood paralysed normal life across the district and caused a huge damage to crops. Classes remained suspended in most of the educational institutions for the last three days.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) sources, the incessant downpour inundated around 30,000 hectares of cropland in the district.

The district town is experiencing a severe waterlogging with some parts of the town and adjacent areas reeling under waist-deep water.

Local met office recorded 593mm rainfall in four days till yesterday.

The worst affected seven upazilas are Sadar, Ghoraghat, Hakimpur, Nawabganj, Chhiringbandar, Parbatipur and Khansama.

Water Development Board sources said the water level of the rivers Punarbhaba and Atrai increased by 33.5mm and 38.5mm yesterday. The Punarbhaba was flowing 45m above the danger level and the Karatua 1.25mm.

Most of the homeless people who took shelter on high roads and at educational institutions have been starving for the last few days due to lack of food.

Around 150 families of Dinajpur town also took shelter at different schools as rainwater entered their houses.

Safiqul Haque Chhutu, chairman of Dinajpur Pourasava called an emergency meeting yesterday to help the flood affected people and collected Tk 1 lakh for them.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Dinajpur Surat Zaman also directed all upazila nirbahi officers to take necessary measures for the affected areas of the district. Distribution of relief has been going on in the affected areas since last Monday.

Meanwhile, import-export activities have remained suspended at the Hilli land port for the last three days as most parts of the area went under water due to the downpour.

NILPHAMARI
The flood situation in the district deteriorated yesterday with more areas going under water. More than 50,000 people remained marooned in Saidpur and Sadar upazilas, reports our correspondent from Nilphamari.

Most of the two upazilas are reeling under 3 to 5 feet water.

Flight operations at Saidpur airport were suspended on Tuesday as about 1,000 feet stretch of the runway was inundated after heavy rain.

The flights, however, resumed yesterday after the airport authorities pumped out the water, said Abul Kasem, station manager of the airport.

The suspension of flight on Tuesday caused sufferings to the passengers including Tayeba Majumder, mother of the prime minister, who came from Dinajpur to catch a Dhaka-bound flight.

About 15,000 people have taken shelter at different schools, stadiums and the Ansar-VDP barracks in district.

According to the District Relief Office, 13 metric tones of rice has been allocated for the flood-hit people of Nilphamari Sadar upazila including the district town.

The Teesta was flowing at a height of 51.7 metre at the Teesta Barrage point.

Power supply resumed in the district Tuesday night after 18 hours. The collapse of a 33,000-volt electric tower in Sadar Upazila on Monday night caused the outage.

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The flood also disrupted normal work at Saidpur railway workshop. Floodwater entered the workshop putting valuable machines at risk.

The flood inundated about 10,000 hectares of standing crops, mostly aman paddy.

Bar council

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Meanwhile, the Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday urged the chief justice to take necessary steps including deployment of law enforcement agencies to ensure security of the judges, lawyers, and others concerned on the court premises.

Three share chemistry

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element in the world. Its combination with other elements, such as hydrogen, oxygen, chlorine and sulphur, provides an astonishing array of materials, ranging from living tissue to drugs and plastics that we now take for granted.

Chauvin, 74, of the French Institute for Petroleum, laid the theoretical groundwork for explaining how methathesis works by for the first time outlining how metal compounds act as bond-breaking catalysts.

Before Chauvin's research, catalysts had been used to break carbon bonds, but their role and reaction had not been fully understood.

His findings laid the groundwork for California Institute of Technology chemistry professor Schrock's quest for the metal that makes the most effective catalyst.

In 1990, Schrock, now 63, reported the construction of a group of very effective molybdenum catalysts, revealing that the metathesis method could be used for general purposes in organic synthesis.

Schrock's molybdenum catalysts later proved to have a downside, in that they were sensitive to oxygen and moisture.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology chemistry professor Grubbs two years later discovered a ruthenium catalyst that was stable in air and could even initiate metathesis in the presence of alcohol and water.

Grubbs, now 60, thus found the standard catalyst which all new catalysts are measured against.

