

Truck bomber kills 9 Iraqi policemen

AFP, AP, Tikrit

A suicide bomber killed nine Iraqi policemen and wounded dozens more yesterday as he exploded his truck outside a police post near the northern hometown of executed dictator Saddam Hussein.

The savage attack – part of the sustained insurgent assaults on security forces in a bid to thwart US and Iraqi efforts to stabilise the war-torn country – was the second of its kind in as many days.

The bomber detonated the vehicle against a police department building in an area called Abu Ajil, east of Tikrit, on the main road between the city and the oil hub of Kirkuk, police officials said.

At least 40 people, many of them policemen, were also wounded in the attack that took place at 10:15 am (0615 GMT), they said.

"Nine policeman have died in the blast and 40 more are wounded, mostly policemen," Major Abdul Karim Mohammed, a security official at Tikrit general hospital, told AFP.

Following the blast, Tikrit police announced on loudspeakers an indefinite curfew in the city, an AFP reporter said.

The attack came a day after a suicide bomber exploded his truck at an Iraqi army base near the town of Iskandriyah, southwest of Baghdad, killing 14 soldiers and wounding 30.

Car bombs were also reported in Baghdad and the restive province of Diyala on Sunday.

Iraqi security officials said two people were killed and seven wounded as a car bomb exploded near a petrol station in Baghdad's Al-Bayaa district and one person died when another car bomb targeted a gas station in the Sadiyah area of the capital. Five people were also wounded in the Sadiyah attack.

In the town of Khan Beni Saad in Diyala, northeast of Baghdad, a car bomb killed a policeman and wounded three people, police Lieutenant Ahmed Ali said from Baquba.

He said the bomb targeted a police checkpoint.

Also on Sunday, a Kurdish officer serving in the Iraqi army was killed and two of his colleagues were wounded when their vehicle struck a roadside bomb near Salaiman Bek, said Abbas Mohammed Amin, police chief of the nearby town of Tuz Khurmatu.

The three officers were deployed in Baghdad as part of the ongoing "surge" in the Iraqi capital and were

on their way back home when the bomb hit their vehicle, he said.

US and Iraqi forces are currently carrying out a massive security operation in Baghdad to curb sectarian violence unleashed by early last year.

The surge, announced by US President George W. Bush, is expected to see 160,000 US troops deployed in Iraq, mostly in Baghdad, by the end of this month.

A Washington Post report on Sunday said the United States is considering a long-term military presence in Iraq that will not have the scope of the current occupation but still be capable of mounting independent operations.

Citing US military officers and other unnamed officials, it said the plan is based on assessments that a sharp drawdown of troops is likely to begin by the middle of next year, with roughly two-thirds of the current force of 150,000 moving out by late 2008 or early 2009.

An al-Qaeda linked Iraqi militant group from Suriyah claimed responsibility for the killing of a female journalist in the northern city of Mosul, in an Internet statement.

Militants from Ansar al-Sunnah shot dead Sahar al-Haydari, 45, who worked for the Voices of Iraq news agency, "for distorting the image of the Mujahideen (holy warriors)", the group said.

Police have said Haydari was killed on Thursday in Al-Habda district of the city as she was on her way to work.

According to a June 6 toll posted by Reporters without Borders on their website, 182 journalists and media workers, mostly Iraqis, had been killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion of March 2003.

Militants from Ansar al-Sunnah

Prof Yunus

FROM PAGE 16 destruction as part of "peace preparations" in the 21st century.

"This century is about finding new and creative ways to tackle problems of the world, and leaving behind the old thinking of the 20th century".

The founder of Grameen Bank called for creation of innovative institutional formations with involvement of governments, social businesses, private sector and the civil society.

Chancellor Merkel highlighted Germany's commitment to fighting poverty, and expressed interest about micro-credit and other innovations being spearheaded by Professor Yunus in Bangladesh.

Chancellor Merkel, Professor Yunus and Bishop Dandala's statements were followed by a question-answer session.

Before the on-stage discussion, Professor Yunus and Chancellor Merkel met separately to discuss G8 issues.

Former German President Richard von Weizsaecker, who was present at the event, greeted Professor Yunus and recalled his visit to Bangladesh and Grameen Bank during his presidency.

EC test case

FROM PAGE 1

project, 30 registration centres have been set up in nine wards across Sripur municipality and registration forms distributed among the households. Some 145 people have been assigned to gather information about the prospective voters. They will do the job from 8:00am to 7:00pm everyday.

Local political leaders appreciated the EC move. "It's a historic step. The voter list should be prepared with photographs," former Awami League (AL) lawmaker Advocate Rahmat Ali told journalists.

Former president of Sripur upazila BNP Abdul Motaleb said, "We all should take part in the project to complete it successfully."

Shamima Akhter, who went to a registration centre to be on the roll, told reporters, "No one will be able to cast my vote as the list now has my photograph on it."

Echoing the view, ZI Subed said, "Hopefully, fake voting will come down drastically once there is a voter list having photographs."

Mayor Minu

FROM PAGE 1

the public prosecutor (PP), Ekramul Haq, on his bail prayer.

Nearly 50 lawyers led by Mojibur Rahman Chowdhury and Ankur Sen pleaded for the mayor.

They told the court that there were no specific charges against the accused in the first information report.

However, the PP defended that police primarily found the extortion allegations to be true and pressed charges against 11 persons including Minu.

The PP also said Lutfar Rahman, budget-cum-accounts officer of Rajshahi City Corporation who was arrested by the joint forces a few months ago, revealed important information regarding Minu's involvement in corruption.

MINU GOES INTO HIDING

Minu went into hiding just after an hour of his bail on information that the Police Headquarters has directed to arrest him again.

Sources said the mayor went to his residence after he was freed from jail at around 5:45pm. He later visited Shah Makhnum Shrine to say his prayers, sources added.

"Police Headquarters again directed the police to arrest him after his bail and somehow he (Minu) got the information," said a police source adding the police were following him since his bail and saw him changing cars several times within a short time.

Police started raids at 7:00pm at his two houses and inquired about him to his relatives. But nobody could give any information about his whereabouts.

Police were raiding Minu's houses till filing of this report at 9:00pm.

Mainul

FROM PAGE 1

at his information ministry office yesterday, explaining position of the caretaker government on reform, election and a durable democracy.

He said the leaders who are talking about reforms would have to be more courageous and honest as democracy would not be strengthened without courageous and honest leadership.

"Leaders are created in changed situation," the adviser remarked.

Referring to the EU Troika's plea for a roadmap for holding the stalled parliamentary elections, Mainul said, "The EU delegation wants roadmap for the election, but we don't want roadmap for the election only, we want roadmap for the democracy as well."

The adviser said the government already has declared the roadmap for the election as the government promised to hold the polls within 2008.

"Now the Election Commission can declare the election schedule," he said, adding: "We are not interested to hold an election for election's sake, we want to hold it for restoring democracy."

He said those who are involved in gross corruption and under whose leadership democracy was destroyed couldn't lead the nation. "We don't want to see any black money holders and corrupt in the country's political arena."

Without mentioning any timeframe for lifting the ban on indoor politics, Mainul said the government certainly would withdraw the restriction.

Abdul Hye, an officer of the now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption, sued the Nasim-Rahman duo on January 8, 2002. He also investigated the case and submitted the charge sheet against them on June 13, 2002.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said

the meeting also discussed problems regarding issuance of police verification reports and passports to the Bangladesh citizens having no permanent address.

The home ministry sources said