

# Mortars, bombs kill 3 more US soldiers in Iraq

AFP, Abu Gharib

Three US soldiers died in mortar and bomb attacks west of Baghdad, the military said yesterday, bringing to six the number of Americans killed in a spate of attacks in Iraq over 48 hours.

Two soldiers were killed and 13 wounded in a mortar attack Saturday night on the main prison at Abu Gharib, a military statement said. A third serviceman died in a bomb attack about the same time on a vehicle in the town of Ramadi.

Meanwhile, Iraqi Governing Council member Akila al-Hashimi remained in serious but stable condition after a second operation

for gunshot wounds suffered in an assassination attempt near her Baghdad house Saturday.

The latest anti-US strikes came less than 48 hours after an ambush late Thursday outside Tikrit, the hometown of ousted leader Saddam Hussein north of Baghdad, that left three US soldiers dead and two wounded.

They pushed to more than 80 the number of US troops killed in action since May 1, when President George W. Bush declared an end to major combat operations after the capture of Baghdad.

Black smoke billowed from the Abu Gharib prison, about 20 kilometres from Baghdad, after the

mortar attack that the military said occurred about 9:54pm (local time) Saturday.

The military statement first said the victims were from the 800th Military Police Brigades but a spokesman later retracted the identification and said it was not known to which unit the casualties belonged.

The casualties occurred "when two mortars hits the Abu Gharib prison," the statement said.

Abu Gharib prison, which houses 500 prisoners, has been the scene of frequent attacks. The last fatal assault was on August 16 when five Iraqi detainees were killed and 67

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## Defence ministry asked to chart lost army land

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Large chunks of land for the army have fallen to grabbers, but the defence ministry does not know the precise amount.

Apparently dissatisfied at the information, the parliamentary standing committee on the defence ministry from its third meeting yesterday asked the ministry to come up with a report detailing the lost land.

The committee also said it smelt corruption and irregularities in the navy purchases and decided to review the past procurements thoroughly.

"The standing committee wants to ensure accountability in the procurement process," Mahbub Rahman, chairman of the standing committee, told journalists after emerging from the meeting at the Sangsad Bhaban.

"We'll recommend punitive measures if anyone is found guilty."

On the land for the military, he said the committee wanted to know how many acres of the land were

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 22		5-55 pm
Sept 23	5-47 am	
Prayer Timings		
September 22		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-45	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-20
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	5-55	6-00
Esha	7-45	8-15
Source: Islamic Foundation		

# 74pc doctors dodge duty

## World Development Report says

STAR REPORT

About 74 per cent doctors in primary health care centres in Bangladesh remain absent from duty, says the World Development Report 2004.

The practice deprives the poor people of essential health services 'in access, in quantity and in quality,' the report observes.

It warned that great improvement in human welfare are not be possible until poor people get wider access to affordable, better quality services in health, education, water, sanitation, and electricity.

Without improvement in services, eradication of illness and illiteracy -- two of two most important inhibiting factors in the lives of poor people -- will remain elusive.

"The World Development Report 2004: Making Services Work for Poor People" was simultaneously launched in different countries including Bangladesh.

"Improving the delivery of key services like healthcare and education to poor people is critical to accelerating the progress in human

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HOWZZAT! Bangladesh quick Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza appeals successfully for leg before wicket against Pakistan's Younis Khan in a one-

PHOTO: AFP

## Madrassah raided, Laden's tapes, toy pistol seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A team of Mymensingh police, led by an assistant police superintendent, raided a madrassah at Jibantala in Bhaluka upazila at 5:00pm yesterday.

They recovered 70 sticks, three sacks of sands, a toy pistol, covers of 500 audio cassettes on 'revolution', two cassettes on Bin Laden and Saddam Hussain and subscription receipts of 'Tamir-ul-Din', Bangladesh, from the madrassah.

The raid followed the arrest of 18 people said to be "Islamic extremists" from the house of a BNP leader at Boalmari upazila in Faridpur late Friday night. The suspected Islamic extremists are students of 'Jamiatul Islamia Nurul Ulam Kawansi Madrassah' at Jibantala, Bhaluka.

The officer-in-charge of Bhaluka Police Station said the teachers and senior students of the madrassah went into hiding after the Faridpur nabbing of the 18 students.

## Big explosives haul in Ctg warehouse

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police recovered a huge quantity of explosives weighing some 550 kg during a raid on a city warehouse yesterday and arrested one person in this connection.

Police from the detective branch (DB) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) recovered the explosives in 12 sacks and three cartons from the godown of Messrs Hanif Store on the first floor of Hazi Chan Mia Market at Bakshirhat under Kotwali thana.

Manager of the shop Mohammad Shafi, 22, was arrested. He was later produced before the court and sent to jail custody, sources said.

Police is looking for shop owner Mohammad Hanif.

Local people however said the explosives were meant for making firecrackers for sale during Shab-e-Barat and Durga Puja.

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## BNP team leaves on goodwill visit to China

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 16-member BNP delegation led by party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will leave for China this morning on a week-long visit at the invitation of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

The delegation will also include BNP's first Joint Secretary General Tareque Rahman.

Sources said the International Department of the Central Committee of the CPC extended separate invitations to two BNP delegations, one led by Bhuiyan and the other by Tareque, with a view to strengthen ties between the two parties.

But since Tareque decided to be on the same delegation as Bhuiyan, only one delegation will be making

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# WB, IMF ask govt to better governance, investment climate

NAZMUL AHSAN

A joint assessment report of the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has asked the government to initiate efforts to improve governance and investment climate and expedite reforms in the transition from the Interim-Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP) to the full PRSP, set to be prepared by next year.

The report also recommended active inclusion of lawmakers to be considered in the development of

the full PRSP, as their role was not there in the preparatory process of the I-PRSP.

The report was handed to the government in May.

"In the transition to the full PRSP, greater emphasis will need to be given to political governance. It is clear that law and order, extortion and toll taking deter private investment and hamper economic growth, impeding poverty alleviation," the joint report said.

"Greater attention will need to be given to improving the investment

climate as well as sustained improvements in economic governance," it added.

The incumbent government prepared the I-PRSP in May this year for the period between 2003 and 2006 fiscal at the suggestions of the multilateral donor agencies such as the IMF and the WB, which is the first of its kind in Bangladesh.

The draft of the full PRSP is set to be finalised by next year, which will come into effect from 2006-2007 fiscal, sources in the Economic



PHOTO: STAR

Locals yesterday demonstrate against the killing of Osman Ghani, a businessman, at Kafrul in Dhaka. Osman was shot dead Saturday.