NEWS

Saddam is gone, but is America safe?

peared from Baghdad, many Americans are wondering whether the collapse of his regime has really made the United States safe from attack.

main administration officials have insisted that bringing down the Iraqi regime will bring a safer world with fewer terrorist attacks.

"Our military forces are fighting side by side in Iraq to defend our security and to free that nation from oppression," Bush said at a Belfast summit this week with British Prime

In a speech in Philadelphia on March 31, Bush declared: "All Americans understand that we face a continuing threat of terrorism. We know that our enemies are desperate. We know that they're dangerous."

Secretary of State Colin Powell highlighted Iraq's terrorist links in speeches to the United Nations but other countries have said the link has not been proved.

And Americans might now be wondering whether they are really safer from a repeat of September 11 or even something more devastating from the arsenal of mass destruction that Bush accused Iraq of developing.

"That's an unknown factor at the moment," said Roy Godson, an antiterrorism specialist at Georgetown University in Washington.

For the moment, US authorities have decided against lowering the nationwide terrorist attack alert, which is currently at its second highest level. "Not yet," Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge told Congress on

There is a high risk of a new attack

dead and unarmed in the morning.

In the Al-Mansour district in

western Baghdad, pro-Saddam

bands of Arab volunteers manned

sandbagged positions, armed with

rocket-propelled grenades and

Kalashnikov rifles. Residents said

families -- mother, father and the

kids -- took part in the looting. With

the breakdown of Saddam's author-

ity in the capital, there was not even a

killing and the looting. We can't live

looting other Muslims," said 41-year-

so I can go and collect my food

"Tell the Americans to stop the

Children as young as 10 and entire

they were mostly Syrians.

traffic cop in sight.

dead and have been blamed on Osama bin Laden's terrorist network, experts

"It would make sense for bin Laden or others to encourage people to take action," said Mark Burgess at the center of Defense Information, a Washington research institute.

He warned that some people in Iraq would now be tempted to join al-Qaeda other radical groups.

risk from groups that "may be ready to act now, even in Washington where we have to be pretty much in alert." He said New York and London also had to be on

could conceivably have some revenge activity, but I don't think this would be sustained over a period," he added. The risk in America, Godson said, depends on post-war and political developments in Iraq. Iraq needs a pluralistic and representative government to "provide an option for humiliated people to go in a non-terror path."

Institute in Washington said Palestinian Authority television recently broadcast a sermon by Sheikh Muhammad Abu Al-Hunud at the Khalil al-Wazir mosque in

He called for reprisals against the United States, accusing Americans of "changing verses and to mess with Allah's book", and wanting "to Americanize the region, Ameri-canize the religion, Americanize the Koran, Americanize Muhammad's message."

US troops kill







From left: Newly formed anti-war committee men march through streets; members of a suicide squad under the banner of Zaish-e-Mustafa shout slogans; and angry demonstrators burn an effigy of US President George W Bush to protest the US-led invasion of Iraq in Dhaka yesterday.

Businessman shot by robbers at Pallabi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A businessman was shot by robbers at his residence in the city's Pallabi area vester-

The victim, Dullal Mallik, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

A gang of five stormed into the residence at Block-E. Section-11 at Pallabi at around 6 am and asked Dullal to hand over the keys of almira

As Dullal refused to give in to their demand, the robbers shot him in the ahdomen.

They left the scene, leaving Dullal in a pool of blood.

Another criminal of Adamjee arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Police arrested another criminal of Adamjee area on Thursday night. Acting on a tip-off, Shiddhirganj

police raided Shimrail area at around 8:30pm and nabbed 'minister' Shah Police said Shah Alam was wanted in dozens of looters hauled out sofas

eight criminal cases including murder and extortion

Farmer shot dead

activist of outlawed Purbo Banglar

dled with bullets from the beel yesterday

markets in the city centre. morning and sent it to hospital morgue Looters used stolen trucks to carry off their booty. Others used cars or Officer-in-charge (OC) of Dumuria thana said the slain farmer was an

Communist Party (PBCP). Bands of looters also roaming the He might have been killed by his rivals in the party as a sequel to intrathe residents were home. party rivalry, OC said. Bijoy Roy, son of the victim, filed a

ies, garbage piled up on the streets along with debris from two days of

Bangladesh captain Khaled

'We batted badly despite being told

Mahmud said that it was a disappoint-

ing batting display and everybody was to

to stay at the crease. Only Ashraful was

asked to play the attacking role. But he

too played a bad shot to get out," said

annoyed at the lack of application by the

match. But I do not know how it will be

done if the application remains like

taking on South Africa in their next game

British troops

already returned and some will return

shortly," Armed Forces Minister Adam

Ingram said at a Ministry of Defence

of a full scale reduction. Our commit-

ment to Irag's future is undiminished

and we are in the very early stages of

beginning to look at the post-conflict

Tornado attack planes and their crews

had returned in recent days and would

be followed soon by about 500 staff

how fast or large the drawback would

be. "We do not want to prolong people

there longer than necessary. But the

pace of events on the ground will

dictate the speed and scale," a ministry

Officials would not be drawn on

The Ministry of Defence said four

"This is by no means the beginning

Coach Sarwar Imran was extremely

"We will have do better in the next

India will enjoy a day's rest before

Bangladesh on the other hand play

(SCOREBOARD ON PAGE 8)

Mahmud after the match.

this," he said.

on Sunday.

