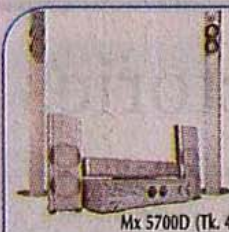


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5 Marines, 6 Iraqis killed in attacks

AGENCIES, Baghdad

A soldier from a US task force was killed and another wounded in northern Iraq yesterday in a roadside bomb attack on a convoy that also killed an Iraqi civilian while four other US marines were killed on Saturday near the flashpoint city of Fallujah in accident, the US military said.

In a statement, it said the convoy then came under fire from a speeding vehicle. Troops fired back and killed the driver.

It said the incident took place between Baghdad and the northern city of Mosul.

"While the injured soldier was being treated following the explosion, a vehicle approached at a high rate of speed and fired on the convoy. The soldiers returned fire killing the driver," said the statement.

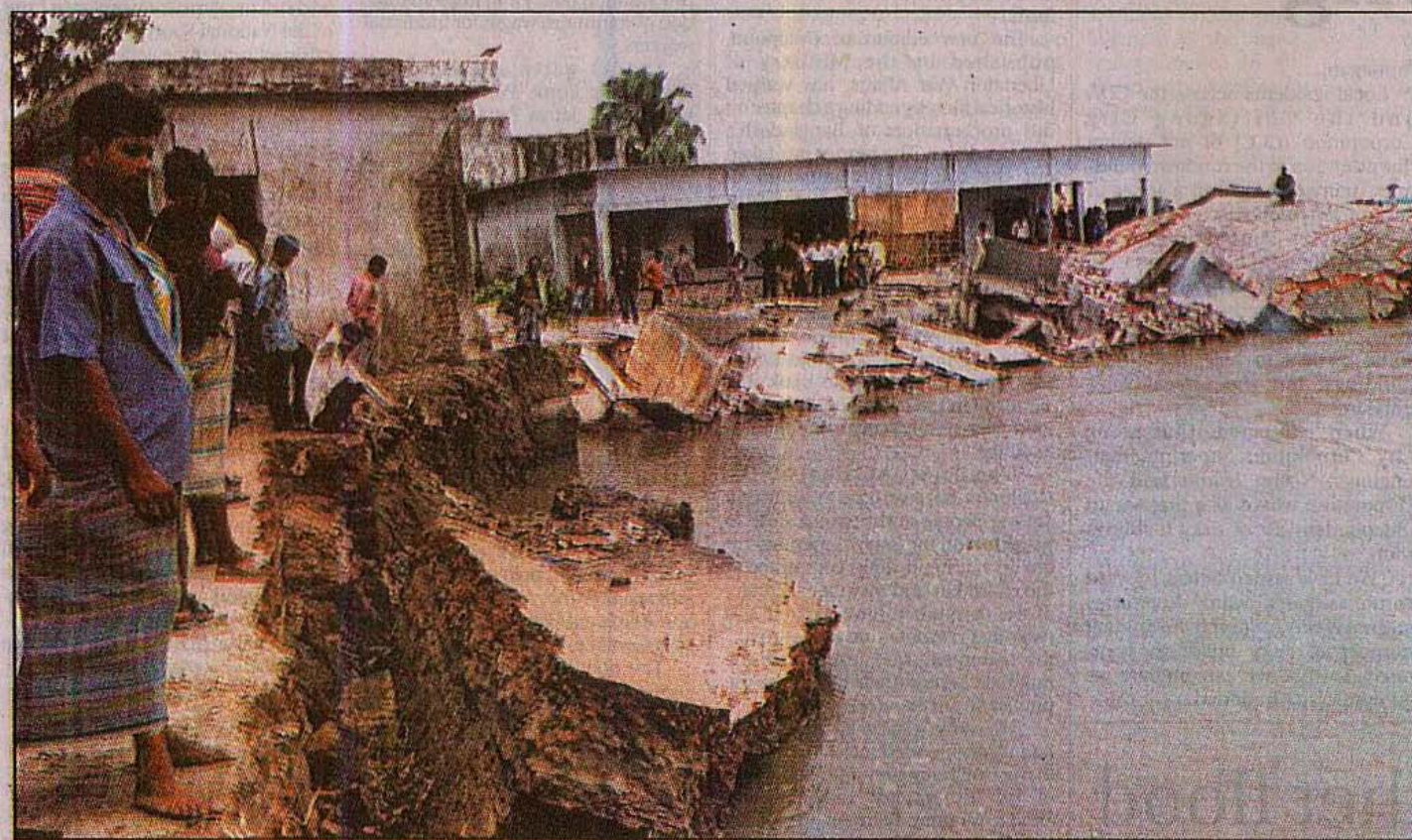
It did not give the dead soldier's nationality, but Taskforce Olympia is American. More than 650 US military personnel have been killed in combat in Iraq since the start of the war to oust Saddam Hussein last

year. "Four marines assigned to 1st Marine Expeditionary Force died in Al Anbar Province on Saturday while conducting security and stability operations," a US military statement said.

A US military spokesman later said the attack was near Fallujah, west of Baghdad.

The latest casualties bring to 657 the number of US troops killed in action in Iraq since the start of the US-led war in March 2003, according

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The mighty Padma is once again in full fury, devouring part of Louhajang upazila in Munshiganj. At least 10 businesses, a road and a government office have been washed away in the last two days as incessant rain raised current in the river.

