

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 Bashikpur 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 3:30pm 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 Mizan Shafiur, 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

Association of Bangladesh that represents more than 50 leading fashion houses. Around 60 percent of fashion houses in the country have e-commerce sites, said Azad, also the managing director of fashion house Sadakalo. AKM Fahim Mashroor, founder of Ajkerdeal.com, said around one and a half crore people in the country now use internet regularly. Of them, 30-35 lakh use Facebook, which is another platform for online shopping. Currently, 2-3 percent of the total internet users do shopping online under B2C category, said Mashroor, also a former president of BASIS. He added that his online store, which began journey in November 2011, made Tk 50 lakh sales since the first Ramadan. The portal is offering dresses, footwear, ornaments and electronic gadgets targeting Eid-ul-Fitr. The site has direct links with over 500 merchants. It delivers goods within 24 hours inside Dhaka and 48 hours outside capital at free of cost if the value of goods is over Tk 500. Mashroor also noted that customers prefer paying after delivery. Around 90 percent of online shoppers pay bills through cash on delivery, 5 percent by mobile money and the rest by credit and debit cards. This is why many banks and international card issuing companies are offering discounts to purchase goods through debit or credit cards targeting the Eid. Currently, MasterCard, which has entered partnerships with 11 financial institutions in Bangladesh, is providing the users up to 33 percent discount on shopping from popular outlets. "The reason for discount is to promote card use and give extra benefits to users," said Syed Mohammad Kamal, country manager for MasterCard, Bangladesh.

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 Muhammad Sadique, Vice-Chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Pran Gopal Datta, and Golam Rabbani, chairperson of the board.

turer ATR said the plane was manufactured in June 2000. "At this time, the circumstances of the accident are still under investigation," it said in a statement, adding that the Aviation Safety Council of Taiwan would be in charge of the probe. 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.

Mirpur cops

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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

police station and died the following morning. On Sunday last, Lucy filed a murder case with a Dhaka court accusing OC Salahuddin and SI Jahid and eight others under the Torture and Custodial Death (Protection) Act-2013. The High Court on May 30, 2012 summoned eight police officers including OC Salahuddin to appear before it to explain their roles in assaulting a minor girl. He was posted at the Kotwali Police Station at that time. On September 17, 2008, staff of Dhaka deputy commissioner's office staged a sit-in to protest an assault on one of their colleagues by Salahuddin, who was posted at South Keraniganj Police Station back then. Later, he apologised to the DC and sought pardon for his action. METROPOLITAN MAGISTRATE TO PROBE SUJAN DEATH Metropolitan Magistrate SM Ashikur Rahman has been assigned to conduct a judicial inquiry into Sujan's death in police custody and submit a report as early as possible. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Bikash Kumar Saha assigned Rahman following a Dhaka court order on Sunday. Immediately after being assigned, Ashikur Rahman summoned Sujan's wife Lucy to appear before his court on August 5 for recording her statement. SI Jahid was arrested on July 16 following an autopsy that revealed Sujan had died of torture. Law enforcers nabbed police source Nasim the same day after examining the CCTV footage of the police station. They were placed on a fresh four-day remand each yesterday when investigators produced them before a Dhaka court, seeking a 10-day remand for each. DB sources said Jahid admitted to torturing Sujan in police custody and the investigators were trying to find out whether he acted alone or was following orders from any superior official/s.

