Militants storm Kashmir army camp: 14 killed

Two Islamic rebels stormed an Indian army camp in Kashmir yesterday, killing 12 soldiers before being shot dead, in the most serious violence since India and Pakistan began mending ties in April, the army said.

The incident came as Indian President Abdul Kalam wrapped up a rare visit to troubled Kashmir by offering prayers for peace at the province's most revered Muslim shrine and meeting soldiers stationed at the volatile frontier with

50-year jail for

indifference to

accident victim

A Texas woman who left a home-

less man to bleed to death on her

windshield after a freeway acci-

dent has been sentenced to 50

struck Gregory Glenn Biggs as he

walked on a Fort Worth freeway in

Instead of seeking help, she

drove home, hid her car in her

garage and left him bleeding and

moaning for help on her broker

dump Biggs' lifeless body in a

park, where it was found the next

day, and burned one of her car

seats, in an effort to hide the crime.

she had been drinking, smoking

marijuana and taking Ecstasy the

night she hit Biggs, a 37-year-old

former bricklayer.
She was convicted of the crime

Thursday and sentenced Friday

after a jury of seven men and five

women deliberated for about two

country?" the home minister asked

in a written statement to parliament.

the firearms would also be recov-

ered. Those involved in the crime

would also be nabbed, he asserted.

Altaf said after the ammunition,

Later, Deputy Leader of the

Opposition Abdul Hamid during a

press briefing criticised the home

minister's statement and said the

government planted the bullets and

explosives to arrest and harass

Awami League leaders and activists

At the briefing at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, Abdul Hamid said

the government is in possession of

and a half hours.

Altaf senses

The former nurse's aide said

She later helped two friends

Chante Mallard, 27, accidently

AFP. Fort Worth

years in prison.

The two rebels hurled grenades as they infiltrated the Sunjjawan camp, a sprawling compound 10 kilometres from Jammu used as a transit point for troops coming in and out of the insurgency-torn province.

"The moment they entered they started firing indiscriminately." an army commander, Brigadier J.S. Thind, told reporters at the base.

Most troops were still sleeping waking up to find themselves under fire. Soldiers were rushed to the barracks under attack, setting off a

"Unfortunately we have suffered some casualties. Twelve were killed

and seven injured," Thind said. He said the rebels were also

aunned down. "We do not know as vet which place they belong to, but evidently the weapons used appear to be from across the border," Thind said in reference to Pakistan.

It was the deadliest attack since Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee visited Kashmir on April 18 and offered a "hand of friendship" to arch-rival Pakistan, which India accuses of fomenting the insur-



sheet accusing 15 persons. Of

them four -- chief accused Mokammel Hayat Khan Muki, Nurul Islam Sagar alias Tepa Nuru, Mohammad Masum and Mushfiq --

Mokbul Hossain Mukul, Sirajul Islam alias Wasim, Zakir Hossain Patwari alias Munna, Sujan, Avub and Year Mohammad are now in custody. Those on bail are SM Masum Billah, Rafiq alias 'Chacha Rafiq', Sheikh Solaiman alias Babul

Sony, a second year student of the Department of Chemical Engineering, was killed in a crossfire between the two rival groups of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal,

The gun battle took place over the submission of tender for construction of a new residential hall

Money laundering

Of the suspected accounts, four are with two nationalised commercial and 12 with one foreign bank.

travel agents, commission agents

involvement of some of the accounts holders in the act of money laundering and asked the anti-corruption bureau to go for

The taskforce holds meeting every month and has sent four case studies of money laundering to all banks to help them trace out abnormal transactions.

One of the case studies deals with a Sylhet-based coal importer who opened an account with the help of an official. He opened a letter of credit worth \$94,000 to import computer accessories from Dubai But inspections revealed that he had doubled the price of the acces-

The home minister also had said the recovery is not a small event. "People want to know where they

want to lead the country," he said.

