

DELHI BLASTS

Morshed brushes aside effect on Saarc summit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan has dismissed any adverse impact of the series blasts in New Delhi on the upcoming 13th Saarc Summit, saying the South Asian nations could jointly fight against terrorism.

"We want to work together as we are determined to eliminate terrorism from our region and the globe as well," he told diplomatic correspondents at his ministry yesterday.

Describing the Saturday's blasts as "heinous and unfortunate", Morshed said the Saarc leaders at the Dhaka summit on November 12-13 could effectively discuss the issue of terrorism.

He however said terrorism could have been effectively dealt if

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Dhaka Declaration to focus on ways of tackling terrorism, natural disasters

UNB, Dhaka

Host Bangladesh is giving final touches to the draft of Dhaka Declaration to be adopted at next month's Saarc summit, focussing on the urgency of evolving effective means to tackle terrorism and natural disaster --two new challenges facing the forum.

The declaration will be placed for approval of the Saarc leaders on the concluding day of the two-day conference on November 13, official sources said.

It will contain policies and guidelines of the seven-nation

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SAARC SUMMIT

Security men swing into action tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will start deploying additional five thousand policemen in the capital from tomorrow as part of its 'tightest ever and unprecedented security' planned for the 13th Saarc Summit to be held on November 12-13.

About 60 thousand law enforcers and defence personnel in uniform and plain clothes will form a security net covering the entire city a week before the summit, which had earlier been postponed twice for South Asian tsunami and India's reluctance to

participate on security grounds.

The decision to effect even tighter security came at a home ministry meeting yesterday, a day after deadly blasts in New Delhi killed at least 59 people, prompting the host of the summit to rethink the security plan.

"The minister [State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar] has instructed us to make the security arrangements foolproof," a police officer who was at the exclusive meeting told The Daily Star last night.

The Special Security Force (SSF) will be responsible for overall security

while the members of SSF and President's Guard Regiment (PGR) will be tasked with ensuring security for the VVIPs and Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, the summit venue.

According to home ministry sources, 22,000 to 25,000 policemen and 1,300 Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel will work in tandem with Bangladesh Rifles, the Coastguard, Armed Police Battalion, Ansar and intelligence men during the meet of the South Asian countries.

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TATA NEGOTIATION

Govt mostly depends on bureaucrats, not experts

SHARIER KHAN

The government has been handling the over \$2 billion investment proposal of Indian giant Tata almost entirely with some bureaucrats over the last one year, without much assistance from experts and any in-depth economic analysis.

Economists and energy-sector experts say negotiations in such a manner may not produce a win-win outcome, which even Tata officials want to see in order to avoid any controversy in the future.

Given the present strength of the government team, the final round of negotiations with a November deadline will need some additional time, the sources said.

The Tata proposal submitted last year has undergone several modifications and demands understanding not only of its technical aspects but also of its socio-economic impacts on the part of the government because of complexities of the package offer.

Tata initially proposed to set up a

fertiliser factory and a steel plant that would consume some two trillion cubic feet gas over a 30-year period. Now it is also negotiating for taking a part of the Barapukuria coal mine for open-cast mining and for setting up a 1,000 megawatt coal-fired power plant either in Barapukuria or in Phulbari coal mine area.

But the government has been handling the negotiations kicked

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PHOTO: STAR

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil shake hands as AL Presidium Member Zillur Rahman looks on at an Iftar party hosted by the BGMEA at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

PM, Hasina condemn Delhi blasts

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday strongly condemned the Saturday's deadly bomb blasts in New Delhi.

"I'm deep deeply shocked to learn about the blasts in the Indian capital on Saturday, causing death and injury to many innocent civilians," the prime minister said in a condolence message to her Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh.

"The government and the people of Bangladesh condemn this act of terrorism in the strongest possible terms and hope that those responsible for this heinous crime will be brought to justice," she added.

"The people of Bangladesh join me in conveying our heartfelt

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Sundarbans tigress fitted with radio collar found dead

SHARIER KHAN

The tigress on which a two-kilogram radio signal transmitting "collar" was planted on April 22 this year as part of a study on tigers in the Sundarbans was found dead in the forest yesterday, sources said.

