

Mosul falls, chaos takes hold

US marines kill two children at Nassiriyah checkpoint; Saddam remnants fight on in Baghdad; invaders capture Iraq's largest oilfield in Kirkuk

STAR DESK

US and Kurdish forces swept into Iraq's third city of Mosul without a fight yesterday, prompting looting, arson and frenzied celebrations in the streets. People in Mosul plundered the central bank, grabbing wads of money and throwing bills in the air. The Mosul University's library, with its rare manuscripts, was also sacked, despite appeals blared from the mosque minarets to the people to stop destroying their city, the Arab-language TV

network al-Jazeera reported. Gunmen, apparently Kurdish fighters, started swinging their rifles and firing into the air to force looters to leave. On the square in front of the city's government house, people set fire to a picture of Saddam. The entire Iraqi army's 5th Corps had surrendered and US forces on the ground were determining whether to treat the Iraqis as prisoners of war or let them return home, said US central command. Trails of black smoke rose from

different parts of Mosul's low-slung skyline. A state bank -- the Rashid Bank -- was on fire, along with the government printing office and several Baath Party offices. At Saddam General Hospital, three of the five ambulances were stolen and armed men, described as Kurds, tried to enter the hospital, but the staff managed to hold them off. Doctors' cars were stolen at gunpoint. Jumhuriya Hospital said all eight of its ambulances were taken at gunpoint. "There is absolutely no security.

The medical staff is scared for their safety. The city has fallen into anarchy," said the hospital's staff physician Dr Darfar Ibrahim Hasan. US marines opened fire on a vehicle which ignored warnings to stop at a checkpoint in the southern city of Nassiriyah yesterday, and two children inside were killed, the marines said. Although the invading troops sealed their victory in the north, gunfight and looting continued for a third day in Baghdad after the fall of Saddam Hussein's 24-year regime.

US troops are still fighting pockets of resistance by Fedayeen paramilitaries loyal to Saddam. Iraqi gunmen, apparently from the Shi'ite majority in the east-side slums in Baghdad, battled Saddam remnants overnight. Elsewhere in the capital, a Reuters correspondent saw a fresh outbreak of intense looting in an area newly abandoned by non-Iraqi Arab paramilitary fighters. The Trade Ministry building was on fire, he added. US soldiers with tanks and armoured

vehicles took over the Iraq's military intelligence headquarters after hundreds of Iraqi civilians besieged the sprawling compound. The civilians were searching for relatives they said had been detained there. **ON THE RUN OR UNDERGROUND** Their homes are being attacked and looted, their prestige and power in tatters, some of the high-profile disciples of Saddam are paying a heavy price for their loyalty to the Iraqi strongman. **SEE PAGE 11 COL 4**

France should pay for opposing war, warns US

AFP, Washington General James Jones, the supreme allied commander in Europe, told the committee that France's military cooperation has continued as usual within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. He noted that France and Germany, while opposing the war, have allowed US and British warplanes to use their airspace to conduct airstrikes on Iraq. France "plays roughly the same role in formulating military positions in response to taskings from the North Atlantic Council as does any other member nation." Wolfowitz said that France had **SEE PAGE 11 COL 7**

US issues list of most wanted Iraqi leaders

AGENCIES The US military has issued a most-wanted list of 55 former leaders in Saddam Hussein's regime to be pursued, captured or killed. The list, in the form of a "deck of cards" with pictures of the wanted figures, was distributed to the thousands of US troops in the field to help them find the senior members of the government. It also was being put on posters and handbills for the Iraqi public, Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks said. Brooks did not identify figures on the list, except to suggest they included Saddam and his minister of information, Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf, who boasted of battlefield successes right up to the time he disappeared Tuesday. He said the whereabouts of some of the most-wanted figures were **SEE PAGE 11 COL 8**



The Mosul provincial government headquarters, left, is on fire in the northern Iraqi city and looters vandalise Mosul's Al-Rashid Bank, right, as seen in the images taken off Abu Dhabi satellite channel yesterday after US and Kurdish forces entered Iraq's third largest city.

Environment court naps on one case

MORSHED ALI KHAN The Department of Environment (DoE) has over 1,200 complaints of gross violation of the Environment Conservation Act, while the environment court in Dhaka sits idle with only one case to handle. The court, established in February 2002, was inactive until February 2003, when a case was filed against an illegal brick kiln in Hemayetpur on the outskirts of the city. But the case is likely to be settled outside the court as the brick kiln owner has pleaded that the bricks he produces are directly sold to the World Bank-financed Dhaka Urban Transport Project, one of the largest city plans on infrastructure development. The one-room office of the environment court, located in Old Dhaka, does not have any staff other than a judge. Although the court is situated on the ground floor, the large signboard outside says it is on the fourth floor. The DoE has never filed any case with the court although it is legally mandated, said sources in the law ministry. The DoE officials are not worried about complaints, as section 18 of the Environment Conservation Act, 1995 gives indemnity to them, meaning that under no circumstances the DoE officials can be charged or accused, the sources said. "The DoE has hundreds of complaints of gross water, air, land and noise pollution, but it has neither tried to resolve any problem nor filed any case with the court," said a ministerial source. Two environment courts were established in Dhaka and Chittagong in 2002 to defend the Environment Conservation Act. The Chittagong court has so far received three cases. The environment court is first of its kind in Bangladesh to deal with both criminal and civil cases. It is also the only court mandated to give compensation to the government or the victim. All cases with the environment court must be disposed of in six months and its rulings can be disputed only at a separate environment appeal court. Any victim must first inform the DoE director general about the environmental crime. The DoE has the task of either resolving the problem or filing a case against the offender with the environment court. If the DoE fails to solve the problem within a certain period, the victim can file a case. The DoE carries out investigation into any complaint and takes action, says the DoE director general. Asked why then cases are not filed, he said he would look into the matter. **SEE PAGE 11 COL 6**

