

3 kids hurt as abandoned bomb goes off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three children sustained injuries as an abandoned crude bomb exploded at Chak Bazar in Old Dhaka yesterday morning.

With splinter injuries, Rifat, 4, Sadia, 8, and Sultana, 10, received first aid at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

Rifat sustained injuries in the face and chest while Sadia and Sultana were wounded in their legs.

The three children found a ball-like object in garbage around 8:30am while playing at Namapara and thought it was a plaything. As they began playing with the object, it went off leaving them injured, said Azizul Haq, officer-in-charge of Chak Bazar Police Station.

On information, police rushed to the spot and recovered the remnants of the exploded crude bomb, the OC added.

1 killed, 3 injured in Ctg clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A clash between two groups of criminals left a man dead and three others with bullet injuries at a slum in Sher Shah area of Chittagong city last night.

The deceased was identified as Miraj Uddin, 20, while the injured were Md Rahim, 30, Anwar Hossain, 18, and Nur Hossain, 27, said police.

The two groups locked in a clash at Debar Par over establishing supremacy in the slum around 10:15pm, said Mohammad Shahidullah, additional deputy commissioner (North zone) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police.

Four people with bullet wounds were rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital when on-duty physicians declared Miraj dead at 10:40pm, said Pankaj Barua, assistant sub-inspector of CMCH Police Camp.

Police had cordoned off the area and were looking for those involved in the clash, said ADC Shahidullah.

Murder accused arrested at police HQ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A union parishad chairman was arrested yesterday at the police headquarters in Dhaka when he went there to meet a high official to lobby for avoiding arrest.

Shahbagh police arrested Abul Quasem, who is the chairman of Bashkipur union parishad and an Awami League leader of Laxmipur Sadar upazila.

He is accused in eight cases, including five murder cases, and had been on the run.

Quasem is also known as Jihadi for his radical religious views. He was once an activist of Jamaat-e-Islam.

An official of the Police Headquarter said Quasem went to the office of an additional inspector general of police around 3:00pm and tried to lobby for dropping the cases against him.

"At one stage, the police official contacted the SP of Laxmipur to enquire about Quasem and learned that he was accused of several murder cases and was absconding," the official told The Daily Star last night.

Shah Mian Shafir, the superintendent of police of Laxmipur, also told The Daily Star about Quasem's criminal records.

Mizan said Shahbagh police arrested Quasem and contacted them. Quasem was on the way to Laxmipur as of filing of this report at 12:30am today.

42 dead in Taiwanese

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The ATR 72-500 twin turboprop was flying from the southwestern city of Kaohsiung to the islands off the west coast and had been delayed due to bad weather as Typhoon Matmo pounded Taiwan, according to the authorities.

"We have found 42 bodies and some body parts so far," an official surnamed Tsai at the Penghu county fire department told AFP early today.

Television images showed firefighters working in heavy rain to douse the mangled plane and soldiers on the scene.

"There were 58 people on board including four crew members, four children and, so far, according to the information we have, 12 were injured and were sent to hospitals while 46

Eid shopping a click away

FROM PAGE 1

"Many people are interested in online shopping mainly to save time and avoid traffic jam," said Shameem Ahsan, president of Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS).

With internet use on the rise, e-shopping is becoming popular, he said, adding the online stores display a bigger collection of products, luring customers to buy more.

Ahsan is also the chief executive officer of Akhoni.com, a leading online shop that started operation in January 2010. The sales from his store this Ramadan has doubled than the last year.

Online shopping accounts for a major share of daily retail trade in developed countries. It is growing also in India and China.

In Bangladesh, about a hundred e-trading companies operate and some 40 of them follow business-to-consumer (B2C) marketing.

B2C refers to transactions between businesses and consumers, while B2B is business-to-business exchange of products, such as trade between a manufacturer and a wholesaler, or a wholesaler and a retailer.

These 40 virtual outlets make Tk 55 crore sales every year. They have targeted up to Tk 15 crore sales this Ramadan -- around 27 percent of their annual turnover. Of them, 10 are doing well.

In the country, online shopping, including e-ticket sales and sales through Facebook, has yearly transactions worth around Tk 200 crore. It is growing by 20-30 percent every month, according to the industry insiders.

The idea of online shopping gained momentum in 2011 after the Bangladesh Bank cleared ways for payment by debit and credit cards in local currency.

