

# US to give UN last chance on Iraq

AFP, Washington

The United States yesterday warned that it would give the United Nations a last chance on Iraq, insisting that the time had come to take action against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Washington would give the world body less than two months to pass a fresh resolution to be unveiled next week and clearing the way for war, President George W Bush said after talks with Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar.

"Time is short. And this is the chance for the Security Council to show its relevance, and I believe the Security Council will show its relevance because Saddam Hussein has not disarmed," he said after the talks at his Texas ranch.

His stern warning came as Secretary of State Colin Powell insisted that Iraq was clearly in breach of UN demands to destroy its weapons of mass destruction and that the time had come to "take action".

Powell, on a tour of Asia to drum up support for military action against Saddam, said that Iraq was clearly in breach of UN demands to destroy any weapons of mass destruction and that the time had come to "take action".

"We are reaching that point where serious consequences must flow," he told a press conference in Tokyo after meetings with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Foreign Minister Yoriko

Kawaguchi.

But he faces a tougher sell in China, a veto-wielding member of the UN Security Council which has repeatedly voiced its opposition to Bush's calls for war.

Powell reached Beijing yesterday and was due to hold talks with Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan, leader-in-waiting Hu Jintao and President Jiang Zemin.

Bush meanwhile mocked the banned missiles Iraq has been asked to destroy by March 1 by the weapons inspector as just the "tip of the iceberg".

Saddam "has no intention of disarming, otherwise he would have done so," Bush said after he and Aznar held a four-way telephone conversation with British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

All four nations have taken a hard line against Iraq, and are coordinating an all-out diplomatic campaign to win the nine votes needed for the 15-member Council to approve the measure.

The Security Council would vote mid-March on the new UN resolution drafted by London and Washington, giving Saddam three weeks to disarm or face war, the British press reported.

The draft would declare Iraq in "material breach" of Resolution 1441 and would be presented at the UN today, The Sunday Telegraph and The Observer reported, although this was not confirmed by British or US diplomats.

"The prime minister will expect that there could be a period of a few weeks that will pass before that resolution will be voted on in the UN," Blair's spokesman told AFP, saying only that the draft would emerge "early next week."

The push by Blair next week would be a "last push for peace," he added.

Meanwhile Baghdad was expected to respond to the UN demand to destroy the banned missiles in a test of its willingness to cooperate with arms inspectors, with a news conference scheduled for 1500GMT, the information ministry said.

## PM: Kuala Lumpur

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delegation to the two-day summit of the 114-nation grouping of developing countries opening today at Putra World Trade Centre here.

The Prime Minister is expected to highlight Bangladesh's principled stand on international terrorism and make a strong plea for a consensus-based international approach to combat terrorism.

The Bangladesh delegation includes Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Dr Kamal Siddiqui, Bangladesh permanent representative to the UN Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Prime Minister's Political Secretary Mosaddek Ali and Bangladesh High Commissioner to Malaysia Masood Aziz.

On the sidelines of the summit, she will have important bilateral meetings with leaders of NAM countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Thailand, Nepal and Vietnam.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan said Dhaka would reiterate its commitment to global war on terrorism at the Kuala Lumpur summit and added "we will also call for greater access of products from the least developed countries in the NAM to the markets in developed member-states."

He said Bangladesh played an active role in the minister-level conference and also in the preparation of the declaration of the summit which included issues of Iraq and Palestine. "We expect the summit to take a clear position on the market access issue, not only of products but also of human resources."



PHOTO: STAR

Police intercept a Supreme Court Bar Association march towards the Prime Minister's Office near the children's park yesterday. The procession was to hand over a memorandum to the PMO, demanding confirmation of six judges' appointment.

# Ganguly, Tendulkar toy

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caught at mid-wicket in the eighth over after making 24.

It was for the fourth time in as many matches that Tendulkar top-scored for his team, having made 52, 36 and 81 earlier in the tournament.

"When the other batsmen are struggling to make runs, it's my duty as the senior player to lift the side," said Tendulkar, whose innings was studded with 18 boundaries.

"The wicket was damp at the start, but it was just a matter of staying out there for an hour."

Namibian captain Deon Kotze said the match was a lesson in batting for his team.

"It was a great pleasure to watch Sachin bat and I would like our guys to learn from that," Kotze said.

"Saurav too was brilliant and when two quality players like them get in, they are very difficult to stop."

Jan Burger was Namibia's top scorer with 29 as the Indian spinners revelled on the slow wicket.

Yuvraj, who bowls occasional left-arm spin, sliced through the tail

after Zaheer, Harbhajan and Mongia had taken care of the top order.

