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8 Marines killed in Iraq attacks

13 more die in suicide blast

AP, Baghdad

Eight US Marines were killed in two separate incidents in Iraq's restive Anbar province, the military said yesterday, a day after American warplanes pounded Fallujah with missiles as insurgents battled coalition forces in the city.

The deaths equaled the highest number of Marines killed in a single day since a car bomb killed eight outside Fallujah on Oct. 30, which was the deadliest attack against the

US military in nearly six months.

Also Monday, thirteen people died and 15 were injured in a suicide attack at an entrance to the Green Zone in Baghdad that houses Iraq's interim government and foreign embassies, a hospital official said.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said all the casualties from the bombing had been brought to the Yarmouk Hospital in western Baghdad.

It was unknown if the deaths Sunday were connected to the

fighting in the volatile western Iraqi city of Fallujah. In a statement, the military said the seven Marines with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force died while conducting "security and stabilization operations" in Anbar province, a vast region that comprises Fallujah and Ramadi.

The military had earlier reported another US Marine death Sunday in Anbar.

The statement gave no other details about the deaths, saying the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



Permanent Secretary of Britain's DFID Suma Chakrabarti calls on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Separate land body for indigenous people sought

Seminar reveals sharp rise in number of the landless

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of landless among the indigenous people in the northern region has been on a continuous rise in the last few decades, reaching 85 percent now from only 20 percent in 1947, a seminar was told in the capital yesterday.

The existing laws are unable to protect the rights of the indigenous people, the speakers at the discussion said suggesting formation of a separate land commission that would provide them with more legal strength to protect their land.

The indigenous people are losing their lands to the mainstream people in all parts of the country, according to the concept paper of the seminar on 'Necessity of forming a separate land commission for the indigenous people of plainland.'

The national policy advocacy cell

of Samata, a non-governmental organisation working for the landless people, arranged the seminar to discuss the land rights of around 6 lakh indigenous people of 34 ethnic groups living in plainland across the country.

Another 6 lakh indigenous people of 11 ethnic groups live in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region, according to the latest data of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

Robindra Nath Soren, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Parishad, said the indigenous people cannot protect their land from grabbing by others. 'If the government does not take necessary steps immediately, the indigenous people would turn into Romany wanderers losing all their lands,' he said.

Moni Swapan Dewan, deputy minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Dhaka Transport Co-ordination Board (DTCB)

Nagar Bhaban, Level 13 & 14 East Block
Fonix Road, Fulbaria, Dhaka - 1000.

NOTICE

In order to improve traffic management and reduce traffic jam of Dhaka Metropolitan City, Dhaka Transport Co-ordination Board (DTCB) has decided to ban Plying of all categories of non-motorised transports on **Russel Square - Kalabagan - New Market - Azimpur Eden College Road** between 6.00 AM to 10.00 PM from 17th December, 2004.

* To facilitate movement of rickshaw passengers, arrangements for plying of additional new 40 BRTC buses have been made on this road. Separate seats will be kept reserved in the buses for women. For first 10 (ten) days BRTC will not charge any fare for the trip.

Non-motorised transports will be allowed to cross east-west of Russel Square - Kalabagan - New Market - Azimpur Eden College Road at the following three crossings:

1. Dhanmondi Road # 6
2. Dhanmondi Road # 10
3. Dhaka University- Nilkhet - New Market - BDR Gate # 3 and

4. Rickshaw may use the newly constructed separate lane from New Market Kachabazar & Chandrima Super Market to Dhanmondi Road # 1 (Parallel to main road). The passenger of Dhanmondi - Zibatola - Rayer Bazar etc. will be able to make journey to New Market via Dhanmondi Road # 1.

Wholehearted cooperations from the people are solicited for successful implementation of the project for improvement of traffic management of Dhaka Metropolitan City.

Women's reserved seats election act challenged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirteen women leaders, one of them a minister's wife, yesterday filed a writ petition in the High Court seeking a stay order on execution of the Jatiya Sangsad (Reserved Women's Seat) Election Act, 2004, until disposal of earlier writ petitions.