Jalil refutes

FROM PAGE 12

across the country.

est quarter in government or a special bhaban," Jalil said in a statement in an oblique reference to Hawa Bhaban without naming it. Referring to the statements of

the prime minister in Khulna and the home minister in parliament accusing Awami League immediately after recovery of the explosives and ammunition, Jalil said the wild allegations without proper investigation manifested an effort to shift the blame on his party. He termed the prime minister

and home minister's statements motivated, false and imaginary and intended to victimise political oppo-

Jalil said such statements of the government leaders would encourage crime. This is how the ruling party has been protecting its goons and musclemen giving rise to criminality, secret killing, rape and extortion, which have spread all over the country like cancer, he added.

Sony murder

FROM PAGE 12

are absconding. Mushfiquddin alias Tagar,

one led by Muki and other by Tagar.

and a PDB office at BUET.

banks, 33 with two private banks

The owners of the accounts are

The BB has already confirmed

Hasina: Coup

person, Patal said Khaleda Zia paid tributes to Sheikh Mujib by visiting his mazar. She never spoke ill of or made derogatory remarks about Sheikh Shaheb. "On the contrary, the way Hasina spoke of other distinguished leaders of the country has doomed her own political Referring to the AL demand for

trial of Sheikh Mujib's killers, Patal questioned why Hasina did not hold trial of the killers of Bangabandhu by special tribunal when she was in power. "This would have implicated her party leaders including Abdul Momen and Farid Gazi," he added. He did not spare even his politi-

cal guru Tofael Ahmed and Mohammad Nasim and accused them of killing seven students on Dhaka University campus and five in Pabna jail.

Patal dismissed outright the Awami League charge that he was involved in the recent killing in Natore of Momtazuddin, a former lawmaker of the Awami League.

Big ammo haul

around two kilograms. An army official present at the spot told newsmen on condition of anonymity that about 200 grams of the explosives were enough to blow up a whole thana like Kahalu.

At around 10:00pm on Friday, two persons informed the Dupchachia police that a truck loaded with pineapples was left unclaimed at the brick kiln of Yasin Ali at Joarpara in Kahalu upazila. They also said some locals were

looting the pineapples and that Pintu along with five others were unloading some 'large and heavy plastic bags

Officer-in-Charge of the Dupchachia Police Station Zabid Hasan went to the spot and recovered the ammunition and explo-

Later, Dupchachia and Kahalu police jointly searched the village.

Acting on the statement of Pintu's wife Anwara Begum, they recovered four bags of ammunition from a bamboo cluster behind their house, one bag from the courtyard of the house, one from a nearby

pond and 15 packets of explosives from a room at the house.

Police also arrested Bachhu Fnamul. Sohel and Feroz of the same village who were allegedly helping Pintu unload the bags from

Police suspect the ammunition and explosives were brought from

The Dupchachia officer-incharge said Pintu was on the police list of suspects for long but there was no specific allegation against

Without directly blaming the AL, ruling BNP lawmaker from Bogra Helaluzzaman Talukdar said the incident made it clear who were engaged in anti-state activities. He demanded immediate arrest of the

District AL President Mamtaz Uddin however said he does not know of any AL leader by the name of Pintu. He denied involvement of

any AL activist in such crimes. A team of army explosive experts from Bogra and Dhaka went to the spot to inspect the ammunition and

Monica Ali

process, Simon Torrence, in an interview at the High Commission. restated the purpose to be "research", the release said.

This created some confusion prompting the High Commission officials to invite Monica and Torrence to the mission to have them clarify the purpose of their visit in line with normal diplomatic practices across the world.

