

Pak secular party shuts offices after attack

BBC ONLINE

The main political party in the Pakistani city of Karachi, the MQM, has closed its offices in protest over a fatal bomb explosion on Tuesday night.

City businesses and offices have also shut following the blast, which killed five people and wounded several others.

Pakistan has seen a wave of violence ahead of general elections on 11 May.

Tuesday night's attack on the MQM - or Muttahida Qaumi Movement - is the latest against secular parties in the run-up to landmark elections, which should mark the first civilian-to-civilian transfer of power in Pakistan's short history.

Bomb victim being treated in Karachi

The MQM has in recent months been targeted by militants.

The BBC's Shahzeb Jillani in Islamabad says that security fears faced by the MQM and other relatively liberal parties includ-

ing President Zardari's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the Awami National Party (ANP) are overshadowing the run-up to the vote.

In the last two weeks, at least 30 people have been killed in some 20 incidents of electoral violence, Pakistan's Free and Fair Election Network says.

The Taliban have been blamed for targeting and killing candidates of parties who openly oppose them. The threat has become so severe that many prospective MPs say that it is impossible to campaign openly.

The security fears confronting the three parties are in sharp contrast to the huge rallies being held by their rivals who are seen as soft on the Taliban, our correspondent says. These include former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, former cricket star Imran Khan, who heads the Tehreek-e-Insaf, and the leaders of Islamist parties.



PHOTO: AFP

US Secretary of State John Kerry, centre, makes a statement before meeting with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, left, and Pakistani Army Chief Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani in Brussels yesterday. The trilateral meeting is to discuss regional security issues, and the 2014 withdrawal of Nato combat forces from Afghanistan.

BENAZIR MURDER Court rejects Musharraf's bail plea

AP, Islamabad

A Pakistani court yesterday rejected bail for former military ruler Pervez Musharraf in a case relating to the assassination of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto in 2007, a government source said.

Musharraf returned to run in the parliamentary election scheduled for May 11 last month, but was disqualified because of his arbitrary actions while in power.

He is currently under house arrest in connection with a different case.

He is accused of not providing adequate security to Benazir.

In 10 years, over 1 lakh rape accused walked free

HINDUSTAN TIMES ONLINE

Manoj Kumar could spend the rest of his life in jail if he is convicted of raping the 5-year-old under the stringent anti-rape law enacted by the parliament recently. But more than 1 lakh rapists have gone unpunished across the country during 2001-2010 due to lack of evidence.

Indian Home minister Sushil Kumar Shinde was right when he told Parliament on Monday that such rapes took place across the country. And statistics compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau reveal they get away too. For instance, the police and prosecutors were able to prove the case against just about 36,006 men in the decade.

In the remaining 1.09 lakh cases - where the trial was completed during this period - the courts had to set free the accused due to lack of evidence. This includes the 14,500 cases where the accused were charged with rape of minor girls.

Either the police caught the real perpetrators and wasn't able to back up its charge with the requisite evidence or had arrested the wrong set of people. In either case, it means that the culprits are back on streets.

'Mindset hasn't changed' Anger, frustration grow over rapes in India

CNN ONLINE

Four months after a vicious gang rape left a 23-year-old physiotherapy student dead and triggered a national outcry over the treatment of women, more protests ignited in New Delhi after another brutal rape -- this time the victim was a five-year-old girl.

Two men have been arrested in the case. Authorities say the girl was abducted, locked in a house and raped repeatedly. She was found semiconscious three days later and doctors removed foreign objects from her genitals, including candle pieces and a small bottle.

The girl's family said that police officers had tried to bribe them to keep quiet about the case.

Clapping, chanting and holding signs that read "Enough is enough," protesters re-emerged in the nation's capital. They waved money at the police officers alleging corruption and ineptitude.

"Things have not improved," Bhagyashri Dengle, the executive director of Plan India, said of the police.

"There is no fear, no sensitization, no awareness if a policeman, held responsible for law and order, is behaving this way to women."

A New Delhi police spokesman said that the offending officer has been suspended.

