

Kuwait says Iraq to pay 'high price' for attack on it

REUTERS, Kuwait

Kuwait warned its former occupier Iraq on Tuesday that Baghdad would pay a high price if it carried out a threat to attack its neighbour in the northern Gulf in the event of a new war.

"Iraq would pay a high price if it made any move that threatens the security and sovereignty of Kuwait and its territorial integrity," Defence Minister Sheikh Jaber al-Hamad al-Sabah told the official news agency KUNA.

"The latest threats of the Iraqi regime are not surprising and reflect the intentions of this regime towards its neighbours," Sheikh Jaber said.

"Sheikh Jaber ... reiterated that today's Kuwait is not the Kuwait of 1990, adding that its military capabilities were very different from earlier years," the agency said.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said on Monday Iraq would not seek to attack targets on the US mainland if Washington launched an invasion but that Baghdad might strike at Kuwait.

"Kuwait is a battlefield and American troops are in Kuwait and preparing themselves to attack Iraq. If there will be an attack from Kuwait, I cannot say that we will not retaliate. We will of course retaliate against

the American troops wherever they start their aggression on Iraq. This is legitimate," he said in an interview in Baghdad.

Last week, one of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's sons said the suicide attacks of September 11, 2001, would "be a picnic compared with what would happen to America" if US troops invaded.

Meanwhile, Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan urged Arabs to resist any US invasion of Iraq "with all available means" and said threats of force would not scare Baghdad.

"The threats of the enemy evildoers do not scare or frighten us. We are ready for the confrontation if it is to take place," Ramadan was quoted by the state Iraqi News Agency as saying during a meeting with a visiting Tunisian delegation.

The agency said Ramadan "called on the Arab masses to step up their national role by denouncing and resisting the American aggression with all available means."

The United States and Britain are massing troops in the Gulf ahead of an increasingly likely invasion to disarm Iraq and topple President Saddam Hussein.

The two countries say Baghdad is in "material breach" of a UN resolution calling on it to give up alleged weapons of mass destruction.

Bus-truck collision kills 5 in Sirajganj

UNB, Sirajganj

Five persons, including a woman, were killed and 25 others injured in a bus-truck collision on Nalka Bridge, 11-km west off Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge yesterday morning.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred at about 7:30am when a truck collided head-on with a Dhaka-bound passenger bus from Lalmonirhat, killing four unidentified men and a woman on the spot.

The woman identified as Jotsna, 35, from Nijeksonnupara village in Habibnanda upazila of Lalmonirhat district, succumbed to her injuries at Sirajganj Sadar Hospital.

Fourteen of the injured were admitted to Sadar Hospital while five others to various clinics. Condition of nine of them was stated to be critical.

The bus and truck drivers managed to flee the scene immediately after the accident. A case was filed with Solonga police station.

Valuables worth Tk 5 lakh looted from Dhanmondi apartment bldg

UNB, Dhaka

Armed robbers entered an apartment building in Dhanmondi residential area and looted automobile parts worth Tk 5 lakh from the ground floor garage in the early hours of yesterday.

men guarding the Subarna Rekha, Road 9/A apartment building said three or four youths scaled the gate at around 2:00am and tied up the on-duty guard. The youths, one holding a firearm, also tied up other guards resting in a nearby room.

They then broke windshields of three cars, took out valuable parts and decamped with the booty in a car kept waiting outside the gate.

Police visited the spot and interrogated the on-duty guards. None was, however, arrested.

Shazneen case

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for 'demonstration' and that she was at her office at that time.

"In my statement of October 5, 1998 to the Investigation Officer (IO) of the case, I said that on April 2, 1998, my elder sister Simeen Hossain, our children, Shazneen and I went to visit Marina Tea Garden at Kularua in Sylhet. And in the morning of April 3, Shazneen looked very upset and told us that a serious incident had taken place on April 1 at their Gulshan residence in Dhaka," Shehzi said during cross-examination.

Shehzi also said that they had decided to hold the April 1 incident involving Hasan to their parents on April 24, 1998. But they waited till May 2 as the health condition of their parents was not good following the killing of Shazneen.

Meanwhile, lawyers of Shahid and Shaniram moved two bail petitions for them. The prosecution

opposed it.

The court, however, fixed today for order on the issue.

The court also directed the prosecution to produce another prosecution witness before it today. Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15, the youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, Chairman of Transcom, was raped and murdered at their Gulshan residence on April 23, 1998.

All the six accused --now in the jail custody-- were produced before the court yesterday.

Special public prosecutors (PPs) Arfan Uddin Khan, ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul, Mahbub Ahmed and assistant PP Anisur Rahman appeared for the state. Advocates Mosharrif Hossain Kajal, Mohammad Hanif, Mizanur Rahman, MA Kamrul Hasan Khan, the Aslam and Abdus Salam Bhuiyan represented the accused.

