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Bhuiyan seeks opposition help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said the government is determined to eradicate the militants from the country in one or two months.

Speaking at a city BNP rally at Muktangan protesting yesterday's bomb attacks on the court premises in Chittagong and Gazipur, Bhuiyan sought the opposition's assistance to face and exterminate

JMB threatens to kill Dinajpur judge, Bar chair in Mymensingh

UNB, Dinajpur/Mymensingh

The banned Islamist militant outfit Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) has issued fresh death threats to a Dinajpur judge and a senior lawyer in Mymensingh.

In Dinajpur, the JMB in a letter on Monday threatened to bomb and kill Additional District and Sessions Judge M Ali Ahmed Badal.

US condemns attacks

UNB, Dhaka

The US has condemned the bombings in Chittagong and Gazipur and asked the government to bring the perpetrators to justice in a prompt and lawful manner.

"We are sorry and extending our condolences to the families and friends of the victims of yesterday's bomb attacks," a spokesman for the US embassy in Dhaka said.

Twin JMB suicide strikes spell carnage in courts

9 including 2 lawyers, 2 cops killed; 78 hurt at Gazipur, Ctg

STAR REPORT

Nine people including two lawyers and a police constable were killed and 78 others injured yesterday in two suicide bomb attacks by Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), on Chittagong and Gazipur court premises.

In the latest wave of terror strikes on the judiciary, two JMB

members blew themselves up -- one near a police check-post at the entrance to the Chittagong court building at 8:44am and the other at 9:45am in a crowd of lawyers and their clients at the Gazipur bar association building.

The Gazipur suicide bomber died on the spot, while doctors until late last night were trying hard to save the life of Chittagong

bomber, Abul Bashar.

The JMB has targeted the judiciary as a part of its professed struggle to turn the state into an Islamic sharia-based one. Two notes found with Bashar termed the attack a preliminary warning to the forces working to ensure security of judges and announced to continue the Jihad until 'an Islamic welfare

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Bombs were different

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Separate types of bombs exploded at Gazipur and Chittagong yesterday, bomb experts said after preliminary analysis.

The bomb that went off in Chittagong was almost similar to

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Bang, blood, screams

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was about 9:45 in the morning. The ground floor hall room of Gazipur Bar Association was almost jam-packed and lawyers were busy with their clients.

"Like many others, I was talking to one of my clients. All of a sudden

I heard a big bang and soon thick smoke clouded the room," badly injured Advocate Anisur Rahman Kajol told The Daily Star at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).

"Soon I found myself on the floor as my chair crumbled and I

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1. A devastated Gazipur Bar office; 2. Dead Gazipur suicide bomber guised in lawyer's cloak; 3. Still alive Chittagong bomber; 4. Scene of the Chittagong bombing; 5. Injured at DMCH.



PHOTO: STAR

Govt has link to JMB, says Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday alleged that the ruling coalition bears direct links to Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) which, she said, has been staging blasts across the country under government patronage.

"It is now clearly evident that the ruling alliance having Jama'at-e-Islami as its partner has links to the militants. Jama'at ul

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JMB attacks kill 17 since Aug 17

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seventeen people including judges, lawyers and police have been killed since banned Islamist militant outfit Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) started terror attacks on August 17 in the name of establishing Islamic rule in the country.

In the latest wave of strikes by

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Saifur upset

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman expressed frustration over yesterday's suicide bombings in Chittagong and Gazipur at a time when the chairman of Microsoft Corporation, Bill Gates, is scheduled to visit Bangladesh to explore investment prospects.

"It's outrageous particularly when Bill is coming," Saifur told journalists after a meeting with the new executive committee of Bangladesh Garments

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Lawyers stay off court, call hartal for Dec 1

14-party extends support

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) yesterday decided to enforce tomorrow a countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal protesting the twin suicide bomb attacks on lawyers and policemen in Gazipur and Chittagong.

This is for the first time that lawyers will be enforcing a general

strike across the country.

"The Supreme Court Bar Association has decided to enforce a 12-hour hartal beginning from 6:00am on Thursday to protest the twin bomb blasts," the SCBA president, Mahbubey Alam, told reporters after the meeting held on the Supreme Court premises.

The SCBA at an emergency

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Political will the key Intelligence feels

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Left at a loss by suicide blasts in Gazipur and Chittagong, the law enforcers yesterday said only political will of the government can resist the religious militancy getting intense with the addition of suicide bombings.

Investigators fear more attacks to come despite 'strict vigilance' by the law enforcers. With new ways of staging blasts will make things worse, they said referring to the one used in yesterday's blast in Gazipur where the bomber entered the Bar

hall, posing as a lawyer.

"We can step up the security even more, we can set up archways having metal detectors. But at the end of the day, it is still a tough task to fight the terrorists as they seem ready even to lay down their lives," said a top intelligence officer seeking anonymity.

The government should urgently trace the masterminds behind the militant activities and take all-out measures to weed out the religious fanatics, the official suggested.

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Govt mulls army-led drive to net Islamists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is mulling over going for a combing operation similar to the Operation Clean Heart to net the Islamist militants responsible for recurrent bomb attacks across the country.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia last night met Planning and Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Health Minister Dr Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain. The meeting that lasted for over two hours discussed yesterday's bomb attacks on the court premises in Chittagong and Gazipur and its

developments.

A joint force comprising the members of police, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and ansar, under the supervision of army, was seriously considered at the meeting, sources said.

Informing the PM of the spreading militant activities, especially attacks on the court premises, the government policymakers suggested taking immediate measures to control the situation.

The meeting also discussed the pros and cons of the coming combing operation.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

End of a valiant freedom fighter, editor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shahadat Chowdhury, the eminent journalist, successful editor and veteran freedom fighter who passed away early yesterday, will be laid to rest today.

He breathed his last at 1:30am yesterday at the Birdem Cardiac Centre in the capital. He was 62.

Chowdhury editor of Saptahik 2000, a weekly magazine, left behind his wife Selina Chowdhury,



Shahadat Chowdhury

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