# INTERNATIONAL

# Taliban attack on Afghan town foiled: 100 killed

AP, Kandahar

Taliban militants launched a surprise attack on a key southern Afghan town, sparking a battle that the military alliance said in a statekilled some 60 insurgents, an ment. Afghan official said Sunday. A second clash in the same region killed another 40 militants.

and other heavy weapons to attack Afghan forces on the outskirts of Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand province, said Daud ies of 41 Taliban fighters on the Ahmadi, the spokesman for city's outskirts, from where the Helmand's governor.

three sides starting just after midnight and were pushed back only after a battle that involved airstrikes, Ahmadi said. Rockets landed in different parts of the city but there were no civilian casualties, he said.

Nato said its aircraft bombed insurgents after they observed them gathering for a major attack, killing "multiple enemy forces,"

"If the insurgents planned a spectacular attack prior to the winter, this was a spectacular Taliban fighters used rockets failure," said Brig. Gen. Richard Blanchette, the spokesman for the Nato-led force.

Authorities recovered the bodattack was launched, he said. He Militants attacked the city from estimated the bodies of another 20 fighters were taken from the battle site by the militants, citing intelligencereports.

British forces are responsible for protecting the area around Lashkar Gah.

province, Afghan and international world and the region alone troops retook the Nad Ali district centre which had been held by militants during a three-day fight, Ahmadi said. That battle, which also involved airstrikes, ended Saturday, Ahmadi said.

Afghan police and soldiers were now in control of the district centre. There were no casualties among Afghan or Nato troops, Ahmadi

Ahmadi's death tolls could not be verified independently. Journalists are not able to travel to remote and dangerous battle sites. Afghan officials have been known to exaggerate death tolls in the

The Nato-led force said it was aware of fighting in Helmand but could not provide any information. Helmand province is the larg-

Alikheil blamed Taliban mili-In a second battle in Helmand est drug producing area in the tants for planting the bomb.

officials.

## Sister Alphonsa becomes India's first woman saint

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Vatican City

Kerala nun Sister Alphonsa became Saint Alphonsa after she was canonised by Pope Benedict XVI at a ceremony at St Peter's Square in Vatican City on Sunday, becoming the first Indian Catholic woman to be so anointed.

The ceremony was attended by around 25,000 people of Indian origin - many waving Indian flags - as well as a large delegation from India.

Alphonsa is the first woman saint of the Indian church, which claims 2,000 years of history. The canonisation took place at 2.40 pm (Indian time).

The final ceremony for the canonisation began with the holy relics of Alphonsa being presented to the Pope by Sister Celia, mother general of the Franciscan Clarist congregation - the congregation that Sister Alphonsa belonged to. Celia was accompanied by Vice Postulator Father Francis Vadakkel and former Kerala minister KM Mani, all holding lighted candles.



Pope Benedict XVI arrives in St Peter's square at the Vatican on Sunday during the Canonisation ceremony of Sister Alfonsa (Anna Muttathupadathu) of India, Ecuadorian Narcisa de Jesus Martillo Moran (1832-1869), Swiss nun Maria Bernarda Buetler (1848-1924), a missionary in Colombia and Italian Gaetano Errico (1791-1860) from Secondigliano, in the Naples region.

Sri Lankan women carry posters of main opposition United National Party leader and a former army general Janaka Perera during his funeral in Colombo on Saturday. On Monday, a suicide blast blamed on the rebels killed Perera and 26 others in the northern town of Anuradhapura.

# Lanka fighting kills 30 rebels, 2 soldiers

AP, Colombo

Separate battles between government forces and Tamil separatists across Sri Lanka's volatile northern region killed 30 rebels and two soldiers, the military said yesterday.

accounts for more than half of

Afghanistan's production of

opium poppies. More than 90

percent of the world's opium is

produced in Afghanistan and up

to \$100 million of the trade's

profits are used to finance the

killed more than 4,700 people

mostly militants this year, accord-

ing to an Associated Press count of

figures from Western and Afghan

struck a civilian vehicle travelling

in the Shamulzai district of Zabul

province on Sunday, killing five

people, said Ghulab Shah Alikheil,

A roadside bomb, meanwhile,

Insurgency related violence has

Taliban insurgency.

a provincial official.

