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GAZIPUR BLASTS

Mastermind caught with bomb for fresh attack

Another victim dies

BISHAWIT DAS

Police yesterday caught the mastermind behind the suicide attacks in Gazipur while he was making a bomb to explode in the panic-driven district on the day.

One of the top-notch leaders of the outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), Enayetullah Ujjal, is said to be the bomb-maker and recruiter of the suicide attackers in Gazipur.

The death toll in the twin JMB carnage rose to 10 when the assistant public prosecutor, Anwarul Azim, succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital yesterday, sinking his family and the mournful residents further into an abyss of sorrow.

In yesterday's early morning... SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

Arrested from different areas of Gazipur, seven JMB suspects are seen at the police officer's room in a Gazipur magistrate's court yesterday.

JMB again threatens to blow up SC Bar building

44 militants arrested

STAR REPORT

The banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) has once again sent a letter to the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president, saying two JMB members have been deployed to carry out bomb attacks on the SCBA building.

Law enforcers arrested 44 sus-

pected JMB members including a close relative of Abdul Awal, son-in-law of JMB chief Abdul Rahman, from different parts of the country yesterday.

A JMB cadre arrested in Patuakhali on Sunday in connection with the August 17 serial blasts said he is a former cadre of Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of the... SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

DINAJPUR-1 BY-POLLS

Jamaat loses its constituency

Independent candidate wins by big margin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Independent candidate Monoranjan Shil Gopal won the Dinajpur-1 by-polls yesterday defeating the four-party alliance candidate by a huge margin despite a last moment bid to buy votes for the alliance candidate.

Gopal, a rebel candidate of Jatiya Party (Ershad), bagged 1,12,977 while the four-party candidate Moulana Aftab Uddin Mollah of Jamaat-e-Islami secured 50,576 in the by-polls, which was boycotted by the main opposition Awami League. SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

HC unlists graft case against Ershad

BDNEWS, Dhaka

A High Court bench of Justice Abdul Awal yesterday unlisted a corruption case filed against former military ruler HM Ershad from hearing of the cause list of the bench concerned.

The now-defunct Bureau of Anti Corruption (BAC) filed the corruption case with Ramna Police Station in July, 1991, against Ershad over a controversial purchase of 375 Japanese boats while he was in state power. SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

ASIAN HIGHWAY

Ministries have differing views

RAFIQ HASAN

The foreign affairs and communications ministries have conflicting views on Bangladesh's joining the Asian Highway network.

The foreign ministry is in favour of ratifying the UN-ESCAP convention on Asian Highway connecting 32 Asian countries with Europe. It says that joining the network would enhance cooperation with

the neighbouring countries and boost Bangladesh's 'Look East' foreign policy.

But the communications ministry is against signing of the convention without a change in the existing road map. It thinks that joining the highway network with the existing route would mean giving transit to India.

"We will not give transit to India... SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

BDR seizes AK47s, 6,000 bullets in Chittagong

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) has recovered a huge quantity of arms and ammunition including two AK 47 rifles, 10 German-made pistols and 6,000 rounds of bullets on the Bangladesh-Myanmar border in Naikyangchhari upazila of Bandarban yesterday.

Tipped off, BDR members seized those arms at a house near by Limbuchhari hill, but they could not catch anybody from there. Lt. Colonel Abdul Awal, commander of Naikyangchhari zone, led the raid.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

World's richest man keen to invest

Meets PM

UNB, Dhaka

Impressed with Bangladesh's progress and congenial investment atmosphere, Microsoft chief Bill Gates yesterday showed his interest in expanding investment in Bangladesh's nascent information technology sector.

Bill Gates, chairman and chief software architect of Microsoft Corporation, who arrived here yesterday morning on his maiden visit, showed the interest when he along with his wife Melinda called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office.

"We will come up in more areas and take advantage of prevailing investment atmosphere here," the Microsoft chief was quoted as saying at the meeting.

As Bill Gates wanted to know, Khaleda briefed him about her government's successful programmes in health, education,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



PHOTO: PID

Microsoft Corporation Chairman Bill Gates meets Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

PM to send letters to parties for dialogue

Draft approved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has yet to take a formal step to hold talks with political parties and eminent persons to work out ways to root out religious militancy in the country while the mainstream opposition parties keep refusing to join the proposed dialogue.

The government claimed that a national dialogue has already started off with a meeting between the prime minister and a delegation of trade bodies on December

4. But the business leaders decline to consider the meeting with the premier a part of the national dialogue as they said they met her on their own initiative.

"The prime minister will send letters to the political parties in a couple of days to join the national dialogue," IGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told a meeting of the ruling BNP leaders at his official residence yesterday.

