

EXPLOSION AT HAJO: 2 DEAD OVER 42 INJURED



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Our Correspondent from Guwahati

In yet another string of violence, suspected ULFA militants made a powerful explosion in Hajo on Wednesday which left two persons killed leaving 42 injured. These include four children at a wholesale market in the temple town.

According to information, the bomb was hidden in a bicycle which was laying at a post of the market's shed and it exploded at around 1 pm before the commencement of the time for opening.

One person was killed on the spot while another injured succumbed to his injuries while

being taken to hospital.

Thirteen people of the 42 injured are stated to be in a critical condition and of the four wounded children; a 10-year-old is struggling with death.

One of the dead was identified as wholesale vegetable dealer Sukur Ali, who hails from Kamrup.

Immediately after the incident, top ranked police and civil officials rushed to the spot and the 32 seriously injured people were taken to Guwahati Medical College Hospital for better treatment and the rest were admitted to local hospitals.

Official sources here say the Assam government has promised a sum of Rs 3 lakh to the kin of the dead and Rs 10,000 to the injured. Free medical treatment will be provided to the injured. Investigations are going on but no one has so far been arrested.

The explosion virtually pours cold water on the recent development of resuming ULFA's peace negotiations with the Centre as the later sets three pre conditions if what Dr Mamoni Roisom Goswami says is any indication.

According to the award winning writer on Tuesday, National Security Advisor M.K. Narayanan talked to Dr Goswami and those who accompanied him that the government is in the need of a written "communication from ULFA leaders expressing their willingness for unconditional talks.

Dr Goswami called on Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Monday and urged him to resume the peace process to save the Assamese from the brink. Dr Singh assured her of his steps to resume the process



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