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41 killed in Pak suicide blast

Airstrikes kill 31 militants

AFP, Peshawar

A massive suicide bomb hit northwest Pakistan killing 41 people yesterday, as the military geared up assaults on Taliban rebels blamed for increasingly bloody and brazen attacks killing 31 militants in airstrikes.

The bomber flung himself at a paramilitary convoy passing through a busy market in Shingla, a northwest district near Swat valley where the army claimed to have flushed out Taliban rebels after an offensive launched in April.

But Islamist extremist groups appear

far from quashed, with an audacious raid on army headquarters over the weekend leaving 22 people dead and underscoring the vulnerability of the nuclear-armed nation.

The al-Qaeda-linked Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) movement, holed up in the lawless northwest tribal belt bordering Afghanistan, claimed responsibility for the day-long hostage drama near Islamabad, and vowed more attacks.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the Shingla blast, but the suicide bombing bore all the hallmarks of a TTP strike, and hit in a one-

time stronghold of fugitive Swat Taliban commander Maulana Fazlullah.

"Forty-one people were killed and 45 were injured in the suicide blast," said Mian Iftakhar Hussain, information minister for the North West Frontier Province. "Twelve of the injured are in a serious condition."

He told AFP that six of the dead were military personnel and the rest civilians. Major Mushtaq Khan, a spokesman at the military-run Swat Media Centre, said: "It was a suicide blast. The attacker was on foot."

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Only one escaped death

Serial killer Rasu detailed murders in eerie ease

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Unlike the 11 victims of Rasu, 19-year-old Ruma of Panchkuri, Nandail in Mymensingh got a second lease of life and was able to narrate the horror before police.

Calm and poised 40-year-old serial killer Rasu Khan lured Ruma, daughter of Giasuddin, to Chandpur on January 6, 2005. He tortured her unconscious near a bridge at Balia and left her there convinced she was dead.

She took treatment at different hospitals and narrated her story to police and on April 29 the same year police filed a case in this connection.

Rasu Khan of Chandpur has killed at least 11 women since a girl rejected his proposal 15 years ago. He had vowed to kill 101 women when hired goons of the family members of that girl tortured



Rasu Khan

him, according to his confessional statement before police.

Rasu told police he had killed six women in Faridganj of Chandpur, four in Chandpur Sadar and one in

Haimchar of Chandpur.

Police have so far been able to identify five victims of supposedly the country's first serial killer. They are: Hashar Parveen of Faridganj in Chandpur, Rasu's brother-in-law Mannan's wife Shahida, Kohinoor of Niraspara in Tongi, Mehedi of the same area and Rina of Durgapur in Chandpur.

After Rasu's arrest, his wife Rina and their three sons, went to Chandpur District Jail. Rina told journalist she was able to meet her husband after a long wait. She asked him, "What have you done? Did you not think of us?"

"He said do not expect me to come out and be with you. They will hang me."

Rasu Khan has three sons and a daughter.

Rina said her husband used to work as a supervisor at a garment factory in

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First woman wins Nobel in economics

AFP, Stockholm

Elinor Ostrom and Oliver Williamson of the United States won the 2009 Nobel Economics Prize for their work on the organisation of cooperation in economic governance, the Nobel jury said.

Ostrom is the first woman to win the Economics Prize, which has been awarded since 1969.

"The research of Elinor Ostrom and Oliver Williamson demonstrates that economic

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Moshtaq hailed killers as 'Surja Santan'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The governments between 1975 and 1996 had helped rehabilitate the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family.

The High Court judgment in Bangabandhu murder case quotes this from the statements of prosecution witnesses and accused.

During the sixth day's hearing on five convicts' appeals against death sentences, Abdullah-al Mamun, counsel for Bazul Huda and AKM Mohiuddin, yesterday continued reading the verdict to the five-member



SC HEARING DAY 6

Appellate Division bench.

In particular, he recited the statement of prosecution witness Col (ret'd) Shafayat Jamil.

In his testimony attached to the verdict, Shafayat Jamil said Pakistan recognised Bangladesh under Khondker Moshtaq Ahmed within an hour after the killings of Bangabandhu and family members on August 15, 1975.

He said Moshtaq, who was sworn in as president, would hail the killers as Surja Santan (the gallant sons) at different functions.

Syed Faruque Rahman, a convict in the

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GPA/DIVISION RULES Student demo, roadblock continue

DU CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred students of Mirpur Bangla College yesterday barricaded the Darussalam Road at Mirpur in the city demanding cancellation of a gazette that determines equivalence between GPA and division system in public examinations.

Traffic from Mirpur Section-1 to Technical Institute halted for over an

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PM embarrassed, Latif annoyed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

PM embarrassed, Latif annoyed

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she is "embarrassed" at poor attendance of her cabinet colleagues and senior lawmakers in parliament and asked them to regularly attend at the sessions, sources say.

The textile and jute minister meanwhile in parliament yesterday came down on the Speaker for his Sunday's comments on absence of some ministers and senior lawmakers and noise in the House made by some MPs.

