



shops, houses

in Banshkhali

Dacoits looted shops and houses in

Banshkhali upazila at midnight on

At least three persons were injured

Police said a gang of 25 entered

Chunati Bazar in Katharia union at

around 11.30pm and looted goods

 $The \, gang \, stabbed \, two \, shop \, owners$

named Jafar Ali, 25, and Jamal

Sowdagar, 30. They were admitted to

The gang later went to Baghmara

village near Chunati Bazar and looted

valuables and gold ornaments worth

Tk.4 lakh from the houses of Yousuf

Mohammad, Ofiur Rahman, Abu

Ahmed and Hazi Kabir Ahmed. One

Fatema Begum, 65, was injured by the

Shibir, JCD clash

Medical College

Two persons were injured in a clash

between the activists of Islami Chhatra

Shibir (ICS) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra

Dal (JCD) at Sher-e-Bangla Medical

Campus sources said Shibir

brought out a procession on the cam-

pus protesting US invasion of Iraq.

They (Shibir men) also raised slogan

JCD brought out a counter proces-

sion and swooped on the Shibir men,

Rehana's house

condemned the government for

'illegally occupying' the house using

house was allocated to Rehana as

daughter of the father of the nation,

AL general secretary Abdul Jalil said in

He said the housing ministry also

handed over all the documents of the

house to Rehana on July 12, 2001. "But

the BNP-Jamaat government occu-

pied the house unlawfully sending

the government was exposed through

He also dismissed as "false, base-

less and unlawful" the government's

claim that the allocation of the house

stood cancelled automatically with

the repeal of 'Father of the Nation's

He demanded immediate with

drawal of police from Rehana's house

Family Members Security Act 2001'.

and release of the arrested persons.

Morshed khan

relations, Morshed said Bangladesh

attaches great importance to its rela-

tions with Japan as "we have been

getting support and assistance for

development of economic infrastruc-

ture, poverty alleviation and human

He said Bangladesh and Japan

both signatories to the NPT and CTET,

work together in peacekeeping mis-

Morshed said that in his meeting

with the Japanese Foreign Minister, he

would convey the deep appreciation of

the government of Bangladesh for

Later, Japanese Senior Vice Foreign

sions in many parts of the world.

apan's support and assistance.

development from Japan."

Ialil said the autocratic character of

"As per a cabinet decision, the

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisa

at Barisal

College yesterday.

against ICD.

lawenforcers.

a statement.

police personnel.'

he incident.

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leaving two injured.

worth Tk.10 lakh from 16 shops.

the local health complex.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cts

hv the gang.





Students of Dhaka Medical College demonstrate in the city yesterday against US-led attack on Iraq; Jatiya Shishu-Kishore Parishad protests killing of Iraqi children in bombardment by coalition forces; employees of Public Works Department shout against the attack and DESA workers burn an effigy of US President George W Bush.

Truly remarkable | Dacoits loot

months and wheel our young soldiers west to surround Damascus? Where, for heaven"s sake, is all this going? We were going to "liberate" Iraq.

difficult," George W Bush now tells us he didn"t tell us that before, did he? and, according to Tony Blair, this is "only the beginning

all that fuss about chemical and biological warfare has been forgotten.

The "secret" weapons, the gas masks, the anti-anthrax injections, the pills and chemical suits have now been erased from the story - because bullets and rocket-propelled grenades are now the real danger to British and American forces in Iraq.

Even the "siege of Baghdad" - a city which is 30 miles wide and might need a quarter of a million men to surround it - is fading from the diary.

Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld according to the "New Yorker" interfered with the General"s

This was going to be - I quote Mr Rumsfeld - "war of a kind we have never seen before."

He can say that again

Sitting in Baghdad, listening to the God-awful propaganda rhetoric of the Iraqis but watching the often promiscuous American and British air attacks - targeting an alleged missile battery near a market place in a capital city at midday during a sandstorm (Start italic) is (End italic) going to kill civilians, is it not? - I have a suspicion that what s gone wrong has nothing to do with plans.

Indeed, I suspect there is no real overall plan.

Because I rather think that this war"s foundations were based not on military planning but on ideology.

Long ago, as we know, the right wing pro-Israeli lobbyists around Mr Bush planned the overthrow of

This would destroy the most powerful Arab state in the Middle East Israel"s chief of staff, Shoal Mofaz. demanded that the war should start even earlier than it did - and allow the map of the region to be changed

3 of a family electrocuted in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Three members of a family were electrocuted at village Madra in Tala upazila of the district on Monday night.