"There is anger, frustration and introspection," said Poonam Muttreja, executive director of the Population Foundation of India, a group that works on women's health and rights. "Tragically, the people's mindset hasn't changed. Police behavior hasn't changed. Political behavior hasn't changed."

But there are other issues at play, women say.

The gender issues facing India are "deep rooted," Dengle said. "It's the status of women. It's the male mindset. It's not going to change overnight."

On a given week, sexual violence appears daily in the national newspapers --

a 16-year-old allegedly raped by her father, a landlord convicted of raping a tenant, a rickshaw-puller caught raping his 10-year-old daughter, a 19-year-old boy raping a 12-year-old mentally disabled girl, a 25-year-old raping his cousin, and a man throwing acid on his wife's private parts.

While these cases haven't triggered demonstrations, they indicate regularly reported attacks on women and children.

Children are even more vulnerable, said Dengle. Many girls don't feel safe using public toilets, walking to and from school where they're teased by males, she said. They can't trust rickshaw drivers who take them to school.



The Asian Centre for Human Rights reported that child rape cases jumped from 2,113 cases in 2001 to 7,112 in 2011 in India.

A survey supported by UN Women found 95% of females in New Delhi said they felt unsafe in public places. Comprised of 2,001 females and 1,003 males, the survey was conducted before the December 16 rape case of the physiotherapy student.

Three out of four men in the survey agreed with the statement, saying "Women provoke men by the way they dress" and two men out of five fully or partially agreed that "Women moving around at night deserve to be sexually harassed."

For any substantial change, Indians have to address the way girls and women are treated overall, advocates say.

7 killed, dozens hurt in Afghan earthquake

AFP, Jalalabad

Seven people were killed, dozens injured and many homes destroyed when a powerful earthquake struck eastern Afghanistan yesterday, officials said.

The quake, measured at a magnitude of 5.6 by the US Geological Survey, sent people rushing from their homes in worst-hit areas and was felt in the Afghan capital Kabul and in Islamabad in neighbouring Pakistan.

It struck at 0925 GMT at a depth of 62 kilometres, with its epicentre 24 kilometres northwest of the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad near the Pakistani border, the USGS said in a revised update.

Six people died in Nangarhar province of which Jalalabad is the capital, said provincial spokesman Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, and 75 people were injured. Forty of them were given first aid and the rest admitted to hospital for further treatment.

Inside hell

FROM PAGE 1

heard screams around me. My heart started pounding," said Mahmudur, a quality inspector of Ethar Tex Ltd, which was on the fifth floor.

"I lay down near a pillar, thinking that perhaps I was going to die. We were being crushed inside," he said. The roof caved, leaving a space of three feet above him.

After sometime, a ray of hope emerged when he saw a faint light. It was a mobile phone light of one of his colleagues. He found a few more colleagues and together they pondered how they could find a way out of the horror.

"A lot of things and memories came across my mind. I was thinking about my wife and children," Mahmudur said at the emergency unit of Enam Medical College and Hospital.

Many of his colleagues tried to make phone calls but to no avail, due to poor network coverage. Some lucky ones, however, called their loved ones seeking help.

After an anguished wait of around five hours, rescuers finally pulled them out. "It was like getting a second life," Mahmudur said, his eyes brimming with tears.

Although there was no exact number of people who got trapped inside the collapsed building, most of the trapped ones had a feeling of near death. A large number of people were still stuck inside the building till the filing of this report.

Shipu Begum, a sewing operator of Phantom Apparels Ltd who got trapped on the fourth floor, said: "I saw the hole of an adjust fan around 20 feet away. With every bit of energy in me, I crawled to the hole."

Some rescuers saw her after she started screaming for help, she said, adding that a few more workers came out through the same hole.

The situation of Kamruzzaman, DGM of Ether Garments, was somewhat different. He was trapped for five hours on the sixth floor. There were around 12 people with him. There was a caved-in ceiling two to three feet above them. Around them were a few bodies on which pillars had crashed.

"We were restless and afraid in the beginning, but then we realised we were lucky to be alive," he said.

