

Three children hurt in Chuadanga bomb blasts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushiya

Three children, including two boys, were critically injured in two separate incidents of crude bomb blasts in Chuadanga on Tuesday.

Of them, two boys were badly hurt in Jhanjhadanga village of Damurhuda upazila, and a girl was seriously wounded in Raipur village of Jibonnagar upazila.

According to police, when some kids were playing in a mango orchard around 3:30pm, two boys, Laden, 7, son of Selim Uddin, and Tuhin Uddin, 6, son of Badar Uddin, of Jhanjhadanga village, came into contact with a live crude bomb and it exploded.

Right hand and right leg of Laden and left leg of Tuhin were severely injured. Both are undergoing treatment at Damurhuda Upazila Health Complex.

In another incident, a schoolgirl was wounded in a bomb explosion when her father was reportedly making crude bombs at their house in Raipur.

Left hand of Bristi Khatun alias Eka, 14, was blown off in the blast that occurred around 7:45pm, said Humayun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Jibonnagar Police Station.

Eka is a daughter of Aslam Ali, an alleged member of Janajuddha, a faction of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML), the police official told this correspondent over phone.

Quoting locals, the OC said Aslam was making bombs at his house and the class-VIII student of Raipur High School was doing her homework, sitting nearby her father.

Suddenly a bomb went off there, said the police official.

Aslam along with his daughter went into hiding soon after the incident, he added.

Later, law enforcers recovered splinters from the spot.

The OC said police were trying to nab them.

70 freed on fake

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Naim, a peon at the court.

Sources said Naim along with Moslehuddin Bhuiyan, a bench assistant at the same court, issued fake bail orders forging the judge's signature, and got released at least 110 accused.

The forgery was detected in early July in an investigation by the court. The probe followed a lawyer's allegations of bail forgery.

On July 12, Obaidul Karim Akando, an official at the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, filed a case with Kotwali Police Station against the two court staffs over the forgery.

Police later arrested Naim and Moslehuddin.

Yesterday, a team from the Anti-Corruption Commission detained Ismail from the court area around 11:00, said court sources.

Metropolitan Magistrate Waez Kuruni Khan Chowdhury recorded Ismail's statement for over three hours after ACC Deputy Assistant Director Md Safiullah took Ismail to his chamber.

Ismail told the magistrate that Naim had put aside some case documents that were sent to the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court from the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court for disposal, according court sources.

He said Naim received a huge amount of money from relatives of the accused, who got released through fake bail orders. Naim gave a portion of the money to Moslehuddin, said the sources.

Ismail claimed that he got a small amount of money for sending the fake bail orders to the prison authorities.

According to the sources, of the 110 accused in 76 criminal cases, 14 were released from jail in January, 20 each in February and March, 16 in April and 40 in May through fake bail orders.

Investigators

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Police on Tuesday remanded the two suspects -- Rashedun Nabi Khan Biplob and Humayun Kabir Hira -- in the murder case filed on Sunday with the police station against three unidentified killers.

Hoshi was shot dead on Saturday morning, five days after an Italian aid worker was gunned down in a similar attack in Dhaka.

The murders caught the government off-guard, with a US-based organisation monitoring Jihadi activities claiming that militant outfit Islamic State took credit for the killings.

HOSPITAL RELEASES ZAKARIYA Zakariya Bala, who sheltered Hoshi in his Munsipara house, was released from Rangpur Medical College Hospital on Tuesday after receiving treatment under police custody for a cardiac condition.

Police detained the 55-year-old on Saturday for interrogation. He suffered a heart attack around 2:30pm that day and was admitted to the hospital within about an hour, said Prof Badrul Alam of cardiology department.

Zakariya's wife Ayesha Bala has been missing since his husband was released from the hospital. Her cell phone was found switched off, said Zakariya's niece Afika Akhter. "I only think about the nine-year-old son of my uncle and aunt."

Visiting the detainee's house yesterday morning, reporters found it was still guarded by four cops.

Police allowed newsmen in the house to meet Ayesha's mother only in their presence. Anik, the third-grader son of Zakariya, was there, but he seemed to be afraid of police and would not talk to journalists.

Like Zakariya, three other people were detained immediately after the murder for "interrogation". The three are Humayun Kabir Hira, a friend of Hoshi; Murad Ali and Monnaf Hossain.

The murder took place in front of Murad's house. Monnaf used to take Hoshi to his project by pulling a rickshaw.

Police later showed Hira as an accused in the case and remanded him along with Biplob. But law enforcers kept mum about Murad and Monnaf.