"This year's Nobel Prize laureates in chemistry have made metathesis into one of organic chemistry's most important reactions," the Nobel jury said on Wednesday.

Their findings "represent a great step forward for 'green chemistry', reducing potentially hazardous waste through smarter production", it said.

Among the benefits are advanced herbicides, additives for polymers and fuels and research into new treatment for bacterial infection, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, arthritis, migraine and HIV.

"Metathesis is thus an important weapon in the hunt for new pharmaceuticals for treating many of the world's major diseases," the jury said.

The 2005 laureates will receive a gold medal and share a cheque for 10 million Swedish kronor (1.1 million euros, 1.3 million dollars) at the formal prize ceremony held on December 10, the anniversary of the death in 1896 of the prize's creator Alfred Nobel.

Last year, Aaron Ciechanover and Avram Hershko of Israel and Irwin Rose of the United States won the Nobel Chemistry Prize for showing how our

Niko barely averts

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by drilling a 500-metre relief well two days ago.

"A lot of gas has already escaped since the first blowout in January. That is why the pressure of gas which keeps on coming out has come down. Niko has pumped in mud and is now pumping in water to maintain the stability," the source added.

Niko Vice President Brian J Adolph in a press release yesterday said the company has successfully completed the drilling phase and it has started the killing operation of the exploded well.

"During this phase we will be conducting various types of operations which will require us to shut down periodically and observe the result. When we stop our pumping operation, gas, being lighter than water and mud, comes up to the surface in the relief well," he said.

"We released this gas on October 4 and flared it through our flare facility. It is a part of our normal operation. It should not be construed otherwise," Adolph said.

Niko started drilling the relief well with an undisclosed budget, using funds from its insurance company.

Costly start to Ramadan

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demand during Ramadan -- puffed rice and gram (local brand) -- also had a price hike of more than Tk 5 a kg, selling at Tk 34-36 a kg.

Prices of other iftar items, such as various categories of dates, ranged between Tk 45 and Tk 200 per kg yesterday, against Tk 35 and Tk 180 previously. Pressed rice sold at Tk 25 per kg against Tk 20 last week.

Prices of most essentials and vegetables in the kitchen markets that shut up by at least Tk 2-15 a kg over the last one week showed a fresh hike yesterday.

Lentil was selling at Tk 52-56 a kg yesterday. Tk 4 higher than on the previous days.

Onion and garlic yesterday sold at Tk 34-56 per kg respectively against Tk 26 and Tk 48 last week.

One kg of green chilli yesterday sold at Tk 80 and dry (red) chilli at Tk 65, against Tk 65 and Tk 56 respectively.

Prices of bitter gourd, pumpkin, cabbage, cauliflower, lady's finger, patol, spinach, bean, and green leaves have increased Tk 4-10 per kilogram.

Orange sold at Tk 120 a dozen, rising from Tk 100 and apple (Australian variety) at Tk 80 a kg against Tk 60 a week ago.

Traders at wholesale markets attributed the price hike to transportation rail across the country, but other sources

body cells give certain proteins -- the building blocks of all living things -- a "kiss of death" by marking them for elimination.

On Monday, the Nobel Medicine Prize went to Australian research duo Barry J. Marshall and J. Robin Warren for their pioneering 1982 discovery that ulcers are caused by bacteria.

And on Tuesday the Nobel Physics Prize went to Americans Roy J. Glauber and John L. Hall as well as German Theodor W. Haensch for groundbreaking work on understanding light.

The prestigious Peace Prize will be announced in Oslo on Friday and the Economics Prize is scheduled for October 10. The Literature Prize will most likely be awarded on October 13, but the Swedish Academy has yet to announce the date, which traditionally falls on a Thursday.

Hearing

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Additional District and Sessions Judge and acting judge of the tribunal KG Mostofa fixed November 15 for hearing the matters.

Monwara, wife of Jainal Sarker, another accused in Gabtoli explosive substances case, was also produced in the court yesterday.