In the darkness, they distributed the bottle of

water one of them had. "Kneeling the whole time, we offered Johr and Nafl prayers in the hope of being rescued," he said.

Later they crawled towards the staircase, which was approximately 25 feet away from them.

"We could see a ray of light coming through a crack. We shouted through the crack, and after a while, rescuers came and pulled us out one after another around 2:00pm," he said, as he received treatment at Enam Medical College and Hospital.

The workers rescued said many of their colleagues trapped in debris were still alive and they could not move, as walls and machines had fallen on them.

Khairul Hossain, member of one of the rescue teams that drilled holes on the 7th floor, said: "Noticing me, a woman cried out and pleaded me to rescue her even if her legs needed to be cut off. But I was helpless, as it was very difficult to get to her."

The members of the rescue teams said due to lack of oxygen and water, it would be hard for the trapped survivors to be alive for a long time.



Bangladesh Computer Council

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Training Schedule from May, 2013 to June, 2013

	Title of the course	Duration (hours)	Starting & Closing Date	Course Fee (Tk)	Last Date of Registration	Pre-requisite	Course Coordinator
Morning Session (10am-1pm)	1) Hardware Maintenance & Troubleshooting	75	11.06.2013 30.08.2013	5000.00	06.06.2013	H.S.C or A level or equivalent, experience in the use of computer applications	Fahmida Ahmed (01710567350)
	1) Web Site Design and Web Applications Development	90	12.05.2013 14.08.2013	5000.00	07.05.2013	HSC, experience in the use of computer applications	Sk. Jakir Hossain (01819271297)
Day Session (2pm-5pm)	2) Hardware Maintenance & Troubleshooting	75	06.05.2013 15.07.2013	5000.00	29.05.2013	H.S.C or A level or equivalent, experience in the use of computer applications	Md. Golam Rabbani (01712919455)
	3) Introduction to Office Applications & Unicode Bangla under WID	90	17.06.2013 10.09.2013	2000.00	11.06.2013	H.S.C or A Level or equivalent (only for women)	Akter Jahan (01714659233)
Evening Session (5pm-8pm)	1) Digital Signature for Information Security	21	19.05.2013 09.06.2013	3000.00	15.05.2013	First class Government officer	Md. Hasan-uj-Zaman (01760403336)
	2) Hardware Maintenance & Troubleshooting	75	25.05.2013 05.08.2013	7000.00	21.05.2013	H.S.C or A level or equivalent, experience in the use of computer applications	Md. Fazle Elahi (01190855573)
	3) Database Application Development using Oracle	150	09.05.2013 12.09.2013	15000.00	06.05.2013	Graduate, experience in Database Management	Engr. Golam Sarwar (01552306988)
	4) Web Site Design and Web Applications Development	90	19.05.2013 18.08.2013	7000.00	15.05.2013	HSC, experience in the use of computer applications	Md. Golam Rabbani (01712919455)
	5) Server and Internet Security Administrator	63	24.06.2013 27.08.2013	10000.00	19.06.2013	Graduate, experience in the use of Windows/Linux Server and Network administration	Fahmida Ahmed (01710567350)
	6) Web Site Design and Web Applications Development	90	13.06.2013 05.09.2013	7000.00	10.06.2013	HSC, experience in the use of computer applications	Sk. Jakir Hossain (01819271297)
	7) Network Administration (Windows & Linux)	120	26.06.2013 16.10.2013	10000.00	24.06.2013	Graduate, experience in the use of Windows applications	Mohammad. Saiful Alam Khan (01713118860)
	8) Free Lancing Technique for Web and Mobile Application Development	45	04.06.2013 09.07.2013	4000.00	30.05.2013	HSC, experience in the use of computer applications	Md. Mohidur Rahman (01675298300)

NB: Closing date of the training schedule may be extended as far training requirement.

Interested candidates are requested to register for the course within deadline for registration. Two copies of recent passport-size attested photographs, Pay Order/Bank Draft of the amount equal to the course fee drawn in favour of "Bangladesh Computer Council" and experience certificates (wherever applicable) have to be submitted for registration.

Md. Harunur Rashid
Director (BKIICT)



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