

## Two more Interpol experts fly in

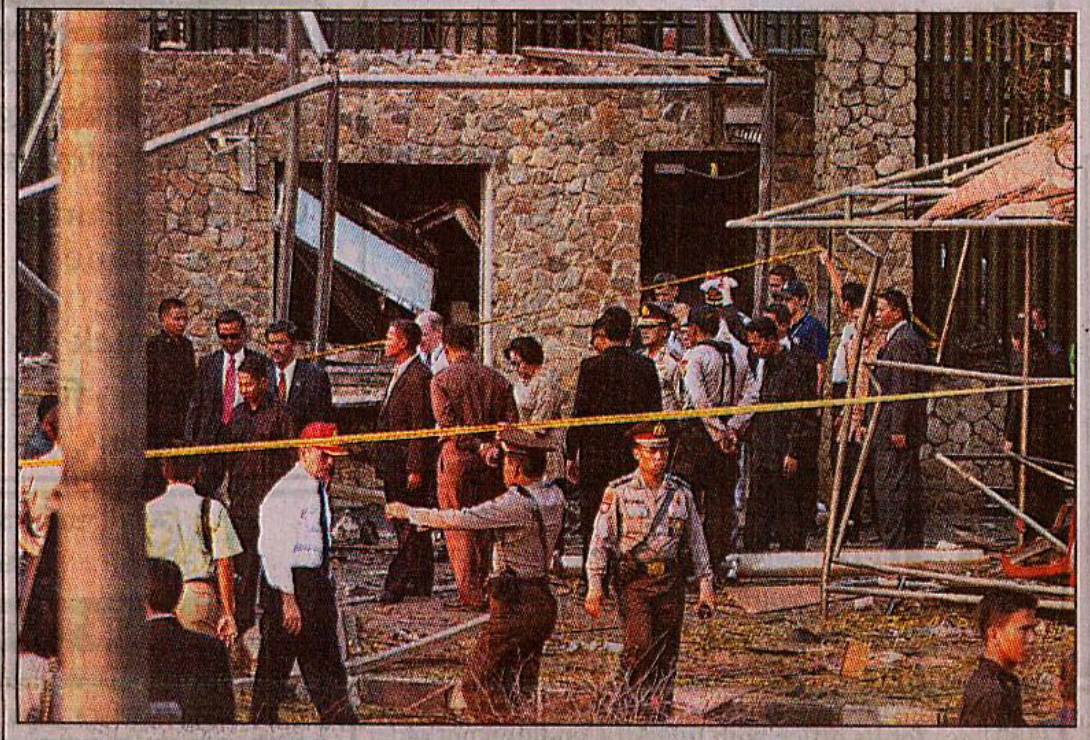
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Two more Interpol experts yesterday joined the three in the capital to help the August 21 grenade blast probe. Robert M. Thompson, a fire tool-mark examiner and Frev J. Bredford, an explosive enforcement officer, both from the US, flew in Dhaka at around 12:00pm to intensify the probe of grenade blasts on Awami League (AL) rally that killed 19 and injured over 200. Interpol experts Marash Vucilaj, Xin Hu and Jeffery Eyles have been probing the blast in the capital for a week. They sought more hands

## Tk 20 lakh cloth robbed from garment van

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Armed robbers hijacked a covered van loaded with garment fabric worth Tk 20 lakh from the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area early hours yesterday. Police recovered the abandoned van from Kuri in the evening, about 14 hours after the robbery. The van was carrying cloth for Opex Garments Limited at Mirpur from Chittagong. Police sources said the armed group of about 15 to 20 people stopped the van (Rangpur Da-11-0061) when it reached near the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre on Rokya Sarani at about 4:00am and pointing guns forced the driver to drive it as they wished. Owner of the van has filed a case with Tejgaon Police Station. No-one was arrested in this connection until last night.

## Blast rocks Australia embassy in Jakarta

**8 killed, 130 hurt, nearby Greek embassy gutted; Qaeda hand blamed**  
**AGENCIES, Jakarta**  
A car bomb has exploded outside the Australian embassy in Jakarta, killing at least eight people and wounding more than 130, in an attack police have blamed on al-Qaeda-linked militants. The blast, which came days ahead of Indonesia's presidential



Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, centre, visits the blast site of Australian embassy in Jakarta yesterday. At least eight people were killed and about 130 injured when the bomb tore through the gates of the Australian embassy in Jakarta.

## Ultimatum of AL, allies from Sept 29 rallies

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The main opposition Awami League (AL) and its allies are likely to issue an ultimatum from their grand rallies in Dhaka on September 29 asking the government to step down for 'its failure to deliver', sources said. They will announce their next agitation programmes today emphasising mobilisation of people for one-point movement to oust the government. Their nine-day programmes ended yesterday. Senior leaders of the AL, left-leaning 11-party alliance and Jatiya Samjantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) will sit today to finalise the next programmes. A countrywide dawn-

## Unite against fundamentalism

**Hasina urges students**  
**UNB, Dhaka**  
Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the students to fight together against fundamentalism. "Students are to restore the past glory by resisting fundamentalism and communalism. Only the students can do it as they never harbour communalism," Hasina told leaders of six student organisations who called on her at Sudha Sadan in the evening. The student bodies are Bangladesh Chhatra League, BCL (Swapan-Tarun), Chhatra Maitri, Jatiya Chhatra Dhara, Jatiya Chhatra Oikya and Bangladesh Chhatra Samity. The opposition leader told them that students could play a vital role in establishing non-communal politics.

