



PHOTO: AFP
This still image taken from a video camera shows Sri Lankan devotees playing drums after a split of second of the blast at a mosque at Akuressa in southern Sri Lanka on Tuesday. The devotees were celebrating Eid-e-Miladunnabi. At least 15 people were killed and 60 others, including Postal Services Minister Mahinda Wijesekera, were wounded.

UN accuses Iran of violating sanctions

AP, United Nations

A key Security Council committee reported Tuesday that Iran violated UN sanctions by trying to send weapons-related material to Syria on a cargo ship now docked in Cyprus.

Japan's UN Ambassador Yukio Takasu, chairman of the committee monitoring sanctions against Iran, provided few details, but his report marked the first official confirmation that the Cypriot-flagged M/V Monchegorsk was trying to circumvent the UN arms embargo on Iran. The ship docked on Jan. 29 and is still there, diplomats said.

France's UN Ambassador Jean-Maurice Ripert described

its shipment as "explosives and...arms."

Takasu said a UN member state identified by the United States, Britain and France as Cyprus sent a letter to the committee in early February "seeking guidance with respect to its inspections of cargo on a vessel carrying its flag that was found to be carrying arms-related material."

The committee responded with a letter saying the transfer of the material was a violation of a 2007 Security Council resolution that prohibits Iran from transferring any arms or related material and requires all countries to prohibit the procurement of such items from Iran, Takasu said.

He told the council that the

committee sent letters "to concerned member states" on March 9 asking for "any relevant information regarding this transaction" within 10 days.

Copies of the letters to Iran and Syria, obtained by The Associated Press, said the ship's manifest indicated that the Monchegorsk was chartered by the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Line, that the cargo was loaded in Iran and was to be unloaded in Latakia, Syria.

Suicide bombings kill 36 in Iraqi cities

AFP, Baghdad/Mosul

Two suicide bombings on Tuesday and Wednesday killed 36 people, including tribal chiefs, soldiers and two journalists, in the third major attack around Baghdad in three days, officials said.

The Sunni Arab and Shia tribal leaders, escorted by army officers, were going to meet people in the local market as part of a national reconciliation campaign when they came under attack.

"Casualties rose to 33 dead and the victims were civilians, including tribal leaders, as well as soldiers," an interior

ministry official told AFP, adding that 46 people were wounded.

Tuesday's carnage came after a suicide bomber on a bicycle killed 28 people and wounded 56 outside a Baghdad police academy on Sunday.

On Wednesday a car bomb exploded in the northern Iraqi tinderbox town of Mosul, killing three soldiers and wounding 10 other people, a police official told AFP.

"A car bomb targeted their patrol in the Al-Shafa neighbourhood in the centre of Mosul," he said.

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Shibir men chase

FROM PAGE 16

Both the student groups locked in an altercation as Shibir men were holding the condolence meeting by blocking the road. At one stage, Shibir activists threw brickbats at BCL men, ensuing the clash.

A huge number of police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Soon after the incident, Shibir activists along with a huge number of outsiders reorganised themselves and swooped on BCL leaders and activists in front of central library premises with sharp weapon, iron roads and bamboo sticks.

Critically injured BCL RU unit president Ibrahim Hossain Moon was taken to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) for treatment.

The other injured BCL leaders and activists were identified as BCL RU secretary Ayeen Uddin, former BCL central committee member Zahid Ali, RU unit joint secretary Azim-Bin-Kamal, law affairs secretary Arifuzzaman Roni, publication affairs secretary Sumon Kanti, sports secretary Ahmed, cultural secretary Awal Kabir Joy and BCL activists Dipayan Sarker Dip, Nizam, Tuhin, Masud, Mehedi, Suvro, Roman, Polas, Nipun, Faruk, Nahid and Munna.

Shibir cadres also damaged motorbikes of RU teachers and windows of the university's commerce building during the clash.

Police raided five residential halls of the university yesterday night but failed to recover any arms or explosive. No one was arrested in this connection.

However, police found three sharp weapon, many iron roads, hockey and bamboo sticks from different Shibir controlled rooms of those halls.

University Proctor Prof Zakaria told reporters that the campus situation is now under control and police have been deployed to avert any further clash.

Many departments suspended their classes and postponed examinations as tension

prevailed on the campus following the clash. Speaking at separate press conferences on the campus, BCL and Shibir later blamed each other for the clash.

Medical college sources said the clash erupted at Shaheed Nurunnabi Hostel when a group of newly formed BCL committee led by RMC unit president Ashok Kumar went to the hostel to exchange greetings with hostel Shibir president Shaheen.

Following an altercation, Shibir activists locked the main gate of the hostel and beat up BCL leaders and activists with iron roads and bamboo sticks. At one stage, police and BCL activists rescued them.

After an hour of the incident, a huge number of Shibir activists and police jointly attacked on BCL leaders and activists at Shaheed Shah Mainul Ahsan Pinku Hostel when BCL activists were allegedly preparing to attack Shibir men. At least 25 BCL leaders and activists were injured in the attack.

The Shibir activists vandalised around 12 rooms belonged to BCL men at both the hostels. Additional police later rushed to the scene and brought the situation under control.

Of the injured, BCL RMC president Ashok Kumar, secretary Shah Alam Siddiki Lalon, former BCL secretary Bappi, organising secretary Faruk Hossain and BCL activists Tanvir Rahman, Sajib, Emon, Moon, Saif, Zakaria, Nitun, Nabil, Faisal, Atiqur, Sony and Sumon were admitted to RMCH.

BCL leaders alleged that policemen and Shibir cadres jointly attacked on them without any reason.

However, RMC unit president of ICS Abu Talha denied the allegation of attacking BCL activists and claimed that six Shibir activists were injured during the BCL attack.

RMC principal Dr Towhidul Alam said they formed a five-member probe committee headed by Prof Dr Komor Uddin to investigate the incident.

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