CNG crisis to drag on

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planning commission due some minor reasons.

The government was also to appoint chief executives to the three companies by advertising in newspapers by mid-January as a step to corporatise entities. This also remains undone, sources said.

The GTCL was supposed to take over three pipelines -- Ashuganj-Elenga, Bakhrabad-Demra and Bakhrabad-Chittagong -- from other gas companies of the country. But the task remains unfinished.

The boards of the three companies are supposed to be reconstituted, putting in at least three professionals from outside, by February 12. No initiative has been taken to do it, sources said.

The government is also to increase CNG price. However, a new price is yet to be worked out.

"Basically some government high-ups are not enthusiastic about giving autonomy to Titas. A section of unscrupulous meter readers and officials steals huge revenue and enjoys blessings from the top," said an official working in the Clean Fuel Project.

Under the project, the GTCL will set up a 60-km 20-inch pipeline from Dhanua to Amin Bazar.

Titas will set up 97-km a 16-inch pipeline from Dhaka to Savar with 150 pressure per square inch and establish 100 CNG stations.

The RPGL will set up three major CNG stations on the outskirts of Dhaka and another three by the Dhaka-Chittagong highway. It will also build 20 CNG stations in the capital.

In addition, the RPGL will import 300 CNG buses. Of them, 100 will be leased out to the state-run Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC), and the remaining 200 to private operators.

Besides, the RPGL will import 10,000 CNG car conversion kits and set up a repair workshop, among other things.

"Trusting in the sanity and restraint of Saddam Hussein and is not an option," Bush said.

Russia continued to push for a diplomatic solution to the standoff, a day after hinting that its patience was running out with its Soviet-era ally, and that it could toughen its stance if Iraq did not cooperate with the UN.

"We have to do everything possible to avoid a war," Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov told reporters in Moscow.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia speaks at a presentation session on the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at the International Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

Nat'l medical university

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vacant posts of doctors and nurses, who had gone abroad, by appointing doctors and nurses on contractual basis, give autonomy in phases to specialised hospitals including kidney, cancer and TB hospitals to ensure efficient management and improved medical services.

While emphasising the improvement of maintenance of government hospitals and colleges, the meeting decided to give the responsibility of their cleaning, security, food supply and laundry service to private management in phases.

It decided to take steps to recast the BCS (Family Planning) cadre to create equal opportunities of promotion for both doctors and generalists through coordination in the cadre.

During the presentation, Health

and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Khandaker Musharrif Hossain gave details of the activities and programmes implemented and taken by the ministry after the new government took office.

Dr. Musharrif announced that work on setting up a 500-bed Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital in Bogra, turning Cancer Institute in Mohakhali into a hospital by increasing the number of beds and setting up a National Ophthalmological Institute at Agargaon were in the implementation stage.

He said steps were taken to add 600 beds to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) to set up the second part of the hospital. The existing number of beds in DMCH is 800. The health minister informed the meeting that dental units at

Chittagong Medical College Hospital and Rajshahi Medical College Hospital had been completed.

Dr. Musharrif said activities of the Institute of Child and Mother Health have been expanded and the institute was given autonomy.

He said the government has enacted the safe blood transfusion act and taken measures to turn the Bangladesh-Kuwait Moitree Hospital into a hospital of international standard through foreign investment.

Besides, he said, five specialised trauma centres would be set up along Mymensingh, Faridpur, Sirajganj, Feni and Daudkandi highways to provide treatment to those injured in road accident.

Food cancer

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could be a factor in the development of the disease.

They looked at the consumption of 14 different foods that have medium or high levels of acrylamide among the two groups and the total dose of acrylamide.

There was no link between the compound in food and the risk of bladder or kidney cancer and high amounts of acrylamide were associated with a reduced risk of bowel cancer. But the scientists said that could be due to other factors such as the high fibre content in the foods.

"This study provides preliminary evidence that there's less to worry about than was thought," Mucci added.

Scientists believe the compound is formed during the cooking process when starchy foods like potatoes, rice and cereals are fried or baked at high temperatures.

"We know that acrylamide can be carcinogenic to animals but this study suggests that either the levels in food are too low to affect cancer risk, or that the body is able to deactivate the chemical in some way," Paul Nurse, the Nobel Prize winning chief executive of the charity Cancer Research UK, said in a statement.

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Palestinians warn

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the border, as they have in the past week.

Ranaan Gissin's announcement followed the first raid by troops into the heart of Gaza City Saturday night during which 12 Palestinians were killed and scores injured.

Top Arafat aide Nabil Abu Rudeina said "the results did not surprise us, this is the choice of the Israeli people.

