

BLOODSHED SHOWS NO SIGN OF ABETTING

# Security forces recover 51 more bodies in Baghdad

AFP, Baghdad

More than 100 bullet-riddled corpses have been recovered from the streets of Baghdad over the past three days, officials said yesterday, amid a sharp spike in sectarian violence in Iraq.

Pointing the finger at Shia death squads, Iraq's top Sunni leader Adnan al-Dulaimi said that "well-known militias" were behind the communal bloodletting that he warned was propelling the country towards "disaster."

The United Nations has also warned that Iraq could slide into civil war as the daily bloodshed shows no signs of abating despite political efforts for national reconciliation.

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In the past three days, security forces have collected bodies of more than 100 people killed in Shia-Sunni violence, the epicentre of which is Baghdad.

US and Iraqi security officials say most were shot dead execution-style with bullet to their heads and many showed signs of torture.

Interior ministry spokesman Brigadier General Abdel Karim Khalaf told AFP that 51 bodies had been recovered in Baghdad in the past 24 hours. He said some of them had been killed in "criminal activities."

On Thursday, police reported finding 20 corpses and on Wednesday 64 bodies were regis-

tered by the capital's morgues.

"A large portion of those are murder, execution-style type activity. It is associated with sectarian violence," US military spokesman Major General William Caldwell told reporters on Thursday.

The violence in Baghdad has surged despite a massive security crackdown -- Operation Together Forward -- by US and Iraqi forces since mid-June.

Sunni Arab leaders have regularly charged that the sectarian killings are carried out by militias linked to Shia political parties who dominate the parliament.

Dulaimi alleged on Thursday that "well known militias" were carrying out the killings, referring to

armed groups close to radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr and the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq.

"If strong measures are not taken soon, the country is going towards disaster and no one would be saved," said Dulaimi, a lawmaker and head of the National Concord Front, Iraq's largest Sunni parliamentary bloc.

"These well-known militias are pushing the country to the edge of catastrophe," he said.

Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh also said in Washington on Thursday that militias such as those linked with

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Bridge unused for lack of approach roads

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

The footbridge on river Karotoa at Malatinagar in Bogra town has been lying virtually useless for nearly three years as no approach roads were built on either sides of the bridge.

Failing to get the primary benefit of the bridge built at a cost of Tk 15 lakh, locals now use it for drying laundries and other purposes.

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) built the 60-metre long and two-metre wide footbridge in 2003.

Anisur Rahman Rana, in-charge executive engineer of Bogra LGED, said the department has decided to build approach roads and other infrastructures on both sides of the bridge soon at a cost of Tk 10 lakh. He, however, admitted that the bridge was built three years ago

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Want of approach roads renders this footbridge at Malatinagar in Bogra town of little use to the people of the locality.

NAM SUMMIT BEGINS

## Musharraf-Manmohan set for terror talks today

REUTERS, AFP, Havana

The leaders of India and Pakistan will hold talks in Cuba today, hoping to ease tensions after a year of recriminations over terror attacks and Kashmir, Indian and Pakistani officials said.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, who last met a year ago at the United Nations, will meet today at the sideline of the Non-Aligned Movement summit that began in

Havana yesterday. With both under political pressure at home, expectations are modest, the officials said.

The talks between the nuclear-armed neighbours in Havana, follow a summer of accusations and cancelled meetings following the July 11 train bombings that killed 186 people in Mumbai.

Singh this week lamented "a problem of trust deficit between our two countries" and US and Indian analysts predict few breakthroughs.

"Neither in India nor in Pakistan

Rival groups clash ahead of PM's Moulvibazar visit

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Two rival groups of ruling BNP of Baralekhia upazila in Moulvibazar locked in a fierce clash at Baralekhia Bazar yesterday, leaving at least 20 people injured.

Seven of the 20 injured were admitted to upazila health complex.

The clash erupted around 8:45pm following a feud over which group would organise the programmes during the prime minister's visit to the upazila today.

Sources said employees of a tobacco company, which has an office underneath the bank on the first floor, discovered their three security guards unconscious next to a barbed-wire fence behind the building. They also noticed that the fence had been cut through.

Later, police discovered that the collapsible gate of the bank on the first floor was cut by a blowtorch and the front door was wide open. They recovered two gas cylinders and a blowtorch from the scene. They arrested the three security guards of the tobacco office -- Habibur Rahman, Abdun Nur and Nur Miah.

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Hasina addresses rallies in Tangail, Jamalpur today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The opposition leader in parliament Sheikh Hasina will address two public meetings in Melandaha and Madarganj upazilas and several street meetings in Tangail and Jamalpur districts today.

Sheikh Hasina, also president of the main opposition Awami League (AL), will start by road from Dhaka at 8:00am and on her way to Jamalpur, speak to people at street gatherings in Kalihati, Ghatail, Madhupur and Dhanbari upazilas under Tangail district.

After addressing street meetings at Digpait and on central Shaheed Minar premises in Jamalpur town, she will address a public meeting on Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Fisheries College ground in Melandaha upazila of the district at 3:00pm.

She will also address another public meeting, organised by local AL, on Baliazuri High School ground in Madarganj upazila of the same district at 4:00pm.