The petition also challenged legality of the Act, which provides for indirect election to 45 reserved seats for women in parliament.

The High Court bench of Justice MA Matin and Justice AFM Abdur Rahman may hear the petition

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

46 bridges remain run-down for 4yr

RHD blames it on donor conditions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Strings attached to the UK assistance pledged in the last four years did not let the Roads and Highways Department repair and rebuild 46 dilapidated and accident-prone bridges on highways stretching over the southwestern districts, said RHD officials.

RHD officials yesterday apprised a meeting of the communications ministry of this when the communications minister expressed dissatisfaction over the delay in the bridge replacement project. He asked the RHD officials to revise the project

and start the reconstruction works immediately, said meeting sources.

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda chaired the meeting attended by the representatives from the Department for International Development (DFID) and RHD. DFID is the UK Government organisation that manages Britain's aid to developing countries.

The project was undertaken in 2000, following a commitment by the UK government to provide Tk 56 crore for replacing 36 bridges with bad condition. Later, the UK govern

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Biggest away win for India

SPORTS REPORTER

It was yet another four-day capitulation for Bangladesh as India recorded their biggest away win by an innings and 140 runs in the first Test at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Sourav Ganguly's side took less than half an hour to wrap the match up on the fourth morning but not before the hosts added a further 32 runs with a flurry of boundaries to end their second innings on 202.

The defeat was the Tigers' fourth successive innings defeat and overall 19th in 33 Test appearances. On the other hand, India's emphatic victory improved their performance in Rawalpindi in April this year against Pakistan, which they won by

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Dubai horror still haunts Jamila

SHAHIN MOLLAH and BISHAWJIT DAS

Jamila, the teenage Bangladeshi girl who was seriously assaulted by her employer in Dubai and was robbed

of her possessions on arrival at Dhaka Friday, is still numbed in an unimaginable horror of her experience.

The working day of the 16-year-old house help began in Dubai at five in the morning.

Before even being allowed to take her first meal, she swept the lawn, prepared tea and breakfast for a 17-member family, fed the cattle, pigeons, poultry, washed the dishes and cleaned the rooms of the house.

Shocked by the reports of Jamila's treatment as a maid in Dubai, published Sunday in The Daily Star and other papers, hundreds of local people gathered at her village-home of Jangail, SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Opposition agitates, asks govt to go

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demanding immediate resignation of the government, the Awami League (AL)-led opposition parties yesterday staged demonstrations across the country, including hartal in Bogra and Gaibandha, in protest against 'attacks' by police and ruling alliance men during Saturday's human wall programme.

The dawn-to-dusk hartal in Bogra town and adjacent areas passed off peacefully. In Gaibandha,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

WATCH OUT

Channel 1 at 4:40pm today will air the recorded sixth award-giving ceremony for outstanding achievers in the O- and A-level examinations for 2003-04. The Daily Star honoured the nation builders of tomorrow on December 10.

Prayer Timing

December 14

	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-15	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



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Age group 6-9 years

- | | |
|-----|------------------------|
| 1st | Maisha Maliha Siddique |
| 2nd | Md. Abrar Haseen |
| 3rd | Lamia Sayara Mela |

- 1st prize: Family trip to Bangkok (4 persons)
- 2nd prize: Personal Computer with printer & scanner
- 3rd prize: Sony VCD Discman

That's not all... top 25 selected entries from each age group will receive consolation prizes. Winners will receive intimation shortly. Selected paintings will be displayed in a painting exhibition followed by a grand prize giving ceremony. Details of the programme will be published soon.

For further enquiries, please contact our 24-hour Call Centre.

Age group 10-14 years

- | | |
|-----|-----------------|
| 1st | Shomen Kormokar |
| 2nd | Sohel Ahmed |
| 3rd | Reshad Monsur |

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Agent Bank

Prime Bank Limited

Arranger

Infrastructure Development Company Limited

14 December 2004