

Rumsfeld tells security conference in Munich

World must be ready to use force to disarm Iraq

AFP, Munich

US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld yesterday said the world must be "prepared to use force if necessary" to disarm Iraq and that any delay would send a signal of uncertainty to Baghdad.

"We all hope for a peaceful resolution," Rumsfeld said at a high-level security conference here. "But the one chance for a peaceful resolution is to make clear that free nations are prepared to use force if necessary -- that the world is united and ready to act."

He said there were "a growing number of countries that are willing to participate in a coalition of the willing," both to disarm Iraq by force if necessary and to help rebuild Iraq after any conflict.

"There are those who counsel that we should delay preparations for war. Ironically, that approach could well make war more likely, not less -- because delaying preparations sends a signal of uncertainty, instead of a signal of unity and resolve."

Rumsfeld said previous sanctions against Iraq had not prevented Iraqi President Saddam Hussein from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

"He has not been contained. He has successfully gotten into that country darn near everything he wants," he said.

Rumsfeld left the possibility for a peaceful resolution to the Iraq crisis if Saddam left the country.

"I would dearly love to see him get up and leave the country with his family and a few close friends. Very few," Rumsfeld said to applause from the audience of top-level defense decision-makers and

specialists.

Sanctions have not stopped the alleged proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, Rumsfeld said. They "haven't stopped it. The borders are porous, it's still going on, their programs are maturing every day."

"Why Iraq? It seems to me that everything else has been tried. It's been 10 or 12 years. Diplomacy has been exhausted almost."

Rumsfeld brushed off suggestions that the United States was pressing for military strikes in Iraq in order to get control over the country's oil wealth.

"The United States has no interest in asserting its power over countries in terms of taking their land... governments that think that way will ultimately be rejected by their people."

Rumsfeld blasted the NATO countries that were blocking the alliance from preparations to help defend Turkey in the event of war on Iraq.

"It's beyond comprehension to me," he said.

Three European countries -- Germany, France and Belgium -- are blocking a NATO accord to help defend Turkey in the event of an Iraq war, prompting NATO chief George Robertson to invoke a so-called "silence procedure" under which a package of measures will be agreed Monday if no state speaks out against it.

Meanwhile, the fate of Iraq was hanging in the balance Saturday as UN chief weapons inspectors began a new mission here that could spell the difference between war and peace in the face of US threats to invade and occupy the country.

Hans Blix and Mohamed

ElBaradei arrived in Baghdad shortly after noon from their rear base in Cyprus and were to start official talks at the foreign ministry at 4:00 pm (1300 GMT), the information ministry said.

Their arrival coincided with the 40th anniversary of a coup that brought the Baath Party of President Saddam Hussein to power in 1963.

For the occasion, a large solidarity demonstration and a parade were being organised on Saturday in Takrit, Saddam's hometown and stronghold.

Blix declined comment as he left Cyprus, saying he and ElBaradei would hold a press conference here Sunday night.

But Blix earlier told CNN he expected "cooperation on substance" from Iraqi officials, saying they must come forward with any illegal weapons or present an "adequate explanation" for those that might already have been destroyed.

The 36-hour mission could prove momentous for the fate of Iraq as the United States now appears more determined than ever to use force to strip Saddam of the weapons of mass destruction it says he is hiding.

A report from Blix and ElBaradei, to be delivered to the Security Council February 14, that Iraq had failed to adequately cooperate with inspectors could trigger the long-threatened US attack.

Blix said he hoped meetings of UN inspectors and Iraqi scientists unaccompanied by government monitors since Thursday represented "the turn of the tide" in Iraqi cooperation.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia speaks at the graduation ceremony 2003 of the Defence Services Command and Staff College at Mirpur in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Ansar-VDP members go on the rampage in Natore

UNB, Natore

More than 1000 Ansar-VDP including 200 female members stoned and ransacked the Lalpur upazila Ansar office yesterday evening in protest against meagre pay for Upazila Parishad election duty, sending on-duty officers fleeing the spot.

Angry members of the Ansar and VDP (Village Defence Party) said they had each paid Tk 120 to the officers as 'Selami' (bribe) to get them stationed in polling centres as they were promised a handsome allowance.

But after four days of election duty, male members received only Tk 300 and female members Tk 276 when they came to collect their allowance at 2:00pm yesterday.

The Ansar-VDP men and women demonstrated in front of the Ansar office and chanted slogans demanding refund of their 'Selami' money, and threw brickbats and damaged the office.

