



# IRAQ INVASION

DAY  
22

13  
The Daily Star  
DHAKA THURSDAY APRIL 10, 2003

## Anarchy and jubilation in Baghdad



Iraqis came out on the streets and looted major sites in Baghdad on Wednesday as Iraqi uniformed soldiers and police disappeared from the scene.

### Iraqis ask 'who's in charge?'

**REUTERS, Baghdad**  
Iraqis asked on Wednesday who was running their country after US forces swept almost unchallenged through northeastern Baghdad toward the heart of the capital and cheering looters sacked shops and offices.  
There was no sign of police or government authority on the streets of central Baghdad. Information Ministry officials who have shadowed foreign reporters through nearly three weeks of war were nowhere to be seen on Wednesday.  
"You are a journalist. Please tell me what is going on. Where is our government? To whom do we belong now? I don't know," said Ammar Moussa, a shopkeeper visiting his wounded son at a Baghdad hospital. "I want to know when all this mess is going to finish. There is no radio, no television. Is our

government still in control or not?" asked Samed Shakir, a cleaner at the hospital.  
Baghdad radio, off the air since US tanks stormed into the western half of the city centre on Tuesday, could be heard transmitting very faintly on Wednesday. It was broadcasting only patriotic songs. Television remained blank and silent.  
Jubilant crowds cheered US Marines in east central Baghdad, Reuters correspondent Sean Maguire said.  
Elsewhere in the capital, witnesses said looters had taken over the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad. There was no sign of Iraqi police.  
Looters also robbed shops around the heavily bombed buildings housing the Iraqi Olympic Committee, headed by President Saddam Hussein's elder son Uday.

### Where is Saddam?

**REUTERS, Baghdad**  
A US air strike on a building in a wealthy district of the Iraqi capital Baghdad has put world financial markets on edge. Is President Saddam Hussein, target of the US-led invasion, alive or dead?  
The crew on board the B-1 bomber that launched the strike was told: "This is the big one." Twelve minutes later it dropped four satellite-guided bombs on a house in the Mansur suburb of Baghdad, which Iraqi television showed Saddam touring on Friday.  
Two buildings were flattened in Mansur on Monday and four others were damaged. Witnesses said the strike killed nine Iraqis and wounded four. Others were buried under the rubble.  
President Bush, visiting Northern Ireland, said he did not know if Saddam had survived the attack or not. "The only thing I know is he is losing power," he said.  
Iraqi Information Minister Saeed al-Sahaf told reporters in Baghdad on Tuesday US forces advancing through

the centre of the capital would be defeated. He was not asked about Saddam's whereabouts, but asserted Iraq would never surrender.  
The US military said on Tuesday that it destroyed a building where Saddam might have been meeting aides but that it could be impossible to find out who had been inside. A British military spokesman was more confident Saddam was dead.  
"We're fairly certain and we have good source reports saying he has been killed. But we still don't have substantiation and I think until we get that we can't definitely say so," Al Lockwood, the main British spokesman, told Fox News television.  
Lockwood suggested there was some US reticence over the attempted strike on Saddam, as in the case of his cousin, Ali Hassan al-Majid, nicknamed "Chemical Ali" for ordering the gassing of Kurdish villages in 1988. Majid was believed to have been killed in an air strike on his home in Basra on Saturday. Suggestions that an Arabic television

network had reported that Saddam had been killed stirred financial markets on Tuesday, pushing down safe-haven bond futures. But the three major Arabic networks denied reporting Saddam was dead.  
Citing unnamed sources, the newspaper of the Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, Kurdistan Nuwe, reported on Tuesday that Saddam and his sons Uday and Qusay had gone into hiding in Saddam's birthplace and powerbase of Tikrit, north of Baghdad.  
According to a BBC translation of the article, the sources said the destruction of a bridge on the road from the northern oil hub of Kirkuk and Tikrit gave credence to the report.  
The Egyptian news agency MENA said this week rumors were rife that Saddam had arrived in the northern city of Mosul. It cited as evidence an apparent influx of Fedayeen paramilitary fighters loyal to Saddam as well as presidential guards.  
Speculation has swirled about Saddam's fate since the United States