At a meeting with top police officials in Rangpur, the visiting four-member Japanese investigation team yesterday discussed harassment of the ruling party's political opponents over the case. The team collected viscera samples of the deceased from the Rangpur Medical College morgue, said police sources.

The team also met the government prosecutor at a local court to learn about the prosecution process.



Some of the 802 birds -- mostly parakeets, munia and starlings (shaliks) -- rescued by a team of Wildlife Crime Control Unit of the forest department from Gazipur yesterday. Two people have been sentenced to one year in jail in this connection.

An alarming breach

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board the aircraft.

"My ticket was checked and bag scanned when I entered the domestic terminal. After taking the boarding pass at the counter and while moving into the security area, I went through a complete body scan and a seal was stamped on my boarding pass," Pulak said.

"Then before boarding the bus that took us near the aircraft, US Bangla Airlines officials checked my boarding pass and tore off one portion. They checked our pass once more when we got down from the bus and finally the steward who welcomed us inside the aircraft looked at our pass and told us where our seats were," he said.

"How can the young woman pass through all these stages without showing a boarding pass?" he said.

Pulak said even after detecting a passenger without a ticket and boarding pass, the airlines did not carry out a full security check until other passengers, concerned about security, raised a hue and cry.

"Only when we protested did they take steps to check the cabin and the cargo hold," he said.

Samia did not have any carry-on. Her luggage did not have any tags, which frightened the passengers even more, Pulak said.

The authorities found nothing other than some papers containing boutique designs and drawings of people, note sheets and a hand bag. They handed Samia over to the Armed Police Battalion (APBn).

Kamrul Islam, public relations officer

of US Bangla Airlines, said, "It is CAAB [Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh] that is responsible for checking passengers from the entrance to the flight."

The airline's security-affairs officer Shafayet Jalal also told the BBC Bangla service, "The thing is she went inside dodging the eyes of the civil aviation security and then she got into our bus somehow and into the aircraft where we found her."

When asked how the woman got into the airline bus without a ticket and boarding pass, Jalal said they would look into the matter.

APBn Senior Assistant Superintendent Alamgir Hossain, who was on-duty then, told The Daily Star that he had talked to US Bangla Airlines authorities and "they said there were four flights taking off or landing. So, the domestic terminal was very busy. Somehow the girl managed to dodge the security checks."

Alamgir said, "During our interrogation, Samia told us that she had left her Khilkhet home after a fight with her mother over studies."

He contacted Samia's mother who went to the airport and told the authorities that Samia has had psychological issues for a year.

"We handed Samia over to her mother," Alamgir Hossain said.

Rozina Islam, Samia's mother, told The Daily Star over phone that Samia had been suffering from psychiatric problems since she was in college and that she had received treatment at a number of hospitals.

"We got her admitted to a hospital in Mirpur today [Wednesday]," she said.

Foreign missions

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"There is a high threat from terrorism. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places visited by foreigners," the UK said in its advisory updated yesterday.

"You should be particularly vigilant and take appropriate security precautions. Keep a low profile in all public spaces and limit your attendance at events where westerners may gather, for example, in hotels or conference centres," the UK alert added.

Canada has also asked its citizen to "exercise a high degree of caution" in Bangladesh.

Australia in its latest advisory also asked its citizens to "exercise a high degree of caution in Bangladesh".

The Australian government has advised its staff to travel only by vehicle in Dhaka for the time being.

"The foreign missions will not lower or soften their travel alerts until and unless they are fully convinced that the investigation is going in the right direction," a Western ambassador told The Daily Star last night.

The ambassador said foreign diplomats still had the firm apprehension about violent attacks.

Talking to The Daily Star, the ambassador of an Arab country said the perception of the western countries were not the same as that of Arab, African or Muslim countries.

However, German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Gerd Muller paid a two-day visit to Bangladesh and attended several programmes in and outside Dhaka.

Muller, who arrived in Dhaka Tuesday, accompanied a 10-member delegation, including Parliamentary State Secretary for Economic Cooperation and Development Hans-Joachim Fuchtel.

The German embassy also hosted a reception yesterday evening at the Westin Hotel to celebrate the Day of German Unity. German Ambassador Thomas Prinz hosted the reception and it was attended and addressed by

the visiting German minister and Bangladesh Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed.

Even though a good number of foreign and local dignitaries attended it, the number of diplomats from foreign missions was comparatively smaller than usual, witnesses said.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh in a travel advisory asked its nationals not to visit Libya, due to the fighting and deterioration of the situation there.

