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ALERT!

With the deterioration of law and order, mobs killed 24 alleged muggers and injured 20 more in the city in the last one month.

INSIDE TODAY

Article 6

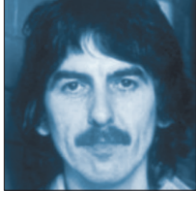
When enough is enough
In My View Hasnat Abdul Hye

Martyred Intellectuals

The intellectual as a partisan
The case of 1971

Afsan Chowdhury

Foreign Friends of 79



Concert for Bangladesh

ACI
Iftar

Sehri, Iftar timing

Ramadan	Dec	Sehri	Iftar
28	14	5-17	5-17
29	15	5-09	5-17
20	16	5-09	5-18

Suicide attack on Indian Parliament kills 13

● Red alert in India ● All six gunmen killed ● Vice-president Krishan Kant narrowly escapes death ● Vajpayee pledges 'do or die battle' against terrorism ● Pakistan 'shocked' ● US, UK condemn ● 3 nabbed in Delhi

NEW DELHI, Agencies

A suicide attack on the Indian parliament complex yesterday killed 13 people, including all the six terrorists, that rattled the seat of power in the world's biggest democracy.

A half-dozen gunmen in a car with its siren blaring stormed the sprawling parliament complex, dying as they killed seven policemen with grenades, automatic rifles and a human bomb, the government said.

The car sped through a gate and one militant jumped out, blowing himself up, while the others opened fire on police and security guards, according to state-run Doordarshan television.

A suicide bomber, who detonated explosives

strapped to his waist, and four gunmen died in the attack and a resulting gunbattle with police.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, though initial speculation turned to Islamic militants fighting against Indian rule in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, where 38 people died in a suicide attack on the state assembly two months ago.

While Vajpayee said India's battle against terrorism had reached its final stage, Defence Minister George Fernandes promised a "hard-hitting" response.

Witnesses said five people, one a suicide bomber with explosives strapped to his waist, stormed the complex, killing six people. The suicide bomber died when his bomb exploded and the other attackers died in a battle

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Ambulances (L) leave the parliament building compound in New Delhi as more arrive after the attack yesterday. Police stand over the body of dead militant (Top R) while an injured policeman is being taken to hospital (Bottom R).

Bangladesh condemns attack

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh condemned the heinous armed attack on Indian Parliament yesterday and deeply regretted the loss of innocent lives in the incident.

Foreign Secretary Shamsur Mobin Chowdhury expressed the condemnation on behalf of the government, an official communique said.

The Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi has been instructed to monitor the situation and keep the government informed about the latest situation.

Khaleda
Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has condemned the terrorist attack on Indian Parliament that left over a

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PHOTO: MUKTIJODHA JADUGHAR

This is how the illustrious sons of the soil were made to pay for independence on this day in 1971 at a Rayerbazar killing field.

Martyred Intellectuals Day today

Reliving haunting memories

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation will observe the 31st Martyred Intellectuals Day today recalling the supreme sacrifice of the illustrious sons of the soil to free the motherland and pledging afresh to materialise their dream for a society free of exploitation and injustice.

Being sure of defeat, the Pakistani occupation army and its collaborators -- Razakar, Al Badr and Al Shams forces -- kidnapped leading Bengali intellectuals and

professional on December 14, 1971 and killed them to cripple the emerging nation.

Intellectuals, academics, doctors, engineers, journalists and other renowned personalities were picked up from their residences in the city as per a list and massacred at Rayerbazar in Mirpur and other killing fields.

President Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Leader of the

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Chinese premier's visit to prime regional coop

Zhu Rongji arrives in Dhaka Jan 11

BY M ANWARUL HAQ

Increase in trade and investment and further consolidation of 'neighbourly ties' are expected to dominate the official talks during the forthcoming visit of Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji, who will fly into Dhaka by a special aircraft on January 11 on a three-day visit.

Besides, close cooperation on regional and international levels would also figure in the talks.

Zhu's visit comes at a time when China is keen on forging firmer relations with some of its neighbours.

The visiting Chinese premier is likely to seek Bangladesh's support and cooperation in ensuring peace and security in the region and other parts of the world. Only this week beginning December 12, Chinese President Ziang Zemin began a three-day official visit to Myanmar. In another development, Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf is visiting China from December 20 to 24 and is due to make a stopover at Dhaka before flying back to Islamabad.

Earlier in May this year, Premier Zhu visited the Maldives, Pakistan and Nepal.

The Chinese prime minister will

lead an over 130-member entourage that will include senior officials, entrepreneurs and nearly 20 media persons.

The Chinese premier is the first of any head of state to pay a visit to Dhaka after the new government took over.

The country's diplomatic circle considers the Chinese premier's visit with utmost importance as they

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Govt mulls 3 options on women's seat in JS

NAZMUL ASHRAF

The coalition government is flipping through a number of options on the reserved seats for women in the Jatiya Sangsad, but chances are that it may ultimately revert to the previous arrangement of having 30 indirectly elected women members of parliament, according to an authoritative source.

Following Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's recent announcement to table a bill on the issue in the second session of the Sangsad, the law ministry is now reviewing legal options on revival of women's quota in the House, which lapsed in April this year.

The immediate past Awami League government introduced a bill in the last parliament seeking continuation of tenure of the 30 reserved seats for women for another 10 years. But the bill lapsed because of non-cooperation of the then BNP-led opposition in the form of staying off the parliament proceedings.

As various suggestions have so far been made by quarters concerned, at least three options for women's representation in the parliament are now dominating talks in the rank and file of the government, according to ruling coalition sources.

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Israel cuts ties with Arafat

Tel Aviv bans him from leaving Ramallah

AFP, Jerusalem

An enraged Israel cut all ties with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat yesterday after a bus ambush in the West Bank killed 10, and vowed to send whatever force it takes into the Palestinian territories to track down the militants he has failed to imprison.

The Palestinian Authority, diplomatically isolated and under unprecedented pressure to jail extremists responsible for a wave of bloody attacks, accused Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of launching an "official war" on the Palestinian people.

Israel launched a crushing wave of air strikes overnight in swift

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YASSER ARAFAT