## Worry over Rab actions

**Another crime suspect killed in 'crossfire'; jurists demand probe into deaths**  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The elite Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) allegedly killed a crime suspect in Hazaribagh yesterday in the latest in a series of 16 such killings that have sent worries across Bangladesh and raised human-rights violations fears. Rab-2 personnel gunned down Billal Hossain, 28, at his Sher-e-Bangla Road House in Rayerbazar when the elite force unit claimed he opened fire in a brush bid to escape. Rab personnel, led by Captain Anisur Rahman, hemmed in Billal's house at about 3:00am to seize illegal arms and sensing the elite force's presence, he opened fire on them. "As he tried to break through the cordon shooting with a firearm, Rab men opened fire on him," said a press release from the Rab headquarters. Billal, son of Meer Box of Ferry Narayanpur in Mymensingh, died instantly taking a hail of bullets in the head and leg about 25 yards off his Friend's Heart hotel in front of the house, rekindling the horror of Clean Heart Operation when 54 people died in alleged torture in army custody. People are now reeling from the fears of Rab torture and death as the force ponders little to take 'deadly actions' on suspicion. After anyone dies during their operation, Rab men claim they died either in their attempt to flee or in crossfire. On the Rab claim, prominent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain said, "The law says minimum force should be applied to arrest anybody. We should see whether the law is applied properly since people are dying during arrest." "If anyone tries to escape arrest,

## 2 'Indians' nabbed with smuggled explosives

**Police still await army experts to dispose of antitank shell**  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet**  
Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday snared three men including two Indians after they reportedly sneaked into Bangladesh territory with four packets of India-made plastic explosives and five fuses at Noakot under Companyganj upazila. BDR officials said the three entered Bangladesh crossing the Ichhamoti River at Chhanbarhi Ghat near the border pillar No. 1246. A patrol team of border guards challenged and nabbed them at about 11:00am when they were about to start for Chhatak upazila headquarters in a hired boat. The arrested Bangladeshis were identified as Kalaganju, 17, son of Lotakunju of Nazirgaon under Companyganj upazila, and the

## Army to help tackle bombing spree

**JULFIKAR ALI MANIK**  
The armed forces division will assist law-enforcement agencies in tackling a spate of bomb and grenade attacks, recovery of explosives and death threats that have sent panic waves across Bangladesh. A process to work out the nature of assistance began with an emergency meeting with high officials of the home ministry, armed forces division and the police at the cantonment yesterday. The meeting came after State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babar wrote a letter to the head of the division, sources say. The letter came after the home ministry took a decision on Wednesday to seek training, technical and logistic support from the armed forces division to help detect and defuse bombs. The meeting marks the efforts to lay out a plan for the division to assist the home ministry more

## Pakistan kills 50 in Qaeda camp raid

**AFP, Wana**  
Pakistani forces smashed a suspected al-Qaeda training camp early yesterday in a remote tribal area near the Afghan border, killing some 50 militant fighters, the military said. "Around 50 people, 90 percent of them foreigners, were killed in the strike on the terrorist training camp," military spokesman Major General Shaukat Sultan told the private ARYOne television channel. Most of the victims were Uzbeks and Chechens with some Arabs among them, Sultan said. A military statement said troops launched "a precise strike on a foreign terrorist training camp...and successfully knocked it out." The camp was located at Dila Khula district, some 60 kilometers (37 miles) from the border and 25km northeast of Wana, the main city in the tribal district of South Waziristan. The raid, which lasted around two hours, was based on reports of training activity by "foreign elements" including Uzbeks, Chechens and some Arabs. Local residents reported seeing bombs and missiles dropped from fighter planes on a prayer gathering. "People had gathered for morning prayers when a missile struck their compound at around 6:30 am (0130 GMT)," resident Azizullah told AFP. "It was followed by aerial bombardment resulting in the killing of more than 50 people." A security official who asked not be named said only one guided missile was fired at the gathering by ground troops. The area is a stronghold of the rebellious Mehsud tribe. The latest offensive comes a day after a shootout between militants and security forces in Wana bazaar, in which eight people were killed. The military destroyed several suspected al-Qaeda hideouts and training camps in a major air and ground offensive in June in the

### Cricket carnival starts today

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
When hosts England launch their ICC Champions Trophy campaign against Zimbabwe in Birmingham in one of two matches on the opening day, Bangladesh will get one more chance to hone their skills against Warwickshire XI somewhere else in the same English city today.

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