Misfired missile

in an unpopulated area of Turkey yesterday, said a US defence official. Earlier, a local governor in Turkey told Reuters that a sus-pected missile fell near a village in eastern Turkey, not far from the Iraqi border, leaving a large hole in the agricultural fields, but not causing any injuries.

"A U.S. warplane fired a missile at 10 a.m. local time yesterday (Sunday) on a civilian bus carrying Syrian nationals in al-Rutbeh...killing five and wounding at least 10," the SANA news agency

The bodies of the five dead Syrians were taken to a Damascus hospital in coffins with Iraqi death certificates, the hospital director, Dr. Abdullah al-Asali, told Reuters. "The deaths were caused by an explosion...We saw shrapnel wounds and distortions due to an explosion," he said.

A source identified the five as Amjad Abou Azab, Asheq al-Warrad, Abdul-Karim al-Hamdou, Ahmad Elaywi, and Salmou Hamamseh. "They were all young, apparently labourers returning home after the war started," he told Reuters.

Ten wounded Syrians were treated at a medical centre at the al-Tanf border post and two at the Damascus hospital. All were released apart from a man with a leg injury, who was transferred to a hospital in his home town, the central city of Hamma, medical

The bus was carrying 37 people when it was hit, SANA said.

Syrian analyst Imad Shueibi said he did not expect Syria to respond militarily and accused Washington of trying to halt the movement of people between Syria and Iraq.

"It is...an attempt to cut the open road between Syria and Iraq," Shueibi said. "The intention is to provoke us and we will not be (pro-

Syria, the only Arab non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, has been a staunch opponent of the U.S.-led war on fellow Arab Iraq.

Oil-rich Iraq has attracted labourers from Arab and Asian countries for years, despite the crippling economic sanctions nposed on Baghdad for its 1990-91 occupation of Kuwait. Iran warned Sunday that its

army would react if there were any further violation of its airspace by the US and British warplanes, said the IRNA.

"Our soldiers on the border are on full alert...If they observe the slightest violation of Iranian airspace or at the border they will certainly react," said the Iranian interior minister.

New Colony

FROM PAGE 12

Environment secretary Sabihuddin Ahmed, Director General of the Department of Environment Omar Faruq Khan, Chairman of the Department of Housing Abdul Khaleque and Abdullah Abu Saeed of the BAPA were also present at the meeting.

The coming days

FROM PAGE 1

blood," Defence Minister Sultan Hassan Ahmed said on Sunday.

Whatever the Pentagon might say about the fairness of such a guerrilla strategy, "this is warfare and it is a tactic as old as warfare itself," said analyst Dan Plesch of Britain's Royal United Services Institute in a BBC comment.

Together SRG and SSO number over 35,000 well-trained and heavily armed troops and Baghdad is their garrison city. They would likely be joined in battle by the Saddam Fedayeen under the control of Saddam's son Uday. It terattacked and stopped the U.S. Marines charging north across the Euphrates river at Nassiriya on

was units of this militia that coun-

Iraq military expert and former CIA analyst Kenneth Pollack says the Fedayeen may now number as many as 100,000.

This force was "once a strange cross between a goon squad and a kamikaze brigade" but has received better equipment and training in recent years and is now a force to be reckoned with, says Pollack in his recent book "The Threatening Storm.

Invasion

FROM PAGE 1

about 225 miles southeast of Baghdad, when they were held up by Iraqi irregulars.

What surprised military analysts is that only some 500 Iraqi soldiers are holding up a much larger and highly equipped US force of about 5,000 troops in Nassiriyah.

British and US forces are facing trouble there, as many Iraqi troops are now donning civilian clothes for a surprise attack.

"The whole regiment we'r travelling with is just stuck here, said Maguire, with the Marines First Regiment south of Nassiriyah. They need those bridges.

In the port city of Umm Qasr, earlier US claims are again proven wrong as pockets of resistance are still there. Troops are moving from building to building and no clear information on the situation is

Basra is under heavy bombardment and hundreds of elite Iraqi troops are now ready to take on the US and UK ground troops

Iraqi troops pounded joint forces outside the ancient city and British forces responded, BBC said. This contradicts earlier British military claims of no fights there.

In the north, more air strikes hit in or around Mosul, said Reuters correspondent Ion Hemming, watching from Kurdish-held terri-

tory, where military activity has been increasing.

