

**Ayodhya attackers were members of Lashkar-e-Taiba, says India**

AFP, Lucknow  
Five gunmen who attacked a disputed religious site in northern India came from Pakistan and were members of a militant group fighting Indian rule in divided Kashmir, police said yesterday.  
The rebels were all members of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) guerrilla force, which India blames for an attack on its parliament in December 2001 and on a Hindu temple in western Gujarat state in 2002, a police chief said.  
The militants were gunned down by Indian troops when they blasted their way into a heavily-guarded religious complex in the northern Indian town of Ayodhya July 5. The gunbattle also left dead a sixth person still unidentified.  
"The militants crossed over into India from Pakistan in August 2004 and began their plans to attack the

# London 'bomb-maker' caught in Cairo

UK cops confirm 'a Pakistan connection'

AFP, REUTERS, Cairo/London  
The alleged bomb-maker in the July 7 London terror attacks has been arrested in Cairo, where he is being interrogated, Egyptian officials said yesterday.  
They named the man as 33-year-old Magdy Nashar and said he had been arrested "several days ago."  
The did not give any further details.  
British police said yesterday they were "aware" of an arrest in Egypt in connection with the investigation into last week's London bombings.  
"We are aware of an arrest made in Cairo but are not prepared to discuss if we may or may not wish to interview (the person) in connection

with this investigation," a spokeswoman for London's Metropolitan Police told AFP.  
"This remains a fast-moving investigation with a number of lines of enquiry, some of which may have an international dimension."  
The US network ABC News reported the arrest earlier Friday, saying Nashar is the alleged bomb-maker behind the attacks on three Underground trains and a double-decker bus that killed at least 54 people and injured some 700.  
Citing sources including the FBI, ABC said the detained man helped set up the attackers' bomb factory and left Britain two weeks before the blasts.  
Previous reports in Britain said

police were seeking a man with a similar name who had been studying for a doctorate in chemistry at Leeds University, in the same city where three of the suspected bombers lived.  
A British grant-awarding group said yesterday it had given the man financial support to pursue research which had an industrial application.  
In London, Metropolitan Police commissioner Sir Ian Blair confirmed on BBC radio that there was "a Pakistan connection" to the bombings, in which three of the four suspected perpetrators were Britons of Pakistani origin.  
But he added: "There are also connections in other countries."  
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**Khaleda pays courtesy call on Emperor Akihito**

Bss, Tokyo  
Prime Minister Khaleda Zia paid a courtesy call on Japanese Emperor Akihito at the Imperial Palace yesterday, the concluding day of her five-day official visit to Japan.  
She informed the emperor of various development efforts of Bangladesh, as he showed interest towards economic development and progress in other sectors.  
Emperor Akihito recalled his visit to Bangladesh when he was the crown prince. He also recalled Khaleda's earlier visits to Japan in 1979 and 1994.  
He appreciated Bangladesh's role in UN peacekeeping mission. Bangladesh's success in disaster management was also commended.  
Bangladesh ambassador to Japan was present during the meeting.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia calls on Japanese Emperor Akihito at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo yesterday.

**Rain in Dhaka, Ctg causes waterlogging**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Intermittent rain for the third day in a row in the city yesterday caused immense sufferings to city dwellers as temporary waterlogging obstructed traffic movement at many places.  
Many new parts of the Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra (DND) dam were inundated while the water level in many other areas which had already been under water increased by at least a foot.  
The Met Office recorded 25 millimetres (mm) of rain in the city during the 12 hours ending at 6:00pm yesterday.  
In other parts of the country also, the rainfall was moderate with an average of 29mm in the southwestern and southeastern districts. The highest rainfall recorded yesterday was 55mm in Patuakhali.  
The Met Office in its regular weather forecast said light to moderate rainfalls accompanied by thunderstorms are likely over most places of the country during the next 24 hours beginning at 6:00pm yesterday.  
Heavy rainfalls are also likely to occur at many places of Dhaka, Khulna and Rajshahi divisions while heavy shower may continue at a stretch in many places, especially in the capital and the surrounding



Low-lying areas of the Chittagong port city went under knee-deep water following yesterday's downpour.