The victims were identified as Bimal Kumar Mondal, 32, his wife Shefali Rani Mondal, 27, and mother Annada Mondal, 60.

Police said Rimal Kumar was electrocuted when he came in touch with a live electric wire in front of his house at around 10pm.

Bimal's wife Shefali Rani and mother Annada Mondal were also electrocuted as they came to save him.

On information, police went to the village yesterday, recovered the bodies and sent them to Satkhira hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Tala police

Arab states

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Ambassador Goncalo de Santa Clara Gomes, Arab envoys said.

Santa Clara Gomes is the assembly's acting president in the absence of Jan Kavan of the Czech Republic, who is out of town until April 9, UN officials

Arab diplomats said they were seeking the assembly meeting on orders from Arab foreign ministers, who adopted a declaration in Cairo last week "affirming (their) solidarity with Baghdad" and condemning "the American-British aggression against

The declaration instructed Arab nations at the United Nations to initially try to "halt the aggression' through an emergency session of the

Security Council Failing that, it told the bloc to take

the matter to the General Assembly.

Mr Powell stated just this a month False intelligence information - i would be interesting to know which

But the war could be "long and country the FBI say they are now investigating for the forgery of documents which Powell used at the UN to "prove" the Iraqis were importing equipment for illegal weapons from " Oh, really? Strange, isn"t it, how Africa - was mixed up with the desires of the corrupt and infiltrated Iraqi

> Fantasies and illusions were given credibility by a kind of superpower moral overdrive

Any kind of mendacity could be used to fuel this ideological project.

September 11 (oddly unmentioned now), links between Saddam and Osama bin Laden (unproven), weapons of mass destruction (hitherto unfound), human rights abuses (at which we originally connived when Saddam was our friend) and then, finally, the most heroic project of all the "liberation" of the people of Iraq.

Oil was not mentioned although it is the all-important and dominating factor in this illegitimate conflict - no wonder General Franks admitted that his first concern, prior to the war, was the "protection" of the southern Iraqi

"democracy".

How boldly we crossed the border. With what lordly aims we invaded

Few Iragis doubt - even the ministers in Baghdad speak about this - that the Americans could, ultimately, occupy the country

They have the force and they have the weapons to smash their way into every city and impose a curfew and rule the land by martial law.

But can they make Iraqis submit to that rule? Unless the masses rise up as Mr Bush and Mr Blair hope, this is now a nationalist war against the most obvious kind of imperial power.

Without Iraqi support, how can General Franks run a military dictatorship or find Iraqis willing to serve him or run the oil fields? The Americans can win the war.

But if their project fails they will have lost.

Yet there is one achievement we should note.

The ghastly Saddam, the most revolting dictator in the Arab world who does indeed use heinous torture and has indeed used gas, is now leading a country which is fighting the world"s only superpower and which has done so for almost two weeks without surrendering.

Yes, General Tommy Franks has accomplished one "truly remarkable achievement".

He has turned the Monster of Baghdad into the hero of the Arab world and allowed Iraqis to teach every opponent of America how to fight their enemy.

Hasina

AL had a debacle in the 2001 general election. It will launch a series of dialogues on electoral reforms as it feels the electoral process should be more transparent, sources said.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdul Hamid, Chief Whip Abdus Shahid, AL's International Affairs Secretary Syed Abul Hossain were present at the meeting.

Speller wanted to know how functional the parliament was. The AL leaders said it was not up to the mark Speller was told that opposition MPs were deprived of their right to ask question during the Prime Minister's question time, Saber said.

They also informed Speller that the overnment failed to form parliamen tary standing committees on ministries even after more than one and a half years in office.

After the meeting, newsmen asked Speller to comment on functioning of the parliament. He said Bangladesh is a new parliamentary democracy and there is scope to improve it through exchange of ideas and sharing experiences with established democracies.

On Iraq war, he said the stance of his country, Canada, was the same as that of Bangladesh. "The issue should be solved through United Nation's

Minister T Yono paid a courtesy call on he foreign minister. Morshed told Yono that Bangladesh and Japan enjoy excellent bilateral relations and that Bangladesh has benefited tremendously from Japanese assistance. He praised Japan for its international role and added that Japan has brought about a fundamental change in Bangladesh by contributing to its economic and social infrastructure

> Morshed also briefed him about establishment of democracy in Bangladesh and its success in economic development and in achieving

self-sufficiency in food. Yono praised Bangladesh's peace keeping role in East Timor.