India next play England under lights at Newlands on Wednesday. Namibia take on defending champions Australia at Potchefstroom on Thursday.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the World Cup Pool A match between India and Namibia on Sunday:  
**INDIA**

Sehwag c Kaulder b van Vuuren 24  
Tendulkar b van Vuuren 152  
Ganguly not out 112  
Yuvraj not out 7  
Extras: (lb-2, w-13, nb-1) 16

Total: (For 2 wickets in 50 overs) 311  
Fall of wickets: 1-46, 2-290

**Bowler O M R W**  
Snyman 10 0 57 0  
Van Vuuren 10 1 53 2  
L Burger 6 0 49 0  
Van Rooi 6 0 36 0  
B Kotze 10 0 64 0  
D Kotze 8 0 50 0

## NAMIBIA

Swanepoel lbw b Zaheer 9  
J Burger b Mongia 29

L Burger lbw b Zaheer 0  
Kaulder c Mongia b Harbhajan 4  
Murgatroyd lbw b Harbhajan 0  
D Kotze c and b Mongia 27

Van Schoor c Dravid b Yuvraj 24  
Van Rooi c Mongia b Yuvraj 17  
B Kotze c Dravid b Yuvraj 3  
Snyman c Srinath b Yuvraj 5  
Van Vuuren not out 12

Extras: (lb-1, w-8, nb-3) 10  
Total: (All out in 42.3 overs) 130  
Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-21, 3-43, 4-47, 5-47, 6-98, 7-99, 8-124, 9-124

**Bowler O M R W**  
Srinath 6 0 25 0  
Nehra 0.1 0 0 0  
Zaheer 7.5 0 24 2  
Harbhajan 10 1 34 2  
Mongia 10 1 24 2  
Sehwag 4 0 16 0  
Yuvraj 4.3 2 6 4

Result: India won by 181 runs  
**Man-of-the-match:** Sachin Tendulkar

**Toss:** Namibia  
**Umpires:** David Shepherd (Eng) and Aleem Dar (Pak)  
**TV umpire:** Kevan Barbour (Zim)  
**Match referee:** Wasim Raja (Pak)

# Barisal mayoral race

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cultural activists in the city.

Additional police forces were deployed but no untoward incident was reported.

Ebaidul Haque Chan held a rally in the northern part of the city and Ahsan Habib Kamal in the southern part.

Vowing not to back out, Chan told the meeting that the city dwellers "want a change and end to autocracy".

Kamal was also critical about BNP's nod to Sarwar's nomination. "It is a conspiracy of razzakars. A pro-liberation personality has become a victim of the conspiracy by anti-liberation forces," he said. "If necessary I shall resign from the party".

Ruling BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami jointly held a rally in support of Sarwar in front of the Town Hall.

It was addressed by State Minister for Cultural Affairs Selima Rahman and State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharraf Hossain Sajahan.

Whip Sarwar told his meeting that there is no question of anti- and pro-liberation forces.

He said, if elected, he would discharge the responsibilities of both the Whip and the Mayor sincerely.

Enayet Pir's meeting, held in front of AL office, was addressed by, among others, Jubo League central leader Jahangir Kabir Nanak and Chhatra League central leader Balaram Poddar.

Pir was escorted by police when he went to submit his nomination

# Two shot at Karwan Bazar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers shot two youths at Karwan Bazar in the early hours of yesterday.

The victims have been identified as Munir, 35, a vegetable vendor, and Nesar, 22, a tea stall owner. They were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in critical condition, according to sources.

According to the victims' relatives, the two were sleeping inside Nesar's tea stall near Janata Tower when about four or five local thugs called them at 4:20am. The miscreants inquired about Munir's father, a vegetable vendor, and on receiving unsatisfactory answer shot Munir in the abdomen.

While fleeing, the attackers fired six more shots from their pistol, one of which hit Nesar's right leg.

So far police could not arrest anyone in this connection.

An unidentified man of about 45 died in a road accident at Matsa Bhaban intersection yesterday morning.

The man was crossing the road when a speeding bus ran over him.

# IO report

FROM PAGE 1  
not appear before the court on several dates.

Oliur Rahman alias Oli, 26, joint-secretary of ward 56 unit of Jubo League, was shot dead in the city's Bangabandhu Avenue area on November 7, 1998.

Victim's brother filed a murder case with Ramna thana the following day accusing Pintu and 17 others.

paper. The other six mayoral candidates are Abdul Majid Munshi of Jatiya Party (Ershad), Iqbal Jahid of Jatiya Sanaitantric Dal (JSD), Dewan Faqir Alam of Forward Party, Mohammed Sadeque, Altaf Hossain and SAB Salauddin.

# BSF returns body of Bangladeshi

BSS, Thakurgaon

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) last night returned the body of a Bangladeshi national they killed at Jagdal border in Balaadangi upazia here on February 21, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sources said.

