

JMB bicycle bomber blows himself up: 7 killed

10 cops among 46 hurt in front of Netrakona Udichi office

STAR REPORT

A suicide bomber of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) yesterday blew himself up, killing six other people and injuring at least 46 in a crowd in front of Udichi office in Netrakona.

Three people including the bomber and Udichi's district unit joint convenor died on the spot, one on way to hospital while three others died from their injuries later.

Ten policemen were among the wounded in the bombing where the bomber rammed his bicycle into a crowd and detonated the bomb.

The crowd gathered there after a bomb had exploded while firefighters were trying to defuse it. The first bomb was believed to have been planted as a prelude to the main attack.

Main opposition Awami League has called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the district for Sunday to protest the blast incident.

Investigators said primary investigation suggests that the man on bicycle was the attacker. But they have yet to be convinced whether the bombing was carried out by more than one bomber.

The identity of the attacker

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

A victim of Netrakona suicide bomb attack surrounded by attendants lies with critical injuries yesterday.

Witness account, police claim contradict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The claim of the state minister for home about the identity of the bomber came under question as the police and witness accounts have contradictory versions.

The injury marks in Yadav's body, whom police identified as a motor mechanic, does not suggest that he carried the bomb. The witnesses could not confirm that two bombers carried out the attack and Yadav is one of them.

The witnesses and locals told reporters that they knew Yadav, a motor mechanic, for quite a long time and his behaviour never seemed to them suspicious. They said Yadav might have rushed to the spot hearing the first explosion and became a victim of the second blast.

Witnesses also confirmed that they saw only one bomber on a bicycle. "I was standing just couple of feet away from the cyclist and saw him approaching the crowd," said Rezaul Hossain Sumon, a witness undergoing treatment at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

JMB threat continues

Threat to blow up educational institutions, BB governor's house; blast injure 2 kids

STAR REPORT

When seven people were killed in a suicide attack in Netrakona yesterday morning, two children were injured while playing with abandoned bombs in Nilphamari and several farmers narrowly escaped a bomb attack in Satkhira.

A bomb exploded in a slum near Nilphamari Government College, leaving Raihan Akhter Moon, 7, son of Mosharrar Hossain, and Rezaul Islam, 6, son of Dulal Hossain, critically injured. Police recovered seven more bombs from the spot.

The law enforcers also recovered two powerful bombs from a paddy field in Dinajpur, one from

in front of a school in Chittagong and another from Sirajganj.

The militants threatened to blow up the official residence of Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed in Gulshan-2 area in Dhaka.

The phone threat was received at the governor's residence at about 11:00am, police said. "Someone threatened over telephone to blow up the house," General Manager of the central bank's Security Management Division Maj (retd) MA Hossain told UNB.

"I've taken necessary preparation," he said, adding that he informed high police officials, including the inspector general of police, and the Rapid Action

threatened to blow up the official residence of Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed in Gulshan-2 area in Dhaka.

The phone threat was received at the governor's residence at about 11:00am, police said.

"Someone threatened over telephone to blow up the house," General Manager of the central bank's Security Management Division Maj (retd) MA Hossain told UNB.

"I've taken necessary preparation," he said, adding that he informed high police officials, including the inspector general of police, and the Rapid Action

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Hindu bomber in JMB a new dimension: Babar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar yesterday said the Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) added a new dimension by engaging members of minority community in its suicide squad.

"We witness the emergence of a Hindu militant who also died in the blast," Babar told BBC Bangla Service yesterday, referring to the Netrakona suicide bomber as Yadav Biswas.

Wire was tied around his whole body and the evidence of the bomb-

ings showed he was a JMB man and Hindu, said the minister, adding, "The JMB has been speaking about an ideology. But now it is a new dimension. We need to look into it well."

At a press briefing at the home ministry's conference room yesterday, Home Ministry Additional Secretary Md Mohsin also said a suicide bomber named Yadav Biswas conducted the bomb attack in Netrakona yesterday morning.