Following the clarification, the release said, Monica and Torrence were requested to send their passports to the High Commission for ssuance of visa for Bangladesh. "Not getting any response from

hem, the invitation was repeated a number of times" and on February 10, Monica personally came to the High Commission when she was told that she is most welcome to visit Bangladesh Since she was not carrying the

passports with her, she was requested to send them to the Consular Section for visa and was told that the "High Commission would be very happy to facilitate their trip to Bangladesh at a time of their choosing" "The High Commission is still

waiting to receive their passports," said the Foreign Office release. Both Monica and Torrence hold British passports.

vanted to take it gracefully.

expunction of their speeches.

resignation on his own.'

Bhaban yesterday afternoon.

lax measure

formation," Harun told The Daily Star.

Finance and Planning Minister M

Saifur Rahman also assured the

chamber leaders and aggrieved

company directors of withdrawing the

provision, sources in the business

The self-assessment scheme.

introduced in the mid-1980s, encour-

aged taxpayers to submit tax returns

The number of tax returns during

FY02 under the scheme was about

370,000, which is about 80 per cent of

the total tax returns during the period. If

a taxpayer shows 15 per cent more

income from the previous fiscal's, then

his return is accepted without any

According to traders, the

muggings are taking place within an

area of about one kilometre sepa-

rated by Hazaribagh and Lalbagh

Hazaribagh area or Kamrangirchar

and wait by the road to pounce on

innocent traders who make a living

"I have been using this road for a

long time. Almost everyday, for the

last three months, I have been

hearing about such incidents.

Occasionally, I see a police car

patrol the area, but they do not do

nspector (ASI) at the Hazaribagh

Police Station and also the duty

officer on Thursday, told The Daily

Star that the area under their juris-

diction on that day stretched

between the Sikdar Medical and

Kalunagar (first Kamrangirchar

mugging incidents and deployed

some patrol there," the ASI said.

"Most of the muggings are taking

place in Lalbagh area, not in the

Duty officer of Lalbagh Police

Station ASI Shahadat advised this

correspondent to talk to the officer in

charge (OC). "If the OC wants,

everything would be solved."

Shahadat said. "We have however

three patrol cars in the area. It is

very unfortunate that muggers are

still active there.'

Hazaribagh Police Station area."

"We however heard of some

Samir, an assistant sub-

anything to stop it," he said.

out of hard work, Khadem Ali said.

The muggers appear from

because of its simplified rules.

Muggers

FROM PAGE 1

police stations.

know what to do.

circle said.

Senior ministers and ruling party

None, however, demanded

But Deputy Leader of the

Opposition Abdul Hamid said: "After

all this the state minister should not

hold the office. He should tender

Hamid made the comments at a

oress briefing in the Sangsad

legislators listened to the charges

and counter-charges in rapt atten-

She urged the local people to cooperate with the government in curbing crime and asked them not to Khaleque shelter robbers, killers and anar-FROM PAGE 1 chists. In this context, she accused against him," Salahuddin said. some parties of patronising criminals He, however, said Khaleque saying they do not want peace and spoke 'matching his quality' and he disciplineinthecountry.

The prime minister came down heavily on opposition Awami League

ThedistrictunitBNPorganisedthe

meeting on the occasion of inaugura-

tion of Doratana Bridge over the river

Bhairab on the Bagerhat-Pirojpur

regional highway. Khaleda Zia inau-

gurated the bridge by unveiling a

725-metre approach road on both

sides was constructed at Tk 33.30

The 630.50-metre bridge with

The prime minister said her gov-

She warned that the government

would take stern action against those

carrying out murders, criminal activi-

ties and plundering in the southern

region in the name of 'Sarbahara'.

Nonewillbespared,"shecautioned.

'Sarbahara' but killers, robbers,

anarchists and plunderers of public

and private property. The prime

minister said they would be arrested,

triedandpunished.

Khaleda Zia said they are not

ernment would not tolerate crime and

it believed in development through

peaceandsecurityofthepeople.

olaqueanddroveacrossit.

allegingthatthepartywaspatronising criminals and trying to create chaos and indiscipline to obstruct the massive development works being carriedoutbyhergovernment.