Warplanes also pounded Iraqi bunkers on hilltops overlooking the Kurdish-held town of Chamchamal, in the first attack in the area since the war started, a Kurdish commander told Reuters.

In Baghdad, bombings are intermittent, rocking buildings and sending people to shelter. US forces are believed to be within 160 kilometre of the city waiting for further instructions.

The so-called precision-guided missiles have landed on civilian areas, killing 62 and wounding over

In Baghdad, 194 people had been wounded in bombing but none had been killed. The most deaths were 30 in Babel, south of Baghdad, and 14 in Basra, Iraq

There were also deaths and injuries in the southern towns of Najaf and Karbala, in the southern province Qadisiya and in the northern provinces of Ninawa and

Iraqi troops casualty is unknown yet as neither the joint forces nor the their counterpart gave out any figure.

Humane treatment

Saddam Hussein

Camp David presidential retreat. Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and a member of Bush's war council, said stiffer opposition awaited US forces as they neared Baghdad and the more disciplined

Myers told "Fox News

US Central Command headthe sands of southern Iraq since

capital. They reported "less than 10" Marines killed in fighting near the southern city of Nassiriva and said 12 US service members were missing after an Iraqi ambush in the

Iraqi television filmed five shaken US soldiers -- one an injured woman -- and the bloodied bodies of up to eight uniformed men, all apparently captured or killed southeast of Nassiriya. At least two of the dead had wounds to

The footage of the first known US prisoners of war in the conflict

included brief interviews with the five and was relayed around much of the world by Arabic network Al-Iazeera.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld called the video Iraqi propaganda and said it violated the Geneva Convention governing the treatment of prisoners of war.

"Needless to say, television networks that carry such pictures are, I would say, doing something that's unfortunate," Rumsfeld told

US television networks either showed only very brief excerpts of the footage on Sunday or said they were still considering whether to air it and under what conditions.

'Get my son out' Anecita Hudson said she had

son out.'

recognised her 23-year-old son Joseph Hudson from footage aired on a satellite channel she subscribes to. "I cannot imagine how he became a prisoner of war like this," she told ABC News, weeping for his plight. "I just hope the president will do something to get my

The Geneva Convention requires the humane treatment of POWs and states that they must be protected against "violence or ntimidation and against insults and public curiosity.

Rumsfeld told CBS's "Face the Nation" that photographing prisoners was also not allowed under the convention. US and other Western media have given wide play to images of Iraqi soldiers, sometimes shown in humiliating positions, surrendering to US and



Students of Dhaka University along with their teachers demonstrate on the campus yesterday against the US-led military attack on Iraq.

Children in terror

FROM PAGE 1

Guardian. At a news conference in Kuwait, Major-General Daniel Leaf of the US Air Force said the coalition forces were doing all they could to avoid such deaths, but added that he could not confirm or deny the specific Iraqi claims.

The Guardian reported earlier that five-year-old Doha Suheil, drip feed attached to her nose, a deep frown over her small face, was seriously injured. The cruise missile that exploded close to her home in the Radwaniyeh suburb of Baghdad blasted shrapnel into her tiny legs -they were bound up with gauze and, far more seriously, into her spine. Now she has lost all movement in her left leg.

Doha was the first of 101 patients brought to the Al-Mustansaniya College Hospital after America's blitz on the city began on Friday night. Seven other members of her family were wounded in the same cruise missile bombardment; the youngest, a one-year-old baby, was being breastfed by her mother at the time.

ROGUEMISSILE WRECKS HOMES

The yellow brick house that Fath Farat spent his entire life in seemed as substantial and safe as his neighbours' -- until, that is, a US missile landed on his doorstep and sheared

Farat stood at the lip of a crater five metres deep, gouged from the

which the Ansar al-Islam group

was bombed, in the north. One

forces have sped on towards

Baghdad, others have been left

behind to mop up local resistance, a

job which is proving a lot more

difficult than reports had at first

across the border from Kuwait, has

been reported as having been

"secured" several times, but it is still

not certain whether the invasion

The Iraqi vice-president, Taha

Yassin Ramadan, Sunday gave an

upbeat press conference, claiming

that "operations are going on in an

forces have total control there.

Umm Qasr, the port town just

Although some of the invasion

showed a child's head split open.

earth by what America would describe as a precise targeting operation -- a laser-guided missile.