"The important thing, however, is whether this government will last, if the occupation will last on our land or if (the government) will agree to come back to negotiations," he said, urging the international community to pressure Sharon to opt for peace talks with the Palestinians.

Sharon has consistently refused to meet with Arafat, whom he sees as corrupt and unfit to govern, and has shunned talks until all violence ceases.

Instead, he has called for the

Finally

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A big procession was brought out in the city Tuesday night, while a barricade on the Sylhet-Tamabil Road at Mirabazar area was also put for some time in protest against the police move to arrest Zaman.

overhaul of Arafat's Palestinian Authority and a change in leadership, a position supported by the United States.

A senior official of the hardline Islamic movement, Hamas also warned of increased violence under another Sharon-led government.

"Sharon's victory means that he will escalate his violence, his crimes and his war against the Palestinians," said Abdul Aziz Rantissi.

"The (armed) resistance will also increase; there is no other choice before us except resistance," he said.

UP election

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Meanwhile, villagers caught a supporter of a member candidate in Gedua union on January 22 as he was paying a voter. They later turned him over to the BDR. Police opened blank fire in Gaibandha when a group of armed miscreants snatched some 300 ballots from Patua Kameruddin Primary School centre, forcing the officials to postpone polls.

Massive rigging also saw voting suspended in two centres in Nakla upazila of Sherpur district. Locals said sporadic clashes left at least 20 people injured.

Robbery at Barisal Vocational Training Instt

A CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Armed robbers looted Tk 1.87 lakh from Barisal Vocational Training Institute in the early hours of yesterday.

Police said a gang of robbers stormed into the institute at around 2 am.

They stabbed night guard Mofazzal and tied up another night guard Hanif.

The gang then entered the Accounts Section of the institute by breaking open the door and looted the said amount.

Sources said the authorities of the institute withdrew the money from a bank to pay salary of the staff members.

Police arrested night guard Hanif suspecting his involvement in the robbery.

Axed bank MDs

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tors of the BB to arrange personal hearing before disposing of their appeal.

The BB took the action against them as it found that the three banks and the National Bank Limited (NBL) had flouted rules in foreign exchange transactions and failed to properly monitor loans sanctioned to Giridhari Lal Modi and his Uttara Group, Om Prakash Agarwal and his business enterprises and Ashok Kejriwal and his Doel Group.

They had sanctioned loans to four organisations against the guarantee of a single person and had not sent the loan information to the central information bureau (CIB) of the BB.

Water transit

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member secretarial committee last year to study the future of water transit with India.

The committee headed by Commerce Secretary Sohel Ahmed Chowdhury submitted its report to the government with a set of recommendations. The report was also sent to the Prime Minister's Office for a decision, a source said.

Musharraf

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At the meeting, General Musharrif expressed satisfaction at the warm and cordial relations existing between the two friendly countries.

A wide range of bilateral issues including trade and economic cooperation also figured in the discussion.

General Musharrif commended the Bangladesh High Commissioner for his valuable contributions to strengthening the bilateral relations during his tenure in Islamabad.

DMCH employees

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against the policemen.

The parishad also submitted a memorandum to the DMCH director and sent copies to the health minister, health secretary and Inspector General of Police (IGP).

Additional police have been deployed at the hospital to avoid further trouble.

Jute sector

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loss in the mills.

This was for the first time that such a high-powered committee on jute was formed. The committee members visited all private and public sector mills and two jute mills in neighbouring India during the study.

The number of workers and employees in 23 jute mills stands at around 60,000, according to BJMC sources. The BJMC is forecast to suffer Tk 150 crore loss during the current fiscal.

The loss however is around Tk 150 crore less than that of the previous fiscal as a result of the closure of a number of jute mills including the Adamjee Jute Mills, the largest one in the sub-continent.

More than 20,000 Adamjee workers and employees were retrenched following the closure. The government also closed another eight mills recently to reduce the public expenditure.

CNG meter

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tampering with the meter of CNG-rumor auto-riekshaws to charge higher fair than the government-fixed rate. The rate is Tk 12 for the first two kilometres, then Tk 5 for each kilometre and Tk 1 for each two minutes of waiting.

When contacted, BRTA Deputy Director (Engineering) M A Motaleb BRTA said that anyone knowing programming of meters could tamper with those. "We had checked samples of all types of meter and found those all right." He said if passengers become conscious of this, it would be possible to check such malpractice.

In reply to a question, he said they would go for a special driver against meter-less three wheelers from Saturday. And drivers of these vehicles have to wear the dress prescribed by the authorities earlier. "Otherwise cases will be filed against them," he added.

Vajpayee

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cracks following the firing, but apparently none of the at least three occupants was injured, the sources said.

Vajpayee reached home safe but the incident has prompted the authorities to sound a high security alert in the Indian capital.