# Food, drinking water crisis in flood-hit districts

STAR REPORT  
The monsoons and onrush of water from upstream India have worsened the flash flood in vast areas in several affected districts, destroying

crop, washing away houses and causing untold sufferings to millions of people.  
The flood has hit Rangpur, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha, Sherpur, Netrakona, Mymensingh and Pirojpur as large areas in the districts have been submerged.  
Flood-affected people of these districts are suffering from acute scarcity of food, drinking water and from sanitation problems.  
A minor boy in Rangpur reportedly drowned in the floodwater yesterday.  
More than 1,100 ponds in the affected areas have been inundated and fish worth over Tk 10 crore has been washed away, sources at the districts' fishery offices said.  
The situation may worsen in a day or two as the met office forecasts heavy rainfall in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna, Chittagong and

Barisal divisions due to an active monsoon low over the Gengetic West Bengal and adjoining Bangladesh in the next 24 hours.  
Our Rangpur correspondent reports: Flood situation deteriorated in Rangpur, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat following heavy downpours for four days and rise in water level in the Dharla, Teesta, Ghagot and Brahmaputra rivers.  
About 2 lakh people living in 150 riverside villages in four upazilas in the districts have become victims of waterlogging.  
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**College student abducted in Meherpur**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia  
Criminals abducted a college student from his house at Bamunpara village in Sadar upazila of Meherpur district early yesterday and demanded ransom for his release.  
Police said a gang had earlier demanded Tk 50,000 from farmer Mujibur Rahman of the village, but he refused to pay the money.  
According to family sources, the gang stormed into the house at about 1:30am and asked Mujibur to give the amount as they demanded earlier. As Mujibur again refused to oblige them, the gang picked up his son Mamun, a student of class XII at

# 3 robbers lynched in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg  
Three robbers were lynched at Technical Training Centre (TTC) at Khulshi in the port city early yesterday.  
One of them was identified as Ekramul Haq, 35, of Sunderpur village in Fatikhari upazila of the district. Identity of the other two could not be known.  
According to police and local people, a gang of six robbers broke into the TTC adjacent to Chittagong Polytechnic Institute at Nasirabad under Khulshi Police Station at around 3:00am.  
The robbers started beating two night guards, Asim and Khokon Mitra, and a teacher Uttam Kumar

**'Caretaker reform issue should be discussed in JS'**

Canadian envoy for consensus thru' talks  
UNB, Dhaka  
Canada's country mission, a member of the 'Tuesday Group' that plays a watchdog role in Bangladesh's elections, suggests that parliament is the appropriate forum to discuss issues of national importance like reform of caretaker government to work out a consensus.  
"The matter of reforms is an issue for the opposition and the government. Like other issues, controversial political issues should be worked out satisfactorily through dialogue and consensus."  
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REFORM PROPOSALS  
**CPB fears a deadlock**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday said appointment of the chief advisor of the caretaker government on the basis of consensus of all political parties, as demanded by the opposition parties, may create political deadlock in the country.  
"If any party opposes while appointing the chief advisor, it will create a deadlock and any domestic and foreign force may take the chance of that deadlock," said a CPB statement.  
However, making public the proposals of reforming the Election

# Suicide bomb spree kills 20 in Baghdad

REUTERS, Baghdad  
Suicide car bombers blew themselves up in a series of attacks within hours across the Iraqi capital yesterday, and US forces said 20 Iraqis were killed.  
The US military reported seven blasts in Baghdad, at least three of which were suicide car bombs. Reuters journalists saw the aftermath of five big explosions, all of which Iraqi police sources said were suicide car bombs.  
al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for five suicide attacks.  
At least two attacks struck US

Prayer Timing		
July 16		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-46	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-54	6-58
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