The Forest Department and its tiger territory identification project consultant Adam Burrow determined from the carcass of the tigress that she must have died within the past 30-45 days. Her bones were found intact.

Apparently, the collar did not serve the forest department its purpose completely as the trackers had lost the receiver and the antenna in a creek when the irritated tigress charged them on June 13.

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DELHI BLASTS

Unknown Kashmiri group claims responsibility

REUTERS, AFP, New Delhi

An obscure Kashmiri militant group claimed responsibility yesterday for Saturday's bomb blasts in New Delhi, but analysts said it was probably a front for a larger Pakistani-based organisation.

Security experts see the hand of Lashkar-e-Taiba behind Saturday's trio of blasts, in an attempt to derail the peace process between India and Pakistan.

The Islami Inqilabi Mahaz, yesterday telephoned local newspapers in Indian Kashmir to claim responsibility

for the blasts and warned of more to come.

"This is a Pakistani group and is a front organisation of Lashkar," said Ajai Sahni of New Delhi's Institute for Conflict Management. These front organisations are often used to muddy the waters and deflect blame from their parent groups, especially when civilian casualties are high, he said.

"One way or the other, Lashkar is behind it," he added.

Three bombs exploded within half an hour in New Delhi on

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BNP, AL vow to join hands for apparel sector growth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Both the ruling BNP and main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday pledged to lend their all-out support to Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) to boost apparel exports.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan also dismissed the notion that the country's political conflicts thwart the garment industry growth.

"We compete with each other on the political front and have no personal enmity. In the country's interest, we try to work together," said Bhuiyan, also LGD and cooperatives minister.

"We can also resolve the minor

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Lailatul Qadr tonight

UNB, Dhaka

The Lailatul Qadr will be observed by Muslims across the country tonight with due religious fervour.

The Lailatul Qadr is greatly blessed as Allah started to reveal the holy Quran to Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) on this night in the month of Ramadan, the Muslims believe.

President Iajuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina have given separate messages on the occasion.

In his message, the president said the Lailatul Qadr gives a chance to the mankind to seek mercy and blessing from Allah.

He conveyed his sincere greetings to all, including the Muslims, across the world.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said the Lailatul Qadr is the most

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PHOTO: STAR

Hundreds of vehicles are caught in the rush-hour snarl-up on the road in Farmgate in the capital yesterday, although a banner above shows the police administration-declared traffic month is on.

AUGUST 17 BLASTS

IOs directed to submit flawless charge sheets

STAR REPORT

The investigation officers (IOs) of the August 17 blast cases were strictly instructed yesterday to submit flawless charge sheets with enough witnesses and evidence to ensure punishment of the perpetrators.

All the IOs of the 152 cases filed with different police stations across the country were summoned at the office of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in the capital yesterday.

The special superintendents (SS) of the concerned regions and metropolitan areas gave the instructions at a meeting, sources said.

The meeting decided that the CID will check the charge sheets before submission to find out their flaws and loopholes, if any.

During the daylong meeting, the IOs were also ordered to be alert least faulty investigation should not lead to submission of final reports [failure to form charges].

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REPORT CARD ON MINISTERS

4 years in office

Anwar, Nizami leave most poll pledges unfulfilled

JASIM UDDIN KHAN

Two ace ruling alliance leaders -- MK Anwar and Matiur Rahman Nizami -- ran the industries ministry one after another, assisted by Rezaul Karim and Abdus Salam Pintoo respectively as state ministers, but the situation in the industrial sector remains much the same as 2001.

The ministry in the last four years has failed to fulfil the majority of the 4-

party coalition's election pledges on industrial development.

Its promise to form a separate ministry for the textile and readymade garment industries by restructuring the textile ministry has not been materialised.

No headway has also been made to rehabilitate some 2,000 sick industries in the country, as was pledged before the ballot.

The coalition also had declared to boost the handloom and small and cottage industries by providing necessary funds, training and exploring markets. But, no major steps had been seen in this regard.

In April 2003, Nizami of Jamaat-e-Islami replaced Anwar of the BNP as the industries minister, while Pintoo took over the office of the

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