

An unexploded grenade from the scene of the 21st August blast. PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

9 Bangladesh in Shockwaves *(August 21, 2004; August 17, 2005)*

Three years after the deadly explosion at Ramna Batamul, the people of Bangladesh faced another grenade attack from the same quarter, this time on the then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina and her party workers. Many workers, Hasina's bodyguard and some key leaders of Awami League such as Ivy Rahman died in the blast. Just a year later another militant group called JMB detonated 500 bombs at 300 locations in Bangladesh. Such synchronised bombing by a banned organisation was the first of its kind in the country. Though some lynchpins behind these attacks have been punished, these incidents left Bangladesh in the shockwave of militancy, the threat of which is still a burning issue.



PHOTO: STAR FILE

Dr Muhammad Yunus

10 The Wreath of Peace *(December 10, 2006)*

The entire nation rejoiced on this day with pride and glory and congratulated the first Bangladeshi to receive the world's most highly regarded award. Dr Yunus and his brain child Grameen Bank jointly received the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize for their contribution to poverty alleviation through the micro-credit system. Dr Yunus is one of the seven people in the world to have won the Nobel Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal. After this grand recognition, various countries opened their doors to Dr Yunus's micro-credit system keeping Grameen as a model. However, in Bangladesh, Dr Yunus and his Grameen Bank has been experiencing bitter confrontations with the current government on different issues.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Houses damaged by the cyclone Sidr.

11 The Curse of Nature *(November 11, 2007)*

On this day, Bangladesh experienced one of the most devastating tropical cyclones in its history, the cyclone Sidr. With the wind velocity of 200 km/h, the cyclone razed the southern part of Bangladesh, including the great Sundarban, to the ground. Around 10,000 people died and properties worth a total of $1.7 billion were damaged. Hundreds of acres of cultivable land and fresh water sources were damaged due to saline water intrusion that changed the livelihood of the people of an entire region.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

This deadly clash that caused the fateful day of 1/11.

12 Army-backed Regime *(January 11, 2007)*

After violent showdowns of political parties and during severe countrywide unrest, the caretaker government backed by the Bangladesh Army took control of the country. Press censorship and curfew was imposed from that very night. The regime lasted until December 30, 2008 when they handed over the power to Awami League after their landslide victory against BNP. This army backed interim government introduced voter ID cards for the first time. The government also detained many political leaders including Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina for corruption and other crimes.