

# Suicide blast hits Pak market; 16 killed

AFP, Peshawar

A suicide bomber yesterday blew up a car at a crowded market in a northwestern Pakistani tribal town, killing at least 16 people and wounding 30 others, officials said.

The blast ripped through the main market in Darra Adam Khel near to a local anti-insurgent peace committee office, which officials said was the target of the attack.

"The death toll has risen to 16 and 30 others were wounded," local government official Fakhar-ud-Din told AFP.

He said it was not immediately clear how many peace committee members were killed or wounded because the bombing occurred in a crowded street and many shoppers were victims.

Information minister for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province Mian Iftikhar Hussain said: "It was a suicide attack and the target was the local peace committee."

Two other officials confirmed the bombing and the death toll and said some of the wounded were shifted to other cities for treatment as local health facilities were not sufficient.

Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, the officials said.

The peace committee comprised a break-away group of former militants who ditched their Taliban colleagues and formed a militia supporting local elders and government efforts against militancy, a local intelligence official said.

Semi-autonomous Darra Adam Khel lies between the northwestern towns of Peshawar and Kohat and has experienced several suicide attacks and bombings blamed on Taliban militants.

Taliban on Tuesday shot schoolgirl rights activist Malala Yousafzai, 14, in the head as she boarded a school bus in the former Taliban stronghold of Swat. Authorities offered a reward of more than \$100,000 for the capture of her attackers.

Prayers were held in schools across Pakistan yesterday for Malala. The girl, who had campaigned for the right to an education, was picked out by name by an armed man on a bus, and shot in the head.

A military spokesman said she was still on a ventilator in hospital on Saturday and that the next 36 to 48 hours would be critical.



Afghan students pray for the early recovery of Pakistani child activist, Malala Yousafzai, who was shot in the head in a Taliban assassination attempt in, during a rally in Herat yesterday. Schools in Afghanistan opened with special prayers for the quick recovery of Yousafzai, in a move officials said was to show solidarity with her.

# Egypt state prosecutor to stay after row with Morsi

AFP, Cairo

Egypt's state prosecutor Abdel Meguid Mahmud and President Mohamed Morsi agreed yesterday that Mahmud will stay, ending a crisis over his refusal to quit after being dismissed, an aide to the prosecutor said.

State television reported that the two met and sealed an agreement under which "the state prosecutor will stay on in his post," said deputy state prosecutor Adel Said, citing a "misunderstanding over his nomination as ambassador to the Vatican."

Morsi on Thursday fired Mahmud, appointing him Cairo's envoy to the Vatican, but the state prosecutor refused to stand down, saying: "I remain in my post. According to the law, a judicial body cannot be dismissed by an executive authority."

# A devil's design

FROM PAGE 1

A very innocent story was also cooked up about how Uttam's so-called facebook page came to public knowledge.

Omar Faruk, a youth of Ramu, claimed his friend Abdul Moktadir alias Alif, student of a private polytechnic institute in Chittagong, came to his mobile repairing shop in the evening of September 29.

According to Faruk, his friend signed in to his facebook account and made a scene finding Uttam's profile page bearing the anti-Islam photo.

Moktadir and Faruk claimed they had taken screenshots of the "profile page belonging to Uttam".

The fabrication of screenshot could be the first part of the plan behind the mayhem and bringing rioters from outside Ramu the second part.

Why the plotters chose Uttam's profile is not clear yet. Uttam, an underprivileged assistant deed writer, has been on the run along with his wife and child since the night of the incident.

One thing is evident in the screenshot that someone called "Abdul Muktadir" had entered Uttam's profile though he was not a facebook friend. Uttam's profile was not restricted.

The facebook account of "Abdul Muktadir" is not accessible anymore.

But Faruk's friend who came to the shop in September 29 evening is registered at Chittagong Polytechnic Institute as Abdul Moktadir.

He was detained by police on October 9.

"My son is a very bright student. He got stipend when he was in school. He has hearing problem but his memory is very sharp," said his mother Sajeda Begum at his house at Fakirabazar on October 6.

She refused to help The Daily Star meet his son Moktadir and repeatedly requested this correspondent to drop the idea of writing about the matter.

"He can fix mobile phone problems and he has very good computer knowledge as he studies computer engineering in Chittagong," she said.

Talking to this correspondent on October 3, Faruk expressed annoyance as his help was sought to reach Moktadir.

He dropped out after class-IV, but he is skilled at repairing computers and mobile phones, he said.

Interestingly, his facebook account claims he studied at Ramu High School and Cox's Bazar Govt College.

He set up a shop three to four years ago at Fakirabazar in Ramu. Locally known as "Faruk's computer shop", it is close to Moktadir's house.

