## Indian home minister against hyping up illegal Bangladeshi issue

FROM PALLAB BHATTACHARYA,

Indian Home Minister Shivrai Patil vesterday 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 **SEE PAGE 15 COL 6** 

### 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
Fajr	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 Gls, 6 Iraqis in Baghdad

AP, AFP, Baghdad

A car bomb exploded vesterday 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

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

Three US soldiers died yesterday when a bomb exploded as their

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

since Monday morning.

To quash a sharp rise in robbery and

mugging in recent months, the law

enforcement agencies in special

drives nabbed as many as 566

suspected criminals from different

areas of the city in only 24 hours

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) launched

the clampdown on the city under-

world on Sunday, aiming at curbing

the accelerating frequency of crimi-

nal incidents that saw a number of

that they even raided the houses of

Robbers have become so daring

deaths and injuries to city dwellers.

The police and paramilitary

busting drive

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

Cops nab 566 in crime

two police officials at Khilgaon and

Shyampur and stabbed another in

surveillance and block raids at

different parts of the city, as inci-

dents of robbery recently have

marked an unusual rise, particularly

in Mirpur and Mohammadnur

areas." said Dhaka Metropolitan

Police (DMP) Commissioner SM

clothesmen formed recently to

crush robberies and mugging have

swung into action. The police also

have stepped up vigilance at 459

crime points under the 22 police

Seventy special teams of plain-

Mizanur Rahman yesterday.

"We've redoubled our patrolling,

the last two months.

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

Militants also gunned down two people and seized control of Tal

A patrol team of each of the

police stations is patrolling the city

streets at night. Besides, teams of

the crime-busting Rapid Action

Battalion (Rab) are stationed at 20

sensitive points in the city, sources

From 6:00am Monday to 6:00am

Tuesday, the law enforcers arrested

566 people in special drives and

block raids in different areas of the

arrested 283 of the arrestees, while

the police and BDR nabbed 80 in

ioint block raids in the areas under

The 70 special detective teams

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

stations in the city.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

### track down phone extortionists BDNEWS, Dhaka

Rab asked to

KIBRIA KILLING CASE

can't retract

HC orders govt to

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

explain

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 SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

#### 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 SEE PAGE15 COL 7



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. SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

politics abroad tainting image JS body observes

AL. BNP men's

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 or 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

Members of the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) committee proposed launching SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

