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Terror strikes Mumbai again

21 killed, 141 injured as blasts rock the city; Dhaka condemns attacks

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA from New Delhi

Terror struck India's financial hub Mumbai last night leaving at least 21 people dead and 141 injured in 3 separate blasts in quick succession, confirmed Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, and the Indian home ministry.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan said, "These are terror attacks. It is an attempt to

disrupt peace."

Mumbai Police Commissioner Arup Patnaik said the blasts at Opera House and Zaveri Bazar, the silver hub of the city, were of higher intensity than the one at a bus stop at Dadar.

All the blast sites, which were crammed with people of evening rush hour, are close to each other.

The first explosion rocked Zaveri Bazar, a popular jewellery market, at 6:50pm and a minute later another

blast shook the busy business area Opera House. A third blast ripped through Dadar area in central Mumbai at 7:04 pm.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina condemned the attacks. In a letter to Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Sheikh Hasina expressed her deep shock and concern over the deaths of innocent people, reported BSS.

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Indian security personnel and investigators gather at a bomb blast site in Dadar district of Mumbai. Multiple blasts rocked India's financial hub yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Tailbacks choke city

Bad traffic turns worse as busy road closed for agitation by BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A hunger strike of the main opposition BNP in Ramna yesterday held up traffic throughout the day across the capital.

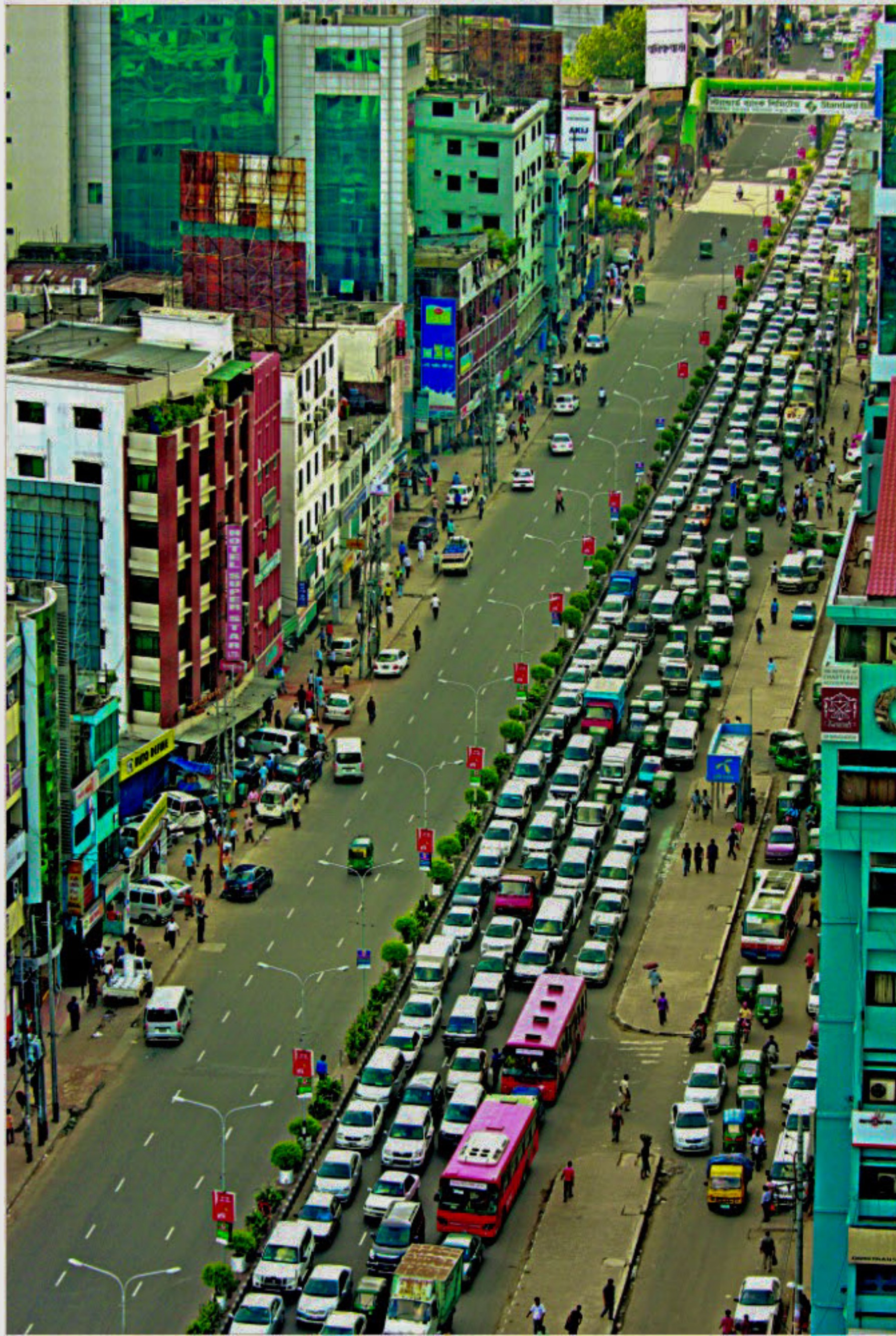
High humidity, heat and processions of opposition party activists only made things worse.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia attended the programme as chief guest. The strike was between 10:00am and 6:00pm to protest the scrapping of the caretaker government system and the police assault on Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque.

