Iraqi cops ask US troops to get out of Fallujah

REUTERS, Fallujah

Iraqi police in Fallujah threatened to resign yesterday unless the US forces that trained them left town, saying the presence of American troops endangered their lives.

More than 100 members of the new US-backed force protested in the town about 50 km west of Baghdad after their police station and a municipality building came under attack overnight by guerrillas firing rocket-propelled gre-

There were no reported casual-

"We have the ability to protect these sites," said Riyadh Abdel-Latif, the town's police chief. "The presence of Americans endangers us. We asked the Americans more than a month and a half ago to leave Falluiah.

The protesters handed a petition to the mayor and US commander in the town, saying they would resign in 48 hours if American troops did not leave.

Fallujah is a hotbed of anti-American sentiment. US officials say they are facing organized resistance from mixed groups of Islamic militants, Saddam Hussein loyalists, armed gangs and Iraqis seeking revenge for the deaths of

US troops shot dead 15 protesters during demonstrations in the town three weeks after US and British troops ousted Saddam on

Frustration also grew with the US failure to restore basic services including water and electricity.

In an attempt to restore order since then, the United States has revived new police forces, many of whom served under the former regime and are regarded with

US-backed Iraqi police have een targeted for cooperating with the occupation forces. The biggest attack was last week, when a remote-controlled blast killed seven Iraqi police recruits in Ramadi, 100 km west of Baghdad.

On July 1, American troops came under grenade attack in Fallujah after an explosion at a mosque killed nine people.

Residents blamed a coalition air strike for the blast. Iraqi police in Fallujah and the US military in a joint investigation said the explosion occurred during a bombmaking class, but a US official later said he could not confirm it.

During the recent visit of

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman

to India his Indian counterpart had

argued that the trade gap between

the two countries could only be

Presently, trade is heavily tilted

minimised once Bangladesh

in favour of India as the official

trade deficit during 2001-2002 was to the tune of 1.1 billion US dollars.

an Indian proposal of introduction

of Dhaka-Āgartala bus service, and

Akhaura-Agartala and Sealdah-

Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury told The Daily Star that

the upcoming JEC meeting would

discuss all bilateral issues of

mutual interest. He, however,

refused to make any comment on

Bangladesh's position on trans-

shipment, transit, gas and transit

6-hr hartal in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet ends

Jamuna train services.

The JEC meeting would discuss

When asked, Commerce

exports its natural gas to India.

reduce the trade gap.

JEC agenda

FROM PAGE 12

Besides, a few influential ministers in the cabinet were also known to be against such move fearing adverse reaction in the political

Earlier, the finance ministry opposed a commerce ministry decision in allowing movement of Indian goods from one State to another through Bangladesh

The commerce ministry gave permission to a private firm to reexport Indian goods, which had also been stopped due to the opposite stance of the two ministries,

As far as FTA is concerned, Bangladesh's response will be positive at the upcoming meeting which is likely to set specific timeframe to initiate dialogue on a bilateral trade pact between Dhaka and New Delhi.

"Dhaka might opt for study and assessment to reach a consensus on transshipment, transit and gas export to India during the JEC meeting," a high official in the economic relations division (ERD)

On the issue of non-tariff harriers, often imposed on Bangladesh export items to Indian market, Dhaka would seek duty-free entry of all Bangladeshi items to India to

100 jt secys

FROM PAGE 12

They said the government will push ahead with its decision to promote officials of the two batches to additional secretaries even if it means it has to 'relax' the promotion policy. Sources added that a total of 173 officials of the 1977 and 1979 batches were made joint secretaries against only 46 vacancies before. The latest spell of promotion came on June 13, 2002. with 173 officials upgraded to joint secretary.

Since then, 49 joint secretaries have retired, two have taken voluntary retirement, three have been forced to retire and five promoted to additional secretaries. Moreover, 41 more joint secretaries will retire by year-end.