and Britain launched their war to topple the Iraqi leader on March 20 with a strike on another building in Baghdad where they suspected the Iraqi president was holed up.  
Saddam has several doubles who stand in for him and only his son Qusay and security chief are supposed to know his movements.  
Baghdad's Mansur district is a stronghold of Saddam's Baath Party. Security and military intelligence headquarters are located in the area, also home to many military officers.  
US military officials said it could take time to determine whether the two earth-penetrating GBU-31 2,000-pound bombs and two delayed-fuse bombs of the same size dropped on Mansur on Monday had hit their intended target.  
"It's possible we may never be able to determine exactly who was present without some detailed forensic work," Brigadier General Brooks told reporters at war headquarters in Qatar.  
"We believe the strike was effective in hitting the target," he said.

### Syria still looms as the next target

**WASHINGTON POST**  
Conservatives within the Bush administration would like to see a change of government in Syria but want it to happen through peaceful means rather than US military action, according to current and former senior US officials.  
On Sunday, Deputy Defence Secretary Paul D. Wolfowitz said, "There's got to be a change in Syria," which has been accused by Defence Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld of allowing war materials and Islamic fighters to cross its border to help the government of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. "The Syrians need to know... they'll be held accountable," he said on NBC's "Meet the Press."  
Wolfowitz and other officials have not spelled out how they expect a peaceful change of government in Syria would occur. But many are beginning to speak about a successful conclusion of the war in Iraq providing a possible springboard for change.

"I think a lot of countries, including Syria, will eventually get the message from this [Iraq war] that it's much better to come to terms peacefully with the international community, to not acquire these weapons of mass destruction, to not use terrorism as an instrument of national policy," Wolfowitz said.  
Rumsfeld's remarks, which included a warning to Iran to not permit armed Iraqi exiles in Iran to return to Iraq outside US control, encouraged other Bush administration supporters to speak out on the issue. R. James Woolsey, a former CIA director who has been considered for a post in the US group that would help reestablish a new Iraqi government, told an audience at UCLA last Wednesday that the "fascist" government in Syria had to be replaced.  
The Syrian government considered Rumsfeld's remarks a threat, triggering statements from other US officials aimed at easing Syria's concerns.

## Building a new Iraq

**PAUL REYNOLDS, BBC News Online**  
After their meeting in Belfast, George Bush and Tony Blair stressed that the United Nations would play a "vital role" in the reconstruction of Iraq. But what does "vital" mean?  
It does not mean that the UN will be running Iraq.  
But it does mean that the UN will have more than a humanitarian role, important as that will be. It will have a supporting political role. Tony Blair has got that concession at least out of George Bush. That at least is the hope. It still has to be agreed by the UN itself, of course.  
And already the French President Jacques Chirac has put forward his own and different proposals. The UN, he said, should "take on the political, economic, humanitarian and administrative reconstruction of Iraq."  
So much for an agreed way forward.  
Both Mr Bush and Mr Blair tried to play down the UN as an issue which divided them.  
Mr Blair called it "diplomatic wrangling", and he and President Bush stressed the long term aim of having Iraqis run their own government.  
The British have proposed that the

UN should give its approval to a three-stage process under which Iraq will move from essentially military rule through an interim Iraqi administration to a representative government.  
It appears that the United States is now ready to listen, though the exact parameters of the UN functions remain to be decided.  
The idea is that a line could be drawn under the past and that those countries which opposed the war - like France, Germany and Russia - could get back on board.  
UN sponsorship would legitimise a government in Iraq without legitimising the invasion.  
But those countries will have their own ideas, which they are to discuss at a meeting in St Petersburg on Saturday. Stage one: Military rule  
US and UK military will be in charge of security and in overall command.  
The US Office of Reconstruction



Probable new Iraqi leader Ahmed Chalabi (in black t-shirt) enters the scene.