Shazneen case

ing day, he returned home at 1.00pm and at the airport he came to know from his wife over telephone that Shazneen was raped and murdered at their Gulshan residence on April 23,1998. Soon after hearing the news, he went straight to Latifur Rahman's (Shazneen's father) Gulshan residence and talked to him (Latifur Rahman) about the tragic death of his daughter, the witness told the court.

"At about 9.00pm on May 27,1998, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) police took Guard Humayun Kabir (now dead) to the residence of Latifur Rahman where Mrs. Latifur Rahman, her elder daughter Simeen Hossain, Mrs. Yeasmin Morshed, Akku Chowdhury and I were present. Later, Humayun was taken to the northern side of the house and a chisel was recovered from the rooftop of the servants' bathroom adjacent to the wall. The CID then made a seizure-list and Akku Chowdhury and I put our signatures on it. At one stage, Humayun informed us that Shaniram, another accused in the case, gave him the chisel," Mahbubui

"After a while, Humayun was taken to the victim's bedroom and he narrated in our presence how Shahid, Parvin and he raped and killed Shazneen.

Humavun then said that he hit Shazneen with the chisel and Shahid stabbed her with the kitchen knife. Parvin grabbed her by the hair. Then the three pulled down Shazneen from the bed. She was becoming unconscious. Shahid raped her in this condition. He (Humayun) then came out of the room with the chisel and kept it on the rooftop of the servants' bathroom and entered the bathroom to wash his blood-stained hands and legs. Humayun also said that Hasan and his employee Badal hired

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the Thai capital next day

Symptoms of SARS

The main symptoms of SARS are

high fever (> 38° Celsius), dry cough,

shortness of breath or breathing

difficulties. Changes in chest X-rays

indicative of pneumonia also occur-

SARS may be associated with other

symptoms, including headache,

muscular stiffness, loss of appetite,

malaise, confusion, rash and diar-

The infective agent spreads through

close contact with the patient. Contact

with exhaled droplets and bodily

secretions from an infected person is

important. To date, majority of the

cases occurred in case of hospital

workers and family members who took

How should SARS patients be

Patients should be placed in an

isolation unit. Strict respiratory barrier

and nursing is needed. Suspected cases

should also be separated from other

patients. Health workers and visitors

should wear effective filter masks,

goggles, aprons, head covers and

While some medicines have been

Treatment for SARS

care of SARS patients.

managed?

How contagious is SARS?

him Shahid Parvin Minu and Shaniram with money to rape and kill Shazneen," the witness said.

Special Public Prosecutors (PPs) Arfan uddin Khan, Mahbub Ahmed and Saima Khanam and Assistant PP Anisur Rahman appeared for the state. Advocates MA Kamrul Hasan Khan Aslam 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

Robber held

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in the area, joined the villagers. The shootout ensued when the fleeing robbers fired at the security personnel.

Police recovered a gold chain, a pair of earring and clothes from injured Ratan. The other gang members managed to flee.

9 drowned

middle of the river.

ZIA: Fatal flu threat

Some 40 people from Narayanpur Barogharia, and Ramchandrapur were going to 'Patha Boli' fair at Nurpur in Murshidabad, India.

A local journalist, quoting survivors Dayal and Madhu, said that every year the Hindus of the area visit India on the occasion of the fair. The border security during the time usually remains rather lax

Talking to The Daily Star last night, Nurul Hug, deputy commissioner of Chapainawabganj, said the rescue

tried, no drug can, at this time, be

recommended for prophylaxis or

treatment. Antibiotics do not appear to

be effective. Symptoms should be

treated by adequately protected health

professionals. As a result of good

supportive care, some patients in

Hanoi, Vietnam, have been transferred

from critical care wards to regular

research project to expedite identifica

tion of the causative agent was estab-

lished on March 17. Eleven top labora-

tories in ten countries are consulting

daily and are working together to

identify the causative agent. Various

specimens have been collected from

SARS appears to be less infectious

cases and post-mortem examinations.

than influenza. The incubation period

is short, estimated at 2-7 days, 3-5 days

being more common. However, travel

can rapidly spread the disease around

in Hanio. On February 26, a man was

admitted to hospital there with high

fever, dry cough, myalgia (muscle

soreness) and mild sore throat. In four

days, he developed increasing breath-

ing difficulties, severe

The first known case was detected

How fast does SARS spread?

An international multi-centre

Anti-war protests continue

Through different programmes, various socio-political organisations continued protest against the US led attack on Iraq.