Bangladesh Brands, another leading virtual mall that launched operation in July last year, has also got a good response, said Sadequa

Hassan Sejuti, its managing director.

"A growing number of people are shopping through e-portals to avoid hassles," she said, adding that her portal has so far transacted around Tk 20 lakh since beginning of the Ramadan.

The young woman entrepreneur said they expect Tk 50 lakh Ramadan sale, which was around Tk 14 lakh last year.

Md Nurunnabi Islam, a delivery man of Bangladesh Brands, said: "It is a pick time for us as many customers are placing orders for Eid."

Usually, they take 24 hours for delivery inside Dhaka, but it takes 48 to 72 hours during Ramadan due to a huge pressure, said the 28-year-old, who draws Tk 10,500 in monthly salary. He made 13 such deliveries in the first half of yesterday.

The outlet also delivers goods abroad through FedEx.

Biponee.com, another such store running since January last year, has earned around Tk 50 lakh this Ramadan, three times higher from the previous year, said Ahsanul Alam, chief operation officer of the portal.

Online shopping is becoming popular in other parts of the country as well, with around 30 percent of the transactions taking place outside Dhaka, according to industry insiders.

To meet the growing customer demand, Aarong, a leading fashion and lifestyle brand in the country, has opened its first e-commerce site recently.

Mohammad Abdur Rouf, chief operating officer of Aarong, said his company is receiving orders worth around 2 lakh on an average daily through the portal.

Non-resident Bangladeshis can buy from Aarong through the portal and can send those to relatives in the country.

"Many fashion and lifestyle brands are opening e-commerce outlets," said Azharul Haque Azad, president of Fashion Entrepreneurs

Cops needed Tk 10 lakh

FROM PAGE 1

Rights Commission Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman visited Jisan at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where he is under treatment since July 1.

It comes hot on the heels of the custodial death of Mirpur trader Mahbubur Rahman Sujan. He was allegedly tortured to death by Mirpur police on July 13. Police later arrested Sub-inspector Jahidur Rahman Khan in this connection.

Talking to journalists, the NHRC chairman said a section of law enforcers was abusing powers and torturing citizens. "They are crossing their limits," he said, condemning custodial torture for taking confessional statements.

Mizanur called upon the home ministry to investigate the incident and bring to book those responsible.

According to Jisan's father, police falsely implicated his son in the murder of Ayaz Haq, brother of another

Dhaka City College Student, on June 9.

Ayaz was stabbed at Jigatola bus stop in Dhanmondi following a clash between students of the college. He later died at the DMCH, police said.

Describing the incident, Jisan said some students were locked in an altercation at the bus stop over arranging a football tournament.

"Sensing trouble, I walked several yards away. I was waiting for my mother to pick me up. But some policemen came out of the blue and arrested me," he said.

During the first five days of the remand, Sahidul and several other cops beat him twice a day, he alleged.

"In the second phase, they gave me electric shocks and pierced my leg with needles of syringes. They threatened me with death and forced me to give the confessional statement," he said.

After he was sent to jail, he underwent treatment at the prison hospital

for several days. He was then admitted to the DMCH surgery department on July 1 and later shifted to the burn unit on July 13 for plastic surgery.

Contacted, Farman Ali, senior jail superintendent of Dhaka Central Jail, said Jisan was brought to the prison with injuries in his left leg. Asked about the cause of the wounds, he said police could explain that.

At the burn unit, this correspondent found Jisan's left leg bandaged from knee down. Though he was lying on a bed in the corridor, he was handcuffed, with four policemen guarding him. One of them was holding the rope tied with the handcuff.

Partha Shankar Paul, resident surgeon at the burn unit, said the condition of Jisan's leg was not good. "Even if it heals, he may not be able to walk normally again. His leg might have to be amputated, but we are not sure yet."

Mohsin's new antics

FROM PAGE 1

nick name] will bring a Nobel prize for [her work on] the autistic people of the whole world one day. I have that confidence and I am dreaming of that," he said in his obvious bid to praise Saima for her work on autism.

Mohsin was speaking as the chief guest at the introductory meeting of the newly formed Neuro-developmental Disabled Protection Trust Board held at the conference room of the Department of Social Service in the capital's Agargaon.

It was not the first time the minister allowed himself to be ridiculed and criticised for what he did on stage.

On January 27, he drew huge criticism by smoking on stage at a children's function in Sylhet. He had later apologised for it.