A strong contingent of police encircled the Ansar-VDP members, said OC of Lalpur thana Syed Emdad at 6:00pm.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer admitted the incident and said negotiations were on with the aggrieved Ansar-VDP members to settle the matter.

The superintendent of police visited the spot.

Khaleda on Dhaka's foreign policy

Friendship to all, malice to none

AGENCIES, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said Bangladesh believes in peaceful resolution of all bilateral and international issues.

"The principle of our foreign policy is friendship to all on the basis of equality and malice to none," she said while speaking at the graduation ceremony-2003 of the Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) at Mirpur here.

"We have a strong commitment to international peace and security. Our position for world peace and against all kinds of terrorism is very clear. Our armed forces are moving forward pursuing that ideal," Khaleda Zia said.

She said education and training programmes of the armed forces should reflect the changed global perspective.

"A change in the role of the armed forces has occurred due to new developments in the global security system," she said adding that new dimensions and scopes

have been attached to the role of the armed forces.

The prime minister awarded certificates to 147 students including 23 from foreign countries at the graduation of the 27th Army Staff Course, 21st Naval Staff Course and 23rd Air Staff Course at the DSCSC auditorium.

Students of the ranks of Major and Lieutenant Colonel and equivalent participated in the courses that began in April last year.

Foreign students from China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Turkey and the USA participated in the course.

Khaleda Zia lauded the role of the DSCSC in capacity building and modernisation of the country's armed forces.

She recalled that Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had inaugurated the defence college on December 30, 1977 for overall development of the armed forces.

"Today, we all are extremely happy and proud that this college has upheld and advanced that sublime cause so efficiently till date. The college has earned name and fame as an ideal institution in the international arena," she said.

The prime minister also mentioned participation of the country's armed forces in various UN peace-keeping missions, political mediation, post-confrontation nation-building, re-establishing democracy in different parts of the world and in curbing international terrorism.

Earlier, on arrival at the DSCSC, the prime minister was received by Principal Staff Officer Major General AM Mahmuduzzaman and Commandant of the College Major General ASM Nazrul Islam.

Diplomats, chiefs of the three services, and senior civil and military officials attended the graduation ceremony.

BNP leader murder 'Black day' observed at Taherpur, 8 sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Villagers at Taherpur in Baghmara upazila observed 'black day' and 'hartal' yesterday, protesting the murder of district BNP Vice-president Abdul Wahed Mondol.

Black flags were hoisted atop houses and shops at Taherpur bazar.

Thousands of people joined the namaj-e-janaja of Mondol, held at Taherpur primary school ground at noon.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Haq and Abu Hena MP also participated in the janaja.

The minister later called on the bereaved family of Mondol and assured them that the killers would be tried.

The district police said they are investigating the killing but did not find any clue till yesterday evening. The Officer-in-Charge of Bagmara thana has been suspended, they said.

Mondol's daughter Suraiya Akhtar Mili filed a murder case with Baghmara thana, accusing the eight persons arrested within three hours of the killing. The officer-in-charge of the eight include Yasin Ali, headmaster of Kanopara High School, Mondol's neighbors Mansur Ali Mridha and Amjad Ali, Advocate Sanwar Kabir, district Joint Convener of Jatiyatobadi

Sheekhasebak Dal, BNP's labour front, and Anjumand Ara Begum, member of Sreepur Union Parishad.

In the case, she did not mention any reason for the killing but Mondol's wife alleged that political reason was behind this.

Many villagers claimed that the murder could be due to intra-party dispute.

Mondol was killed Friday morning by masked gunmen only yards away from Tahirpur police outpost. The killers raised slogans in favour of outlawed Purpa Banglar Communist Party before fleeing.

Angry people then torched the outpost and clashed with police for their alleged inaction, leaving 25 people including five policemen injured.

Twelve political leaders were killed in Bagmara, most of them by hired outlaws, in the last ten years.

BRTC buses forced off two southern routes

UNB, Bagerhat

Bus owners' associations of Khulna, Bagerhat and Pirojpur districts have forcibly stopped BRTC buses from plying the Khulna-Bagerhat-Dhaka and Bagerhat-Pirojpur routes on the eve of Eid-ul-Azha.

Hundreds of homebound passengers are facing serious trouble, as the state-run BRTC buses remained stranded at the local bus terminal Friday morning.

Sources said people prefer the BRTC bus services that were launched a few months ago as it is cheaper and there is no harassment involved.

