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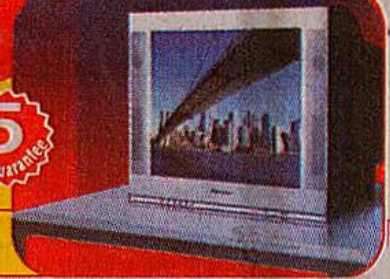
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Suicide bombing near Allawi's party office

10 Iraqis killed in violence, 16 others in hospital fire, US soldier slain

AFP, Baghdad

Two people were killed and 10 wounded yesterday when a suicide car bomb exploded at a checkpoint near Iraqi interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's party offices in Baghdad while 10 others were killed in violence and 16 others in hospital fire, police and medical sources said.

"Around 8:45, a man driving an explosives-laden vehicle rammed into the checkpoint guarding the entrance of the street and blew himself up," a policeman told AFP.

"We have received two dead and

10 wounded, seven of them policemen and the other three civilians," a medical source at Yarmuk hospital told AFP, adding that he could not immediately identify the dead nor specify whether the bomber was among them.

On Sunday, al-Qaeda frontman Abu Musab al-Zarqawi claimed in a purported statement that his movement had kidnapped and killed a candidate on Allawi's list for the January 30 general elections.

An INA official confirmed that Salem Jaafar al-Kanani had been abducted last Wednesday.

Zarqawi has issued several statements over the past few days vowing to wreck the landmark polls.

Earlier 10 Iraqis, including a mother and her child, were killed Sunday in attacks north of Baghdad, while insurgents dynamited a voting center, a government building and a police station around the country.

Six Iraqis, including a mother and her child, were killed Sunday in Samarra bombings, north of Baghdad, while Islamic militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's group claimed the dynamiting of a police station.

In the latest bloodshed, three

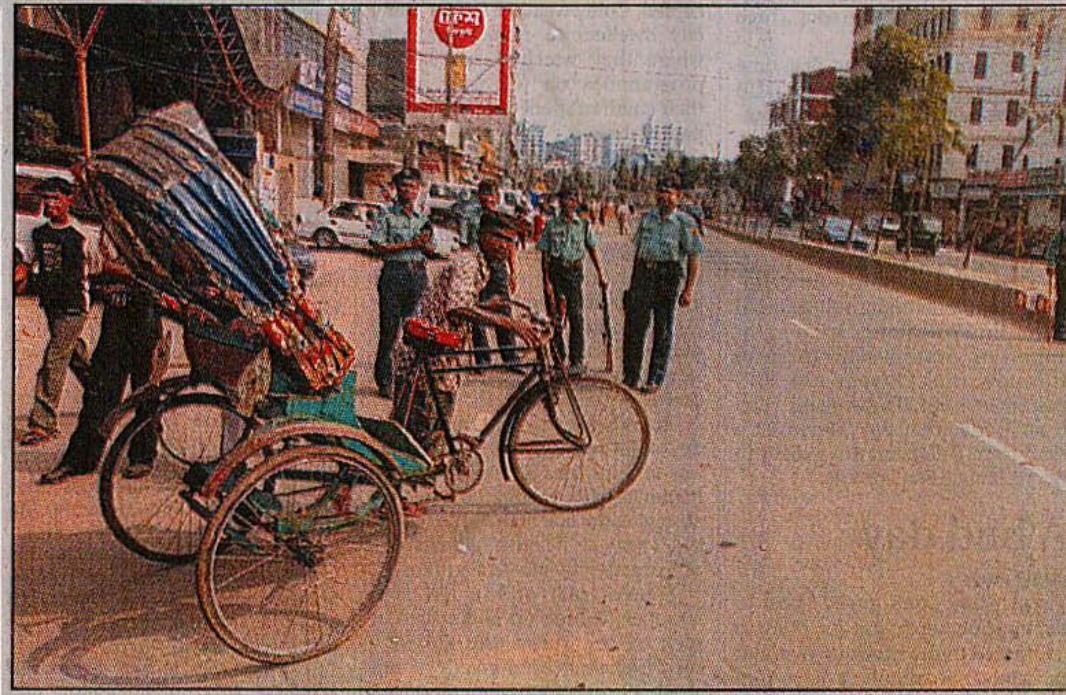
teachers from a technical oil college died in a roadside bombing north of the oil refinery town of Baiji, police said.