Still, the government is unnecessarily holding off filling a vacuum of 59 joint secretary posts in the administration, said sources.

Kochi's man

FROM PAGE 12

Mizan fired a shot from the pistol which missed; so he fired a second time. This time a bullet went out hitting Baker, standing in front, in the abdomen. Baker fell on the ground immediately.

Handing over the pistol to Arif, Mizan and Mintu took Baker in a taxicab to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where Baker died at around 9:30am.

Mizan introduced himself as Sujon at the DMCH, and Mintu left the hospital as soon as Baker died.

Baker's body was kept at the

DMCH morgue as no one went to receive the body. Meanwhile, Kafrul police halted Arif and Abul Kalam during a routine checking at Mirpur section-14 after the incident. As Arif tried to

run away, policemen chased and caught him. They found the 9mm pistol and three rounds of ammu-Both Arif and Abul Kalam con-

fessed to the whole incident.

Police said the youths were preparing for an operation at Ebadullah basti in Ibrahimpur.

Two cases one for murder and the other for possession of illegal firearms were filed against the four

with Kafrul Police Station Kafrul police said Mizan and Mintu are still absconding.

villagers clash in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

of them seriously, in a clash between two group of villagers at Gognobipur in sadar upazila yes-terday morning.

dispute between the rival groups over control of the village.

people of both sides injured.

B'baria boat capsize: Body of schoolgirl recovered

missing after a boat capsized in Chargoshaipur Beel in Nabinagar upazila Wednesday, was recovered

After the accident, villagers rushed to the spot in boats and

tered with Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) on April 28, 1989. BRTA officials think the car did

Hit by the car in front of Sobhanbag mosque, Dr Shajahan Ali, medical officer of Orthopaedic Hospital, was dragged on the road as his leg got tangled in the car's bumper. Instead of stopping the car and saving the doctor, the driver sped away to Samarita Hospital where he got down from the car and

The six-hour hartal called by the

Arpita Sampatty Ain Protirodh Andolan (Vested Property Law Resistance Movement) passed peacefully in Sylhet yesterday with commercial establishments and educational institutions remaining

Speakers at a rally held during the hartal at Court Point area demanded cancellation of the 'illegal' lease of the historic Singha Bari of Svlhet city given by the Deputy Commissioner and called for the lease extended to people who are in possession.

City Mayor, Badaruddin Ahmed Kamran, who is also the convenor of the Andolan, said that if the demands are not met, the next course of agitation will be announced from a grand rally on 31 July

On the other hand, the district administration in a written clarification claimed that things were done properly as the old lease was cancelled due to violation of lease conditions like construction of 10 shops on the property and subleasing of land.

However, the issue has now become complex as both the parties, the old and the new lessees, filed writ petitions in the high court during the last few weeks. Hearing of the three analogous cases will be

Akbar

FROM PAGE 1

the people concerned of his ministry have already been dispatched to the spot for investigation.

Besides, Water Resources Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmad and State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharef Hossain Shajahan are also on the scene, the minister said.

Akbar promised that further action would be taken against those responsible for the launch accidents.

The latest disaster, in which about 530 passengers were feared drowned, may bring the number of casualties to 1,230 -- a count on eight major river accidents since the BNP-led government came to power and Akbar became the

As the list of some major launch accidents during the period goes: MV Salahuddin capsized on May 5, 2002 killing 450 passengers; the MV Shubha tragedy on May 30, 2002 claimed 30 lives and MV Mitali sank leaving 131 dead.

50 injured as

Police quoted local people as saying that the clash began at about 9pm as a village arbitration failed to reach settlement to end a

The feuding groups used lethal weapons during the clash that continued for an hour leaving 50

The seriously injured Farid Mondol, 50, Sahin, 23, Montu, 30, Sahadat, 50, Alimuddin, 30, Belal 20, Mafid Mondol, 40, Alek, 50, and Kushtia General Hospital.

Two separate cases were filed with Sadar Police Station.