While the people of Bangladesh is protesting the imperialism of Britain and America in Iraq, the Government has completely failed to show respect to public opinion, said leaders of the Workers' Party of Bangladesh in their meeting yesterday. A protest meeting was held by the

Bangladesh Women's Awami League at

their central office at Bangabandhu Avenue. They expressed their concern over the killing of innocent children and civilians in Iraq Gonotantrik Biplobi Jote (Demo-

cratic Revolutionary Alliance) held two

street meetings and a protest procession Dhaka University Ekushey

Pathchacro arranged at seminar on Iraq; Aggression, Not War' yesterday. Communist Party of Bangladesh

(BaShaD) is to arrange a grand rally at 12:30pm in the Muktangon today, demanding the end of war and the

boycotting of Anglo-American production

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Teachers' Association will stage a sit-in programme demanding the end of war on the April 3 at the university premises.

Bangladesh Hawkers' Federation will hang and burn the effigies of Bush and Blair and hold a meeting followed by a protest procession tomorrow.

Oikya Prochesta (United effort) will arrange a gathering at the Paltan Maidan on April 7 at 3:00pm.

Human shield

"These were human shields who were coming to Baghdad to be deployed.... many of them were injured and taken to hospital at Rutba," he said. "The brave Americans start shooting Americans.'

Asked about the claim during a news briefing at Central Command headquarters in Qatar, US Brigadier General Vincent Brooks said he knew nothing of any such attacks. Hundreds of Western activists

to show their support for the Iraqi people in the weeks leading up to the US-led invasion of the country. Some of them set up camp in power stations and water plants

around the Iraqi capital in a bid to

dissuade US military commanders

poured into Baghdad before the war

from targeting the facilities. Others have headed out of the country taking buses that shuttle between Baghdad and the Jordanian

thrombocytopenia (low platelet count)

and signs of adult respiratory distress

syndrome requiring ventilator sup-

From February 1 to March 24, 456

cases have been reported from 13

countries. Of the patients, 17 died. In

early stage, the symptoms are similar to

those of many diseases including

Of the 13 countries, four have

"imported cases" with no local trans-

mission, indicating that the disease is

Extensive investigation is under

way to ascertain whether there is any

link between SARS and the outbreak of

a atypical (unusual) pneumonia in

Guangdong province in China in

November last year

There is no indication that SARS is

The disease spread to several

countries in a relatively short period

but is not highly contagious when

protective measures are used. The

percentage of fatal cases is low. Since

the WHO global alert issued on March

15, only isolated cases have been

identified and no secondary outbreak

linked to bioterrorism.

not spreading in these countries.

influenza.

demands of the officials and employees of the organisations to raise their salaries by two to three folds, the official said requesting anonymity. There are four strong unions of

employees in Biman and CAA who are continually pressing for salary hikes for the last few months, he Ministry officials said a good number of officials and employees in

the organisations are directly

involved in corruption, including

smuggling and pilferage of passenger But the government faces tremendous pressure from the unions to take any action against them, they said.

Biman has a manpower of about 6.000 and CAA 3.241. The officials further added that

the government took action against

mismanagement in the last few months. Around 25 people were ispended then. The ministry yesterday issued another order to suspend three officials and employees on charges of

corruption. They are: Mynuddin,

sub-assistant engineer, Monjur

Alam, senior traffic officer and Abu

some officials and employees who

were found guilty of corruption and

Sayeed Mian, security guard of the They failed to give proper deposition before a court in a gold smug-

gling case at Chittagong Airport in The ministry also formed a com-

mittee to investigate allegations of their involvement in the smuggling. Further actions would be taken against them, if they are found guilty,

Night operations

Cleansing drive

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the day. US officials also have made the point that the Iragis would have to fight in the same heat as the American and British forces invading Iraq.

"There is no doubt that -- no matter what time of year -- we can fight and prevail," Myers said in remarks before the war began. But he said combat in the brutal temperatures that can occur in the Iraqi desert might prove difficult, particularly if US troops had to be outfitted in restrictive, full-body suits to protect against chemical or biological weap-

"We will do better in that (summer desert) environment than any potential adversary. And part of that is enabled by the fact that we can fight at night," Myers said. "We are as good at night as we are

in the daytime. That is not true of most forces and it would give us a tremendous edge.