"Bangladesh nationals including migrant workers are again strongly advised not to undertake any visit to Libya in view of the ongoing fighting and deteriorating security situation," according to an official announcement.

"Unless unavoidable, visiting Bangladesh nationals from Libya are also advised to refrain from travelling back to Libya for the time being," said the foreign ministry press release.

Trio wins

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the process. It proof-reads the code and repairs damage.

The three were lauded for mapping these processes, starting with Lindahl, who identified so-called repair enzymes -- the basics in the toolbox.

Sancar discovered the mechanisms used by cells to fix damage by ultraviolet radiation. Modrich laid bare a complex DNA-mending process called mismatch repair.

"The basic research carried out by the 2015 Nobel laureates in chemistry has not only deepened our knowledge of how we function, but could also lead to the development of lifesaving treatments," the Nobel committee said.

With cells able to repair themselves, one could ponder the dizzying possibility that humans could go on living forever.

"No, I don't believe in eternal life," Lindahl, who is based in Britain, told reporters by telephone at the prize announcement, saying winning the prestigious honour was "a surprise".

Train delayed for 4 hours Sepp Blatter

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6:40am (scheduled time).

The train, Kalni Express, left the station for Dhaka four hours after they awoke, freshened up and ate their breakfast.

However, the reason for their sleep was not too unrealistic. They reached Sylhet yesterday at 4:45am driving the same train from Dhaka, six hours behind schedule. It was humanly impossible for them to start another trip in less than one and a half hours.

What is most interesting about it is that the railway authorities had no alternative arrangement even though they were aware of the delay and the suffering it would cause to about 350 passengers.

"Kalni Express, which usually starts for Sylhet at 4:00pm, started for Sylhet at 10:30pm Tuesday night because of an accident on the route the night before," said Divisional Railway Manager Arifur Rahman.

Rummi Qureishi, a passenger who travelled to Dhaka with his daughter, claimed the authorities could not be more indifferent about the mismanagement.

"Finally, the train began to move at 10:40am but there was nobody to say sorry for the sufferings of the passengers," he said.

It arrived at the Kamalapur Railway Station three hours late at 8:20pm, he added.

According to railway sources, operating staffs of a train are given enough

time to rest after driving a train before they are engaged in the next trip. Alternative drivers, assistant drivers and guards are kept ready so that they can take over during the next trip in case of small gaps between the two trips.

"But in case of Kalni train, no alternative arrangement could be made due to shortage of loco masters, assistant loco masters and guards," said Arifur Rahman, a senior railway official.

The schedule of Kalni Express is prepared in a way that the operating staffs can take rest before the train's return trip to Dhaka. "But it was not possible yesterday because of the train's delayed arrival in Sylhet," he mentioned.

Recruitment in Bangladesh Railway has stopped for years now because of writs filed against alleged corruption in the recruitment process. It was only last year that a new batch of drivers and assistant drivers were recruited.

"Over the last four years, we managed the trips with retired drivers with contractual appointment," said Director Establishment of Railway Prodig Kumer Saha.

He said 230 loco masters were appointed last year while appointment of 76 others is underway.

"But the appointed persons cannot yet operate trains as they are now taking trainings," he told The Daily Star.

Cops go tough

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as per the rule. They [demonstrators] are trying to create unnecessary chaos in the name of agitation," he told reporters at a programme at his ministry.

Pragatishil Chhatra Jote and Samrajjobad Birodhi Chhatra Oikya, two alliances of 14 left-leaning student bodies, jointly organised a strike at many educational institutions yesterday, expressing solidarity with the admission seekers.

The strike was observed in Rangpur, Bogra, Sylhet, Comilla, Moulvibazar, Chandpur, Gaibandha, Mymensingh, Kushiya, Naogaon and Barisal, Imran Habib Rumon, convener of the alliances, told a press briefing at Shahbagh.

The alliances also brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus, demanding fresh tests for admission into the medical and dental colleges.

The main gate of the Faculty of Arts building was kept locked. Classes at the university were mostly vacant but some examinations took place as per the schedule, said students.

At Chittagong University, some departments suspended their classes and examinations.

The medical admission seekers have consistently been agitating since September 19, a day after the admission tests, complaining that many candidates got the questions through Facebook, WhatsApp, and other social media.

Yesterday, around 400 students along with their guardians held a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar around 11:00am. Expressing solidarity with the movement, some students of Dhaka Medical College (DMC) joined in.

With banners and posters, they took out a procession and went to Shahbagh, but found the street in front of the Public Library barricaded.