Islamist group's death threat to 10 politicians, journos, intellectuals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ten politicians, intellectuals and journalists received death threats yesterday from an Islamist militant group named Mujahideen al-Islam which accuses them of being the enemies of Islam and an Islamic state of Pakistan.

Mujahideen Zone-B Director Maulana Patowary issued the threat in a circular distributed among the organisation members.

The 10 threatened are Awami League president members Abdur Razzaq and Tufael Ahmed, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasnul Haq Inu, freedom fighter Abir Ahad, writer and journalist Shahriar Kabir, Prof Muntasir Mamun and Prof Abul Barakat of Dhaka University (DU), and MC Mahbub.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday distributes awards among individuals and organisations for their outstanding roles in checking population boom on World Population Day at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.

20 hurt as police, mob clash over boy's 'torture'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Twenty people including three cops were injured in a clash between a mob and police in Anjur Hat of Char Manika Union under Charfassion upazila in Bhola Saturday night.

The mob clashed with a police team and besieged it for six hours as a schoolboy was detained and tortured by the cops.

Locals said a team of Char Manika police camp led by Zakir Hossain, assistant sub-inspector (ASI), chased Suruj Mia, a notorious robber, at around 6:00pm.

ASI Zakir asked Kabir Hossain, 14, student of class nine at Anjur Hut High School, to raise a hue and cry to

help them hold Suruj. Kabir fearing wrath of Suruj and his gang did not and the robber, meanwhile, ran away.

The ASI detained Kabir and tortured him on the Union Parishad (UP) premises. On hearing the news, Kabir's parents and relatives rushed to the spot and were also roughed up by Zakir.

As the news spread, an angry mob attacked the ASI and his men. Police fired 10 gunshots to disperse the mob but finally retreated in the face of repeated attacks.

Police later took refuge at the UP office, mosque leaving Kabir critically wounded in the open field. The

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

CTG PORT Channel turns risky as water rushes from hills

NURUL ALAM, Ctg

Tidal derangement due to gushing hilly water released from the Kaptai Dam basin has made it highly risky for ships to sail along the Chittagong Port channel.

Power Development Board (PDB) and port officials said downrush of hilly water into Kaptai Lake following three days of torrential rains had posed a threat to Kaptai Dam, prompting the hydro-electric project authorities to release over 100,000cusec of water into Karnaphuli River since Saturday last.

"The tidal rhythm here has been badly affected by the huge downflow of floodwater from Kaptai and local rivers through the Karnaphuli, making it very risky for ships to ply along the port channel," said Chittagong Port Authority (CPA)

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Kushtia trader buys freedom, youth abducted

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

A trader in Kushtia bought his freedom for a large sum of money on Saturday and a youth was abducted in Chuadanga early Friday adding to the number of abductions in the terror-struck southwestern districts.

Beitel leaf trader Mohammad Ali 40, son of Hanif Mondol of Asanagar in sadar upazila of Kushtia, bought his freedom for Tk 70,000 two days after the abduction. He was abducted on his way home from local bazar on Thursday by some outlawed party operatives, said police. Later the gang demanded Tk 2 lakh for his release.

Ali's family said the same gang earlier demanded Tk 2 lakh as toll.

But he refused to pay. A case was filed with Islamic University Police Station.

Meanwhile, Islamic University camp police denied the payment of money in freeing the businessman.

In Chuadanga a gang belonging to outlawed Bangladesh Communist Party (BCP-ML) abducted a young man and demanded a ransom of Tk 3 lakh. Police said the gang stormed the house of Samsul Mollah of Belgachi in Alamdanga upazila and kidnapped his son Mominul Islam alias Mobin, 25 in the early hours of Friday.

The captors later asked the family to pay Tk 3 lakh within 24 hours. They said they would kill him if the family sought police help.

Kerry blasts Bush's Iraq failures

Says the president abused power, misled Americans

AFP, Washington

The war in Iraq moved to the forefront of the US presidential campaign Saturday as Democratic candidate John Kerry, armed with a new damning Senate report, accused President George W. Bush of misleading America and abusing

power by making allegations that proved to be wrong.

The charges, made in a wide-ranging interview with The New York Times, came one day after the Senate Intelligence Committee released a report saying the CIA's allegations about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and its ties to al-

Qaeda had been either overstated or not backed up by intelligence reporting.

Throwing the first punch in what appeared to be a broad attack on the administration's foreign policy, the senator from Massachusetts also blasted the White House for not

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Knee-deep water sloshes on city roads

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several parts of the city briefly went under ankle to knee-deep water after an hour-long downpour yesterday evening. The meteorological office said it recorded 18mm of rainfall.

Vehicular movement came to standstill due to waterlogging on some streets that kept the commuters stranded for hours until police cleared the main thoroughfares at the junctions.

Sources said Dhaka City Corporation workers were seen in some places opening the manholes to allow rainwater drain out quickly.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Pay commission constituted

UNB, Dhaka

The government has constituted National Pay Commission (NPC) headed by former cabinet secretary Mujibur Huq to frame new pay scales for officials and employees of all classes, an official announcement said yesterday.

The commission consists of three full-time and nine part-time members and one full-time member-secretary, the announcement added.

The NPC will submit a report within four months on completion of its assigned job.

Former secretaries Abdullah

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Prayer Timing

July 12

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-55	7-00
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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