Dampara road in Chittagong city goes under knee-deep water following heavy rain yesterday

Another anti-crime drive

She said Awami League was rendering lip service to secularism andunleashedtortureandrepression on the Hindu community, plundering their properties and grabbing their

Peopleofanyreligioncouldnotlive inpeaceanddidnotfeelsecureduring their rule, she alleged, adding that they had also unleashed attacks on Muslimsandmosques. The prime minister said Awami

League men were involved in the killing of Kali Das Boral of Bagerhat during their last government and the trialforthemurdercasewasnotheld. Amidst applause from her audience, she assured the local people

that trial of the Boral murder case

would be held soon and the killers

wouldbepunished. Khaleda Zia said people of Bangladesh rejected Awami League in last general election as they knew if the party came to power the country's independence and sovereignty would be at stake and people of any religionwouldnotliveinpeace.

Listing the development works and various pragmatic programmes and policies of the 20-month old government, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said her government believes in

Local MP MH Selim also addressed the meeting. Communication Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda and State Minister for Communication Salauddin Ahmed, among others, attended the bridge inaugurationprogramme. Earlier, the prime minister in augu-

rated a Safe Home for under-trial women and voung female prisoners at Bagerhat town through unveiling the plague. She visited the Home and talkedtotheinmates

50 women and girl inmates was constructedatacostofTk3.75crore.A total of 15 women and children from Jessore, Khulna, Magura, Satkhira andBagerhatjailswerebroughttothe shelterforsafecustody. Social Welfare Minister

Muhammad Ali Ahsan Mujaheed, BNPleaderBegumKhajaAhsanullah Samsunnahar and PM's Political Secretary Mohammad Mosaddek Ali were among others who accompa-Soon after her arrival at Bagerhat,

fatehaandmunajat.

The Safe Home with a capacity for

the prime minister along with her entourage also visited the mazar of HazratKhanJahanAli(R)andoffered



A little Iraqi girl looks on as US soldiers carry out a house-to-house search through the narrow alleys of old Baghdad yesterday during which three men were arrested. Coalition forces have detained more than 900 people loyal to Saddam Hussein's regime, who have allegedly been "subverting" US efforts to rebuild Iraq. (Story on page 12)

Hartal sees patchy fights

Police were seen beating the

hartal pickets and Obaidul Qader, joint secretary of the AL, was among those hurt in Dhanmondi. Women activists of the opposition also came under attack by female police. AL leaders alleged that two of their female workers were assaulted at the Dhanmondi Police Station after being picked up by police. At about 12:45pm the pro-hartal

demonstrators came under another attack by police when they tried to break a police cordon near Russel Square in Dhanmondi. Police fired at least 20 rounds of

rubber bullets and were countered by a similar number of handmade bombs by pickets at about 2:00pm at the same place. Police attacked the crowd when they attempted to burn the effigy of Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, parliamentary affairs advisor to the prime minister. AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil

told the BBC radio that attack on his party men during hartal hours was part of the repressive measures of the government. But Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Ashraful Huda said the police response was needed to ensure public security. He said about 100 people including nine women were

arrested during yesterday's hartal.
Police charged baton on a procession at Bangabandhu Avenue at central office When the demonstrators

attempted to break the police cordon at the western end of Bangabandhu Avenue, some processionists hurled brickbats on a police vehicle prompting the policemen to hit back. At least eight AL activists were injured in the police attack. Police also picked up 11 AL workers. Police sealed off all entrances to

Bangabandhu Avenue from the early hours yesterday by placing barbed-

Police also went into action against Awami League processions in other parts of the city. They charged batons on processions led advocate Rahmat Ali and Rahmatullah at Banani, Saber Hossain Chowdhury at Malibagh and Haji Selim at Lalbagh. Police cordoned off AL leader Kamal Ahmed Mazumder and other activists for several hours since early morning at Mirpur. In Malibagh, Maniruzzaman a police havilder, was injured by b r i c k b a t s . Police attacked pro-hartal activists in Mohammadpur, Gulshan, Uttara, Jatrabari and Chawkbazar in old part