FROM PAGE 1

phase," he added.

official said.

from a field hospital unit.

the Proteas on Monday

Rumsfeld has claimed that senior Iraqi Iraq's vast oil wealth, the world's second leaders are fleeing to neighbouring largest reserves of crude. Syria, in some cases to stay, in others to Kirkuk's 408 oil wells appear to have

move elsewhere. Us planes bomb home of Saddam's half-brother

On the run or underground, they are

being hunted as are Saddam and his

sons by US soldiers now consolidating

their hold over the Iraqi capital and

Iraqi forces appear to have dissolved

into streams of unarmed, bootless ex-

soldiers trekking home. There are

reports of thousands of ex-soldiers

walking the 155 miles south from Kirkuk

US Defence Secretary Donald

other key cities further north.

to Baghdad in the strong sun.

down deposed Iraqi leaders. A US aircraft hit the residence of Barzan Ibrahim Hasan al-Tikriti, Saddam's half-brother and former head of Irag's Mukhabarat intelligence service, with six "smart bombs".

building, which was also an operations centre for the intelligence service, were not yet known.

Invaders off to Kirkuk

US soldiers fanned out across the northern Iraqi Kirkuk oilfield yesterday to secure Iraq's largest and oldest field, said a Reuters eyewitness on the scene.

The capture of Kirkuk, capable of pumping 900,000 barrels a day, leaves US-led forces in near total control of

escaped damage. Their status will be known for sure once US army engineers, already at work in Iraq's southern oil

they would hand over the important oil hub of Kirkuk to US troops. The rich city, traditional capital of the Kurds, fell on

Thursday to mixed units of Kurdish guerrillas and US special forces. Tikrit targeted

Mosul falls, chaos takes hold Protesters reiterate

Saddam's hometown of Tikrit is now the regime's last major stronghold. Coalition warplanes and special forces were targeting Tikrit, north-west of

Air strikes against Republican Guard targets were launched to "soften up' defences before ground troops moved in. The US 4th Infantry Division was expected to advance on the city from

But military officials refused to confirm suggestions that the US may seek to end hostilities quickly by using the 21,000lb so-called Moab, the "mother of all bombs", at Tikrit.

Leading regime figures have vanished from Baghdad, and coalition officials believe they may have tried to get to the Syrian border or Tikrit, although the road to Tikrit from Baghdad is dotted with special forces checkpoints

call to boycott Western products e-Islami Bangladesh. Bangladesh STAFF CORRESPONDENT Ummah Parisad, Tanshine Allama

some other political parties have reiterated their call to boycott all western products in protest against the US-led war on Iraq.

city streets yesterday after the Friday prayers and chanted slogans in favour of Saddam Hossain and against "anti-Islam" Bush and Blair, the two coalition leaders.

They came out from the Baitul Mukarram mosque with banners, posters and festoons, chanting anti-war As an expression of their consterna-

tion, they brought out and mauled the effigies of the two western leaders and finally set them on fire. Some others were chorusing anti-American songs on a stage set on the North-South road.

Islami Shashantantra Andolon organised the main rally of the day. Its eader Moulana Fazlul Karim called upon his followers to work in favour of the eight-point demand earlier announced by the party. The demands include a ban on passing any law contradictory to the Koran and Sunnah. and boycotting of " commodities produced by Jews"

"The movement to boycott Anglo-American products would be spread all over the country within a short time," said one of the Andolon leaders to several thousands activists attending the rally.

The Andolon leaders called upon people to take up arms to launch a Jihad against the US.

They also demanded trial of US President George W Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair as war

women and children. Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir, a

front organisation of the ruling Jamaat-

They called upon the United Nations to intervene and save the innocent Iragi

US warns FROM PAGE 1

contributed to the US-led effort to oust

the Taliban militia from Afghanistan.

ignificant contributions in Afghanistan, And I think that's probably -- we should note that," he said.

then don't support in NATO."

Iraqi leaders collapsed. Secretary of State Colin

Powell said.

"We don't know if he is dead or if he control," Powell told Indonesia's

"He hasn't been seen in weeks and none of his other ministers are around today. So we believe that the regime's

Iraqi television aired footage of

Saddam several times following the start of the war on March 20, including an apparent "walkabout" in a Baghdad district before the city fell Wednesday to US forces.