"I am embarrassed as you [ministers and state ministers] did not attend the parliament session yesterday (Sunday). Please attend parliament sessions regularly," Hasina is quoted as saying by a cabinet colleague.

Hasina expressed her disappointment at the weekly cabinet meeting held at the Cabinet Division. Some of her cabinet colleagues attending the meeting opined that the Speaker's comments were "a little bit excessive" which he could have avoided.

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FREEDOM FIGHTERS Service age extended by 2 yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday decided in principle to extend the service age of the freedom fighter officials and employees by two years from 57 to 59 years.

Those who have gone on leave preparatory retirement (LPR) under the present government would come under the decision, sources say.

The decision was taken at the weekly cabinet meeting held at the Cabinet Division.

Presiding over the meeting, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also chief of ruling Awami League, directed the Ministry of Establishment to place the final proposal in this regard at the next cabinet meeting.

Talking to The Daily Star, State Minister for Liberation

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Clarification

Akhter Hossain, 14, one of the worst injured during the BDR mutiny, received a donation of Tk 1 lakh from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on September 17.

The PM also arranged everything for the free treatment of Akhter at Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka, PM's Office sources said yesterday after The Daily Star carried a report headlined 'Compensation did too little for him.'

After further contact yesterday, Akhter and his parents admitted to having the assistance from the PM.

The government has also offered treatment for Akhter and asked him to contact CMH by October 20, they said.

Akhter said an NGO also has offered him free treatment abroad.

Prayer Timing		
October 13		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:45	6:20
Zohr	1:45	2:15
Asr	5:15	5:30
Maghrib	6:45	6:50
Esha	8:15	8:45
Source: Islamic Foundation		



Oblivious to the risk of contacting diseases, children of a slum at Lalbagh in the capital drink and wash clothes with the water that came to surface due to a crack in the Wasa pipe underneath.

Job scope in Iraq suffers a jolt

Iraqi minister vows to resist foreign workers

PORIMOL PALMA

Complications arose in sending Bangladeshi workers to Iraq, as its labour minister declared to resist entries of foreign workers, citing unemployment problem in the war-ravaged country just after Bangladesh approved sending workers there.

After a gap of six years since the Iraq war in 2003, the Bangladesh government decided to reopen Iraq mission and recently approved applications of a few recruiting agencies to send 1200 workers there. But Iraqi Labour Minister Mahmoud al-Sheikh Radhi on last Wednesday spoke about preventing any such bid.

He said many foreign workers including Bangladeshis and Indonesians already arrived in Iraq as security situation improved there despite 16 percent unemployment rate among the Iraqis, reported the Al Jeeran, an Iraqi online newspaper on October 7.

Quoting an official, the newspaper reported foreign workers started to spread chaotic activities in Baghdad, Karbala and Najaf.

An official at the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry said the ministry is aware of the report and instructs the Bangladesh mission in Jordan to inquire into the matter soon.

When asked, Hazrat Ali, an additional director general of the Bureau of

Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) said they were not clear about the matter.

"If, except from the Iraqi government or private sector, the foreign companies hire workers from Bangladesh, I do not think the government authority can prevent them," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Hazrat Ali, who led a delegation to Iraq two months ago to assess the labour market, said the war-ravaged country requires many workers, though he could not specify the number, for rebuilding the country.

Meanwhile, Nazrul Islam, proprietor of Metro Trade International, which got

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BNP chaos seen as healthy race

Mosharraf says edn policy govt's only success

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A healthy democratic competition prevails in the party, said BNP standing committee member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday ruling out allegation of internal conflict causing delay in the party's reorganisation process.

He said formulation of national education policy is the only success of the present government in nine months but incorporating secularism while devising it faster was a mistake of many they made. "This will bring a disaster in the sector and people would reject it," Mosharraf remarked.

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ERRANT BUILDINGS Rajuk drive stumbles on stay orders

KAILASH SARKAR

The special drive by Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) against 198 buildings is being hampered for the stay orders from the High Court (HC).

Rajuk launched the drives Sunday on request from the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) that identified 198 buildings where the parking spaces have been used for other purposes while the office vehicles are parked on roads causing traffic congestion.

In separate drives, Rajuk authorities have also been searching for buildings with no parking space at all.

Soon after Rajuk authorities issued notices on October 3, many of the listed owners thronged the HC and sought stay orders upon the Rajuk-DMP moves.

Rajuk Magistrate Rokon-Ud-Dowla, who is leading the drives, said, "We can do nothing against the HC orders though our task remains incomplete."

Talking to The Daily Star, Rajuk Director (Development Control) SK Abdul Mannan said, "The HC orders are severely obstructing the on

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OnlinePoll

Do you support the government's plan to curb the ACC's mandate of acting unilaterally to file graft cases against public officials, policymakers, lawmakers and local body representatives?

☐ Yes (37.0%)
☐ No (60.7%)
☐ No Comments (2.3%)

Total votes: 906

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the new timing for different offices, organizations and educational institutions approved by the cabinet will have a positive impact on the traffic congestion of the capital?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net