UNB, Brahmanbaria

The body of a schoolgirl, who went

The victim was identified as Ruma Akhter, 13, a student of class VI of Krishnanagar Abdul Zabbar High School. The mechanised boat, carrying

some 100 students of the school, sank in the beel due to strong

Killer car

FROM PAGE 12

soon find the address of the car

Record shows the car was regis-

not have an appropriate fitness certificate to ply the roads. It has fitness clearance till December 31,

Insurance plan

pensation is yet to be decided.

Earlier in 2000, the government had proposed to amend the Insurance Act, 1938 to bring marine passengers under mandatory life insurance coverage. The act covers road transport passen-

Meanwhile, entry fee at Sadargaht launch terminal in the city has been increased to Tk 4 a person from Tk 3 earlier. The additional Tk 1 will go to the welfare fund.

About Tk 50 to 60 lakh will be raised for the fund, sources said.

Entry fee at other terminals across the country might also be raised in phases to collect money for the fund.

A senior government official said the government had earlier capsize of MV Mitali and Tk 10,000 each in the case of MV Majlishpur.

MV Mitali sank in the Buriganga with 131 passengers and MV Majlishpur in a river in Brahmanbaria with 51 passengers. BIWTA officials of said as per the

government decision, the welfare fund will compensate victims of launch misahps after April 21 this

Jamuna devours

FROM PAGE 12

"I sold the machines to buy a piece of land and now work under another handloom industrialist at a rate of Tk 70 per day," said a

The Randhunibari Government Primary School is also close to succumbing to erosion. Despite repeated appeals by the school authorities for the past two years, no action has been taken, said Abdul Kuddus, a teacher of the school.

Meanwhile, fresh areas in 48 unions of Kajipur, Chowhali, Belkuchi, Shahjadpur and Ullapara upazila were inundated in past 24 hours as the Jamuna flowed 20 centimetres above danger level.

Fifty tons of rice and Tk 50,000 were allocated for nearly one lakh affected people of the district. The district administration has so far distributed 40 tonnes of rice.

Tragedy drives Jamal crazy | Anti-graft body

of passengers and goods and severe current and turbulence in the channel where MV Nasrin-1 sank were the main causes of the

The launch was supposed to enter the Dakatia River through the channel with an angle of 180 degree, but it did not follow the

The primary investigation that carried out by the three-member committee headed by Md. Shafiqul Islam (Engineer and Ship Surveyor), Department of Shipping however said that the capsized launch had the fitness certificate.

The launch has the capacity to

carry 294 passengers at night and 429 in daytime, but it reportedly

carried nearly 750 people on the night of accident. The diesel-run motor vessel was 80.46 metres long, 7.31 metres wide

and 2.10 metres deep.

The launch was loaded with 400 sacks of pulse (dal), 40 sacks of potato, three tons of iron rods and 28 sacks of onion.

Fazlur Rahman, magistrate of the Department of Shipping, and a member of the investigation committee, said the passenger launches have no permission to carry any goods commercially.

"Only the essential baggage and belongings of passengers can be carried," he said.

MV Nasrin-1, having registration No. 4745, started operation in 2000. The owner Mamun Khan, son of Abdus Sattar Khan, is a resident of 17, Laxmi Bazar, Dhaka.

MEETING AT DC OFFICE

A meeting yesterday decided to send a proposal to the higher authority urging to shift the exist-ing launch terminal to Madrasah Road terminal for at least three months June, July and August.

The purpose to shift the terminal has been taken as to reach the existing Chandpur Launch Terminal, launches have to cross the confluence of three rivers the Pdma, Meghna and Dakatia which turns violent during these three

If the launch terminal is shifted to Madrasah Road, the launches will not have to cross the dangerous channel. The proposal is to be submitted within one week.

The meeting also decided to check the passenger launches at Chandpur point through a mobile court every month and by investigators every week.