Hosts humbled

toss and decided to bat. After a cautious start, the Indian opener powered his way to a 51-ball 63.

across the rope. He completed his fifty in style, hitting paceman Tapas Baishya for 12th over that produced 18 runs.

Sehwag struck eleven savage hits

Mohammed Rafique trapped the explosive right-hander lbw

India did not look like they were going to cross the 250-mark especially after they were reduced to 172-6 in the 38th over. But Yuvraj's first hundred in his 71st one-day match provided the

impetus for a late Indian show The talented left-hander from Punjab scored a blazing 102 not out off 84 balls, with his second fifty coming off just 28 deliveries. He reached the magical three-figure mark with a four down

He hammered four sixes and nine boundaries in a flawless innings that was well supported by Ajit Agarkar.

paw shared 96 runs for the seventh wicket. Agarkar contributed 20 off 23

With Yuvraj going great guns India plundered 87 runs in the last ten overs.

18 not out.

Left-arm paceman Zaheer Khan was the pick of the Indian bowlers with four for 19. Agarkar followed up his batting claiming 3-18.

addressed a gathering of professionals and newly elected city corporation ward commissioners at the local

menting a massive project for develthe present government has initiated a process of reducing the width of the nighway by four feet, she added.

The gathering was also addressed by Badar Uddin Kamran.

BTTB

FROM PAGE 12

financial autonomy," he added. Quayyum said the Telecommunication Act of 1998 has

allowed BTTB full financial and administrative autonomy. "Bureaucratic tangle and had long

service of the BTTB," he said The leaders demanded for 'Post approval' system for fund collection

and spending on different project. The leaders also demanded to allow launching of cellular mobile phone by the BTTB. "We will deposit Tk 500 per

holding of procession and rally at Ramna Telegojago Bhaban identifying t as a Key Point Installation" (KPI) after the BTTB employees started to agitate against the restructuring programme.

from the donors International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to restructure the BTTB to ensure a level playing ground for the both public and private operators. The World Bank has offered US\$5.8 million for the restructuring process of BTTB.

The restructuring committee has expressed their willingness to sit across the table with the BTTB's employees and officers. The committee would sit

corpses, some observers suggest that city dwellers should always carry with them particulars of their own name and address so that relatives of the victims of accidents can be promptly contacted. Where such particulars are wanting, especially in case of illiterate persons, the unclaimed bodies may be kept in cold storage of mortuaries for a couple of days and publicity of such deaths given through news and TV media.

quently take place in the city and in order

to avoid being labelled as unclaimed

threaten movement

through Anjuman Mafidul Islam

education service, depriving education

administrative service to education their posts. This has created a strong resentment

teachers of 251 government colleges, 10 teachers training colleges and three government madrassahs in the country, the association said in a statement after its meeting.

secretary will discourage meritorious people from joining education service. Such appointments will destroy the education sector and create an intellectual vacuum, said the statement signed

secretary IKM Selim Ullah Khandaker. Minister Khaleda Zia's intervention in the matter, but nothing has been done, the statement said.

Official sources said there were around 700 accreditation cards issued against mediamen. But most of the cards went to the unknown or less circulated newspapers popularly known as "underground newspapers".

ministry said, on condition of anonymity, a good number of BNP activists and several mid-ranking leaders were now holding the temporary press accreditation card and presenting themselves as

Sources said the BNP leaders and activists, who have been given accredita $tion\, cards, regularly\, visit\, the\, Secretariat.$ They use the card to enter the

assaulted by bus conductors STAFF CORRESPONDENT

journalist, damaged his camera and took away Tk 4,700 from him at Gulistan Khaled Haider of The Daily Dinkal

was on his way to the Jatiya Press Club in

Gulistan As the journalist protested, the conductors and the driver fell upon him. They also threatened him of 'dire

about the incident. Haider field a case with Ramna police station. When contacted, the duty

Haider said he has sent copies of the complaint to the home minister, inspector general of police and commis $sioner \, of \, Dhaka \, Metropolitan \, Police.$

investigating the matter.

FROM PAGE 1 of schools, colleges, offices, mills and factories as well as dwelling houses

disposal to make high sound standing in the nearby main roads. They will also hold a rally at the Paltan Maidan at 3:00pm.

with household utensils at their

will, however, demonstrate in the city and elsewhere in traditional ways Opposition Awami League will

with the innocent civilians of Iraq. rallies across the country as well as in the city to protest the US invasion of

The said the protest would continue until the fall of US imperialism. The Communist leaders apprehended that after establishing its iron

in the Middle East. Rashed Khan Menon, president and Bimol Biswas, general secretary, of the Workers Party of Bangladesh in a separate statement urged the countrymen to join today's grand

They demanded of the government to withdraw restriction on procession on the Topkhana Road from 2:00pm to 6:00pm today in the interest of smooth staging of the

(PSA), an alliance of left-leaning student organisations, will hold a rally on Dhaka University campus this

"France has actually made some

"The French, on a bilateral basis, frequently do things with us that they

"If we just looked at our military relationship, you'd get a reasonably healthy view of things. It's the politicians, I guess, that we have an issue,"

There was speculation that some footage might have been pre-recorded.

another six million dollars of bank guarantee because of their contractual failure, they were seeking further extension of the PSC because they want to sell out half of the block's rights

discussing the sell-out with Indian Oil Company GAIL.