The body was returned to the BDR following a company commander-level meeting between the BDR and the BSF.

The body was handed over to the victim's family members. This is the second Bangladeshi casualty from BSF firing this year.

# Bid to bribe pressmen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reporters who covered a press conference by the Bangladesh Orthopaedic Society yesterday were taken by surprise.

The press conference was organised ahead of the 16th scientific session of the Society, to be held between February 28 and March 3 in the city.

As the reporters were leaving the Society office after the briefing, they were handed over envelopes containing money.

Dr Sheikh Abbas Uddin Ahmed, a Society official, clarified to the reporters, "There is Tk 300 the reporters for you."

When this reporter asked why is the money, he said, "Okay, fine, I am raising the amount," said Dr Ahmed. He put another Tk 200 in the envelope and asked if it was okay.

As the reporters continued to refuse, a man, claiming to be the public relations officer of the health minister, insisted that the money be accepted.

Abbas then put two other envelopes inside the first envelope and said, "Please take Tk 1,000. It is for your conveyance."

This correspondent refused the money, and left the building.

# Agarwal

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ing that Om Prakash Agarwal and his accomplices in collusion with the bank officials got Tk 14.40 crore approved through fraudulent means and used Ms HB Apparels at Tanbazar, Narayanganj business office to cover up the fraud.

In all these cases, they showed import of fabrics under back to back L/Cs and later shipment of readymade garments were made for export but they did not bring back the export earnings.

Om Prakash Agarwal is the central figure in all these cases, the BAC said in its case dossiers.

The cases referred to violation of foreign currency regulation act of 1947.

# Govt hobbles

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ment and performance.

The administration can benefit from immediate appointment of the officers of 1981 and 1985 batches, which are considered the best so far, they said.

As the post of joint secretary is vacant for lack of competent officers, the government can opt for the deputy secretaries from the 1981 batch, who earned eligibility for promotion to joint secretary two years ago, they suggested.

The number of officers of the 1981 batch is 103, including 66 in the administrative cadre. Most officers of the batch pursued higher education abroad and many Ph.D. All of them scored more than 85 marks for the promotion criteria.

Over 1,000 senior assistant secretaries have earned eligibility for promotion to deputy secretary.

# NAM Summit

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ing for banned weapons of mass destruction, warning a war would have "far reaching political, economic and humanitarian consequences for all countries of the world."

"We reaffirm our commitment to exert our efforts to achieve a peaceful solution to the current situation," says the resolution due to be adopted at the summit.

"We welcome and support all other efforts exerted to avert war against Iraq and call for the persistent continuation of such efforts based on multilateral as opposed to unilateral actions, and reaffirm the central role of the United Nations and the Security Council in maintaining international peace and security."

Iraq is a NAM member and Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan, who arrived yesterday along with scores of world leaders, has promised to bring evidence in the form of documents and tapes to tell "the truth of what is happening in Iraq".

NAM also leaned heavily on North Korea, another member, to drop any plans to build nuclear weapons.

A draft resolution, which has not been finalised, rebuffs Pyongyang's attempts to blame Washington for the crisis on the Korean peninsula, instead implicitly urging the isolated Stalinist state to reverse its decision to withdraw from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Talks on the issue broke down yesterday and resume today, delegates said.

Bush's third "axis of evil" member, Iran, is also a NAM member, joining 111 nations from the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Latin America.

# Indemnity law passed

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the bill with four amendments, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed told the House that through this bill members of the defence forces (the ones who participated in the drive) have been indemnified from facing civil courts.

Before the House passed the bill at 8:30pm, main opposition Awami League (AL) walked out of the parliament denouncing the bill. The AL lawmakers waved black flags inside the House and chanted slogans on the corridors of the Sangsad Bhaban (parliament building).

The AL termed the bill anti-human rights which is designed to indemnify the present government and its head from legal proceedings. Minutes later, Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Janata League MP Kader Siddiqui also followed suit in protest at the passage of the bill.

On Wednesday last, the passage of the bill was put off until yesterday at the request of the law minister who said they had detected an error in the bill in the last minute.

Two ruling BNP lawmakers, Rezaul Bari Dina and Shamsul Alam Pramanik, moved four separate amendments to the bill yesterday. The law minister endorsed all four amendments and the House passed the amended bill through a voice vote.

The amendments provided for the Army Act to be put into force and gave the law a retrospective effect from January 9, 2003, the day the ordinance was promulgated.

The law minister said the amendments would pave the way for application of the own laws of the

defence forces.

Moudud said the indemnity would protect the members of the armed forces from facing the civil justice system. At the same time, they would remain under the purview of their laws.

He brushed aside opposition criticism for bringing the last moment changes to the bill and postponing the passage. He said a bill can be amended until its passage.