Faruk denied link with any organisation or political party. Sajeda claimed the same about his son Moktadir.

he was involved with Islami Chhatra Shibir when he was a student of class IX and X in 2008-09 at Ramu Khizari Adarsha High School, according to a police official.

Moktadir's mother also claimed nobody among their close relatives has any involvement in politics.

However, one of her brothers-in-law is Naikhangchhari upazila chairman of in Bandarban. His name is Tofail Ahmed, who doesn't hold any official post but locally everyone knows him as a Jamaat leader.

Tofail denied his involvement with Jamaat and said he was in Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of the party, when he was student of Chittagong University.

Surprisingly, Sajeda Begum, while giving names and brief profile of her close relatives to this reporter, mentioned the brother-in-law as Ali Ahmed.

But when her brother said it is Tofail Ahmed, she looked embarrassed but explained nothing.

Images in Faruk's computer

Some anti-Islam images were already stored in Faruk's computer at the shop.

Faruk claimed to this correspondent he and his friend Abdul Moktadir quickly created some image files with screenshots of Uttam's facebook account.

They did this as two strangers in his shop were unhappy seeing the pictures on their facebook, he said.

They saved the pictures after the strangers left, said Faruk, adding that they had to download some software to do it.

Faruk said they created the files to prove to the locals that the picture insulting the Quran did not belong to them and was from Uttam's profile.

He also added that Uttam's account suddenly disappeared within a short time after they saved the images. Faruk's claim was very confusing as no one else, except the account holder, can deactivate a facebook account.

And, moments after the departure of the two strangers, there was a continuous flow of people curious to see the pictures. All of them were shown images stored in Faruk's computer.

The people with no knowledge about social networking site facebook believed that was Uttam's facebook page with the anti-Islam image.

Faruk and Moktadir not only exhibited fabricated screenshots of Uttam's facebook profile, but also stored many pictures downloaded from "Insult Allah" and the Quran-insulting photo, which was later circulated from mobile phones to mobile phones via Bluetooth.

In fact, there were significant anomalies between the claims of Faruk,

Moktadir's mother and other local witnesses who saw the pictures at Faruk's shop.

Many locals got the images from Faruk and Moktadir on September 29 evening. They were local journalists, Faruk said, adding he does not know their names but would be able to recognise everyone.

Faruk on October 3 claimed that he could not give The Daily Star the images since the Ramu police have been keeping his computer since the night of September 29.

The Daily Star got those pictures, but from Nazir Hossain, owner of a local computer-training shop. He said the pictures were spread from Faruk's shop and after September 29, he collected those from locals.

Locals and a police official said these are the images they had seen on Faruk's computer.

Faruk claimed the picture in question appeared on his facebook page. Moktadir first saw it and then him.

But the collected pictures does not support Faruk's claim. The account of "Abdul Muktadir" was used while seeing Uttam's profile page and taking the screenshots.

If someone does not restrict his/her profile, every facebook account holder can view some information of that person. Otherwise, a brief restricted version of the profile is seen.

This correspondent failed to reach Uttam for a comment.

URL FAKED

"www.facebook.com/Insultallahswt" appeared in the browser address bar of the profile page of Uttam, according to the screenshot taken by "Abdul Moktadir".

But the image had clear signs of manipulation suggesting that "/Insultallahswt" was pasted there either to hide the real address or to convince people how bad Uttam was.

Even the information above the tagged picture on Uttam's profile--"Insult Allah with Uttam Kumar Barua and 26 others" with a date of September 18--was similarly forged.

It was not possible to know whether this manipulation was done on Faruk's computer or it was put in his computer after making the images somewhere else.

Answers to these questions are locked in Faruk's computer seized by the police, said an expert.

WHO WERE THE STARNERS?

According to Faruk, two men aged 23-24 saw "Uttam's facebook page" on his computer along with him and Moktadir.

Faruk had never seen the two before. Faruk was born and brought up in South Sreekul of Ramu.

Moktadir's mother Sajeda claimed that she heard that four customers in the shop made the hue and cry seeing the picture

on Faruk's computer.

A person, who had seen the picture that night at the shop, requesting anonymity said being informed, he along with a few others went there around 8:30pm.

He did not find Faruk there; a boy unknown to him was showing the pictures. The "unknown nice looking" boy was also explaining to the locals the meaning of the picture.

"When the boy was giving me explanations of a picture, I told him not to explain and just to show the pictures."

The Daily Star investigation found this unknown boy was Moktadir.

WHY MOKTADIR IN RAMU?