The meeting was told that overloading and fitness problems

were the main causes of launch accident and urged the launch owners to follow the safety rules

and regulations strictly. Chaired by Deputy Commissioner of Chandpur Abdur Rob Talukder, the meeting was also attended by top government officials and local dignitaries.

Vietnamese FM due July 16

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Nguyen Dy Nien will arrive in Dhaka on a three-day visit on July 16, diplo-

matic sources said. He will call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on July 17.

Nien will hold talks with Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan and also meet some other important government leaders during the visit.

Besides, he is scheduled to attend a function marking the opening of the Vietnamese Chancery here in the evening of July

technology started from Chittagong

yesterday for the accident scene and

was expected to reach this morning.

Chandpur at about 5:00am yester-

Hamza along with Rustam, that arrived earlier, is jointly capable to salvage the sunken launch weighing

BNS Barkat, BIWTA ship Turag,

Locals and some experts

expressed scepticism about the

salvage of the ship. "I don't think they are going to lift the vessel from the

riverbed," an expert said, requesting

of another launch, MV Dinar, that

went down in the same estuary on

August 20, 1994 with over 400 pas-

sengers on board and was never

But Lieutenant Commander

Mahbubur Rashid hoped that his

men would be able to pull MV

His comments evoke the memory

tug vessels Agrapathik and Agradut, CGS Patuakhali of the Coast Guard

and some small boats are in opera-

about 300 tonnes

Doubts rule

anonymity.

found again.

tion at the accident site.

Rescue vessel Hamza arrived at

Bodies float downstream

Tuesday night, three bodies were recovered -- two from the scene and one from Ilisha in Barisal, over 100 kilometres downstream.

There was no official word on how many passengers were on board the launch which was going to Lalmohonfrom Dhaka, but survivors said it was carrying at least 750 peo-

Officials at the search site said 220 people were rescued or swam ashore following the sinking in the confluence where converging currents trigger eddies, especially during monsoon when the rain-swollen Deputy Commissioner of Chandpur Abdur Rob Hawlader said: "Now I can't give you the exact

figure of the people who were on board the sunken launch. But, I think the casualty would be the highest The accident rekindles the horror of May 3, 2002 when 450 people drowned after MV Salahuddin-2 sank, also in the Meghna, being

Crowds of grieving relatives lined the Meghna banks yesterday with their hopes running low of finding

The ALCWC meeting urged the

international community to inves-

tigate the ammunition and explo-

sive hauls in Bogra as there migh

whole affair, Jalil said.

be an international deal behind the

Explaining the necessity of an international probe, Jalil said, "We

have no confidence in government

investigations as the prime minister

and the home minister have already

made irresponsible remarks blam

ing Awami League for the crime. These will mislead the investiga-

The opposition leader, however, did not specify the nature of

the international probe body. "The

party chief has already demanded

an international probe in the Bogra

ammunition and explosives haul

while talking to the British high

commissioner in Dhaka on

Wednesday. Highly placed persons

in the government are involved in

Jalil said the ammunition and

explosives were brought under a firearms deal. "Such crime is a

threat to the country's sovereignty

Our Lalmonirhat correspondent

reported railway communication

Thousands of marooned people

Two persons, who drowned in a

boat capsized near Char Gorok

have taken shelter on rail track and

Ouoting a newspaper report,

the crime," he said.

AL won't rejoin JS

and security."

a final decision.

district unit.

"I doubt they are going to find my son alive," said day-labourer Rescue operation

Bangladesh Navy divers yesterday failed to reach the ferry, which is believed to be 200 feet underwater and might have been dragged down-

stream by strong currents.