While the suicide bomb attacks have so far been directed mainly to the judges and lawyers, now the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

RESPONSE TO PM'S TALKS OFFER 14-party to ask govt to axe its militant patrons first

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In response to the prime minister's invitation to a national dialogue on combating terrorism, the 14-party opposition combine last night decided in principle to ask the ruling alliance to clarify first whether it would discuss the issue within itself and axe the ministers and lawmakers having militant links.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, who returns from Makka today, is likely to sit with her senior cabinet colleagues to review the responses to her invitation to the proposed dialogue. She is also expected to set the next course of actions in view of the rejection of the invitation by the mainstream opposition parties, sources said.

At an emergency meeting at Awami League's Dhanmondi office, the 14-party line-up also discussed the latest political situation following yet another suicidal bomb attack yesterday in

Netrokona.

The meeting decided to send a fact-finding team comprising senior opposition leaders to Netrokona today. The team members are Motia Chowdhury, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Haider Akbar Khan Rono, MA Gani, Mainuddin Khan Badal, Syed Asharaful Islam, Akhtaruzaman and Ashim Kumar Ukil.

The AL-led opposition line-up will hold demonstrations across the country on December 11 denouncing the continued terror strikes killing innocent people.

On the prime minister's letter, the meeting observed that the ruling coalition neither discussed the issue in the Cabinet nor at any party forum, which indicates they are not sincere about putting an end to militancy and bomb terrorism. The 14-party combine had rejected the PM's invitation outright.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

I- Banking I
Call 8961151
Banking is as easy as pressing a button
Standard Chartered

Dad won't know son kept promise
BDNEWS, Netrakona
Class-IV student Shiplu was surprised to see a crowd when he returned home after taking his annual examination yesterday.
The 11-year-old son of popular singer in Netrakona town Haider Khan, 38, broke down when he came to know that his father is among the dead in the suicide bomb attack.
"Dad asked me to do well in exam and I have kept my promise. But I couldn't tell him this," said Shiplu, a student of Anjuman School in the district town.
Haider's two-and-half-year son Shaon is too immature to understand what happened.
"While going out in the morning, he asked me what gift should I
SEE PAGE 19 COL 7
Udichi again
33 major blasts since 1999
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The wave of bomb blasts that has plunged the country into deep crises and left the people in abysmal insecurity began with the bomb attack at a Udichi function at Jessore in 1999 that killed 10 people.
With the latest suicide bomb attack in front of the Netrokona district Udichi office yesterday that killed seven people including a district unit Udichi leader, the country witnessed at least 33 major bomb and grenade attacks so far, claiming at least 179 lives.
Until the August 17 countrywide serial bomb blasts, the government failed to identify the attackers or ascertain the motives behind the bomb and grenade attacks that started in 1999.
SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

Elegance is an attitude
LONGINES
L'ELEGANCE DU TEMPS DEPUIS 1832

AUTHORISED SALES CENTRE
• Time Zone Iqbal Centre, Banani, Dhaka
• Time Zone Rapa Plaza, Dhanmondi, Dhaka
• Time Zone Rilles Square, Dhanmondi, Dhaka
• Time Zone 199 Tejgon Ind. Area, Dhaka
• Time Zone Ameen Centre, Chittagong
Imported & Marketed by Kallol Group of Companies
196, Tejgon IA, Dhaka-1208, Tel: 8815004-9

Save the Children USA
GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT
Save the Children - USA is proud to be the recipient of a new 6-year grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to help prevent newborn illness and death in 18 developing countries.
Bangladesh is one of the focus countries of this grant.
Saving Newborn Lives (SNL) initiative of Save the Children - USA, has been working in Bangladesh since 2001 with support from an earlier grant from the Gates Foundation. Save the Children - USA, under the guidance from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare formed a broad-based partnership with development agencies, NGOs, community based organizations, academic and research institutions, professional bodies and media to expand access to low-cost, low-tech interventions which have the potential to save thousands of lives. The success of this partnership has led to this new grant.
We want to congratulate all our partners in Bangladesh for their achievements in newborn health and their continuous commitment for the coming 6 years.
150,000 children in Bangladesh die within 28 days of birth each year. Another 100,000 children are stillborn. Although strong leadership from the Government has reduced the under-5 and infant mortality rates significantly, in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals of 2015, newborn health needs sustained efforts from all of civil society.
Save the Children is the leading independent organization creating real and lasting change for children in need in the United States and around the world. It is a member of Save the Children Alliance, comprising 27 national Save the Children organizations working in more than 100 countries to ensure the well-being of children.