Until 7.30pm Saturday night, his home had stood there. Hours later, it was as if it had never existed, aside from bits of furniture and crockery studding the slopes of the crater.

Farat's home gaped open like a doll's house; the upper storey of another house appeared on the verge of collapse.

"Everything is gone: my furniture, my money, my food," he said, too tired to protest as scavengers worked their way through his home. "Those look like my wife's clothes," he said, as a bundle was carried off. "That red car belongs to my little girl. On day four of America's war on

Iraq, Farat can claim a dubious

distinction. The missile which

exploded on the middle class Qadissiya neighbourhood of Baghdad just before dinner time marks the first occasion America has missed its intended target. Farat's home and the four others destroyed on Saturday night are in a residential neighbourhood far from

Saddam Hussein's palaces or military installations. "Smoke and rocks were flying everywhere, and the dust turned everything dark," said Ahmed Abdel Daem, whose home was also destroyed. "I couldn't see a thing. I shouted for my mother and my

Iraqi government and hospital officials say three people have been killed during the first three nights of the war. Farat and his family would have been among them had he not bundled his children into his car and sped off a few minutes before the Until the Qadissiya neighbour-

hood took a direct hit Saturday night, most of the wounded suffered relatively moderate injuries, from shrapnel and Iraqi anti-aircraft fire gone However, they included women

hospital as doctors extracted pieces of metal from their flesh. Their only sin was to have stepped outside during the bombardments, or to sit beside a window.

and children, screaming with pain in

the casualty wards of Yarmouk

Daem regained consciousness in hospital, with a bloodied and shattered right leg. But he counts his escape a miracle: had he not stepped out to his rabbit hutch, he would have been inside his house, and probably dead.

He had little patience yesterday for American claims that they were not fighting Iraqi civilians, "America is always doing something wrong, and then saying it's a mistake," Daem said. "But I think they just want to kill us, to kill everyone in

11 SPs promoted FROM PAGE 12

hawkers' association.

Police, Lutfur Rahman to Barisal, Police Academy, Khoda Bux Chowdhury to Dhaka, ABM Bazlur Rahman to Khulna Metropolitan Police and Mahmud Shahjahan to Khulna Range.

Boro

FROM PAGE 12

than last year on irrigation of each

Julhasuddin, a boro grower of

Uttar Hajir Hut in Rangpur Sadar, who depends on power-pump for irrigation, complained of erratic power supply. The shortage of most effective pesticides adds to their misery.

Shahidul Islam, a pesticide distributor in Shibganj, Bogra, admitted that he sold a bottle of

Basudin at Tk 190-200, up from Tk Azharul Islam, a relatively welloff farmer of Ambari in Parbatipur,

used to apply pesticide called Dymecron but switched to Basudin as the government banned Dymecron Asked about scarcity of pesti-

cides during the peak season of boro cultivation, Agriculture Secretary Ayub Quadri told reporters Thursday that the problem was with registration of some pesticide ingredients.

"A company with no registration in its name for importing ingredients of a certain pesticide brand won't get duty exemption,' explained Quadri. "We asked such companies to show us necessary papers by June 30.

Independence Day FROM PAGE 12 they said.

The programmes at the National Parade Square on March 26 in the morning will remain unchanged. The programmes there include an impressive march past by freedom fighters, members of the armed forces, BDR, police, BNCC and Ansar-VDP.

Sworn to die FROM PAGE 1

their force by withdrawing, which the coalition, to its subsequent chagrin, let them do.

President George Bush senior ordered his troops to cease fire at 100 hours, rather less than Schwarzkopf's suggested five days which the general noted would be one shorter than the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and "had a nice ring to it."

The label that Bush's son's war in Iraq will eventually inherit is still

BSP declares holiday on March 26

BSS, Dhaka

Programmes on dark night of March 25

A press release said as part of

the programmes, the committee will hold a rally of the freedom

fighters and family members of

the martyred at 8:00pm at the

Central Shaheed Minar.

