

Indian home minister against hyping up illegal Bangladeshi issue

FROM PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Indian Home Minister Shivraj Patil yesterday said the issue of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in the country "should not be raised so much that it spoils relations with the neighbouring country".

"When the country is engaged in confidence building measures with its neighbours like Pakistan and China, raising the illegal Bangladeshi immigrants issue time and again could spoil relations with

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16 fall sick of gas poisoning

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least 16 people including a newly wed couple fell sick after an incident of suspected gas poisoning at city's South Kattali area in the early hours yesterday.

Kallol Saha, 28, and his wife Srabani Saha, 24, were among the victims who were immediately rushed to the Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH) in

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Prayer Timing		
May 25		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-40	6-45
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Car bombs kill 8 GIs, 6 Iraqis in Baghdad

AP, AFP, Baghdad

A car bomb exploded yesterday near a Baghdad junior high school for girls, killing six people, and seven American soldiers were killed in two days of bombings in and around Baghdad, a day after 62 Iraqis died in a string of insurgent attacks.

The US deaths raised the total to 13 Americans killed since Sunday. Those reports came as insurgents carried out a string of explosions, suicide attacks and drive-by shootings around the country that killed 49 Iraqis.

Three US soldiers died yesterday when a bomb exploded as their

convoy drove by and a fourth was killed 30 minutes later in a separate incident when gunmen shot him from a passing car, an army spokesman said.

The other four were killed Monday after they were attacked in Haswa, 48km south of Baghdad, the military said. The soldiers were assigned to the 155th Brigade Combat Team, II Marine Expeditionary Force.

The seven soldiers' identities were not released.

The US military said Monday that three American soldiers were killed Sunday and one wounded in two separate attacks in Mosul, 360km northwest of Baghdad. Another

soldier was reported killed when his patrol was hit by a car bomb just north of Tikrit, 128km north of the capital, and a fifth died in a vehicle accident in Kirkuk.

Separately, a homemade bomb destroyed a Bradley fighting vehicle late Monday in Ramadi, west of Baghdad, wounding three US soldiers. Two of them returned to duty while the third remained in a military clinic, said Sgt. Jeffrey Pool. None of the soldiers was seriously hurt.

Militants also gunned down two people and seized control of Tal Afar, a

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KIBRIA KILLING CASE Why 4 accused can't retract their statement

HC orders govt to explain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule on the government to explain in three weeks why four accused in the former minister Shah AMS Kibria killing case would not be allowed to retract their confessional statement.

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Rab asked to track down phone extortionists

BDNEWS, Dhaka

State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar yesterday said 50 percent task of executive investigation has so far been completed to try the accused Rab (Rapid Action

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3 killed in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Three people including a Union Parishad (UP) member and a school teacher were killed when a passenger bus collided head-on with a truck on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway yesterday morning.

The accident that took place at Gargoria Bazar under Sripur upazila in Gazipur, left 20 other passengers injured, some of them critically.

The accident occurred when the



PHOTO: STAR

Sex workers along with their children take to Dhaka streets yesterday to protest the amendment to International AIDS Bill 2003 by a US House committee recently, blocking funds for work for the sex workers worldwide.

TRINATION PIPELINE Private firm in talks for financing consortium

UNB, Dhaka

A Dhaka-based private company began negotiations with public and private investors and financial institutions to set up an international consortium for financing the planned tri-nation Myanmar-Bangladesh-India gas pipeline.

"It's confidential at this point of time... We have started negotiations and we'll let you know later who're joining the consortium," KB Ahmed, Managing Director of

Mohona Holdings Ltd (MHL), told reporters at Hotel Sheraton.

MHL claims to be the exponent of Trans Myanmar-Bangladesh-India Gas Pipeline project in 1997 presenting the conceptual proposals to the West Bengal government and later on to the governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh.

The international consortium company will build, own and operate some 897 kms of pipeline covering 289 kms in Bangladesh segment.

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AL, BNP men's politics abroad tainting image

JS body observes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday observed that activists of the political parties, particularly the Awami League and the BNP, are tarnishing Bangladesh's image abroad by squabbling with each other on foreign soil.

The parliamentary standing committee on expatriates welfare and overseas employment ministry at a meeting discussed possible ways to put a stop to such practices abroad to restore the country's image.

Members of the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) committee proposed launching

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