One Abu Ali Hossain, a resident of 75, Banogram, Sutrapur, sustained injury in his left hand as pickets hurled a bomb on him at about 11:45am near the water tank in Banogram

at Mirpur and damaged two other hicles in the city. Witnesses said shops and

schools and most of the business houses remained closed and automobiles remained off the streets, disrupting public life in the city during the dawn to dusk shutdown. In Chittagong, the hartal passed

off neacefully excepting some stray incidents. Most vehicles remained off the roads while four vehicles were

Dy speaker

the opposition, he said.

The AL is boycotting the House sittings to press for its three-point demand including an apology by the State Minister for Housing Alamgir Kabir for his "filthy and derogatory" remarks against Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina during budget discussion on Wednesday Hamid said the budget speech of treasury bench member Salauddin Quader Chowdhury shows that invective' at the opposition leader by the treasury bench members is continuina.

"Before having any tea, the use of indecorous and abusive words against the opposition leader must stop." Hamid told reporters.

2 abducted US soldiers

detained more than 900 former regime loyalists, former Fedayeen and other criminals that are out there subverting our efforts," said

On June 17, the US military nad announced that 371 people in the Baghdad area and northern Iraq were detained as part of Operation Desert Scorpion aimed at rooting out armed resistance. Away in Fallujah, two anti-tank

rockets hit and burnt-out a US armoured vehicle overnight, witnesses told AFP yesterday, reporting casualties. Unknown assailants staged the attack just after Friday mid-

night in the town, 50-km west of Baghdad. Ambulances took away the wounded, according to the witness who were unable to say how many were hurt or of what nation-

Residents also said there was an explosion around 6:00 am local time at the same location where the US vehicle had been attacked hours earlier.

US forces have stepped up their presence in Fallujah, carrying out intensive searches. US troops shot dead at least 16 penple in the town during a demonstration in April.

Another report says, one US soldier was killed and four others wounded in Irag overnight in the latest of a series of anti-American

The soldier was killed late Friday when a convoy was ambushed in Baghdad, Sergeant First Class Patrick Compton said. An Iraqi translator was also injured in the attack, he said, without providing any further

Almost daily ambushes and the rising death toll prompted US Secretary of State Colin Powell to urge Americans to be patient, as the tactics used by former Baathist militia showed worrying signs of diversifying.

US soldiers patrolling the country have regularly been targeted by snipers, gunmen and attackers using rocket-propelled

grenades (RPGs). Meanwhile, a group of policy experts left for Iraq Friday to provide Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and US administrator Paul Bremer an independ-

ent assessment of the post-war

state of the country, the Pentagon The decision to turn to outside experts for advice comes amid growing concern over signs of organised armed resistance against the US-led occupation forces, as well as delays in mov-

ing toward Iraqi self-rule. The Pentagon's chief spokesman portrayed the mission as providing independent expertise and ideas on how to go about building a new government in

The five-member group is led by John Hamre, a former deputy defence secretary in President Bill Clinton's administration and now president of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank,

In another incident, a fire swept through a Baghdad warehouse vesterday where school books were being stored, with a US soldier saying looters may have set the blaze. The officer, who asked not to

the spokesman said.

be named, said the fire had started at around midday, and an AFP reporter at the scene saw thick smoke still billowing from the site around one hour later. US troops caught two young Iraqis trying to escape from the

building and handed them over to raqi police, the officer said. It was not known if the warehouse contained new school books which the US-led authorities are currently printing to replace text books which included references to Saddam Hussein

BNP leader's house ransacked

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A group of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) men ransacked a BNP leader's house at Monafer More of the city on Friday night. A group of ten arriving on a

microbus and two motor cycles stormed into former Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal vice president and Raishahi University senate member Shahin Shawkat's house at 11.30pm They fired several shots at his

house damaging doors, windows and furniture. The gang left the spot as locals gathered taking it for a dacoity bid. Shahin's wife Dilruba Shawkat

filed a case accusing ten BNP men. She mentioned names of Boni. Harun and Sun in the case. The dispute arose earlier yester-

day between Minu group and Kabir group refused to comply with Kabir group's demand to form a committee for Ward 32 through voting.