On Tuesday, Mohsin had said a law was being formulated to make sure the electronic media had no freedom.

"You are showing [bodies of] Narayanganj seven-murder [victims] every 5-10 seconds and thus inciting

people. And that's why such an act is being formulated that you will have no freedom in future," he had told journalists during a meeting.

Yesterday, Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) protested and condemned Mohsin's statement.

In a statement, the rights body said recently Communications Minister Obaidul Quader too expressed resentment against the media.

It said the information ministry had taken an initiative to revive a law which empowered the ministry to cancel declarations of newspapers for publishing anti-state news or news hurting religious sentiments.

ASK believes that this kind of incidents severely curtail media freedom and freedom of speech.

Even though the constitution acknowledges freedom of speech and media, such attacks and threats on the media and journalists are on the rise, added the statement.

"We believe it is very important to ensure freedom of the media for flour-

ishing democratic rule," it said, urging elected representatives not to threaten the media or journalists.

Meanwhile, addressing yesterday's programme as the special guest, Saima emphasised the need for overcoming social and legal barriers to protect the rights of people with disabilities.

"I have made people aware about autism. Now it's your responsibility to help them by every means," she told the members of the trust.

Saying that every autistic person is a human being first, she said the trustee board would have to work to ensure the needs of the autistic people to lead a normal life are fulfilled.

Chaired by Social Welfare Secretary Nasima Begum, the programme was addressed among others by Education Secretary Muhammed Sadique, Vice-Chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Pran Gopal Datta, and Golam Rabbani, chairperson of the board.

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President Ma Ying-jeou's office said in a statement that it was a "very sad day in Taiwan's aviation history".

Premier Jiang Yi-huah said the government would spare no effort to assist the injured and families of the deceased.

TransAsia, Taiwan's first private airline, also flies to China, Japan, Singapore, South Korea and Vietnam and is due to launch the island's first low-cost airline later this year.

French-Italian aircraft manufac-

turer ATR said the plane was manufactured in June 2000.

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French-Italian aircraft manufac-

Mirpur cops

FROM PAGE 16

According to Rakib, a team of Mirpur police in plainclothes, led by Sub-inspector Enamul Haq and Assistant Sub-inspector Rakibuzzaman, picked him up from Paltan area around noon on November 25 last year, cuffing his hands and blindfolding him.

They took him to the police station that evening and demanded Tk 20 lakh for his release or else he would be implicated in false cases.

As he initially refused to pay the money, the next day ASI Rakibuzzaman beat him severely in the police custody.

"They even called in my younger brother and tortured me in front of him. They also made my wife listen to my screaming over the phone," Rakib said.

"They threatened to put me in crossfire if I don't pay them," he added.

At one stage, Rakib paid them Tk 1.10 lakh and got released around 28 hours after his detention.

Rakib had to take treatment at a hospital for over a week.

Later, he lodged a case with a Dhaka court accusing five Mirpur policemen on December 5. The Criminal Investigation Department is now investigating the case.

He also filed complaints with the police headquarters and Dhaka Metropolitan Police the same month.

Contacted, Imtiaz Ahmed, deputy commissioner (Mirpur division) of the DMP, said he receives many complaints and it was not possible for him to recall any particular incident without checking papers.

Claiming his innocence, ASI Rakib, now posted at Shah Ali Police Station, said a divisional investigation into the incident was going on.

On July 13, Sub-inspector Jahidur Rahman Khan of Mirpur Police Station picked up Sujan, his wife Momtaz Sultana Lucy and their five-year-old son Rabbi from their Shankar home when Sujan refused to pay him extortion money. Sujan was tortured at his house, in the police van and at the

Bloodshed goes on

FROM PAGE 1

mediated with Islamist Hamas.

"We have certainly made some steps forward. There is still work to be done," said Kerry, on one of his most intensive regional visits since the peace negotiations he brokered between Netanyahu and Abbas broke down in April.

Kerry has been working through Abbas, Egypt and other regional proxies because the United States, like Israel, shuns Hamas as a terrorist group.

Hamas yesterday rejected the US diplomats' appeal saying unless the blockade on the Gaza Strip is lifted, no peace is coming.

Israel launched its offensive on July 8 to halt rocket salvos by Hamas and its allies, which have struggled under an Israeli-Egyptian economic blockade on Gaza and angered by a crackdown on their supporters