Divers were scanning the riverbed, but locals said the search could not get off to a full start because of raging currents and swirling Along with the navy, Bangladesh

Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) and Fire Brigade and Civil Defence teams were carrying out search operations. Navy officials said their divers could dive to only 30 feet deep. "We've the expertise to dive up to 300 feet underwater if there are no natural hindrances like severe current

and turbulence," said an officer. Lieutenant Commander Mahbubur Rashid, who is leading the divers, said his men could dive in maximum currents speed of up to two nautical miles an hour. but speed in the confluence is six nauti-

cal miles an hour. A naval ship, Shaibal with sonar

The ALCWC rejected the budget

On the August 21 by-elections in

for the current fiscal and pointed

Netrokona-3 constituency, the meeting decided in principle to

participate in the polls. It resolved

that the party presidium will make

Star the party will not nominate

any candidate for the polls, but any

Earlier, Jalil had told The Daily

Expressing satisfaction over the

completion of party conferences of 291,160 wards, 3,240 unions, 270

upazila and seven districts, the

meeting directed all concerned to

complete the conferences of the

remaining party units by this

AL Joint Secretary Obaidul Kader was also present at the brief-

common man, Jalil said.

in the race individually.

Schoolgirl raped, killed

in Laxmipur

UNB, Laxmipur <u>A schoolgirl was killed after being</u> raped at Khandakarpur village in Sadar Upazila on Wednesday.

Family sources said the victim, Munni, 14, daughter of Aminullah and a student of class ten, was intercepted by her neighbour Abdul Hannan, 35, son of Golam Mostafa, while she was returning home with a jar of water from a

nearby pond at around 5am.

the gruesome murder. On information, police recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for

The doctors at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) allegedly did not examine him well and that's why his relatives took him out to a

However, Motijheel police said they could not find the victim in any of the city clinics.

No complaint was filed till yester-

Rumsfeld

FROM PAGE 12

"We're dealing with closed societies; we're dealing with coun-tries that very skillfully use our

advanced technologies. In Pretoria, Bush deflected a question on whether he regretted

the world peace and there is no doubt in my mind the United States along with our allies and friends did the right thing in removing him from power," Bush said. But the leader of Democrats in the Senate, Tom Daschle, again said the issue underscores the need for a full

want to make sure we have the facts,"

"The most important thing we can do in acquiring the facts is to get

six choices to be made by a selection

The selection committee will be composed of the finance minister, from the Appellate Division and the High Court Division of the Supreme Court as nominated by the chief justice, the comptroller and auditor general and the chairman of the Public Service Commission.

While introducing the bill in the House, the law minister termed it as a rare instance in the fight against corruption. "The commission (proposed) will be able to probe and take actions against all of us."

But the main opposition party, the Awami League (AL), expressed scepticism over the objectives of the

At a news briefing at his Sangsad Bhaban office last night, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid Advocate raised objections about the six-member selection

committee. With ministers sitting on the selection committee, the commission will not be neutral and able to

fulfilits objectives, he said. Hamid proposed amendment to the bill so that the selection committee could comprise the chief justice and other judges. The AL will welcome the initiative provided such an amendment is incorporated, he

The commissioners of the prooosed commission will be drawn from among people having at least 20 years' experience in the fields of law, education, administration, judiciary or disciplined forces.

They will be appointed on a four-

year term. The commission, to be headquartered in Dhaka, will be able to open its branches at any other places, if need be. The bill also proposed abolition of the Bureau of Anti-corruption (BAC) from the day the new law comes into effect. The BAC staff could be

The proposed bill observed that BAC was failing to deliver its responsibilities due to some practical and legal problems.

absorbed in the commission if the

commission finds them fit.

In the same year, the bank had Tk 1,583 crore in deposit and Tk 1,170 crore in advance and credit. Identifying the menace of corruption as a serious problem in the civil

Watery grave

rents fed by rains.

530 people, but only 16 dead bodies were found floating downstream until yesterday. On August 20, 1994, MV Dinar heading to Shariatpur went down in the turbulent waters of the confluence and more than 200

salvage efforts were abandoned.

On December 29, 2000, 300 passengers were killed when a passenger launch bound for Shariatpur sank at the same point in a smash with another craft.