After passing the SSC from Ramu, Moktadir moved to Chittagong for a diploma on computer engineering at Shyamoli Ideal Polytechnic Institute.

Since then, he has been living in Chittagong and visited his mother occasionally.

Although the final exams of his sixth semester were going on, Moktadir showed up in Ramu.

His mother Sajeda said Moktadir visited her on September 25 and the following day he had gone to his uncle Tofail Ahmed's place in Naikhangchhari and returned to Ramu on September 28.

He left Ramu again for Chittagong on October 1, she said.

Referring to records, Moktadir's dormitory superintendent Imam Hossain said Moktadir was not in the dorm between September 22 and 26.

He was present on September 26 and on 27 but absent on September 29 and 30. He returned to the dorm on October 1 and left again on October 5.

Police detained Moktadir on his return to the dorm in the night of October 9.

His mother Sajeda said, "Moktadir came between the gaps of his exams to take money to pay the fees for the seventh semester admission. As he had time, he went to visit Naikhangchhari for a few days."

Sajeda gave Moktadir Tk 17,000 for admission fees, she claimed.

However, the principal of the institute said they did not ask students for admission fees for the seventh semester since the sixth semester finals were still going on. They could ask for the fees in November.

Faruk claimed he and Moktadir went to his shop together on September 29 evening after having snacks at local restaurant. Both saw the pictures on facebook, showed and distributed those among locals and later went to the police station.

Sajeda, however, claimed Moktadir went to Faruk's shop to repair his aunt's mobile phone around 7:30pm on September 29. At that time, he saw the pictures and after repairing the phone

he returned home within an hour.

Later, police went to their home and asked Moktadir to go to the police station to confirm that he saw the pictures at Faruk's shop.

There were several other inconsistencies between the statements of Faruk and Sajeda on the same issue.

Sajeda tried to hide many things while talking to The Daily Star on October 6 and even the information she divulged was later found to be untrue during The Daily Star investigation.

THEY LIVE CLOSE

The first campaign to incite people started from Faruk's shop at Fakirabazar of Ramu, which was close to Moktadir's home.

A small procession was brought first from near the shop. Hafez Ahmed, who lives next door to Moktadir's home, played a leading role in bringing out the procession attended by some other locals.

When this correspondent went to talk to Sajeda on October 6, Hafez Ahmed's sister-in-law was there too.

She defended Moktadir and vigorously discouraged the correspondent to write about him.

Hafez Ahmed has been on the run since pictures of him in the procession were published in newspapers on October 2.

WHO IS ALIF?

Moktadir is known as Alif in Ramu Bazar area. His mother said Alif was his nickname.

The nick was not used in the facebook account of "Abdul Muktadir".

However, The Daily Star found a facebook account of "Abdul Muktadir Alif".

Very little information was found the profile as it is restricted to non-facebook friends of "Abdul Muktadir Alif". It said "Abdul Muktadir Alif" studied at Ramu High School. The profile picture was of a boy but sex was mentioned as female.

Interestingly, Faruk also uses the nick Alif for his facebook account even though it is not his name.

Asked on October 3, Faruk said he just used it for his facebook account as he liked this nickname of his friend.

MOKTADIR WAS SHIBIR MAN

Md Iltut Mish, additional superintendent of police in Chittagong, who was working in Cox's Bazar on deputation, told The Daily Star on Friday, "According to Moktadir's statement and the information in his personal diary, he was the sports secretary of Ramu thana Islami Chhatra Shibir in 2009."

Moktadir had told police that since he was good in sports, Shibir men gave him the post, he said.

Contacted over the phone, Moktadir's uncle Tofail Ahmed said he was not involved in Jamaat. "It would not be possible for anyone to show my name in any document of

Jamaat."

Locals in Ramu said Tofail's car went to Ramu twice within a few days since the attack on Buddhist homes and pagodas.

Tofail claimed his wife went to the doctor's and some other places in Cox's Bazar and she could have visited her mother and sister in Ramu.

Moktadir's two maternal uncles Rakib and Rajib also live with Tofail in Naikhangchhari.

Locals said one of them was seen in Ramu before the attack and during the night of the attack.

Tofail ruled out the possibility of them being anywhere near Ramu on September 29 night. He said, "They [Rajib and Rakib] live with me here [in Naikhangchhari] and they were at home that night."

Rajib told this correspondent over the phone that he had gone to Ramu on September 27 on family business and returned to Naikhangchhari the same day.

## Moktadir

FROM PAGE 1

the Detective Branch of Police in Cox's Bazar.

Basu, who is also the investigation officer of a case filed in this connection, told The Daily Star that police were trying to ascertain whether someone had backed Moktadir in spreading the images derogatory to the Quran.