The new fighting came as soldiers closed in on the rebels' administrative capital of Kilinochchi in a campaign aimed at routing the guerrillas and ending the 25-year-old war that has killed more than 70,000 peo-

The worst fighting took place Saturday around Kilinochchi where two separate clashes killed

26 rebels and two soldiers, said military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara. The same fighting wounded 16 rebels and seven

The army has said its forces are about 1 mile from the outskirts of Kilinochchi.

Other battles in Welioya and Vavuniya killed four rebels on Saturday, said Nanayakkara.

With nearly all communications to the north severed, a rebel spokesman could not be contacted for comment.

Independent verification of the military's claims is nearly impossible because most journalists are banned from the war

zone. Both sides routinely exaggerate enemy losses and underreport their own.

Fighting has escalated in recent months, with the military capturing a series of rebel bases and large chunks of territory. Officials have pledged to crush the guerrillas by the end of the

The rebels have been fighting since 1983 to create an independent homeland for the country's ethnic minority Tamils, who have faced marginalisation by successive governments controlled by ethnic Sinhalese.

More than 70,000 people have been killed in the violence.

## North Korea to resume dismantling N-facilities

AP, Seoul

North Korea said Sunday it will resume dismantling its main nuclear facilities, hours after the United States removed the communist country from a list of states that sponsor terrorism.

The North's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that it will again allow US and International Atomic Energy Agency inspections at Yongbyon to verify the disablement process, pledged under a previous disarmament-for-aid deal with the United States and four other regional powers.

"We welcome the US which has honoured its commitment to delist the DPRK as 'a state sponsor of terrorism," said the statement, carried by the country's official Korean Central News Agency. DPRK stands for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the North's official name.

North Korea halted the disablement in mid-August in anger at Washington over what it called a delay in the terror delisting and began moves aimed at potentially restarting the plutonium-producing facility north of Pyongyang.

The US had said the North had to first allow verification of its declaration of nuclear programmes submitted in June.

The US, however, said Saturday that it took the North off the terrorism blacklist as the North had agreed to all US nuclear inspection demands

US officials said the North will allow atomic experts to take samples and conduct forensic tests at all of its declared nuclear facilities and undeclared sites on mutual consent, and will permit them to verify that it has told the truth about transfers of nuclear technology and an alleged uranium programme.

or surpo Adalat Para in Langail town

duce accused former ministers

Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain and

Altaf Hossain Chowdhury. The jail

authorities told the court that they did

not produce Khandaker Mosharraf

Hossain as per advice of the

## Pak military supports efforts for terror war consensus

### Propaganda against ISI angers JCSC

THE DAWN, Islamabad

The military leadership on Saturday backed the government's efforts to forge a consensus on counter-terror strategy.

The support was extended by the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee after a meeting at the JCSC Headquarters. General Tariq Majid, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, chaired the meeting.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Chief of the Army Staff General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Noman Bashir, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Tanveer Mahmood Ahmed, Defence Secretary Kamran Rasool and the chiefs of the Inter-Services Intelligence and the Strategic Plans Division.

completion of the political transition was a positive development, granting the government strength to meet challenges. "The other positive development is the rising of the people against militants in Fata and adjoining

areas."Expressing the need for strengthening the joint service framework, Gen Majid said "we must harness the capabilities of the three services under an integrated structure in order to meet the growing challenges."

The meeting took place against the backdrop of the ongoing incamera joint session of parliament, where the top military brass briefed legislators on law and order and internal security. It was the first meeting of the

JCSC after the stepped-up US incursions inside Pakistan's territory and a wave of suicide attacks, posing a multiple challenge to the PPP-led coalition government.

