The Daily Star





Bomb defused in Savar; blast near Barishal court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A powerful bomb was defused in Savar yesterday, while a crude bomb-like object exploded outside the Barishal Judge Court.

The incidents came a day after police recovered 14 pipe bombs and bomb-making materials in Savar.

The man whose arrest led to Tuesday night's Savar raid has been identified as Mohammad Arif alias Imran. Police recovered five pipe bombs from a bag carried by Imran.

A case was filed against him, Md Nazmul Hasan Mamun, Md Abbas Ali, Kamal Hossain "Doctor", Baki and Rakib and six to seven unidentified people under sections 6(2), 8, 9, and 10 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2009, with the Savar Model Police Station yesterday.

The other five named accused are absconding. All are members of the banned militant outfit Neo-JMB, and they conspired to create panic and attack law-enforcement personnel, said the First Information Report.

On Tuesday night, Savar locals found a pressure cooker wrapped in black tape inside a blue plastic drum in an open field beside Laltek Ghora Mosque. They removed the pressure cooker from the drum and placed it on the field.

Police went to the spot around 8:00am yesterday after receiving a call through the emergency service and cordoned off the area. The bomb disposal unit of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police defused the device around 3:30pm.

"It was a very powerful bomb," Nur Mohammad, inspector (investigation) of Savar Police Station, told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, in Barishal, a crude bomb-like object was likely thrown from outside near the main gate of the Judge Court premises around 10:32am. No one was injured, police said.

The CCTV footage is not clear enough to identify who had thrown the object, said Abu Raihan Mohammad Saleh, commissioner of Barishal Metropolitan Police.

In another development, Hanufa Begum, who suffered severe burns in a blast in Barishal's Bakerganj, died yesterday after battling for nine days at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in Dhaka, said family members. The blast occurred at Shah Alam Howlader's house on August 3.

[Our correspondents in Savar and Barishal contributed to this report.]



Children sit atop tables as ankle-deep water fills a classroom at Madhabkati Bilpatiala Government Primary School in Khulna's Dumuria yesterday. With the Sholmari river being clogged by silt, the school remains waterlogged for much of the year, even in winter. The Daily Star reported the problem at least twice last year.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Ninth pay scale to be implemented over 2yrs

Secretaries' committee finalises proposal in principle

BAHARAM KHAN

The government is planning to implement the ninth pay scale for its employees over two fiscal years, according to sources in the secretaries' committee formed to deal with a proposal.

The committee, led by the cabinet secretary, met yesterday and finalised the pay scale proposal in principle for placement before the cabinet.

According to the draft proposal, partial implementation of the ninth pay scale would begin in July this year retrospectively and the implementional would be completed by January 2028 in phases.

- Lower-grade employees to get larger pay hike
- Cabinet to decide on phases of implementation

A member of the secretaries' committee, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Daily Star, "The cabinet, however, will finalise the number of phases for implementation."

An official in the finance ministry echoed his remarks.

On July 26, the Finance Division briefed Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on the nineth pay scale. The proposal was drafted in light of the discussion, two senior government sources told The Daily Star.

A source, who was present during the briefing, said lower-grade employees would receive relatively larger increases than higher-grade employees.

Asked for his opinion, public administration expert and former additional secretary Firoz Mia told The Daily Star, "The salaries of lower-grade employees should be increased by 100 percent at once, instead of in phases. I do not see any problem if the salaries of higher-grade employees are not increased initially.

"Higher-grade employees receive many benefits besides their salaries, but lower-grade employees are in great distress. The government should consider this matter," he added.

Meanwhile, a Cabinet Division source said complications over judicial matters arose during the finalisation of the ninth pay scale. To address them, the government formed a seven-member cabinet committee on August 6, led by Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, to finalise the pay scale for judicial employees.

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JULY UPRISING CASE

Death penalty sought for Quader and six others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution yesterday sought the maximum punishment for Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader and six other leaders of the party and its affiliated organisations.

It said exemplary punishment was needed to prevent politicians from turning against the people after getting a public mandate.

Concluding the prosecution's final arguments in a crimes against humanity case over atrocities committed during the July uprising, Chief Prosecutor Md Aminul Islam told International Crimes Tribunal-2 that the prosecution proved all four charges against the accused beyond reasonable doubt.

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'Has the govt learned nothing from the past?'

TIB says draft NHRC, enforced disappearance acts risk govt dominance, impunity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh expressed deep concern over the cabinet's in-principle approval of two rights-related draft laws, questioning whether the government and ruling party had learned any lessons from the enforced disappearances, killings and other "brutal and multifaceted" human rights violations committed under the ousted authoritarian regime.

The anti-graft body slammed the draft National Human Rights Commission Act, 2026, and the draft Enforced Disappearance Prevention and Redress Act, 2026, saying key recommendations from stakeholders had been ignored.

In a statement issued yesterday, TIB said that while the cabinet-approved draft National Human Rights Commission Act, 2026, contains several positive provisions, it retains clauses that stakeholders had warned could obstruct the NHRC's independent and effective functioning.

It pointed to the controversial Section 18 of the National Human Rights Commission Act, 2009 -- reproduced in the draft -- which restricts the NHRC

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
ধর্ম বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়

সতর্কীকরণ

ওমরাহ লাইসেন্সপ্রাপ্ত সকল এজেন্সিকে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, পবিত্র ওমরাহ পালনে ইচ্ছুক কোন ব্যক্তিকে ওয়ানওয়ে এয়ার টিকিট দিয়ে সৌদি আরব প্রেরণ করা যাবে না। তাঁকে অবশ্যই রিটার্ন টিকিটসহ সৌদি আরব প্রেরণ করতে হবে। একই সাথে পবিত্র ওমরাহ পালনে ইচ্ছুক ব্যক্তিকে রিটার্ন টিকিট নিশ্চিত হয়ে সৌদি আরব গমনের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

যে সকল এজেন্সি শুধুমাত্র ওয়ানওয়ে টিকিট দিয়ে ওমরাহ যাত্রীদের সৌদি আরব প্রেরণ করবেন তাদের বিরুদ্ধে কঠোর শাস্তিমূলক ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে ।

প্রচারে: ধর্ম বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়