A law can be recalled too after its passage and before presidential assent if the government thinks it is necessary to bring amendments. In that case, he said, it has to be passed by the House again.

Earlier, AL lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta, speaking on a point of order, questioned the rationale behind the deferral of the passage. He noted that there was no need for indemnity when provision for trial of the members of defence forces was being kept under military courts.

The Speaker later disallowed Sengupta's statement and said the display of black flag inside parliament was unprecedented. He said, "They (AL MPs) should preserve the dignity of the Jatiya Sangsad."

Later, the AL held a press conference and said the government wanted to protect itself from being implicated in killings that took place during the joint drive.

AL legislator Abdul Jalil said, "We cannot be a party to enactment of such a law."

AL lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta referred to Article 82 and 83 of the rules of procedure and said that the government violated these rules by a sudden deferral of the passage

of the bill from Thursday to Sunday.

He said since the government brought some "irrelevant" amendments to the bill that changed its basic features, it could not pass the bill at this stage.

Abdur Razzak, SAMS Kibria, Mohammad Nasim and Faruk Khan addressed the press conference among others.

BKSJL lawmaker Abdul Kader Siddiqui walked out protesting the passage of the "black law." He pointed out that it was contradictory to the Article 92 and 93 of the rules of procedure that deal with the amendment proposals. He said there was no scope to insert any amendment at this stage and sought the Chair's ruling. The Speaker ruled out his point.

Although the lawmakers belonging to the Jatiya Party (E) protested the bill all through, seven of them were present in the House during the passage of the bill. They did not take part in voting.

# Moudud

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about three months later supported the passage of the indemnity law by saying "sacrifice of individual right is necessary for greater interest".

A number of senior ministers strongly opposed the indemnity, sources in the government said.

The amendment to the law providing for disciplinary action against joint forces was a result of the inner repercussion in the party.

# Ejaz Pathan spills underworld beans

THE STATESMAN/ANN, New Delhi

Faced with CBI interrogation, Ejaz Pathan, the deported colleague of Dawood Ibrahim, has said that a few Mumbai police officers and some prominent politicians have their links with the underworld.

Ejaz reportedly admitted his role in the 1993 Mumbai blasts. CBI sources claimed, adding that the agency may ask him to make a statement to this effect before the designated Tada court judge, Mr Pramod K Kode.

Since he was taken into CBI custody on Thursday, Pathan is learnt to have named police officers and politicians allegedly on Dawood's payroll.

He also mentioned the names of other police personnel who take instructions from the rival gangster Chota Rajan, sources said. Ejaz alleged in his "confession" that some encounter killings by Mumbai police were at the behest of these dons, on handsome consideration (supari killings). He has named one such "encounter specialist" among Mumbai police who is under surveillance by central intelligence agencies because of his contacts abroad.

Reports of such disclosures during CBI questioning have panicked a section of the Mumbai police who are fully aware of their limitations since Pathan is in the custody of the CBI and not the local crime branch.

A senior CBI official from Delhi, who is also in charge of serial blasts case investigation, OP Chawlat, SP is in Mumbai. Ejaz possesses passports of India as well as Pakistan.

He said he chose India as his destination after being expelled by Dubai because "he feels safe here." Dawood's younger brother Iqbal Sheikh Kaskar opted for India over Pakistan for identical reasons, he claimed.

Another central agency, the Intelligence Bureau appears more interested in Iqbal as their sleuths

can extract vital information about D-company and its links with Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI).

Iqbal was wanted as accused in the murder of a customs department's informer, Ravindra Singh. IB's joint director (operation) MN Sandhu made a stopover in Mumbai on his way to UAE two days ago. The IB officials have been frequenting Dubai ever since the police there arrested 30 people in following the murder of Sharad Shetty on January 19.

Among those arrested were Dawood's brothers Noora and Anis with Aftab Bhatki. Dubai let off all 30 for want of sufficient evidence.

The central agency is pursuing the possible deportation of at least 15 wanted criminals opting for shelter in the Emirates.

Aftab Bhatki is likely to be the next on the deportation list. His ISI connections are overt as he is wanted in connection with the circulation of fake currency to the tune of Rs 20 crore in India through his widespread network.

He is believed to have pumped in about Rs 50 crore in fake currency in India till December 2002, supporting ISI bid to undermine India's economy.

All over India over 60 people have been rounded up for injecting these currency notes in the system. Police sources said Bhatki, a resident of Pudhonia in south central Mumbai, is a partner of Iqbal Kaskar in Dubai in Dawood's garment business.

He is in Dubai since 1983. Bhatki used to dispatch currency notes to his trusted operators in Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Ahmedabad. He is a key figure in the ISI-underworld enterprise.

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PHOTO: STAR

Representatives of a section of non-governmental organisations at a convention against the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) at the Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

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