

Troops storm Somali militant city

African Union forces have attacked the port city of Kismayu in an assault to drive the al-Shabab militant group from its last bastion. The loss of Kismayu would deal a huge blow to the Al Qaeda-affiliated group which still holds large areas of southern and central Somalia



Sep 27, Kismayu: Kenyan soldiers and Somali government troops launch assault from north, south and from sea in amphibious assault

■ **Al-Shabab**, which formally merged with Al Qaeda in February, was driven out of Mogadishu last August

■ African Union troops trying to wrest control of country for newly elected UN-backed president **Hassan Sheikh Mohamud**

■ Kenyan troops, which are part of AU force, were sent into Somalia last October after spate of cross-border attacks blamed on al-Shabab

■ UN says 12,000 people have fled Kismayu since beginning of September