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 had 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 in the nearby occupied West Bank. After aerial and naval bombardment failed to quell the outgunned guerrillas, Israel poured ground forces into the Gaza Strip last Thursday, looking to knock out Hamas's rocket stores and destroy a vast, underground network of tunnels. "We are meeting resistance around the tunnels... they are constantly trying to attack us around and in the tunnels. That is the trend," Israeli military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Lerner said yesterday. Israel announced that three of its soldiers were killed by explosive devices on Wednesday, lifting the army death toll to 32. Three civilians have also died in rocket attacks out of Gaza, including a Thai labourer hit yesterday. The military says one of its soldiers is also missing and believes he might be dead. Hamas says it has captured him, but has not released a picture of him in their hands. Already hurt by mass tourist cancella-

tions, Israel faced increased economic pressure after the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) took the rare step on Tuesday of banning flights to Tel Aviv, renewing the order yesterday. Many other foreign carriers, on heightened alert after a Malaysian airliner was shot down over a combat zone in Ukraine last week, followed suit. Israeli carriers continued to operate. "Hamas's success in closing the Israeli airspace is a great victory for the resistance, a terrible failure for Israel that wrecks the image of Israeli deterrence," said Hamas's Abu Zuhri. Clouds of black smoke hung over Gaza, some 65 km south of Ben Gurion, with the regular thud of artillery and tank shells filling the air, sending thousands of civilians fleeing from the town of Beit Hanoun in the northern Gaza Strip. "This is not war, this is annihilation," said 17-year-old Hamed Ayman. "I once dreamt of becoming a doctor. Today I am homeless. They should watch out for what I could become next." Medics said more than 36 people were killed yesterday, hiking the Palestinian death toll to 678 with a Gaza-based rights group saying more than 80 percent of them were civilians and 24 percent of them are children. Most of yesterday's dead were in Khuzaa on the Israeli border, close to the southern city of Khan Yunis, the scene of very heavy fighting since before dawn. The war is extracting a heavy toll on impoverished Gaza, with Palestinian officials saying that at least 475 houses had been totally destroyed by Israeli fire and 2,644 partially damaged. Some 46 schools, 56 mosques and seven hospitals had also suffered varying degrees of destruction.

Recruit more

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Bangladesh also wanted to know how effectively and efficiently the country can contribute to the UN peacekeeping missions. In response, Ladsous laid emphasis on 'speed of deployment' in which Bangladesh is a unique example. He also talked about language skill, especially French. Replying to another question on Ameerah Haq, Ladsous said she worked very efficiently in her 38-year long UN career and it was usual to go on retirement. Earlier, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Hassan Mahmood Khandker also requested Herve Ladsous to incorporate Bangladeshi peacekeepers in policy-making level posts in peacekeeping missions when the latter made a courtesy call on him at the police headquarters yesterday morning. The UN under-secretary-general gave assurance in this regard, according to a press release of the police headquarters. Ladsous praised the members of Bangladesh Police serving in peacekeeping missions in different countries for their efficiency, professionalism, sincerity and bravery. He said the UN will continue its cooperation with Bangladesh for modernising the police force. Hassan Mahmood Khandker said members of Bangladesh Police have a glorious role in establishing peace in different war-torn countries throughout the world. Ladsous arrived here on Tuesday night on a three-day official visit. He is scheduled to meet President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the chiefs of the three services.

Possible many more MH17 bodies with wreckage: Australia

AFP, Sydney

Australia's Prime Minister Tony Abbott yesterday said it was possible that many bodies from the MH17 crash were still lying in the open in Ukraine. All 298 people onboard the Malaysia Airlines jet, including 28 Australian nationals and nine residents, were killed after the aircraft was apparently shot down over Ukraine last week. "It's quite possible that many bodies are still out there, in the open in the European summer, subject to interference, and subject to the ravages of heat and animals," Abbott told a press conference in Canberra. Abbott called for a "full recovery search" of the crash site in the rebel-held eastern Ukraine, saying such an operation was "necessary if all of the bodies are to be recovered". The Australian leader added that he had "serious concerns" about the recovery of the victims' bodies. "It has been up until now quite unprofessional," he said. "As long as it's possible that there are any Australian remains out there we owe it to the families to do our utmost to recover them." Dutch experts have said they were only sure 200 bodies had been recovered so far -- less than what the pro-Russian rebels had promised. International monitors also said some remains were left decomposing under the sweltering summer heat in the vast crash site in rebel-held east Ukraine.