This is the second time a breach had taken place in the prime minister's security in the last ten days. Earlier, a van had hit the pilot car of the prime minister's motorcade but the vehicle disappeared taking advantage of the dense fog that hung over the city.

A PTI report from Delhi: Police across the Indian capital have been alerted and a massive hunt launched to track down the intruding car. Top officials from Delhi Police, the Intelligence Bureau and the Special Protection Group held an emergency meeting in the wake of the incident.

Feeder vessel

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He informed that cargo will now reach Yangon Chittagong by carried directly between Chittagong and Yangon without delay. Earlier, cargo containers were routed through Singapore, Nelum said.

Executive director of Trans Marine Logistics (TML), agent of the shipping line OEL, Ahsanul Huq Chowdhury said now it would take only two days to operate a feeder vessel between Chittagong and Yangon. Earlier it took over ten days.

Traders of both countries will greatly benefit from this direct service, Chowdhury said.

Malaysia: Clash

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In January last year, about 400 Indonesians rioted at a textile factory after Malaysian police tried to detain 16 of their co-workers for drug abuse, leading to a crackdown on migrant workers.

There are about one million foreign workers in Malaysia, mainly in the construction, manufacturing, plantation and services sectors.

Shakeup in bureaucracy

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different ministries. The DG of the Department of Environment, Hedayetul Islam Chowdhury has been appointed secretary in-charge of the Rural Development and Cooperative Division under the Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives. Executive director of the Jamuna Bridge Authority, Abu Solaiman Chowdhury has been appointed secretary in-charge of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and Abul Kashem of Cabinet Division has been made additional secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture.

Of the transferred, 12 joint secretaries are: secretary of Bangladesh Services Limited Badiur Rahman, transferred to the cabinet division, Director of the NGO Bureau AKM Azizul Haq to IMED, Controller of the Insurance Directorate M Habibullah to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Mizanur Rahman Majumder and Sheikh Abdul Awal of the establishment ministry transferred to the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Land respectively, Julhas Uddin Ahmed of the food ministry has been sent to Land Record and Survey directorate,

SC dismisses appeal against HC bail to AL leader Matur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday dismissed the appeal against a High Court bail to Awami League leader Matur Rahman.

Matur got the bail on December 23, but the government appealed for cancellation of the order.

Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru appeared on behalf of Matur, while Additional Attorney General Abdur Razzak Khan moved the court on the government's side.

Matur was implicated in the Mymensingh cinema blast case a few days after arrest on December 9 under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPc).

The government put him behind bars on a one-month detention under the Special Powers Act (SPA). The High Court declared the detention illegal.

Now, Matur has no legal bar to release, Khasru told The Daily Star last night.

Ahkam Ullah freed from Dhaka Central Jail

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League leader and cultural activist Ahkam Ullah was released from Dhaka central jail yesterday after the High Court granted him bail.

Ahkam went to the Bangabandhu Bhaban at Dhanmondi and placed wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

AL leaders Motia Chowdhury, Obaidul Kader, Abdur Rahman, BM Mozammel Huq and Shafi Ahmed and Chhatra League president Liaquat Sikder were present there.

Ahkam Ullah was arrested on December 30 from in front of the Russian Cultural Centre at Dhanmondi under Section 54 of the CrPc and later detained under the Special Powers Act.

secretary of RAJUK HM Zahurul Haq has been made member (Administration) of the same office. AM Mostafizur Rahman of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism has been made Controller of Insurance Directorate, two OSD joint secretaries Ranjit Kumar Barua and Azizul Haq have been appointed director of the BRDB and member of the Land Port Authority respectively, joint secretary of the Election Commission Habibur Rahman was transferred to the Ministry of Water Resources and joint secretary of home ministry Sakawat Hossain to the Election Commission.

The government yesterday transferred CEO of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC), Khalilur Rahman to Rajshahi Sericulture Board as member, while deputy secretary of home ministry Abdul Malek was appointed CEO of RCC. Member of Rajshahi Sericulture Board, Moshlem Ali Mollah has been attached to the establishment ministry. Deputy secretary of the information ministry, Khandaker Abul Kashem has been transferred to the Government Printing Press as deputy controller.

BCS exam results

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054037	054092	054098	054104	054128	054226	054227	054232	054272	054272	054292
054311	054317	054318	054326	054333	054356	054358	054428	054461	054461	054462
054476	054477	054481	054504	054529	054534	054534	054554	054580	054601	054613
054646	054663	054719	054721	054840	054841	054869	054873	054890	054910	054910
054922	054925	054926	054967	054996	055007	055013	055019	055042	055076	055076
055120	055127	055135	055150	055171	055179	055179	055179	055179	055179	055179
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