

Bomb threat to foreign ministry, journalists

STAR REPORT

The foreign ministry yesterday received a fresh threat of bomb attack purportedly from the Islamist militants.

The threat was the third of its kind since the current spell of blasts across the country began on August 17.

Meanwhile, Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) also threatened to kill eight journalists in Gazipur if they brand them as 'terrorists or 'militants' in their reports.

It has issued threats to blow up the office of assistant commissioner

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Ctg bomber dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong suicide bomber Hossain Ali yesterday succumbed to his injuries around 52 hours into the ghastly blast he had carried out Tuesday morning on Chittagong Court Building premises.

The suicide bomber kept in the intensive care unit at Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH) became clinically dead in the early morning. The physicians declared him dead after the life

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JMB suicide bomber strikes Gazipur again

1 killed, 30 hurt in blast in front of high-security DC office



Top: A member of armed police battalion injured in yesterday's suicide bomb attack at Gazipur lies unconscious at DMCH; bottom, from left: Iron scrap and other materials used in the bomb; and injured attacker Abdur Razzak.

BISHAWJIT DAS

Yet another suicide bomb attack by Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in Gazipur killed a government employee and injured 30 people yesterday noon, only two days into Tuesday's identical terror strike leaving seven people dead and some 60 others wounded in the district town.

Besides rickshaw-pullers and pedestrians, the reckless attack in front of the high-security office of the deputy commissioner (DC) injured eight lawyers, three journalists and five law enforcers, sending shock waves throughout the country.

The dead, Agriculture Block Supervisor Abul Kashem Ali Sarker, 40, came to the DC office to draw his salary, his wife Aleya Begum said after identifying the badly mutilated body at the Gazipur Sadar Hospital morgue.

A number of lawyers were standing around in front of the DC office before joining a Bar association meeting when the bomb went

off at 11:40am, witnesses and police sources said. Local lawyers use a short cut through the DC office to go to the Bar association office, they explained.

The police arrested the severely injured suicide bomber, who was in the guise of a tea-vendor, from the spot immediately after the blast. The man, who claimed to be Abdur Razzak, son of Abdul Khaleque of Chapainawabganj, said he is a JMB member and admitted to carrying out the attack.

The banned extremist outfit yesterday also issued death threats to eight local journalists, while the lawyers observing a dawn-to-dusk countrywide hartal protesting at Tuesday's gruesome bomb blast in a Bar association building froze in panic at the unrelenting ferocity.

Meanwhile, railway traffic in Gazipur was disrupted for about two and a half hours as hartal supporters halted the Mymensingh-bound 49 Balaka Express at around 11:48am and kept its driver confined until 2:10pm. The passage of

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Attack carried out following Allah's order Says JMB bomber

STAR REPORT

The suicide bomber in yesterday's Gazipur blast claimed to be a member of the suicide squad of banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and to have carried out the bomb attack following 'Allah's order'. Police caught him right after the blast from the spot.

Admitting to carrying out the bomb attack, he introduced himself as Abdur Razzak, 20, son of Abdul Khalek of Chapainawabganj. He also had about 20 JMB leaflets with him when arrested.

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Govt focuses on 4 aspects of terrorism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar has sought cooperation from people of all walks of life since "the government alone cannot handle the crisis" evolved from Islamist militancy.

"The government alone can't handle this situation. We'll have to involve the entire community to find out a solution," the minister

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Political talks in limbo for stiff stances

SHAKHAWAT LITON

In view of the present political situation, there is very little possibility of any dialogue between the government and the opposition either on electoral reforms or combating militancy as both stick to their stances on the issues.

The situation turned more complicated as the mainstream opposition parties have rejected the prime minister's fresh call for talks to find ways to stop bomb terrorism.

After the November 22 grand rally of the 14-party opposition

combine, both the government and the opposition leaders from their respective positions started talking on holding a dialogue on reforms in the caretaker government and the electoral rules.

Senior ministers said they are ready to sit with the opposition to discuss electoral reforms and any other issues except the caretaker government reforms.

But the opposition leaders asked the government to place precise proposal for discussion and said reforms in the caretaker government must be on the agenda.

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It's clear today who are behind blasts: PM

Says it is a conspiracy to make country friendless, hartals being enforced to encourage terrorism

UNB, Kumarkhali, Kushtia

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has alleged that the bomb terrorism is being abetted by those who don't want to see Bangladesh as a strong, self-reliant and economically

sound state.

"Bomb terrorism is part of a conspiracy against the country to halt its development and make Bangladesh friendless," she told a public meeting at Adarsha Degree

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I'll kill everyone

Said bomber, posed as tea vendor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There was a small gathering at the main entrance to the Gazipur deputy commissioner's (DC) office yesterday as on duty cops were frisking people before letting them in.

The road in front of the office was also a bit more crowded than in other days around 11:45am. Agitating lawyers were on their way to Shibbari crossing to join a protest rally against Tuesday's bomb attacks on Gazipur Bar Association building and Chittagong court.

Al Amin, a peon of the magistrate of the Speedy Trial Court, Gazipur, who was standing at the gate to help police identify office staff, witnessed the incident.

"I saw a youth who looked like a tea vendor coming towards the

gate with a flask and a bucket in one hand and some cigarette packets in a polyethylene bag on the other," Amin said.

Another youth was following the "tea vendor" from a little distance, Amin told The Daily Star at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).

"I requested the policemen to body-search him as his movement seemed to be suspicious to me."

"Suddenly, he started running towards us and as soon as he pulled the flask cover, I heard a huge bang.

"As I collapsed, I heard the youth saying 'I will kill everyone', twice. This is all I can recall," Al Amin said with four splinters in his body.

Architect Abul Kalam Azad, owner of a building designing consulting firm in Gazipur, was

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Hartal observed with call to resist militancy

50 hurt in sporadic violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal enforced by lawyers yesterday passed off by and large peacefully with spontaneous participation of the opposition political parties and different professional bodies calling for a united resistance to religious militancy.

Some stray incidents of violence however occurred during the hartal hours.

More than 50 people were injured in scuffles between police and Awami League (AL) activists at Purana Paltan, Gulistan and Russell Square in the capital, BNP-AL clashes in Bogra and police baton charge in Netrokona. The

shutdown was peaceful elsewhere

in the country.

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) called the hartal in protest against the twin bomb blasts in Chittagong and Gazipur on November 29 that killed 10 and injured about 100.

The SCBA, the apex body of lawyers of the country, also announced fresh agitation programmes including demonstrations and meetings on December 4 and exchange of views on December 7 to step up protests against militant activities at the courts.

In the capital, hundreds of leaders and members of different professional bodies took to the streets in processions in the

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