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Peacekeepers' bodies brought home

National mourning day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A pall of gloom descended on the Zia International Airport last night when the bodies of the nine Bangladeshi peacekeepers, killed Friday in a militia ambush in Congo, were flown home.

A special aircraft of the United Nations carrying the bodies landed at the airport at 9:18pm after around 12 hours' flight from Ugandan capital Kampala.

The family members and relatives of the slain army personnel at the airport burst into tears as the pall-bearers were taking the coffins out of the plane one after another.

The coffins draped in national and UN flags were then lined up on the runway.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia stood in solemn silence while formally receiving the bodies. She showed her last respects to the martyrs placing wreaths on the coffins with due military honour.

A unit of Bangladesh Army's 11 Infantry Regiment saluted the deceased soldiers, amid playing of the last post on bugle.

The PM then talked to the members of the bereaved families and



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ
The coffins of nine UN peacekeepers, draped in national and UN flags, lie in state after arrival from Congo at the Zia International Airport last night.

Four children accused in criminal case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Four children yesterday appeared before the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate, Chittagong for bail in a case filed against them along with their family members.

Mid Samir Uddin filed the case on February 6 against 11 members of the family of his neighbour Chittaranjan Nath, 52, including the four and a dead person.

Of the 11, however, the son of Dulai Nath never existed, as Dulai died unmarried five years ago.

The accused are Chittaranjan, his wife Minoti Nath, 40, their two-year-old son Sagar and eleven-month-old Hriday, Chitta's brothers Haradhan, 45, Sunil Nath (a UAE expat) and Dulai, sister-in-law Baby Nath, 35, and nephews 18-month-old Durjoy and seven-month-old Bijoy.

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BSF kills two in Naogaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Border Security Force gunned down two Bangladeshis near Shital border post in Patnitala upazila in Naogaon in the early hours yesterday.

The dead are Hasan Ali and Idris Ali of Patnitala who went out together.

Hearing gunshots at 4:00am, members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) rushed to the spot and found the body of Idris, said BDR sources.

Locals said the BSF took away the body of Hasan. The BDR sources also confirmed it.

The BDR and BSF sat in a flag meeting that continued until 7:00 last night.

110 killed in Iraq car bomb carnage

4 GIs, 7 Iraqi cops die in other attacks

AGENCIES, Hilla

A suicide bomber killed 110 people and wounded scores more yesterday when he blew up his car in the middle of a crowd outside a health clinic in central Iraq, in one of the deadliest attacks since the US-led invasion two years ago.

Four US soldiers and seven Iraqi policemen were killed in separate attacks.

People were queuing in the town of Hilla for physical exams that permit them to work for the state or

return to jobs lost after Saddam Hussein's regime fell when the explosives-laden car detonated, medical officials said.

Ambulances rushed the wounded to hospital in the mostly Shia town south of Baghdad as the wreckage of the vehicle smouldered in the street in a busy commercial district.

Local shopkeepers helped lift the dead and wounded from the debris.

The car was packed with several dozen kilos (pounds) of TNT and mortar shells to cause 'the maxi-

mum number of victims', said police forensics chief Thamer Sultan.

'This criminal act targeted citizens who did not have any ties to the army and police and who have chosen to live in peace,' said Walid Janabi, governor of Babil province of which Hilla is the capital.

Deputy governor Hassan Ali Hassun called it 'the most odious crime ever committed in the town. The attackers had killed 'innocent civilians who wanted jobs and

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Dhaka's poor HR record worsens

Observes US report

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Portraying a grim picture of Bangladesh's human rights condition, the US human rights report released yesterday says the government's 'poor human rights record worsened, and the government continued to commit numerous

abuses.'

It says police were often reluctant to pursue investigations against people affiliated with the ruling parties, and the government frequently used the law-enforcers for political purposes.

Under Secretary for Global

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JUDGE'S CERTIFICATE CASE Newspaper counsels say report did not undermine court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The newspaper reports on a High Court additional judge's alleged certificate tampering did not undermine the court, said the counsel for one of the two national dailies facing contempt charges for running the reports in October last year.

Dr Kamal Hossain, the counsel for daily Prothom Alo, yesterday

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Galib denies direct armed activities

His 3 aides sent to Gopalganj; 15 Rajshahi cops to explain courtroom interview

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

While militant leader Asadullah Al Galib remains under interrogation at the joint interrogation cell (JIC) in Dhaka, three of his top aides were sent to Gopalganj yesterday for robbery in a case filed for robbery at the Brac office in Kotalipara in Gopalganj.

The Gopalganj police are likely to seek a 15-day remand today of Galib's three associates Samad Salafi, Nurul Islam and ASM Azizullah in order to interrogate them in connection with the Brac office robbery case. A large contingent of police from Rajshahi and Gopalganj escorted the three to

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Rajshahi SP helped Bangla Bhai to flee

Reveals special police report; SP blames newsmen for false reports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Rajshahi superintendent of police misused his power to back Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) and even helped Bangla Bhai to flee, according to a cross section of public accounts, coupled with documentary proof and a special

government report.

While SP Masud Mia continues to proclaim his innocence, a special police report last month identifies him as the man behind the police failure to nab Bangla Bhai, the country's top most wanted criminal.

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PHOTO: STAFF
Photographs taken on April 24, 2004 show, clockwise from top left, militant leader Bangla Bhai, he comes out of Rajshahi SP office, stands behind a microbus parked near the office, patrols Bagmara with his cadres brandishing arms.

2 die, 160 hurt as train derails

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Two persons were killed and at least 160 injured when a passenger train derailed near Kalishima under Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila yesterday.

According to the Brahmanbaria Railway Station and police, three compartments of Dhaka-bound Joyantika Express went off the track at about 1:35pm. Earlier at about 1:30pm, the train reached Brahmanbaria from Sylhet.

One person died on the spot while the other one succumbed to his injuries at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital.

Of the injured, eight people were admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital in critical condition. They were Antar, 7, Rifat, 9, Mizan, 48, Jakub Ali, 65, Janera Begum, 60, her husband Jabbar Mia, 70, and Hena Begum, 40, and an unidentified man aged about 30. The rest were released after first aid at the Sadar

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