Removing the barricades, they moved on and kept the busy Shahbagh intersection blocked from all sides from 12:30pm till 2:00pm, halting traffic and creating huge tailbacks.

Members of Pragatishil Chhatra Jote, Samrajjobad Birodhi Chhatra Oikya, students of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and some private medical colleges joined them there.

Talking to The Daily Star, Nowshin Tabassum, a fourth year student at the DMC, said they quit their classes to join the demonstration.

"We will not accept that our juniors will get admitted to medical colleges through corruption. Otherwise, it is the people who will suffer in the long run," she said.

From Shahbagh, the protesters started to march towards the health directorate at Mohakhali through the Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. But police obstructed some of them at Bangla Motor intersection while others managed to proceed.

The students were finally stopped at Karwan Bazar. In protest, they sat down on the lane in front of Star Restaurant around 3:00pm.

Police initially requested the students to leave, but they did not pay any heed to the law enforcers' requests and kept the busy thoroughfare blocked for around 15 minutes.

At one point, police baton-charged and chased the protesters away. Some of them were beaten up during the time.

The students alleged some women protesters were assaulted by male police personnel.

Wahiduzzaman, additional deputy commissioner (Tejgaon division) of DMP, rejected the allegation.

Russia fires

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(900miles), according to a Russian officer.

Shoigu said no strikes were targeted at civilian areas.

Andrei Kartapolov, of the Russian General Staff, later told Russian news agencies that Moscow had attacked using warships in order to cast the "overpopulated areas".

Dramatic footage of the missiles being launched and lighting up the night sky were broadcast on Russian television.

A military source quoted by Syrian state television said that Russian ships targeted 11 Isis positions in Raqqa, Aleppo, and Idlib, destroying bomb factories, command posts, weapon supply depots, and "terrorist training centres".

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carry out further investigation," Blatter's advisor Klaus Stoeckli told CNN.

Stoeckli added that Blatter still considered himself the president of FIFA and is "still prepared to serve FIFA."

Any suspension would have to be rubber stamped by the adjudicatory arm of FIFA's Ethics Committee, which would rule on the request of the investigatory chamber.

This latest blow for Blatter comes after the Swiss attorney general opened criminal proceedings against Blatter last month.

The Swiss authorities are looking into allegations believed to centre on a 2005 TV rights deal between FIFA and Jack Warner, the former president of CONCACAF, the governing body of football in North and Central America and the Caribbean as well as the "disloyal payment" to Platini.

Blatter was informed of the decision by the head of FIFA's Adjudicatory Chamber Hans-Joachim Eckhardt.

Stoeckli said Blatter would be back in his FIFA office Thursday, insisting that the Swiss hadn't served his last day as the organisation's president.

Pressure group NewFIFANow, which has campaigned against Blatter, reiterated its call for radical reform of the world governing body.

"With criminal investigations reaching the highest levels of FIFA, and potential ethics investigations into other Presidential candidates, it once again reinforces the need for a complete 'new broom' at FIFA to implement independent reform and essentially to start again," said a NewFIFANow statement.

If Blatter is suspended, Issa Hayatou, vice-president of FIFA, would potentially be in line to take charge of the organisation.

3 cases filed

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with Karnaphuli Police Station under the Arms Act 1878, Anti-terrorism Act 2009 and Explosive Substances Act 1908, said police sources.

The Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate's Court granted five-day remand for each of them in each case after police produced them before it.

Another detainee Taufique-ul-Islam alias Javed alias Rana, who was identified by the police as commander and chief of the explosive division of JMB, was killed in a grenade explosion while in custody of detectives early Tuesday.

Two JMB men Fardin and Gias, who police came to know about during the interrogation of the arrestees, were also made accused in the cases filed under the 2009 Act and the 1908 act, said Sub-inspector Aftab Hossain of Detective Branch of the Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP).

JMB activist Babu was also shown arrested in the case filed with Bayezid Police Station in connection with the killing of pir (religious instructor) Rahamat Ullah, popularly known as Lyangta Fakir, and his assistant Khadem Abdul Kader at a shrine at Bangla Bazar on September 4.

He told police that he alone had killed the duo for what he said was their anti-Islamic activities, said CMP Additional Commissioner AKM Shahidur Rahman. Babu yesterday gave confessional statement under Section-164 in the case at the Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, said court sources.

Meanwhile, DB filed two cases in connection with Javed's murder that happened when detectives took the JMB man along to search for grenades hidden by him. Unknowns were accused in the cases of obstructing police in discharging their duties, the murder and possessing explosives.