Govt microcredit

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National Economic Council (Ecneec) at a meeting in April last year decided that the project would be kept under the Annual Development Programme (ADP) till June this year and then placed under revenue budget.

The implementation, monitoring and evaluation department (IMED) under the planning ministry also evaluated the project and recommended bringing it in the revenue sector.

The government, however, is yet to take any decision in this regard.

On September 11, Rural Development and Cooperative Secretary Hedayetul Islam made a written request to Finance Secretary Siddiqur Rahman Chowdhury for block allocation of Tk 11.50 crore for payment of salaries of the project staff and meeting other expenses.

Hedayet pointed out that if the project is not continued, recovery of the 133.12 crore public money would become uncertain, and officials and employees of the project would be in dire distress.

He also sought suggestions from the finance secretary about running the project if a block allocation is not made.

But the finance secretary is yet to respond to this.

Bali blast hunt widens,

fears of more attacks

REUTERS, Indonesia

Indonesian police widened their search yesterday for those behind weekend suicide blasts in Bali, and there were fears fresh attacks were in the advanced stages of preparation.

On the resort island, Balinese Hindus paused for a holy day of prayer four days after bombs ripped through packed restaurants. The three young bombers killed themselves and 19 others, and wounded 138.

"I look for blessings so that the spirits are gone," said Ketut Arini, 20, a waitress at one of the bombed eateries as she splashed water and placed offerings in the building.

Blasts at two eateries in Jimbaran and a cafe in Kuta Beach were almost simultaneous on Saturday night.

Police on Wednesday said they had nearly finished their forensic examination of the sites, and were considering reopening them to let people get on with their lives.

"The work here is almost done," Bali police chief Made Mangku Pastika told reporters as he surveyed the Kuta Beach area. "Public activity needs to resume soon."

Police have launched a nationwide manhunt and a senior officer said it was focussed on Bali and the capital Jakarta.

Attention has centred on the al Qaeda-linked Jemaah Islamiyah network or an offshoot of it. In particular, police are hunting Malaysian militants Azahari bin Husin and Noordin M. Top.

Both are senior figures in the shadowy JI network, blamed for a string of attacks in Indonesia, including nightclub bombings in Bali three years ago that killed 202, most of them foreign tourists.

Several countries, including the United States and Australia, have warned in recent days of possible new attacks in Indonesia.

"We continue to receive information that attacks are in the advanced stages of planning," New Zealand's foreign ministry said in travel advice issued on Wednesday.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said on Wednesday he had asked the country's military to help in the anti-terror fight.

Police say they have questioned at least 75 people about the attacks. Two non-Balinese were being interrogated for suspected involvement.

Police said they would also question individuals across Indonesia with links to previous attacks, including some of those prosecuted and jailed.

However, while police say they are making progress, no one has yet been formally arrested or charged.

In Banten province on Java island, police said they were seeking five men linked to a convicted 2002 Bali bomber now on death row. They said the men, several of whom have served jail time for possession of explosives, were wanted for questioning but not at this point considered suspects.

India reopens

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that the Indian secret service was abetting terrorism.

The South Asian rivals agreed in July 2004 to reopen both consulates, as part of a wider peace process launched earlier the same year and aimed at ending nearly six decades of hostilities.

The consulates in the two port cities will make travel easier for members of families split during the sub-continent's partition in 1947, who can currently only seek visas at embassies in New Delhi and Islamabad.

Singh said that the opening of the consulate would coincide with the re-opening of a rail link between southern Pakistan and Western India, which was cut off after the 1965 war between the two countries.

"We are looking forward to opening Khokrapur-Munabao railway link between Sindh and Western India," he said.

On Monday India and Pakistan signed deals to notify each other in advance of ballistic missile tests and to set up a hotline between their coastguards as Singh held talks with his Pakistani counterpart Khurshid Kasuri.

They agreed Tuesday to find a "common understanding" by January 2006 on the issue of the Siachen glacier in Kashmir, dubbed the world's highest battlefield, where both sides have stationed thousands of troops.