The May 3, 2002 accident

claimed 450 lives in the second

deadly launch capsize in 10 years:

MV Salahuddin-2 went down in the

Meghna after being caught up in a

twister. A small launch sank on

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Santhiya upazila of Pabna. Kamal, a neighbour, reportedly

Shazneen case

(Masum's) telephonic conversation with Hasan's wife on the night of the incident. The court, however, granted the petition and fixed yesterday for appearance of the

recorded the deposition. Later, the witness was cross-examined by lawyer for the accused Hasan.

der of Shazneen he talked to his maternal aunt, wife of Hasan, over telephone at 11pm on April 23,1998 and at 3:39am on April 24,1998 and requested her to inform Hasan about Shazneen's death. "I talked to her over my mobile

Replying to a question Masum

day submitted the documents relating to telephonic conversation to the court for information and to prove its reality. Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15,

large, the bill said formation of an independent anti-corruption commission was an election pledge of the

The proposed commission will investigate graft charges, lodge and conduct cases, recommend the president on relevant legal issues, carry out research on curbing corruption and build awareness against

In probing graft cases, the proposed commission will be empowered to ask for copies of any public records from any court or office and issue warrants for quizzing witnesses. If one deliberately disobeys directives of the commission, they could be penalised with up to three years of imprisonment.

After introduction of the Anti Corruption Commission Bill, 2003, it was sent to the parliamentary standing committee concerned for scrutiny within 10 days.

Oriental Bank FROM PAGE 12

ments against 100 per cent margin. It has been asked to cut down administrative costs that include paid foreign travels and its operational cost is to be brought down by 10 per cent.

The bank has also been asked to recover default loans of about Tk 45 crore by next December and file cases in the Money Loan Court against top defaulters.

Oriental Bank was identified as a 'problem bank' along with six others in 1995. Last year, its earnings stood at Tk 92 crore, while the expenditure was Tk 152 crore.

The bank came into being in

1987 as Al Baraka Bank but changed its name earlier this year, reportedly to rebuild its image In December 2002, the bank had a total outstanding loan of Tk 1,166 crore. Of this, Tk 325 crore was classified. As per rule, the bank should have had provisions worth Tk 224.81 crore but had only Tk 6.54

crore causing a deficit of Tk 218.27 It also had a capital shortfall of

dangerous because of raging cur-

The latest vessel disaster -- the

most deadly in Bangladesh -- killed

passengers met watery graves, officials said. Despite a weeklong

not be traced underwater and the A motor boat sank in the same confluence on September 2, 1994 upon a collision with a Shariatpurbound launch, in which 10 people were killed. Another motor boat

intensive search, the vessel could

tipped over, killing eight people on March 30, 2000.

people dead. But the number of casualties

Tk 58.84 crore.

cannot be precisely known, as launches rarely maintain passenger lists or issue tickets. The river accident frequency is often blamed on overloading,

faulty construction and disregard for safety measures. This April, following protests by launch operators, officials of the shipping ministry withdrew a ban on night travels by launch, which was imposed after a series of acci-

Girl raped

in Pabna

A 10-year-old girl was raped allegedly by Kalam, 30, last Wednesday evening at Matiyakola village in

took the minor to a sugarcane field and left her bleeding profusely. Her father filed a case that evening with the Santhiya Police Station under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act against Kalam, who was later arrested.

February 13 this year, leaving 11

In his deposition, Masum told the court that after the tragic mur-

phone bearing number 011-850309, distributed by the Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Ltd on behalf of the Transcom Distribution Company Ltd. On July 29, 1998, I sent a letter seeking detailed call report of April, 1998, those of. The Pacific Ltd. supplied it along with Hasan's phone bearing number 507294, on August 6, 1998," Masum

said he telephoned twice after the tragic death of the victim and talked to his aunt. The prosecution lawyers yester-

their Gulshan residence on April 23, 1998. Special Public Prosecutors ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul, Mahbub

Ahmed and Arfan Uddin Khan

appeared for the state. Advocates

Mosharraf Hossain Kajol and

Mizanur Rahman defended the

The court had earlier fixed July

13 for cross-examination of

Maksudur Rahman Patwari, a

metropolitan magistrate. He gave his deposition on Tuesday. **SAARC summit**

the region's chronic poverty.