Police detained Faruk, a mobile servicing shop owner, on October 6 and Moktadir, also known as Alif, on October 9. They were shown arrested on October 11.

It was from Faruk's shop that the two friends showed and distributed those photos among locals. It provoked the torching of a dozen Buddhist temples and pagodas and damage to six others in Ramu on September 29.

Meanwhile, four detainees yesterday made confessional statements before the Senior Judicial Court of Cox's Bazar over their involvement in the mayhem.

They are Md Rubel, 20, of Askor Para; Abul Hashem, 40, of Rajar Kul under Ramu; Kamal, 32, of Paschim Moricha; and Borhanuddin, 25, of Coatbazar in Ukhaia.

Hashem confessed his guilt and said there were 18 persons, including himself, who attacked the house of Sudhangshu Barua at Purba Katalia Para.

Rubel, driver of a mini-truck, said he had brought in people from different areas of Ramu upazila. He also revealed the names of four individuals who were involved in the attacks. Borhanuddin said he took part in the vandalism at a Buddhist temple in Coatbazar area and had also attacked a team of law enforcers.

Kamal admitted that he and four others had attacked Dipankar Buddha Bihar at Paschim Moricha.

# Hope of Palestine state fading

AFP, Jerusalem

A renewed Palestinian bid to seek upgraded UN status may be aimed at saving the "two-state solution" but many believe the idea of an independent Palestine alongside Israel is looking increasingly unrealistic.

"The two-state solution is the only sustainable option. Yet the door may be closing for good," UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon warned last month just days before Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas launched a fresh bid for upgraded status at the United Nations.

"We have reached a critical point," senior Palestinian official Hanan Ashrawi recently told reporters in Ramallah.

"Israel has been allowed to undermine the two-state solution to the point where this is a last-ditch effort to try to rescue the chances of peace and the two-state solution by the Palestinians," she said.

With the peace process deadlocked for more than two years, the concept of the one-state solution -- a bi-national entity on land encompassing Israel and the Palestinian territories -- is gaining ground.

In recent months, the idea has become a hot topic of discussion across the Palestinian territories, its merits and shortcomings taking up an increasing number of column inches in the local and international press.

A survey published in May by JMCC, a Jerusalem-based Palestinian research centre, showed that one in four Palestinians -- or 25.9 percent -- were in favour of a bi-national state, compared with 22.3 percent six months earlier.

And a more recent joint Israeli-Palestinian survey conducted last month found that 30 percent of Israelis would support a one-state solution in which Jews and Arabs enjoy equality.

"Creating two neighbouring states for two peoples that respect one another would be the best solution," wrote Israel's former parliament speaker Avraham Burg in the New York Times.

"However, if our shortsighted leaders miss this opportunity, the same fair and equal principles should be applied to one state for both peoples," said Burg, a longtime proponent of the idea.

The concept of a bi-national state is not new.

Until the 1980s, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) campaigned for a "democratic" Palestinian state on the territory that comprised mandatory Palestine prior to the establishment of the Jewish state in 1948.

When Israel and the Palestinians signed the 1993 Oslo Accords, there were 193,000 settlers living in the territories. That number now stands at more than 310,000 and the number is growing.

Another 200,000 or so live in a dozen settlement neighbourhoods in east Jerusalem, which was captured by Israel in 1967 and annexed in a move never recognised by the international community.

PLO statistics show that since Abbas's historic bid to seek full UN state membership in September 2011, the number of settlers has risen by more than 20,000.

"The only ethical solution is a (single) democratic, secular and civic state in historic Palestine," says Omar Barghouti, founder member of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign, which is modelled on the South Africa's fight against apartheid.

"There is no such a thing as a one-state solution," negotiator Saeb Erakat said last month.

"There is a one-state reality being created by the Israeli actions of settlements, dictations, facts on the ground, and with that comes apartheid."

**বড়পুকুরিয়া কোল মাইনিং কোম্পানি লিমিটেড**  
(পেট্রোবাংলা'র একটি কোম্পানি)  
চৌহাট, পার্বতীপুর, দিনাজপুর

**কয়লা বিক্রয় সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

এতদ্বারা সম্মানিত কয়লা ক্রেতা সাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আগামী ১৪ অক্টোবর ২০১২ তারিখ হতে পরবর্তী বিক্রয় বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশ না করা পর্যন্ত কয়লা বিক্রয় বন্ধ থাকবে।

সম্মানিত কয়লা ক্রেতা সাধারণের সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য আমরা আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত।

জিডি-৩৯৬৫ আদেশক্রমে কর্তৃপক্ষ