A married couple and their daughter were hit by a bomb blast that targeted an Iraqi military convoy near Baiji, police added. The mother and daughter were killed. The husband was seriously wounded.

One insurgent and three Iraqi soldiers were also killed in a firefight in Baiji, police said.

Major General John Batiste, the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



Traffic police prevent a rickshaw from passing through Bangla Motor intersection yesterday following an abrupt decision to make the Malibagh-Bangla Motor road off-limits to rickshaws.

BAN ON RICKSHAW Moghbazar residents in serious trouble

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The traffic department of Dhaka Metropolitan Police on Sunday made the Bangla Motor to Malibagh road off-limits to rickshaws, leaving the rickshaw passengers of the surrounding areas virtually in island.

As people from Moghbazar area can not cross or enter Mymensingh Road through Bangla Motor or Sonargaon points with rickshaw, they are really in trouble due to lack of alternative transport, locals said.

Besides, the road towards Kakrail has also been made off-limits to rickshaws.

"Rickshaws were our only means

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



Garbage litters this road at Bangshal in the capital yesterday, two days after the Eid-ul-Azha, despite Dhaka City Corporation's efforts to clean all garbage by the Eid day.

Road accidents kill 25, injure 118 in 3 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty five people, including seven children, died and 118 others were injured in road accidents in the capital and eight districts in the last three days.

A Dhaka bound passenger bus from Tangail collided with a black taxicab at Abdullahpur in Uttara at about 1:30pm on Sunday, killing four people, three of a family, and injuring five others.

The dead are Sushil Kar, 35, driver of a private company in Chittagong, his daughter Tithi Kar, 5, and niece Swarupa, 10, a student of Uttara Udayan School, and cab driver Shafiqul Islam, 25.

Taxicab driver Shafiqul died on the spot and the other three succumbed to their injuries soon after admission to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH). The injured were admitted to Metropolitan Hospital at Mohakhali.

The bus driver managed to flee.

In Demra, two bicycle riders were crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway Sunday evening. The victims are Milton, 20 and Haider, 20 of Demra area.

Meanwhile, police recovered two unidentified bodies -- one from

Shahed Nazrul Islam Sarani and the other from Bijoynagar road -- in the early hours yesterday. They sent the bodies to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

DMCH morgue and police sources said the two might have been killed in road mishaps.

Manikganj: Five people died and eight others were injured when a Dhaka bound coach from Khulna rammed tempos, rickshaws and a motorbike standing near Banajuri bus stand at 7:00pm yesterday, according to the UNB.

The dead are Jahangir, 28, Faisal, 27, Alam, 45, Babu, 25, and Rawshan Ara, 40.

The injured -- Sayedur, Aynal, Jhantu, Shankar, Nannu, Shahid, Paritosh and Mala -- are undergoing treatment at Manikganj Sadar Hospital.

Angry people blocked the Dhaka-Aricha highway protesting the deaths. The blockade was withdrawn at 8:00pm after the police assured of raising a speed-breaker at the point.

Sherpur: Three people died and nine were injured when a bus rammed a tempo at Nabinagar in Sherpur town yesterday.

The dead were identified as Abu

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Capital still stuck with Eid hangover

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The capital seemed to be stuck with a holiday hangover after three-days of Eid vacation, although government and private offices reopened yesterday.

The holiday began for government offices on January 20, when most city dwellers started leaving the city for outlying villages and towns in order to celebrate with their near and dear ones the Eid-ul-Azha, one of Islam's greatest religious festivals. An estimated four million people left the capital over the last three days.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Palestinian militants to suspend attacks

AP, Gaza City

Militant groups have agreed to suspend attacks as they near a formal truce deal with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and await Israel's response, a senior Palestinian official said yesterday.

The militants' promise came after Israeli leaders said Sunday that Israel is ready to hold its fire if calm prevails, moving the two sides closer to ending four years of bloody conflict.

US envoy William Burns, a senior State Department official, is to

arrive in the region later this week for talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders on the emerging cease-fire deal. Abbas is seeking Israeli guarantees that it will halt military operations, including arrest raids and targeted killings of militants.

Israel in the past has refused to grant amnesty to militants, but appeared to be softening its position. Asaf Shariv, an adviser to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said Israel would not make public declarations. "It will be a de facto cease-fire," he said. "If there is quiet, we

will respond with quiet."