BDR chief visits Border dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Director general (DG) of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Major General Jahangir Alam yesterday visited frontier areas of Lalmanirhat and Panchagarh districts.

The BDR chief visited Nazir Goman and Rahmanpur of Lalmanirhat and talked with local people and BDR personnel. He thanked them for responding positively during border crises and urged them to maintain peace in the bordering areas.

He later went to Dana Kata of Panchagarh district and meet with the people and the BDR members. He returned to the city yesterday evening.

Vajpayee

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ending its proxy war against our country." PTI adds: The Indian prime minister said Pakistan was also violating the UN Resolution 1373, which enjoins all countries that they shall not support terrorism in any way and for whatever cause.

"Therefore, we have to intensify efforts to counter terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and subversive activities both in those states that border these countries as well as elsewhere," he said.

Much to the discomfiture of anti-India forces, the situation in Jammu and Kashmir "is improving," he said. The immediate task before the state government is to strive to fulfil the legitimate aspirations of the people through a two-fold response, Vajpayee said.

"One, to strengthen the atmosphere of peace by dealing firmly with those intent on disturbing it, and secondly, to vigorously implement all developmental, welfare and employment-generating programmes."

PMO staff

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tion has been created among officials and employees of the Ministry of Information and the Bangladesh Television after a junior staff at the PMO abused a top bureaucrat and misbehaved with him recently, sources claimed.

They alleged that an assistant press secretary (APS) to the PM hurled abusive words at the Information Secretary during the "Naton Kur" function at BTV auditorium on January 19.

Two of the three assistant press secretaries and one of the three deputy press secretaries to the PM, appointed on recommendation from Hawa Bhaban, another power centre of ruling BNP, involve themselves in various deals, they alleged.

One APS, who introduce himself as spokesman of Hawa Bhaban instead of his official position, involves himself in various business deals and frequently interferes in administrative matters, particularly involving BTV authorities.

Police crime FROM PAGE 1

night before. When Jamal's family went to the station, Kapsia police refused to take up the case. Later, they lodged the case with the Gazipur District Court.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Mohammad Abdul Quayyum said actions would be taken against any irregularity.

However, only disciplinary action against a few can neither check police involvement in crime nor improve the department's performance," he said.

Quayyum also called for modification of the recruitment procedure.

The DMP commissioner told The Daily Star that a few changes at the field level had been suggested to improve law enforcement. "For example, we have suggested that the assistant superintendents and assistant commissioners be put in charge of different police stations instead of inspectors."