"The meeting reiterated its resolve to support the government's efforts for developing a consensus on multiple geopolitical and strategic challenges," said a The JCSC chairman said that statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

The ISI briefed the forum on the prevailing national, regional and global environment. The forum reviewed the internal security, including the Fata situation, and developments inside Afghanistan.

### 6 burnt to death in Andhra

Pradesh

PTI, Adilabad Six persons, including three chil-

dren, of a family were burnt to death after their house caught fire mysteriously in a village here yes-The house, belonging to a minority community member, at

Watoli village in the district caught fire around 0200 hours on Sunday, District Collector Ahmed Nadeem said. The village is 13 km far from the communal violence-hit Bhainsa

town. While three bodies were charred beyond recognition, the rest were burnt partially, police said. The bodies were being removed from the debris and sent for post-

mortem, Nadeem said after visiting the village. Five of the victims hail from Hyderabad and had been to their parents' home on Dussehra vacation. Asked whether the incident has

communal overtones to it, the Collector said the truth would be known only after a thorough investigation. "Police are probing if this is the

handiwork of miscreants," he said. Three persons were killed and over 25 injured when communal clashes broke out during immersion of Goddess Durga idols in

then, Nadeem said.

Bhainsa on Friday. Curfew has

been in force in the town since

# Ershad expects

allowed us 60 seats. This time also we will seek 60 seats," Ershad added while addressing, in a hotel of the capital, a party working committee meeting which approved amendments to the party constitution.

The former military dictator, who was overthrown by a popular upsurge in 1990, also said JP is now a big political player ahead of December 18 parliamentary poll, despite some vested interest groups' 'repeated attempts to destroy the party'.

"Jatiya Party has the ability to contest the general election alone. We've already selected our 300 candidates for all constituencies. Our party is still in AL-led grand alliance because it hasn't been formally dissolved yet," said Ershad adding, the stand of the alliance will be finalised after AL chief Sheikh Hasina returns from abroad.

He said his party's election manifesto has also been finalised, and will be published very soon.

Referring to the amendments brought to his party's constituency, Ershad said he himself curtailed the power of the party chairman and the secretary general through changing some provisions including introduction of a new rule according to which an individual cannot be elected to the posts for more than two terms, and also the chairman

### coming polls also if a s nominated will have to take decisions in consul-

tation with presidium members. "We've amended some provisions in our party's constitution in order to be registered with the Election Commission," Ershad said. He urged the caretaker government

not to change the election schedules for the parliament and upazilas, because the whole country is now waiting eagerly for the elections'. A working committee of the party presidium approved the proposed amendments to the party constitu-

tion, which had been prepared by a five-member sub-committee headed by Presidium Member GM Quader. The proposed amendments include provisions according to which the party's chairman and secretary general will be elected for three years but for no more than two terms, all committees from the grassroots level to the central committee will be elected, and 33 percent of the seats in the committees

will be reserved for women. JP Secretary General ABM Ruhul Amin Howlader, Acting President Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud, and presidium members GM Quader, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Rawshan Ershad, Zia Uddin Bablu, Masiur Rahman Ranga, KM Fazle Rabbi, Nasim Osman, and Syed Abu Hossain also attended the meeting among others.

# Anwar, Shamsul

An HC bench comprised of Justice Syed AB Mahmudul Huq and Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury may hear the petition today as the counsels for Khaleda prayed to the court to hear the matter yesterday. Khaleda in her petition filed with

the HC prayed for staying the proceedings of the case and to issue a rule upon the government to explain as to why the proceedings against her should not be quashed. The petition stated that an investi-

gation officer (IO) of the ACC on June 1 submitted the final report to the ACC that said there was no offence committed. The ACC then assigned another IO for reinvestigating the case. She said as per Anti-Corruption

Commission Rules, 2007, there is no provision for further investigation into any case and changing the investigation officer. So the case proceedings should be quashed. An HC bench comprised of Justice

Sharif Uddin Chaklader and Justice Md Emdadul Haque Azad yesterday refused to hear an application submitted by Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami in connection with extending his bail in the Barapukuria coalmine corruption case. The bench said it has no jurisdiction to hear matters regarding bail.