Unique anti-war 'sound protest' today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Thousands of people are going to demonstrate in Dhaka and elsewhere today against the Anglo-American invasion of Iraq through marches, rallies and a unique 'sound protest', organisers said. As part of the 'sound protest', all modes of vehicles, including trucks, private cars and auto-rickshaws, will blare their horns for ten minutes at 10:00am and at 5:00pm venting people's hatred to the war. United Citizens' Movement (UCM) and the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) will stage the unique protest. People will also demonstrate under the banner of scores of other organisations in union with anti-war protesters across major cities around the globe between 3:00pm to 5:30pm at the call of international humanitarian and human rights organisations. UCM and ADAB say during the 'sound protest' people will come out **SEE PAGE 11 COL 6**

Exploration in Block 22 Govt 'extending' PSC with two US companies

SHARIEF KHAN The government is 'extending' a Production Sharing Contract (PSC) with US oil companies UMC and Ocean Energy for oil and gas exploration in Block 22 although the contract was terminated six months ago. UMC and Ocean Energy lost their PSC in October last year for failing to fulfil their obligations in two rounds. Sources said, at the instruction of the energy ministry Petrobangla has prepared its terms and conditions for the PSC extension. Petrobangla has proposed that the oil companies would have to drill four wells by February 15 next year and that they would have to provide a bank guarantee of 12 million US dollars. Agreeing on the drilling and the deadline, UMC and Ocean Energy said they would like to provide the bank guarantee in instalments. However, Petrobangla does not agree to this proposition. "The proposed extension of contract would not allow UMC-Ocean Energy to assign any new party in the exploration and production," said one source. "The extension is at the final stage," the source said. "If UMC-Ocean Energy agree to Petrobangla's terms, we see no problem in the deal." Sources in the energy sector claimed that though UMC-Ocean Energy spent over 15 million dollars for oil and gas exploration and lost **SEE PAGE 11 COL 7**

Chalabi sees 'no room' for US in post-war admin

AFP, London Iraqi opposition leader Ahmad Chalabi, supported by the Pentagon to play a leading role in any post-war government in Iraq, said Thursday he sees "no room" for a US administration in Iraq. "We hope elections would be held within two years in Iraq after a constitution is drafted by Iraqis, approved by a constituent assembly and put to a free public referendum," Chalabi, who is leader of the London-based Iraqi National Congress (INC) umbrella opposition group, told BBC television's Newsnight programme. Asked whether that meant Iraq would have a US administration up until elections, he said: "We see no room for US administration and indeed the United States has said they hope to assist Iraqis in forming an interim Iraqi authority." Chalabi is backed by the US Defense Department and has been pressing for a prominent place in any post-war government in Iraq. But the wealthy Chalabi, one of a host of Iraqi opposition figures, is opposed by the State Department and other parts of the US administration. **BRITAIN SCALING BACK TROOP PRESENCE** Britain said yesterday it had started bringing home some of its 45,000 troops in the Gulf, starting with naval and air units. "It would not make sense to keep personnel in the region any longer than is necessary. Some have **SEE PAGE 11 COL 2**

Hosts humbled

SPORTS REPORTER Bangladesh once again proved that nothing has changed in their approach to cricket. After the World Cup debacle the TVS Cup triangular one-day tournament offered a chance for them to heal the wounds suffered in South Africa. But it was the same old story as a new-look team under new leader Khaled Mahmud opened their campaign against an Indian side minus Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Javagal Srinath at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. They suffered a 199-run defeat against Saurav Ganguly's men to extend the 'Tigers' awful world record defeat to 33 on the trot. Set to score 277 for victory, the Bangladesh batters were as disorganised as their Board officials only a day before when they held a press briefing. There was absolute chaos during the media briefing with everybody in confusion regarding who was doing what. That same disorder was also evident on the pitch yesterday. Sadly for a near-packed holiday crowd who braved the scorching summer sun, there was no joy as the brittle hosts' batting collapsed to 77 all out in 27.3 overs. It was their second lowest score in their 68th one-day appearance. The Tigers' lowest score ever was 76 against Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Cup ground in Colombo last year. Despite Bangladesh's poor showing in international cricket there was an unexpectedly good turnout. However, there were no fireworks from the local boys to evoke any passion. The Indians however entertained them with an unbeaten maiden hundred from Yuvraj Singh and an aggressive fifty by Virender Sehwag. **SEE PAGE 11 COL 1**