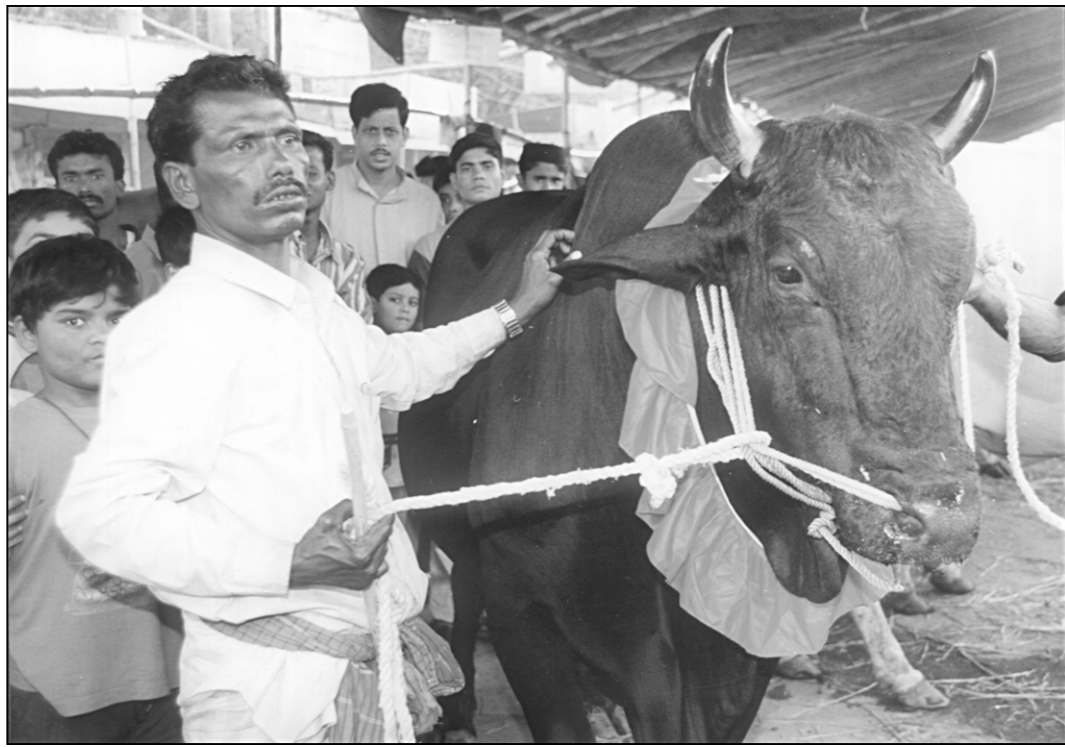


PHOTO: STAR

Trading at cattle markets picks up steam ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha. Eighteen markets have already opened in the city amid beefed-up security measures. A trader fixed the price of the cow (in the picture) at Tk 1.5 lakh at the Nayabazar cattle market yesterday.

Mashud full of hope

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tory ground for us after toiling on unimpressive wickets at home. I was amazed to see the top-class wickets at the Wanderers."

He also added that playing on those wickets had helped the cricketers improve their techniques.

"They might not have such big stands like the ones in our county, but they care most for the wickets and the ground which is very important," Mashud observed.

He also ruled out Namibia as an ordinary opponents adding that Bangladesh can still learn from the fast improving African nation.

"Their fielding was brilliant and they have got some good bowlers. It was good to play against unknown opponents," Mashud said.

Bangladesh won the five-match one-day series 4-1.

Reflecting on Gordon Greenidge's brief stint in Namibia as a batting advisor, the Bangladesh captain said everybody had mostly benefited from the former West Indian's tips.

"Now if we can minimise our inconsistency then it will help us," he said.

He sang praises of Al-Shahriar and Ehsanul Haque for their performance in the warm-up games.

Al-Shahriar scored a majestic 177 in the final match against Namibia and followed it up with 45 and 60 in the two lead-up matches in South Africa.

Ehsanul, whose selection in the 15-man team ahead of Javed Omar came under fire, hit back at his critics with a match-winning 92 in the final game.

"He is one of those few cricketers who has the ability to change gears at will. He can be unimpressive while in the nets, but a different player in the real thing," Mashud said.

While Mashud looked like a man full of beans, team manager ASM Faruque was quick to claim that his team reserve the right to win the most disciplined team award in the competition.

"I'm very happy to lead a disciplined team. I'm not talking about winning the World Cup. The most important thing is that the boys have learned to value their potential and act according to it," said Faruque.

Referring to Al-Shahriar's incredible show, the former national cricketer said he had not seen such a matured innings.

"It was not just bashing the ball or hitting two fours and six and then perishing after playing a rash shot. He (Al-Shahriar) played everything to perfection. His innings has definitely inspired his teammates to believe that they have the potential too."

Shaun

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"However, to us it means overreacting to an imaginary threat. For instance when you duck when someone pretends to want to give you a smack by lifting his hand."

"In this World Cup we are not going to duck any such false threats. As far as we are concerned Australia do not yet pose any threat to us since a meeting with them is still a long way off."

"For now we are only concentrating on the present and our immediate opponents," Pollock said.

Morshed

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quick solution to problems, he said. "We want to strengthen our relations with India."

The simmering border situation followed a statement by Indian Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani last month that some 20 million "illegal immigrants from Bangladesh and Pakistan" would be deported.

Within weeks, India started pushing Bangla-speaking Muslims into Bangladesh that responded by pushing them back.

Dhaka denies that India has any illegal immigrant of Bangladesh origin and says even if there is any, the two countries have a laid-down procedure to deal with the issue.

The push-in apart, there are some other longstanding irritants between the two neighbours over trade, border demarcation and sharing of river waters.

Dhaka and New Delhi also accused each other of harbouring terrorists.

Dhaka sought deportation of the wanted criminals who fled to India, fearing arrest during the army-led anticrime operation.

New Delhi alleges that some insurgents carry out terrorist acts in the northeastern Indian states, crossing Bangladesh, which Dhaka denies.

New guidelines

FROM PAGE 12

Majumder yesterday updated Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on the matter.

They discussed various points of the NGO guidelines now at the final stage. However, sources ruled out any possibility of submission of the policy before the Eid-ul-Azha.

They also discussed various points raised by donors and sought suggestions from the prime minister.