Administration (IIA)  
This is where the British Government wants the UN to take a leading role by organising a conference in Baghdad which would appoint members of the IIA.  
There will have to be general agreement on who is to take the leadership role in the IIA - otherwise there will be friction.  
The IIA would not have executive powers but would gradually assume responsibility for more and more day to day functions of government.  
The importance of getting the UN involved is that otherwise the IIA might be seen as the creature of American policy.  
The Pentagon has already flown its favourite exile, Ahmed Chalabi, head of the Iraqi National Congress, to Central Iraq with a band of followers.  
One of his senior aides has gone to Qatar to liaise with American commanders.  
But other figures are already emerging and there will have to be general agreement on who is to take the leadership role in the IIA. Otherwise there will be friction.  
UN approval would also open the door to international aid from the European Union, the World Bank and other organisations.  
A new Security Council resolution would have to be passed - Mr Bush signed up to this in his statement with Mr Blair.  
One part of the resolution would affirm Iraq's territorial unity which would please other Arab states and Turkey.  
Stage three: Representative government  
It could be a year or so before this is organised. And the phrase "representative government" will have to be defined.  
It does not simply mean elections and nothing but elections.  
Iraq will need a constitution, a rule of law - which means appointing a proper police force and judges - freedom of speech and the media.  
That will take time to assemble.

## Grief, fear as rescuers search bombed houses

**AP, Baghdad**  
With the help of a bulldozer, rescue workers recovered the body of a small boy, then the torso and head of a young woman.  
There was death, grief and fear Tuesday in this well-to-do neighbourhood, the target of four bombs fired a day earlier by American warplanes.  
US officials said Tuesday that three homes demolished by the bombs were not their target.  
After the attack, a US source said the target was a restaurant. But US officials later said the intended objective was 100 meters (yards) from the only restaurant in the neighbourhood, and that it was hit.  
Al-Saa'a restaurant, a popular Baghdad eatery that serves grilled fare, appeared intact Tuesday, except for blown-out windows and doors.  
An American AB-1B bomber dropped the bombs, including two powerful bunker-busters, on what the coalition called a "leadership target" in the al-Mansour neighborhood, where senior Iraqi officials, possibly including Saddam and his sons Uday and Qusay, were believed to be meeting.

There was no evidence late Tuesday that they had been killed.  
US officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said American intelligence learned of a high-level meeting Monday morning. Witnesses said the strike took place around 3 p.m. (1100 GMT), reducing three houses to rubble, with a 20-meter (yard) deep crater in the middle.  
At least 20 houses and nearly two dozen nearby shops were damaged, some seriously, from the force of the blast, which left a 500-meter radius of debris.  
"It felt like a strong earthquake," said Nahid Abdullah, 26, who lives in the neighbourhood.  
Strewn over surrounding streets were everything from door knobs, ceiling beams to bits of wooden furniture and light fixtures. The bombs uprooted three orange trees that once stood outside the houses and left a palm tree in one back yard completely charred.  
The body of an elderly man was found Monday night. On Tuesday, rescuers using a bulldozer and their own bare hands dug out the body of a small boy and the decapitated body of a 20-

year-old woman. The bodies were placed in blankets and quilts and put aside on the sidewalk.  
Neighbours said as many as 14 people, including at least seven children, may have been killed. Scores have been injured in adjacent homes and shops, where the debris and shrapnel blew out doors and windows.  
Scores of Iraqis have been killed and hundreds injured in the US-led air campaign on the capital. Civilian casualties have dramatically increased since US forces arrived in the capital last week, with neighbourhoods close to where fighting took place suffering the most.  
Taleb Saadi, a doctor at Baghdad's al-Kindi hospital, said between 30 and 35 bodies arrived at the hospital Tuesday, and as many as 300 injured people were treated at its emergency ward.  
The streets were quiet Tuesday, with most Baghdad residents hunkered down in their homes.  
North of the capital, thousands were fleeing in buses, trucks, vans and pickup trucks packed with food, clothes, blankets and cooking supplies.