Hasina will return to the capital today.

Tk 46 lakh looted at Pubali Bank in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Robbers looted around Tk 45,73,000 at Pubali Bank Wapda Gate branch in Moulvibazar yesterday leaving three security guards unconscious at the scene.

Pubali Bank officials said they closed the bank on Thursday around 7:00pm and they found the money looted from its vault yesterday morning.

Sources said employees of a tobacco company, which has an office underneath the bank on the first floor, discovered their three security guards unconscious next to a barbed-wire fence behind the building. They also noticed that the fence had been cut through.

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Yemen foils suicide attacks on oil plants

Four bombers among five killed

REUTERS, Sanaa

Yemen foiled two suicide attacks on its oil and gas facilities yesterday, days after al-Qaeda urged Muslims to target Western interests, especially oil installations.

The Interior Ministry said four bombers were killed when security forces blew up four rigged cars at dawn before they reached their targets. Aguard was also killed.

There was no damage to the state-owned facilities, the ministry added. Yemen, a minor oil producer, is the ancestral home of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden and has been battling militants for years.

"The Interior Ministry foiled early this morning two terrorist attacks involving four cars that targeted an oil exporting terminal in Hadramout and an oil refinery and gas production unit in Marib," a statement carried on state media said.

The attempted attacks occurred east of the capital Sanaa.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Yemen said it had launched an investigation.

Militants from al-Qaeda and other groups regard Western allied governments such as Yemen's as traitors and therefore legitimate targets.

The statement said that in the first attack, one of the bombers was disguised as a military officer while the second attacker was wearing the uniform of workers at the terminal.

It said a small fire broke out at one of the storage tanks in Hadramout, and it was quickly brought under control.

In the Marib attack, two cars tried to storm the refinery and gas production unit, the ministry said.

"The suicide terrorist attack did not result in any loss of life or damage to the refinery or gas

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Non-govt primary teachers stage sit-in today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of non-government primary schools will begin sit-in programme at Muktagong in the capital today demanding nationalisation of their job.

Bangladesh Non-government Primary Teachers Association led by Abdul Rahman Bachchu will bring out a procession from Muktagong at 1:00pm that will march city streets before starting their 48-hour sit-in programme at 3:00pm today.

After the sit-in programme, they will go for 48-hour hunger strike if the government does not meet their one-point demand for job nationalisation, Bachchu, secretary general of the association, said.

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Road accidents kill 6, injure 30 in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Six people were killed and 30 others injured in three separate road accidents in the district yesterday.

Four persons were killed and 30 injured when a 'Tekerhat' bound passenger bus from Faridpur fell into a roadside ditch at Bhabukdia point on the Faridpur-Barisal highway under Nagarkanda upazila at around 12noon, police said.

The dead were identified as Kamru 6, Parvez 4, Moina, 12, and Alam, 20. The injured passengers, many of them with serious injuries, were admitted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital.

A motorbike rider was killed

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### Prayer Timing

September 16

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Magrib	6-09	6-12
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation



Pile of earth on the dug up road at Tejgaon Satrasta in the capital has become a nuisance for the commuters. Dhaka Wasa is digging up the road for setting water pipeline.

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'Iran ready to discuss nuke enrichment suspension'

EU ministers talk Tehran's nuclear ambitions

REUTERS, AFP, Paris

Iran told the European Union's foreign policy chief Javier Solana last weekend that it is prepared to discuss suspending its uranium enrichment programme, a French foreign ministry spokesman confirmed yesterday.

Solana met Iranian chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani in Vienna on Saturday and Sunday. An EU diplomat told Reuters after the meeting that Larijani offered a two-month suspension of the enrichment program.

"Iran ... has accepted to talk about the question of suspension. That for us is a positive development," spokesman Jean-Baptiste Mattei told a regular news briefing.

Iran has so far ignored an August 31 UN Security Council deadline to suspend its enrichment program, which Tehran says will only be used for civilian purposes, not to make atomic weapons as many Western countries suspect.

Suspension of enrichment-related activities is a precondition

In Brussels, Iran and the Middle East peace process were at the top of the agenda as the foreign ministers gathered for their talks in Brussels, despite the cancellation of a key EU-Iran meeting the previous day.

Iran's stance over its nuclear ambitions should be taken with a healthy dose of mistrust, Dutch Foreign Minister Ben Bot warned here yesterday, ahead of a day of talks with his 24 EU counterparts.

"I think healthy distrust is the best recipe here," Bot told reporters.

The bloc is maintaining its line

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Journo stabbed to death

UNB, Satkhira

Criminals stabbed a journalist to death at Pichhlapole in Kolaroa upazila of the district on Thursday night.

The deceased, Bellal Hossain Dafadar, 38, son of Mosabir Dafadar of Digong village in the upazila, was Kolaroa correspondent of Khulna-based daily Janabani.

As Bellal was returning home on a bicycle from a local bazar at about 7:00pm, some four to five assailants stopped him at Pichhlapole and stabbed him indiscriminately, leaving him critically injured, police said.

He was rushed to the Khulna 250-bed hospital where he succumbed to injuries late at night.