FROM PAGE 12

ward in the area of economic cooperation. SAARC, which includes onefifth of the world's population, was formed in 1985 to promote trade between member nations. Founders hoped it would help fight

However, progress has been

held up due to the tensions in

Jammu and Kashmir. SAARC missed deadlines in 2001 and 2002 for a proposed free trade treaty, and the January 2002 summit was held three years late. On Wednesday, Sibal pressed Pakistan to do more to stop terror-

ists who cross from Pakistani

"We expect that more concrete

infrastructure of terrorism, and that will open doors to a dialogue," Sibal said. Islamabad denies India's claims that it provides material support to terrorists operating in Jammu and Kashmir.

Fresh areas flooded announced compensation for victims of two launch accidents on April 21 this year. The amount was Tk 20,000 each for the victims in the

was disrupted as flood water was flowing over Teesta railway bridge and rail tract was damaged at

on high lands.

FROM PAGE 12

US soldiers tars were fired at US positions in Ramadi, 100 km west of Baghdad,

apparently without causing any

A logistics base near Balad, around 75 kilometres north of the capital, was also hit by mortar fire, leaving one vehicle badly damaged, but with no reports of any killed or wounded. Residents in the flashpoint town of Fallujah also said that US positions had come under attack with

RPGs and mortars overnight, again without reports of any casualties. The US military said it was unaware of any incidents in the town, around 50 km west of Baghdad.

Attacks occur daily in the central

Iraq region, to the west and north of Baghdad, a bastion of mainly

Sunni Muslims where support for

Saddam was once strongest

Mandal on Wednesday night, were identified as Malek, 30 and Bador Ali, 25. Another, Jobayer Khan, 35 was missing. At least 2,000 tube wells in the district have gone under water, causing scarcity of drinking water.

reports: Gushing water from the upstream caused a breach in a dam on the Teesta at Kaliganj under Dimla upazila. WDB officials feared the dam

Flood control embankment at Khalshi along the Karotoa river under Gobindaganj upazila was washed partly. Gaibandha-Fulchhari road may be inundated any time and

Pabna, Manikganj,Rajbari, Mymensingh. Flood situation in Narayanganj, Narsingdi and Kishoreganj are

Fulchhri upazila offce complex is

diseases have broken out in many areas, leaving two children dead and over 100 attacked. Our Nilphamari correspondent

Diarrhoea and other water-borne

Our Gaibandha correspondent said fresh areas went under water, affecting about 1,50,000 people.

might give way, affecting seven

about to be eroded by the Brahamputra. Reports of deterioration of flood situation were also received from our correspondents in Rangpur, the South Dakota senator said.

likely to remain unchanged. The situation in the Meghna basin may writing history the way it should be."

narty man was at liberty to take part Hannan forcibly took the girl to The ALCWC approved a new his room, raped and strangled her. committee of the party's Kurigram The rapist fled the scene after

As he refused

and develop a good deal of conviction about it.

highlighting the allegation in his State of the Union address in "There is no doubt in my mind that Saddam Hussein was a threat to

congressional investigation on US intelligence leading up to the war in "History hasn't been written yet. In fact, it's being written as we speak. And I think as we write history, we

the best information. That's why I have said from the beginning, having a good, bipartisan investigation so that we know exactly what the facts are is critical to understanding and

Judge Kazi Rahamat Ullah

the youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, Chairman of Transcom Ltd, was raped and murdered at territory into Jammu and Kashmir. and credible steps can be taken on the issue of infiltration and the

held next week.

shipping minister.

The clash was a sequel to a previous enmity between two local influentials, Korban Ali and Haran