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Hyderabad blasts kill 20

Bombs target Hindu-dominated suburb of the Indian city

AFP, Hyderabad

Twin bomb attacks killed at least 20 people and wounded more than 80 others yesterday in a crowded suburb of the Indian city of Hyderabad in what officials said was an act of terrorism.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said the perpetrators of the "dastardly act" would be punished. It came with the nation on alert after the recent hanging of a separatist unleashed protests in the Muslim-majority region of Kashmir.

The evening bombings targeted a mainly Hindu district in Hyderabad, a hub of India's computing industry in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh which hosts local offices of Google and Microsoft among other Western IT companies.

The Australian cricket team, which is due to play a Test match against India in Hyderabad from March 2, said it was now in talks with Indian authorities and stressed that the safety of its players was "paramount".

Doctors struggled to treat a stream of wounded victims as bloodied patients lay on stretchers at city hospitals and anguished relatives clamoured for news of their loved ones, an AFP photographer saw.

Police said two bombs went off in quick succession, SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

People sing the national anthem at Shahbagh in the capital yesterday during the grand rally demanding death penalty for all war criminals.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



5 Shibir men held with bomb-making materials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police rounded up five activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir for possession of a huge quantity of bomb-making materials and provocative leaflets in the city's Muradpur on Wednesday.

Acting on information, cops raided a three-storey building at Muradpur intersection around 10:00pm and arrested the five, said Panchlaish police.

The arrestees, all students, are Abu Bakkar, 27, Shamim, 27, Mohammad Apel, 25, Mohammad Rubel, 25, and Liton, 29.

Law enforcers also seized 10,000 copies of leaflets and as many posters with provocative contents, 10 litres of petrol, five machetes and four cartons of bomb-making materials.

Yesterday, two cases were lodged with Panchlaish Police Station in this connection.

In the afternoon, police sent the five to jail through a local court.

Mohammad Shahidullah, additional deputy commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

YET ANOTHER BANKING SCAM

Towel exporter eats up Tk 21cr incentive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bismillah Towels Group, a towel manufacturer and exporter, has fooled the government and pocketed nearly Tk 21 crore of taxpayers' money in the name of incentives, revealed a Bangladesh Bank (BB) inspection.

The group overpriced its exports to enjoy 10 percent cash incentives

from the government.

To get the benefit, Managing Director and owner of the group Khaja Soleman Anwar Chowdhury had opened two companies, Banglus Middle East in Dubai and Banglus Singapore, and showed his export destinations there at a much higher price.

Although he exported the goods directly to Banglus Middle East and

Banglus Singapore, Soleman told The Daily Star recently that these two companies were Bismillah's strategic partners that marketed towels in Middle East countries on the group's behalf.

"They [Banglus Middle East and Banglus Singapore] are not our buyers. They contact with buyers," he said.

However, business information SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

ADDRESS IN INDIAN PARLIAMENT

Pranab for ratification of land boundary deal

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian President Pranab Mukherjee yesterday advocated the passage of a constitutional amendment bill in parliament to make the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) with Bangladesh effective.

"My government proposes to introduce a constitutional amendment bill in parliament to give effect to the provisions of the Land Boundary Agreement with Bangladesh and its 2011 protocol, which

will strengthen border management and our security," he told the parliament.

Also known as Indira-Mujib agreement, the LBA was signed by former Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi and her Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on May 16, 1974. It aimed to remove long-standing border disputes between the two neighbours, exchange the adversely possessed enclaves and lands, and demarcate the 6.5 SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



Rare images of World War wasteland

DAILYMAIL ONLINE

It could be the scene from a nuclear holocaust.

A once-thriving city reduced to mere rubble, a 700-year-old cathedral barely left standing, trees that proudly lined an idyllic avenue torn to shreds. There's barely anyone in sight.

But the devastation wrought in these rare, haunting images was caused long before the atomic bomb came into existence.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

ROTOR SPINNING FOR SALE

An established, reputed and renowned Rotor Spinning Mill spread over 9 Bigha in a prime location near Dhaka is being **OFFERED FOR SALE**

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The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL
Do you agree with the prime minister that her government did not spare anyone for irregularities and corruption?

Yes (6%)
No (94%)

TOTAL VOTES: 413

TODAY'S POLL
Do you think it was justified for Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam to allege that the main opposition party is on a dangerous killing mission ahead of the next general elections?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

Seven more get golden tickets

MOYUKH MAHTAB

Scholastica and Northern International School were visited in Dhaka on Wednesday for the school activation round of the Daily Star Spelling Bee competition.

The school round will give way to the divisional round, where the qualifiers from the online round will compete with the school round qualifiers to move on to the TV round. The school round started in January and will continue till the end of this month.

From Northern International School, Mariyam Abdul-Hye, Farhan Sadeeq, Dhruvo and Fatema Rahman Nikita won the competition and golden tickets.

In Scholastica, the qualifiers were all Class 7 students. The top three to make it through to the divisional round are Umran Mustafa, Pragafa Naoha Mahmum and Audrija Bhattacharjee.



Sylhet BCL, JCD clash, 20 hurt

UNB, Sylhet

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between BCL and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists over placing wreaths at the Shaheed Minar in Sylhet Agricultural University yesterday.

Campus sources said the clash started when

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

PRAYER TIMING February 22

Asan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-20 5-55
Juma	12-30 1-15
Asr	4-30 4-45
Maghrib	6-03 6-07
Esha	7-30 8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

Daily Star Books

Khuswant Singh's MALICIOUS GOSSIP is available in the market now

Cover price: Tk 290; Home Delivery price: Tk 232

Khuswant Singh, in his acebic prose reflects on persons such as Mountbatten, Faiz and Phoolan Devi and writes about places such as Pakistan, Bangladesh, Korea and Papua New Guinea.

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