Hamidul Haque made Appellate Division judge

BSS, Dhaka

President lajuddin Ahmed has appointed Justice Mohammad Hamidul Haque a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, an official handout said

Justice Haque is currently a udge of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court.

Shrimp farm owner shot dead in Satkhira **OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira**

and his ousted regime.

A shrimp farm owner was shot dead

by a gang of miscreants at Kulpota

n Tala upazila in the early hours of The victim was identified as Abu Bakar, 30, son of Abu Zafar of village Hariharnagar in the upazila. Police said a gang of eight

entered Bakar's shrimp enclosure

(gher) at Kulpota at about 2:30 am and demanded Tk one lakh from As Bakar refused to give in to their demand, the miscreants sprayed

bullets on him. He died on the spot. Abu Zafar, father of the victim. filed a case with Tala Police Station accusing ten people

Robber killed in mob beating in Natore

BSS, Natore

An alleged robber was killed and another injured in mob beating at Mirzapur village under Lalpur upazila of the district Friday night. Police said Mostaque Áli, 35, son

of late Ijar Ali of village Naopara died

on the spot, while his accomplice Majdar Rahman, son of Majhar Uddin of village Gandobeel of Lalpur, was admitted to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH). Mostaque and Majhar were

caught by the villagers when they were allegedly taking preparation for committing robbery at a mango orchard at the village.

4 washed away

The worst affected unions are Samitirhat, Nanupur, Bujpur, Sundarpur, Paindong, Daulatpur, Narayanhat, Harualchhari. Shoabeel, Roshangiri and Nazirhat in Fatikchhari.

Floodwaters also inundated

parts of the Chittagong-

Khagrachhari and Chittagong-Nazirhat roads, disrupting traffic movement. The Nazirhat police outpost and Datmara Police Investigation Centre were relocated to nearby madrasha and high school pre-

Meanwhile, landslides death toll in Chittagong and Khagrachhari rose to 35 yesterday.

mises as waters crept into the

In Feni, Chhoto Feni, Muhuri and Kahua rivers crossed danger marks, swamping low-lying areas. Different areas under

Bagaichhari upazila in Rangamati

district went under water as the Kachalong river flew fiercely. Many villages in Sylhet and Netrakona also went under water.

Road communication between Chittagong and Rangamati was cut off as part of the road linking the towns was inundated at Berulia in Raozan yesterday morning.

Our Sylhet correspondent adds: torrential rains and onrush of hill waters flooded all low-lying areas in

Life in the city and other areas

downpour for the second successive day yesterday. The weather office said 113 millimeters of rain pounded the city yesterday, hampering flight movement from Osmani International Airport. The Surma and Kanaighat

flowed over their danger marks. Our Pabna correspondent adds: all the riverbank areas in the district were swamped by the swollen Padma and Jamuna.

Rolling waters from Garo hills in India swamped low-lying areas in Netrakona district. Meanwhile, Dhaka experienced

a wet weather yesterday when dark clouds hovered over the city throughout the day. Many low-lying areas in the capital were inundated, inflicting

sufferings to people. According to weather department, the inclement weather may

Knifed to death FROM PAGE 12

Mosque at Narinda. Ratan's father Azhar Ali identified

Police sent the body to Mitford hospital for autopsy

Police arrested Parvez from Dhaka General Hospital area in

continue for another couple of days.

the body that bore multiple marks of

connection with the case filed by

workers since the AL lost power in entering the ground floor of the AL the October 2001 elections