

7 BNP men hurt as bombs explode at party office

BDNEWS, Dhaka

At least seven BNP leaders and activists were injured in bomb attacks at Keshabpur in Jessore and Alamdanga in Chuadanga last night, police and local people said.

At Keshabpur, two bombs exploded at the local BNP office at about 8:00pm, leaving five ruling party activists injured.

The explosions took place shortly after electricity went off in the area. It could not be ascertained whether the bombs were planted or hurled on the BNP office.

The injured BNP men are now undergoing treatment at a local hospital.

In Chuadanga, two local leaders of the Jatiyatbadi Krishak Dal, peasants front of the ruling BNP, were wounded when unidentified criminals threw a bomb on them at village Bhogail of Bhangbaria Union under Alamdanga upazila at about 9:00pm.

The injured are Bhangbaria Union Krishak Dal President Abdul Haq, 50, and General Secretary Ashraf Alam Dalim, 30. They are undergoing treatment at the upazila health complex.

Iraq on brink of civil war

Warns Arab League chief

AFP, London/ Baghdad

Iraq is on the brink of civil war, Arab League Secretary General Amr Mussa said yesterday, a week before the country holds a landmark referendum on a draft constitution.

"The situation is so tense there is a threat looming in the air about civil war that could erupt at any moment, although some people would say that it is already there," Mussa told BBC radio.

"We can't just leave Iraq with the divisions and disagreements and conflicts and shootings," he warned.

Arab League diplomats are due in Iraq soon to prepare for a reconciliation conference bringing all factions together.

"I am not accusing any particular party" for the continuing violence in Iraq, added the Arab League chief.

"Each of them is being encouraged to grab whatever they can grab. There are a lot of individuals, a lot of interests, now that are playing games with the

future of Iraq and there is no clear strategy, there is no clear leadership," he said.

"Now we have to say 'Stop. What are you doing? Where are you going?'"

Numerous Sunni Arab political and religious leaders in Iraq have called for a "no" vote to the constitution because they believe its federalist provisions will divide the country.

Meanwhile, US forces have wrapped up one of four western Iraqi offensives aimed at pinning down al-Qaeda linked insurgents a week before the population votes in a bitterly divisive constitutional referendum.

The US military said Saturday its troops had finished a six-day sweep in the western, Sunni dominated Al-Anbar province, killing "more than 50 al-Qaeda terrorists."

Roughly 1,000 marines, soldiers and sailors ended Operation Iron Fist late Thursday, a statement said, while another reported that six marines had

been killed in the operation.

Iron Fist's goal was to "root out al-Qaeda in Iraq terrorists and to disrupt insurgent support systems" in and around Sadah, 20km east of the Syrian border on the Euphrates River, the first statement said.

Across Iraq, copies of the proposed constitution were distributed ahead of the October 15 referendum that will pave the way to general elections in December.

US and Iraqi officials believe that including more Sunnis in the political process will help isolate hard-core elements within the insurgency.

In the northern Kurdish province of Arbil, local official Nuzad Barzani said Kurdish-language drafts of the constitution were being released through all available channels.

"We have asked newspapers, radios and television stations close to Kurdish political parties to publish

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Dhaka shocked at quake loss

BDNEWS, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed deep shock at the loss of life and property caused by a powerful earthquake that shook different parts of Pakistan.

In message to Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf, President Iajuddin Ahmed prayed for the early recovery of those injured during the calamity.

"We would like to convey our deep condolences through you to the members of the bereaved families. We believe that the government and the people of Pakistan will face the challenges of this difficult time with courage and fortitude," he said.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, on behalf of the government and people of Bangladesh, extended sympathies and heartfelt condolences to those who have lost their near and dear ones in the calamity.

In a message to Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, Khaleda said, "We believe that the government and the people of Pakistan will be able to withstand the challenges of this calamity with courage and fortitude."

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina expressed

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City dwellers still face a drinking water crisis despite the deployment of the army at different Wasa stations to ensure a smooth water supply during Ramadan. This photo, taken yesterday at the Rayerbazar area in Mohammadpur, shows women and children queuing for fresh water.

Bush, Blair like Nazis

Ex-UN arms inspector says

AFP, London

President George W Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair acted much like Nazi war criminals in ordering the invasion of Iraq, the United Nations' former chief weapons inspector to the country said on Friday.

Scott Ritter said the "aggressive

warfare" of the United States and Britain in Iraq was similar to German actions in Europe in World War II.

"Both these men could be pulled up as war criminals for engaging in actions that we condemned Germany in 1946," Ritter said in an

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20 hurt in BNP infighting

UNB, Kushtia

At least 20 people were injured, two by bullets, as the ruling-BNP factions clashed at Dafadarpara village in Daulatpur upazila on Friday night.

Police said the supporters of the two factions—one led by Shihab and

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13 cops killed in Maoist bomb attack in India

REUTERS, Ranchi

Maoist rebels set off a powerful bomb at a jungle hideout in India's eastern state of Jharkhand yesterday, killing 13 policemen including a deputy commandant, police said.

The blast occurred when a police patrol tried to open a box which they had been told contained documents about Maoist activities, in the state's remote Chatra district, some 200km northwest of capital city Ranchi.

"Police had gone there after a tip-off. They found this box, which was actually a bomb. It now looks like a trap," police

superintendent Sashinath Jha told Reuters.

"Fourteen policemen have been injured, five of them seriously," Jharkhand home minister Sudesh Mahato told Reuters.

The attack comes weeks after the rebels killed 15 villagers, mostly former comrades and police informers, in the state.

Thousands have died in almost four decades of Maoist violence across nine Indian states. Rebels, mostly operating out of jungle bases, have killed politicians and policemen and blasted factories and government offices.

The rebels say they are fighting for the rights of peasants and landless labourers in the country's rural hinterland, often holding their own

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Sehri-Iftar			
Ramadan	Oct	Sehri	Iftar
4	9		5-41
5	10	4-34	5-41

Prayer Timing		
October 9		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-34	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-41	5-55
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation