



PHOTO: STAR
Rain-induced flood marooned about two lakh people in the eastern part of the capital. Picture shows a number of affected people expressing their sufferings holding a banner in front of Matuail Hospital yesterday.

73 Iraqis killed in US air strikes, car blast

REUTERS, Baghdad

A suicide car bomber killed at least 13 people in an attack on a police checkpoint in Baghdad yesterday, after a night of US air strikes around rebel-held Falluja that killed scores.

A government spokesman said the bomb had detonated beside a line of police vehicles set up to seal off routes to nearby Haifa Street, where US troops were continuing the battles they have been fighting all week to dislodge insurgents.

A large crater was gouged into the road and several police cars were ablaze, sending thick smoke into the sky. The government spokesman said at least 13 people were dead and the US military said as many as 50 were wounded.

On Tuesday, a bomb attack on a police station killed 47 people, the

deadliest single attack in the capital in six months.

The US military is struggling to quell mounting insurgency, intended to undermine the US-backed interim government, enough to hold a national election next January.

It said an air strike on Thursday night near Falluja had killed around 60 foreign fighters loyal to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian with a \$25 million price on his head who is the Americans' number one foe in Iraq.

Iraq's Health Ministry said at least 45 civilians had been killed in the air strikes. Reuters television images showed bloodied bodies, including women and children, on hospital beds.

Early on Friday, US warplanes destroyed a compound in south

central Falluja that the US military said was also used by Zarqawi's militants.

More than 200 Iraqis have died over the past few days alone in bombings and other violence.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said US diplomats and military commanders recognized the vote could not go ahead nationwide under the current security conditions, and that areas in rebel hands had to be brought back under government control.

But he told the Washington Times, in an interview published on Friday, that "we don't expect the security situation as it exists now on the 16th of September to be the security situation" on the day Iraqis vote.

Friday's violence in Baghdad

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ALLEGED RAID BY UPDF MEN 300 indigenous people flee home in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

About 300 people of 69 indigenous families from seven villages in Kawkhali upazila have taken refuge at a community centre at Ghagra on Rangamati-Chittagong highway as armed members of the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) that opposes the CHT peace accord allegedly went on the rampage in the villages creating panic among people.

Besides, 500 families have taken shelter in nearby jungles because of continued threats by the armed men, said the refugees at the

community centre.

On August 30, UPDF men raided the remote villages, killed one person, abducted two, looted valuables from houses, torched five houses and demanded toll from the villagers. They threatened the villagers with dire consequences if they raised their voice against them.

The villages are Chhotodolupara, Borodolupara, Chelachhara, Betchhari, Fittipara, Boroitoli and Kolabunia under Fatikchhari union of Kawkhali upazila.

Locals said the UPDF men were accompanied by some people with

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PHOTO: STAR
Members of indigenous families have taken shelter at a community centre at Ghagra on Rangamati-Chittagong highway as armed members of the United People's Democratic Front went on rampage in their villages.

Rab recovers bombs in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered three live bombs and bomb-making materials from a house at Pathanbari under Sonadanga Police Station of Khulna city on Thursday night.

The house belongs to Rinku Shaikh, an armed cadre of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddho).

Sources said Rinku and three other cadres of the underground outfit were planning an operation at the house and fled the scene, getting advance information of raid by Rab.

According to the officer-in-charge (OC) of Sonadanga Police Station, Rinku Shaikh is a listed criminal and an accused in journalist Humayun Kabir Balu murder case.

Balu, editor of Dainik Janmabhumi and president of Khulna Press Club, was bombed to death on Haji Ismail road under Khulna Police Station on June 27.

Materials for fake bomb smuggled into Commons

BBC ONLINE

The Sun newspaper says an undercover reporter smuggled materials for a fake bomb into the Commons only a day after hunt protesters forced their way in.

The newspaper said its journalist had been working for three weeks in the catering department at Westminster.

Sun managing editor Graham Dudman thinks the stunt exposed "very serious" failings in security at the Commons.

Eight protesters who tried to barge into the

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Govt wants to fully implement CEDAW in its tenure

TAWFIQUE ALI

The government intends to fully implement the UN convention on elimination of all forms of discrimination against women during its tenure, Women and Children Affairs Minister Khurshid Jahan Haque said.

"If other Muslim countries can ratify, we too will be able to do so," she said on her return from the 31st session of the UN Committee on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) recently.

Although Bangladesh ratified the CEDAW in 1984, it has ever since shown reservation to the articles, which provide for women's equal rights in matters of property, marriage, divorce and equal guardianship over children.

Women's rights activists said the government's reservation to the articles spelled out a departure from the spirit of the convention.

The successive governments sat reforming personal laws dealing

with women's equal rights to property, marriage and divorce on grounds that they contradicted the existing Shariah laws on family matters.

The government is yet to ratify the article that obliges a state party to take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to establish equality of men and women at all levels and eliminate all forms of discriminations against women.

The minister said she talked to the prime minister and her ministry was currently holding discussions

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3 hurt as bomb goes off in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Three construction workers were hurt, one of them seriously, as an abandoned bomb went off at sadar thana complex yesterday afternoon.

The wounded, Shawkat Ali, 36, Solaiman, 55, and Miraj, 15, were admitted to Satkhira General Hospital. The condition of Shawkat is critical, hospital sources said.

Police and an injured worker said the bomb blasted during cleaning an abandoned building inside the thana complex.

Officer-in-charge of Satkhira sadar thana Abdul Kader Beg said it was not a bomb but a 'cocktail' or 'chocolate' that blasted.

The abandoned building will be put on auction. However, the auction bidder said police might have kept the bomb there.



PHOTO: STAR

Oil tankers that caught fire after skidding off the rail tracks in Fenchuganj on Thursday.

Rail links with Sylhet resume

BSS, Sylhet

Rail links with Sylhet resumed yesterday afternoon, a day after a train with oil containers derailed near Fenchuganj causing a huge fire and oil spillage.

Railway officials said services resumed after salvage trains removed the damaged wagons derailed on Thursday night at Mallickpur Crossing near Fenchuganj Railway Station.

Flames from the burning wagons leapt about 100 feet while the blaze fed by spilled oil spread fast over about 600-square-metre area of the

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Video watch to gear up Ctg port security

NURUL ALAM, Ctg

Security at Chittagong Port is going to get a boost with video surveillance system installed soon at jetties and the Karnaphuli estuary, which also will meet the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code.

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) board has already given its nod to a Tk 3 crore video surveillance project, which it believes will help

combat piracy, detect ghost ships and monitor entries and exits of vessels calling at the country's premier port more efficiently, CPA sources said.

Necessary documents are now being prepared to put out the project to tender, they added.

"We hope to complete installation of the video surveillance system within six months from floating of the tender," said CPA Member

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Prayer Timing		
September 18		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-09	6-12
Esha	7-45	8-15
Source: Islamic Foundation		