The government earlier formed a high-powered cabinet committee headed by LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan. It made a series of recommendations to frame the guidelines for NGOs. The committee held several meetings with local consultative groups comprising donor representatives and NGO leaders.

NGO representatives at a recent meeting agreed with the government on all but two proposals. The two contentious issues are payment of a one per cent service charge from the grants, and collection of certificates from the district and

Boy murdered in Badda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A six year-old boy was killed in Badda in the city Thursday night following a feud with the boy's father.

Sources said Ekram Hossain, son of Abdul Khaleq Kashaf of Baro Beraid Badda, was beaten to death and was dumped on sand.

The body bearing injury marks on the head and other parts was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Badda police said unidentified hoodlums had beaten the boy to death late Thursday night. Later, they dumped the body under sand.

But Kadir Uddin, Ekram's uncle suspected that he might have been killed following a feud over land between Abdul Khaleq and Nazim Uddin, another of Ekram's uncles.

Abdur Rashid, a relative of the boy filed a murder case with Badda police, accusing Nazim, Jasim, Shah Alam, Noor-e-Alam, Jamal and Delwar.

Police arrested two persons in this connection yesterday.

Expulsion

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lation, police said.

Indian spokesman Navtej Sarna, however, said New Delhi "did not intend any downgrading in the level of mission" and would issue a visa to Pakistan's replacement for Jeelani.

Jeelani and Vyas both held the rank of deputy high commissioner. India had ordered the Pakistani ambassador to leave New Delhi and later pulled its top envoy from Islamabad in protest after the Indian parliament was attacked in December 2001, allegedly by Islamic militants with ties to Pakistan.

Intense international diplomacy persuaded the two countries to pull back some of the hundreds of thousands of troops deployed to their common borders after the parliament attack, but no dialogue has resumed.

The latest diplomatic dust-ups cast new doubt on the chance of a meeting between India and Pakistan on the sidelines of a summit of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) from February 20-25 in Kuala Lumpur.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee has confirmed his attendance at the summit. Pakistan says it will attend but has not named the head of its delegation.

It was the second round of diplomatic expulsions between India and Pakistan in the past month.

On January 22, India ordered four Pakistani diplomats to leave New Delhi for alleged espionage and Pakistan expelled four members of the Indian high commission a day later.

The Indian foreign ministry spokesman said New Delhi took action against the Pakistani diplomats based on "hard evidence" and that Islamabad's counter-expulsion was "a vengeful act, a retaliatory action".

"It is a step borne out of Pakistan's compulsive hostility towards India," Sarna said.

In Pakistan, Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed accused India's "fanatical Hindu nationalist government" of acting on "internal electoral motives".

"Their disgraceful and despicable conduct is nothing but a kind of diplomatic terrorism whereas they have already subjected the oppressed people in Indian-occupied Kashmir to unrelenting worst state terror," he told AFP in Islamabad.

Just as the Indian foreign ministry was announcing the expulsion, Vajpayee launched a broadside on Pakistan at a security conference in the Indian capital.

"Pakistan has taken no significant action against training camps and infrastructural support to terrorism," the Indian leader said.

China calls for regional stability ahead of Indian missile tests

AFP, Beijing

Beijing reacted yesterday to news that India was preparing to test-fire a long-range ballistic missile, which can hit targets deep inside China with an appeal for peace and stability in the region.

"The maintenance of peace and stability in South Asia is in the interests of all countries in the region," said a statement from the ministry of foreign affairs.

"We hope that all the parties concerned will make more constructive efforts to promote peace and regional stability," it said without making any direct reference to the missile project.

Highly-placed sources from the defence research organisation in New Delhi said Thursday that the Agni-III, with a range of 3,000 kilometres (1,860 miles), could be launched after the end of the Indian monsoon season in September.

Beijing, a traditional ally of India's arch-enemy Pakistan, has been making efforts to improve its relations with New Delhi in recent years.

upazila administrations to get money from the NGO Affairs Bureau.

The NGO leaders assured the government that they would not engage in any political activities, nor would the NGO money be used for political purposes.

The four-party alliance government led by the BNP felt the need to put a guideline for NGOs in place after it found that a section of NGOs have long been politically active.

However, at a recent meeting with donors the government made it clear that it would not restrict the activities of the NGOs.

Meter

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Uddin Sartar, who owns ten CNG-run auto-rickshaws.

What the government does is allow 'any vehicle from anywhere' to ply only to fill the vacuum left by the ban on rickshaws on several roads and two-track three-wheelers, said sources.