The threat of suffering heat stroke and dehydration may be particularly acute if US and British soldiers are compelled to don the protective outfits to guard against any Iraqi use

of chemical weapons such as nerve gas or biological weapons such as anthrax, Anderson said. 'It's unbearable' He noted that the protective suit is

not porous -- "it doesn't breathe" -and comes equipped with a hood and "Having worn that gear for

extended periods of time, often times in very warm climates, you reach a point where it's unbearable. Then you have heat casualties." Anderson said. Military analyst Loren Thompson

of the Lexington Institute said one advantage of the heat in the event of an Iraqi attack with chemicals is that such weapons generally evaporate more quickly in the heat, "Chemical agents are less persistent in heat than they are in cooler weather,' Thompson said.

One way to evade the heat is with operations in the relative cool of the night. Analysts said the US military uses the best thermal and infrared night-vision equipment in the world, which can make extensive night operations possible.

Export orders dip

European Union (EU) markets and 40 per cent to US markets. Besides dipping prices in the global market, buyers are canceling orders because of

shrimp fry. If the situation persists, it would be very difficult to prepare for the next season as there is no market at home for these products," he added.

able items to these destinations.

Member of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association Harunor Rashid said export orders have gone down so sharply that many will be unable to pay bank loan installments and may become defaulters in coming months. He also stressed the need for releasing funds for cash incentive immediately.

up and alleged that buying houses in Dhaka are taking advantage of the adverse situation. President of Engineering Shilpa

Malik Samity Abdur Razzag said prices of GP and BP sheets went up in the local market in the past two weeks. Such price hike has pushed the production cost of electrical and plastic items up.

A Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agency (BAIRA) official said manpower export last month was around 18,500 as opposed to 15,700 in March last year. Though manpower export did not decline, a significant number of expatriates came back home, which might have a negative impact on the econ-

Bangladesh Jute Manufacturers Association said freight charge has gone up because of the war surcharge Buvers have asked to postpone shipment and are not opening fresh letters of credit, they added.

Bangladesh Jute Association and

"Farmers would be effected in the long run," said senior Vice president of Bangladesh Agro-Processors Association Fakhrul Islam Munshi.

Gruesome deaths on highway

American troops were locked in house by house fighting in Hindiyah, just 50 miles from Baghdad

Fears of suicide bombers have made the trek north increasingly dangerous for the Anglo-Americans. Moreover, fears of attack from surrendered Iraqi troops also heightened after a prisoner of war was shot dead when he reached for the weapon of a

US also suffered some casualties at Abul Khasib near Basra. A BBC correspondent said the invaders are not "at all in control of Basra" and that they are just outside the city. A British soldier has died while on

duty in southern Iraq, British defence ministry confirmed. US-led forces launched missiles toward Baghdad and the holy Shi'ite Muslir Karbala to the southwest Circling warplanes bombed targets in

Baghdad shuddered with missile

and bomb explosions. Smokes rose from the capital's Old Palace presidential compound. In the town of Biwaniyah, about 80

miles southeast of Baghdad, Marines fought with hundreds of Iraqi fighters who fired from inside buildings. Iraq meanwhile publicly denied a report that Saddam's family had fled

the country

enemy aircraft.

Nassiriyah Iraq reported fierce fighting in and around the southern city of Nassiriyah, saying the invaders had taken heavy

US Marines fought their way across the city's bridges but could not take control of the city from paramilitary fighters. Since then, Iraqi forces have carried out several ambushes in the Iraqis claimed they killed at least 60

US and British troops, destroyed more

than 35 vehicles and downed over five

coalition forces on the ground. Intense bombardments kept

pounding the outskirts of Baghdad too. the capital.

shot down by a Kuwaiti Patriot battery

vesterday. Iraqi forces launched a missile

vesterday in an area of central Iraq where US troops are fighting, but it was blown up by a US Patriot missile. No one was injured. "It just looked like a big bag of flour exploded," said Specialist Jeffrey

Backowski, 25, a driver from Tulare, California, who saw the explosion as he was checking the communications system on his Humvee.

Baghdad rattles

A dozen cruise missiles hammered the capital while the Republican Guard faced their first significant battle with

where four divisions of the Republican Guard were hunkered down to defend Missile on Kuwait An Iraqi missile fired at Kuwait was

Bangladesh's shrimp exports go to

"This is the season to procure

A leader of Bangladesh Fruits and Vegetable Exporters Association said export of perishable items almost stopped because 70 per cent of these items go to the Middle East. Moreover, Bangladesh Biman has also withdrawn the subsided rate for carrying perish-

An official of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association said orders are being held