The same bench on August 26 granted him anticipatory bail until the trial court concerned accepted the charge sheet of the case. The ACC submitted charge sheet of this case before the court on October 5 and the court accepted the charge sheet on October 6.

Nizami's counsels yesterday prayed to the chief justice to constitute an HC bench to hear the bailextension petition.

Four petitions were also filed before the trial court on behalf of Khaleda Zia, M Saifur Rahman, Motiur Rahman Nizami and Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan praying time for their appearance in court.

The petition submitted on behalf of Khaleda said she could not appear before the court since she has been suffering from kneepains.

The petition submitted on behalf of Nizami said he could not appear before the court since he was on rest advised by his physicians.

Applications submitted on behalf of M Saifur Rahman and Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan also told the court that they were sick. Two accused, former ministers M

Shamsul Islam and MK Anwar, who are on bail in the case, appeared before the court yesterday. The jail authorities did not pro-

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) authorities. They, however, did not give any explanation as to why Altaf was not produced. Police yesterday submitted reports on arrest warrants, issued earlier, before the court saying that

they raided the homes of seven fugitives of this case, including Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojahid, former minister Aminul Haque and former state minister AKM Mosharraf Hossain, but failed to arrest them.

The court directed the authorities concerned to publish an advertisement in two national Bangla dailies asking them to appear before the court by October 16.

On February 26 this year, the ACC filed the case against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and 15 others, including 10 former ministers of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, in connection with corruption in awarding Barapukuria coalmine operation contract to a Chinese

www.btibd.org

Islamic Development Bank-Bangladesh Islamic Solidarity Educational Wakf (IDB-BISEW)

### Request for Proposal (RFP)

Islamic Development Bank-Bangladesh Islamic Solidarity Educational Wakf (IDB-BISEW) was established following an agreement between the Islamic Development Bank, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and the Government of Bangladesh. IDB-BISEW undertakes funding, formulating and implementing of projects in the areas of education, human resource development and institutional strengthening.

IDB-BISEW is now to undertake a flexible, demand-driven trade skills training project primarily oriented towards serving the young populace who are not attached with formal education and are financially challenged with the expectation of their better employment opportunities in the local as

well as international market. Proposals are invited from interested consulting firms to conduct Labor Market Survey and Beneficiary Assessment for this project.

Details of required services, and terms and conditions can be obtained during office hours up to 03 November 2008 on submission of a request letter by the intending firms and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Tk. 3,000 (Taka three thousand only) in favour of "IDB-BISEW" in the form of a payorder from any scheduled Bank in Bangladesh. Proposals must be received by the office on or before 12:00 noon on 06 November 2008.

IDB-BISEW reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bid(s) in part or in full and may correct, modify or rectify discrepancy, if any, in the tender document without assigning any reason whatsoever in its interest.

General Manager IDB-BISEW

IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207



**US space tourist Richard Garriott** is helped putting on his space suit at the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan yesterday.

US video game guru blasts off for ISS as tourist

AP, Baikonur

A Soyuz spacecraft with two Americans and a Russian on board lifted off from Kazakhstan on Sunday for the international space station.

The Soyuz TMA-13 capsule carrying American computer game millionaire Richard Garriott soared into a clear sky atop a Russian rocket as the latest paying space traveler's family watched from a viewing platform. Also aboard were US astronaut Michael Fincke and Russian cosmonaut Yuri Lonchakov. The rocket lifted off on

schedule at 1:01 pm (3:01 am

EDT), sending an orange flare

behind it as it streaked upward. The craft entered orbit about 10

minutes later.

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