Early in the morning, traffic police closed one side of the street in front of Engineers' Institute, Bangladesh, which stretches from Shahbagh to Matshya Bhaban.

As a result, traffic was forced to take detours which overwhelmed surrounding streets that regularly deal with heavy traffic anyway. The rush of vehicles on the nearby streets led to severe

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One side of Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in Karwan Bazar is devoid of vehicles while on the other side vehicles are packed like sardines. Such was the impact of a BNP hunger strike held over a mile away. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Viqarunnisa in crisis

Politics slips into the top school; education board dissolves governing body hours after a faction removes principal

WASIM BIN HABIB

The crisis at Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, triggered by a sexual assault scandal, deepened further yesterday after Dhaka Education Board dissolved its governing body and appointed an ad hoc committee headed by the Dhaka deputy commissioner.

The dissolution came hours after a

faction of the 10-member governing body announced the removal of the well-reputed institution's principal Husne Ara Begum. Another faction immediately denounced the decision terming it illegal.

Husne Ara told The Daily Star that the meeting was called "illegally" and she remains the principal. Acting Chairman of

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Khaleda on sexual assault

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday demanded tough action against the persons involved in molestation of a student of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College.

"You people have already heard about what happened in Viqarunnisa Noon School. I demand

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Farmer drove truck

EMRAN HOSSAIN, from Mirsarai, Ctg

The man, who was driving the truck that turned turtle into a ditch in Mirsarai killing so many children Monday, was a farmer most of his life and he did not even have a driving licence.

Mofiz, in his late 40's, was a helper to the driver of the vehicle owned by Haji Rice Mill.

"He [Mofiz] was not allowed to drive on highways or go on long drives as he is not the driver. He drives the vehicle when we need to take something not very far away,"

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Dreams gone unfulfilled

Schools mourn death of Ctg students

EMRAN HOSSAIN and DWAIPAYAN BARUA, back from Mirsarai, Ctg

Most of the boys killed in Mirsarai road crash on Monday were the first generation school goers of their families.

Coming from poor and illiterate families where schooling is more than a privilege, these students were determined to break free from the clutches of poverty and lead a respectful life.

In remembrance of the tragic loss, educational institutions across the country observed mourning day yesterday.

Chittagong district administration yesterday said the death toll of the Mirsarai tragedy was actually 39 and the earlier count was incorrect due to inaccurate information received.

She disclosed this a couple of days after a trucker plunged his vehicle into a ditch in Mirsarai upazila of Chittagong, killing 44 people including 42 schoolchildren.

Using mobile phone at

Mobile courts to check mobile talking, driving

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has a plan to deploy mobile courts on the streets to enforce a ban on using mobile phone at the wheel, Home Minister Sahara Khatun said yesterday.

Using mobile phone at

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CONGRATULATIONS
Our Heartiest Felicitations
TO

National Heart Foundation Hospital & Research Institute, Mirpur, Dhaka

for reaching the rare milestone of

more than **50,000 Cath Lab Procedures** (angiogram, angioplasty, pacemaker implantation etc.) & more than **12,500 Cardiac Surgeries** (CABG, surgery for congenital heart diseases, valve surgery etc.).

We wish them all the best and further success in the field of Cardiology & Cardiac Surgery.

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