The prime minister already... SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Bill Gates promises training in IT

10,000 teachers, 200,000 students to get the Microsoft facility

NAFID IMRAN AHMED

Microsoft will train over 10,000 teachers and 200,000 students in information technology in Bangladesh in next three years and has already donated \$100,000 to this end.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to this effect was signed yesterday during a 12-hour visit by Microsoft Chairman

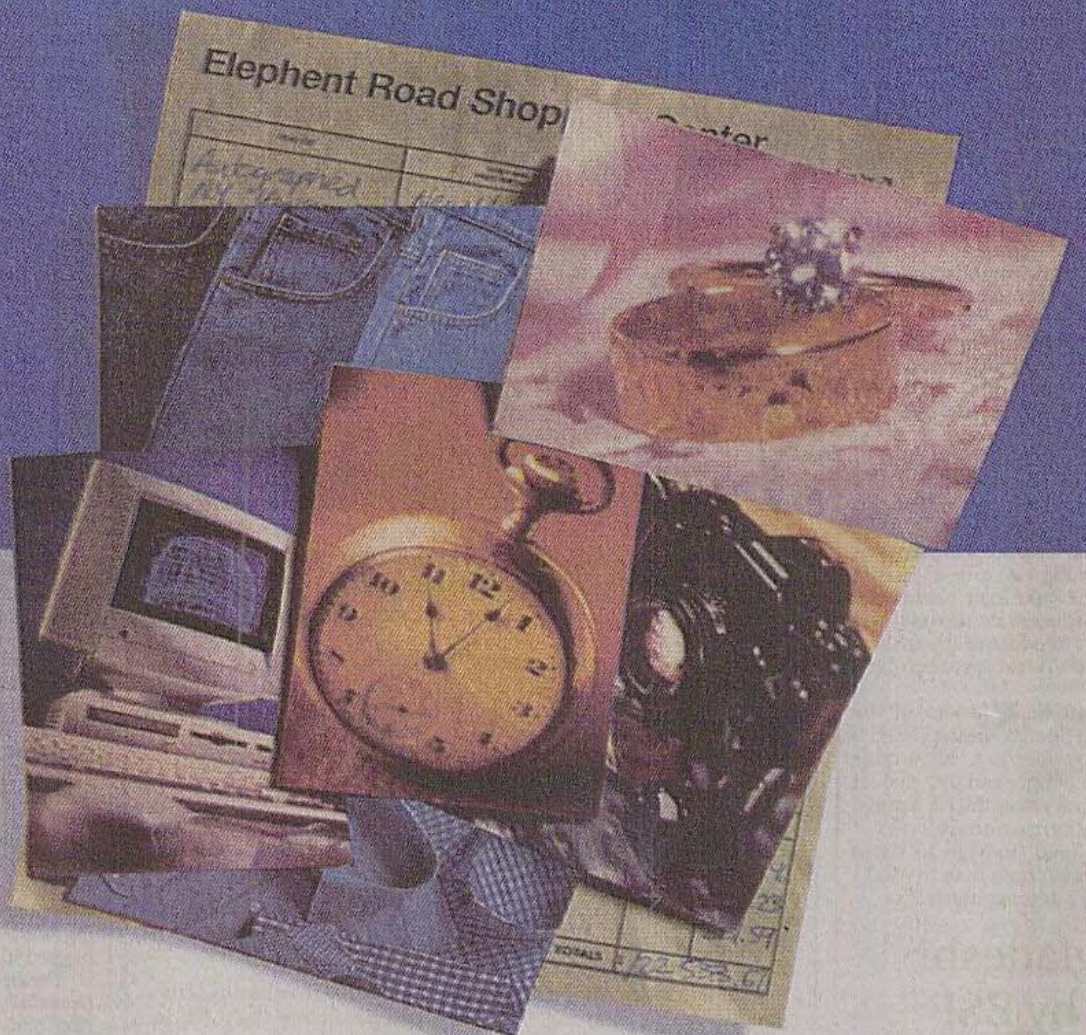
and Chief Architect Bill Gates to Bangladesh.

Bill Gates, accompanied by his wife Melinda Gates, landed at Zia International Airport around 7:30am. This was his first visit to Bangladesh as part of his weeklong visit to the region. He left for India last night.

Bill Gates met Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, had a roundtable... SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

DBBL Opens its 26th Branch at Elephant Road

A busy shopping area of Dhaka city *Tomorrow* the 7th December 2005 (Prince Tower, Elephant Road)



The following Branches will be opened shortly

Simrail Branch

Hazi Ibrahim Khalil Shopping Complex, Siddergonj, Narayanganj

Barisal Branch

Sadar Road, Alekanda Barisal

CDA Avenue Branch

Majid Arcade, East Nasirabad Chittagong



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