Abbas on Monday was wrapping up a week of talks with militant leaders in Gaza.

Palestinian negotiator Ziad Abu Amr said the armed groups have promised to suspend attacks on Israel.

"They will continue doing that for some time to see if Israel is ready to accept demands and hold the truce," Abu Amr told the Voice of Palestinian radio, after Abbas said in a TV interview that he was close to sealing a cease-fire deal with the militant groups.

Tsunami panic in Indonesia as strong quake kills one

AFP, Jakarta

A strong earthquake shook Indonesia's Sulawesi island yesterday, killing one person, severely

injuring four others and prompting thousands to flee for fear of a repeat of last month's tsunami disaster. The quake measured 6.2 on the Richter scale and caused several

buildings to collapse in the coastal city of Palu, just 16km from the epicentre, when it struck shortly before dawn, seismology officials said.

As a succession of smaller aftershocks rattled the city, residents poured from their homes and ran for higher ground.

"We were afraid there will be a tsunami," said Iqbal, a hotel employee in Palu, who reported that thousands of people took to higher ground. The state Antara news agency said many people refused to return to their homes.

"We are scared to go home because there are still aftershocks. What's more, I heard there will be a tsunami like in Aceh," another resident was quoted as saying by Antara.

According to Antara, a 75-year-old man died as his house collapsed in Palu, the provincial capital of Central Sulawesi, and four people were badly hurt.

Fire kills girl in Khulna: 1,500 shanties gutted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A devastating fire in the city's Natun bazar Char Slum on the Eid day burnt a teenage girl to death and gutted over 1,500 shanties.

The dead was identified as Rehana, 17, daughter of Bulu Sarder, a day labourer.

The fire originated from a kitchen of a shanty at about 2:45pm and soon engulfed the entire slum, rendering over 6,000 people homeless, according to a general diary (GD) filed with Khulna Police Station at 7:30pm.

Fire fighting units assisted by the firemen of Bangladesh Navy brought the blaze under control at around 5:15pm.

The damage caused by the fire was estimated at over Tk 15 crore, Fire Brigade and police sources said.

According to the deputy commissioner, the financial loss caused by the fire may exceed Tk 5 crore. He sent a fax message to the higher authorities, seeking emergency relief for the victims.

Fire victims have taken shelters in nearby houses of the unaffected

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

ইঞ্জিনিয়ার্স ইনস্টিটিউশন, বাংলাদেশ
সদর দফতর, রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০
ফোন: ৯৫৫৯৮৮৫, ৯৫৬৩৩০৬, ৯৫৫৬১১২, ফ্যাক্স: ৮৮-০২-৯৫৬২৪৪৭

৪৯তম সম্মেলন সংক্রান্ত জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আগামী ৬-৭ ফেব্রুয়ারী ২০০৫ এ সার্ক সম্মেলনের তারিখ নির্ধারিত হওয়ায় পূর্ব ঘোষিত (৬-৯ ফেব্রুয়ারী ২০০৫) তারিখে আইইবি'র ৪৯তম সম্মেলন আয়োজন করা সম্ভবপর হচ্ছে না। এজন্য আমরা অন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত।

চট্টগ্রামে অনুষ্ঠিত ৪৯তম সম্মেলনের পরিবর্তিত তারিখ অতিশীঘ্রই জানানো হবে।

প্রকৌশলী আ.ন.হ. আশতার হোসেন, পিইজ
সম্মানী সাধারণ সম্পাদক, আইইবি

বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ানস এন্ড সার্জনস
মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২।

সমাবর্তন সম্পর্কে জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ানস এন্ড সার্জনস এর ৯ম সমাবর্তন আগামী ১৯শে ফেব্রুয়ারী এর পরিবর্তে ২২শে ফেব্রুয়ারী, ২০০৫-এ অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। সমাবর্তনের সময় ও স্থান অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে। সমাবর্তনে অংশগ্রহণকারী ফেলো (FCPS) ও মেম্বারগণকে (MCPS) আগামী ০৭-০২-২০০৫ তারিখের মধ্যে রেজিস্ট্রেশন করতে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

(অধ্যাপক আবু জাক্বর মোঃ জাহিদ হোসেন)
অনারারি সচিব

Prayer Timing
January 25

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:30	6:05
Juma	12:30	1:15
Asr	4:15	4:30
Maghrib	5:43	5:47
Esha	7:15	7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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