Ramadan

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(special prayers), at night.

The government has announced new office timings for the month of Ramadan in all government, semi-government and autonomous and semi-autonomous organisations.

BRTC has introduced special buses on the city's two busy routes so that people could return home without hazard from their workplaces for "iftar".

When poverty makes

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Arab Emirates (UAE) under a government initiative have revealed these facts.

Five years ago, when they were nearly starving with only two meals a day,

Phulmoti, 40, and Abdul Aziz, 75, of Barura upazila under Comilla were easily lured by two local brokers to send their children, Tareq, 10 and Zahed, 12 to Dubai.

Altogether, Abdul Aziz has 13 children, eight from his first wife, Hazera Khatun, and five from his second, Phulmoti. The couple lives in a two-room house on eight decimals of land at Puranchal village. Abdul has not a single piece of land for cultivation.

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70 injured

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station 40km south of Gaibandha. The Gaibandha-bound Ekata Intercity Express entered the station and rammmed the mail train waiting for clearance from behind.

Train communications through the station remained suspended for three hours until the damage compartment was removed.

The injured were rushed to Gobindaganj Upazila Health Complex.

The stationmaster blamed the mishap on the loco-master of Ekata for entering the station without clearance. He said it could be a major accident, but the driver managed to slow down the train.

No hearing

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ammunition hauled at Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Limited jetty on April 2 last year.

Charge framing of the other case filed under Special Power Act for smuggling in connection with the same arms haul, also did not take place yesterday and the court fixed its date on October 24, sources said.

Since the hearing of the arms case began on July 7, only five witnesses have been heard while one of them was declared "hostile".

Out of 43 accused in the case, 33 were arrested or surrendered. Of them, 20 are on bail and 13 behind the bars.

The others, including three prime accused -- Hafizur Rahman alias Hafiz, Din Mohammad and Abul Kashem Madhu have remained absconding.

The mother of four sons and one daughter, Saleha said her husband Shajahan had no job. He also had no land, and worked only 2 to 3 days a week as a day labourer. For the last 6 months he has not even been at home, she said.

"How could I allow sending my little Lokman to a foreign land far from me? I would never do it if my husband could manage our living," Saleha adds.

Shafeeli, 23, of Shakpur village of Barura, who took Saleha's son to Dubai, was also a divorced lady. She said she was living a miserable life with no support from her parents after her husband divorced her about 4 years ago.

"Just at that time, a 'dalal' proposed to me that I could go to Dubai and work, but I would have to take at least two children with me. The dalal said the children would go to school. Then I pursued Saleha allow me to take Lokman," Shafeeli said. But after the arrival in the UAE, she was not given any employment. Instead, the children were taken to the camel races, she added.

According to BNWLA officials, it is always hard for a mother to hand over her children. But the harder reality of hunger, familial and social deprivation make them so desperate that they do not hesitate to leave their own children to someone else, they added.

"But still, the blame cannot be imposed on poverty. The way these children were taken to a foreign land by false promises also falls under trafficking," said BNWLA Executive Director Advocate, Salma Ali.

Investigations have also revealed that many of the fake parents who accompanied the children while going to the UAE and coming back showed the children as their own in the passports. This is also called trafficking, she added.

Salma Ali cautioned that greater care for the poor is required to check their vulnerability. "The ultra poor of the country need special care from the government and non-government organisations to help curb the reasons of trafficking," she observed.

freedom, will also project the achievements of the country.

FBCCI President Mir Nasir Hossain appreciated the achievements of the government in various sectors like economic, health and education.

He lauded the government's success in curbing terrorism and demanded continuation of the activities of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

Mir Nasir said hartal is a democratic right, but its misuse is creating adverse effects on the country's economy and image. He stressed the need for consensus of all political parties on major national issues.

The FBCCI president placed a number of proposals on behalf of the business community, including enhanced government support for small and medium scale industries.

The prime minister accepted some of their proposals and said the remaining ones will be considered after proper examination.