Professor kabir Chowdhury will

Following the rally, the par-

ticipants will take out a candle

procession and pay their hom-

age at the graveyard of the mar-

tyred freedom fighters at

Jagannath Hall of Dhaka

University, the press release

Newspaper

holidays

entitled to.

including March 26.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

owners urged

not to curtail

Leaders of Sangbadik Sramik

Karmachari Oikya Parishad and Sangbadpatra Hawkers' Association

yesterday urged newspaper owners

to allow journalists and other

employees to enjoy holidays they are

In a joint statement, they also

urged the owners to keep the news-

paper offices closed on holidays,

The leaders issued the statement

They thanked the owners for

The signatories to the statement

are Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Gias

Kamal Chowdhury, Manjurul Alam

and Akther Ahmad Khan of

Bangladesh Federal Union of

Journalists; Elahi Newaj Khan, Abdul

Jalil Bhuiyan, Abdus Shaheed and

Omar Faruq of Dhaka Union of Journalists; Fazle Imam and Abul

Hashem of Bangladesh Federal

Union of Newspaper Press Workers;

Afsar Uddin Khan and Matiur

Rahman Talukdar of Bangladesh

Sangbadpatra Karmachari

Federation; and Abu Siddique,

Mostafa Kamal, Abul Kashem, M

Ishaq, Nurul Huda Abdullah, M

Sahabuddin and Syed M Ismail of

keeping the newspaper offices

closed on March 14 on the occasion

following a meeting between the two

preside over the rally.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newspaper offices will remain closed on the Independence and The Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee will be holding a National Day on March 26, a press series of programmes tonight to release of the Bangladesh observe the dark night of March Sangbadpatra Parishad (BSP) said 25 when in 1971 the Pakistani vesterdav. army went for a mass murder.

The decision was taken at a BSP meeting here yesterday.

So, there will be no newspaper on March 27, said the release.

Free travel coupons

UNB, Dhaka

All expatriate Bangladeshis returning home in the wake of the war in Iraq will be provided with free travel coupons by the Shipping Ministry on their arrival at the Zia International Airport, an official release said yesterday.

All public and private ferries, launches and steamers are to carry the bearers of such coupons free of

BIWTA will open a centre at Sadarghat launch terminal to receive the expatriates.

Shazneen case FROM PAGE 12

Usually, it begins at about noon.

Masum told the court yesterday that police took Sahhidul Islam alias Shahid (now principal accused) to Latifur Rahman's (Shazneen's father) Gulshan residence on September 27, 1998. Shahid narrated how Hasan and his employee Badal hired Humayun (now dead), Parvin, Minu, Shaniram and him to rape and kill Shazneen.

Replying to a question by the lawyers of five accused, Masum said he had told the Investigation Officer (IO) that three guests were interrogating the housemaids --Minu and Parvin -- shortly after the tragic incident.

Parvin first said she saw Shahid fleeing Shazneen's room with a knif and then said she saw a man sitting on Shazneen's body. Again, she said she saw nothing, Masum told the

Special public prosecutors (PPs) Mahbub Ahmed, Arfan Uddin Khan and Saima Khanam appreared for the state. Advocates Mosharraf Hossain Kajol, Mizanur Rahman and Abdus Salam Bhuiyan defended the accused. Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15. the youngest daughter of Latifur

Rahman, Chairman of Transcom,

was raped and murdered at their

Gulshan residence on April 23,

DU students, teachers protest war

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of students of Dhaka University, joined by their teachers, again came out on campus streets yesterday protesting the US invasion of Iraq and chanting slogans for peace.

They assembled at the Aparajeo Bangla at the Arts Faculty under the banner of 'Anti-War Movement of Dhaka University'.

Chanting slogans like "no blood for oil " and "stop the attack on Iraq" and carrying anti-US placards, the protesters paraded the campus streets and marched up to the Central Shaheed Minar and held a rally.

The rally, addressed by teachers, called for boycott of American products, from soft drinks to films.

On March 22, thousands of students of DU, led by Vicechancellor ASM Faiz, staged a huge anti-war demonstration on the campus and called for boycott of American products.

Addressing yesterday's rally, the teachers said they came on streets again to protest the invasion and to express their solidarity with the innocent people of Iraq. They demanded immediate halt to the

Dhaka wants

prove devastating," Khan said. "We have made our position clear to Britain as well as to the USA," he

"We have discussed newsmen, confidential matters. Iraq and other international and bilateral issues

"Our war is not against Iraqi people. It is against the Iraqi regime, Carter told newsmen. Earlier on Saturday, US

Ambassador Mary Ann Peters met Foreign Secretary Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury.

avoid such casualties. Foreign Secretary Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury said, "In broader sense the sovereignty of Iraq is an issue of its people and they are the

Taunting the allies, he asked:

"Have you found what the devil

Victory ours

uniform and seemed calmer than during his last national address on that besets your soul promised you round of cruise missile attacks on his capital.

"These decisive days, oh you Iragis are in line with what God has ordered you to do, to cut their throats," he said.

"Those who are believers will be victorious. In these decisive days, the enemy tried not using missiles and fighter jets as they did before. This time they sent their infantry troops. This time they have come to invade and occupy your land."

In words aimed at inspiring his troops, Saddam said Iraqi fighters were "causing the enemy to suffer and to lose every day. "As time goes by, they will lose

more and they will not be able to escape lightly from their predicament," he said. "We will make it as painful as we can. Referring to US and British

troops, Saddam said: "These forces entered our lands and where they penetrated they became entangled, desert behind them.' These troops were surrounded

by Iraqi residents and "aiming their fire at them," he said.

US prisoners shaky

men and a woman were broadcast by the Arab satellite station Al-Jazeera with footage from statecontrolled Iraqi television. Each

Pentagon (news - web sites) did not know precisely how many captives there might be and would not identify the unit. Some of the prisoners are from Fort Bliss, Texas, said Jean Offutt, a U.S. Army

Several families of the soldiers gathered at the base Sunday evening. "The mood, of course, is very tragic," she said.

The 507th Maintenance, part of the 111th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, is stationed at Fort Bliss and at least two of the interviewed prisoners said they were with the

Each prisoner shown on television spoke American-accented English. All looked terrified.

The woman's eyes darted back

was from El Paso, Texas, stared directly at the camera and spoke in a clear voice. He often shook his

head and cupped his ear slightly to indicate that he couldn't hear a question. He said: "I follow orders.

A 31-year-old sergeant from New Jersey sat bolt upright in a chair. His hands in his lap, he answered questions in a clipped fashion and said he was with the The narrator provided an Arabic

translation, but it was possible to hear some of the comments in English. The captive identified as Miller

answered in a shaky voice, his eyes darting back and forth between the interviewer and another person who couldn't be seen on camera. Asked why he came to Iraq, he

Prodded again by the interviewer, he was asked if he came to

he was from Texas, was lying on an elaborate maroon mat. One of his arms appeared to be wounded and folded across his chest. Iraqi TV attempted to interview

The U.S. military says it has

"I can assure the American people that we're making good progress, and also can assure them that this is just the beginning of a tough fight," Bush said on his return to the White House from the

units of Saddam's Republican Guard. "Anybody that thinks this is going to be quick and easy is

Sunday. quarters in Qatar said ground forces had met their toughest resistance vet on Sunday after rolling largely unopposed through Thursday to within 160 km of the

same area.

Television pictures showed houses wrecked and civilian body

> excellent and comfortable manner for Iraq" He continued ominously: "They

> > amended).

suggested.

say that they are heading towards Baghdad, and that they covered more than 160 or 180km towards Baghdad.

"I would like to tell them that, in

the course that they are following,

let them continue up to 300km and

let them mobilise all the tanks and

marines they have, and we will not

clash with them soon. We will give

them enough time.

US 'precision war'

sister, and then I fainted.

"However, in any contact with any Iraqi village or city, they [the invasion forces] will find what they are now witnessing in Umm Qasr and Suq al-Shuyukh.

Yesterday morning, two British

soldiers were reported missing after their vehicle came under fire in southern Iraq. The defence ministry in London gave no further details. Over the weekend, a British Tornado warplane returning from a mission in Iraq was mistaken for an

The crew of two died. In a bizarre incident on Saturday, one US soldier died and 15 more were injured when one of their colleagues threw grenades into tents at a camp in Kuwait.

This was at first reported as a

terrorist attack, but it seems more

reminiscent of the "fragging" phe-

nomenon witnessed during the

Vietnam war, when disaffected

incoming missile, and was shot

down by Patriot rockets in Kuwait.

soldiers attacked their officers with fragmentation grenades on several occasions. So far, most of the confirmed deaths among the invasion forces

have not come as a result of combat

with Iragis. Fourteen British and six

dents, two Britons have been killed by friendly fire, and one American died in the grenade incident. A crisis is also brewing on the

US personnel have died in acci-

northern border, where Turkish forces appear to have defied the US by entering the Kurdish area of Iraq. Adopting the same line of argument used by the US to justify its own invasion, Turkey says that it is merely taking "pre-emptive action"

it would provide a huge boost to those who favoured military action rather than continued weapons inspections.

says that US forces are investigating

a large factory in southern Iraq that

confirmation, but more details may emerge during the course of the day. Meanwhile, in a televised address to the country, the Iraqi president, Saddam Hussein, promised triumph over the coalition forces. He hailed Iraqi resistance

14 projects okayed

Corporation (FDC) under Information Ministry (second

The projects also include: completion of incomplete work of divisional stadiums in Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna under Youth and Sports Ministry, project for training and self-employment of insolvent freedom fighters and their wards under Liberation War Affairs Ministry, hortex component of agricultural services innovation and reform project under Agriculture Ministry (amended), extension and development of Sylhet Railway Station under Communication Ministry (second phase), establishment of digital telephone exchanges at Sripur, Kapasia, Kaliakoir and Kaliganj of

Gazipur district under Post and

Telecommunications Ministry

(amendment), urban operation

and infrastructure development

under Local Government Division,

rural infrastructure development

and project for feeder road rehabil-

itation and maintenance of WFP

Country Programme 2001-2005

and integrated food security and

maintenance of rural roads in the

hill districts.

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Textiles Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury Agriculture Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami, Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda. Industries Minister MK Anwar Information Minister Tariqui Islam, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, Post and Telecommunications Minister M Aminul Haq, Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk, Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman, State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Redwan Ahmed, State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Mosharraf Hossain and State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud attended the meeting.

ministries concerned and other

high officials were also present.

Cabinet secretary, principal The present stock of more than 2,30,000 tonnes of refined oil would secretary to the prime minister, meet the country's requirement for at members of the Planning Commission, secretaries of the

Kerosene FROM PAGE 12

coming.

ers/agents, ensure retail sales at government-fixed rate and check adulteration. Meanwhile, reports received from different areas of Dhaka, Rajshahi, Sirajganj, Noakhali and Pabna dis-

some districts including Bogra and Kurigram, kerosene is out of market with the wholesaler hiding their stocks to raise the price later. In Joypurhat, kerosene now sells at

Tk 22 to 26 per litre as against Tk 19 recently and diesel price has risen to

least 35 days. Besides, ships carrying 2,31,487 tonnes of imported crude and refined oil would reach Chittagong port within a month, they

An exclusive report in the Jerusalem Post yesterday morning

could be connected with chemical weapons. If this turns out to be true.

As yet, however, there is no

and said: "Be patient, victory is

consumption of kerosene on the basis of population in each district and upazila, fix the quota for deal-

tricts said kerosene is selling at Tk22 to 28 per litre while the governmentfixed rate is Tk 17 per litre. Other reports even said that in

Tk 22 to 24 per litre from Tk 20 in the rural areas of all the five upazilas. Meanwhile, highly placed official sources earlier said the country has enough stock of fuel and dispelled fears of any shortage and price hike of

FROM PAGE 1 not in any way directed against Islam," he said. "Iraq is a place of holy shrines... any attack or bombings there may

He also said that people around the globe are against the war. British envoy David Carter told

also came up during the discussion. However, he did not give details.

Dhaka again expressed concern over civilian casualties and said that all the parties should be careful to

owner of its resources.

in Iraq To the people of Iraq's cities of Basra, Baghdad, Mosul and others, he warned that the enemy will

intensify their raids as they suffer casualties on the ground.

coming... Be tolerant," he added.

He mentioned several units and commanders, saluting them "for their heroic feats in the battlefield. He told the people of Iraq's second largest city Basra, which has been isolated but not occupied

"Be patient. God's victory is

by allied forces, to be patient because "victory is imminent." Saddam said the allies were trying to avoid engaging our forces" a clear reference of the US strategy of avoiding entering provincial cities adding that "in most cases they are using their warplanes to attack our troops without

"Whenever they penetrated our

territory, they were faced with

fierce resistance from Iraqi people,

tribes, party members, Saddam's

Fedayeen and security forces," he

engaging them in fighting.

was interviewed individually. A senior defence official said the

spokeswoman at the base.

and forth and her voice very shaky. She said she was 30 years old, from Texas, and part of the 507th Maintenance. She had a big white bandage around her ankle. Another prisoner, who said he

replied, "I come to fix broke stuff," shoot Iragis. Another prisoner, who also said

him, at one point trying to cradle his head to steady it for the camera. They eventually helped him sit up, but he seemed to sway slightly.

more than 2,000 Iraqi prisoners of