As per the contract, the government could not prevent such a sell-out once the PSC is extended, the sources pointed out.

Their PSC for oil and gas exploration in the remote Chittagong Hill

companies a second chance in March 2001 for yet another year. But once again the company failed to fulfil the minimum work commitment.

They were lobbying hard at the

political level to get a third chance from mid-2002. "They even lobbied with the Prime Minister's Office," one The UMC-Ocean Energy's venture

in Bangladesh was suffering due to

cash crisis all along. It had attempted to drill an exploratory well in Kasalong. But it failed repeatedly due to lack of Previously, British company Cairn sold out half its concerns to Shell Oil and US Company Occidental sold out

its concerns to Unocal. The govern-

ment had no say in these deals. But in

both the cases, Cairn and Occidental's

Following unsolicited negotiations for over a year during the tenure of the previous BNP government, UMC signed its PSC with Petrobangla during the Awami League rule in the second week of January, 1997. UMC began its seismic survey in Block 22 covering an

AFP, Washington like those in Washington and New York on September 11, 2001 which left 3,000

Now that Saddam Hussein has disap-

President George W Bush and his

Godson said there was a "short term' Minister Tony Blair

"In the medium and long term, we

Other experts said they have seen signs of a new radical attitude in the Middle East, including the Palestinian

The Middle East Media Research

At the Information Ministry

and a refrigerator. The Trade Ministry was still smouldering, apparently as a result of arson, as was one of the main

tables, chairs, electronic equipment

pushcarts. Some of the cars had licence plates indicating they were from outside the city residential areas, casing homes to see

like this much longer, with Muslims Journalists trying to talk to the looters were robbed of money and cameras. dents erected street barricades of tiles, huge rocks and sandbags to

The nursing college at Baghdad University was sacked along with the Long lines formed outside baker-Engineering College Al-Mustansiriyah. Looters left with light fixtures, desks, water coolers and air

ration.'

Sehwag sent the Bangladesh bowlers on a leather hunt after Ganguly won the

a six over mid-wicket in an expensive The Sehwag thunder came to a premature end when left-arm spinner

to wide long-off in the last over.

Together with Agarkar, the south-

Bangladesh's reply never took off after they lost three wickets for 12 runs. The team as a whole flopped with only three batsmen managing to reach double figures. Rafique scored highest

exploits with a fin run with the ball by Debutant fast bowler Aavishkar Salvi made an impressive start, picking up

Hasına

chief ANM Shafique presided. Earlier in the morning, Hasina

case with Dumuria than a yesterday.

Police arrested three people

connection with the murder. The

arrestees are Mofizur, Zakir-1 and

The former prime minister said that her government had started impleopment of Dhaka-Sylhet highway. But

corporatise or privatise but it needs

been hindering the development and

annum to the government exchequer if BTTB were given 10 lakh mobile phones," he said. Earlier, the government has banned

The government is under pressure

region, are on the ground. Many of US forces pressed on with efforts to hunt Iraa's southern wells were left boobytrapped by Saddam Hussein loyalists. Meanwhile, Kurdish guerrillas said

Unclaimed bodies

The issue of unclaimed dead bodies has been raised from time to time in newspapers. In some cases, the unclaimed bodies were buried under circumstances, not intelligible to others. In one case, the man who met accidental death was a retired old man out for a morning walk. None of his relatives initially made any inquiry, as they supposed he might be staying with some of his relatives. After two or three days when the body was already made over to the Anjuman, the relatives came to know about the accidental death from the records of the Dhaka Medical College and

of the police. By that time, two weeks had In another case, a retired corporation Edn cadre officials bricks for his under-construction house. On the way, the baby taxi he was travelling in was crushed by a truck, killing him on the spot. His identity could not be traced out immediately as his moneybag containing money for his intended purchase of bricks and even his identity card were snatched away from his body after the accident. Some hours later, the dead body could be identified and recovered from

the morgue of the DMCH promptly with the assistance of a high police officer who

happened to be a relative of the deceased.

There are humane implications in the

issue. Since deaths from accidents fre-Turkish press accuses US of breaking promises

over Kurds

Turkey's press railed against the United States yesterday, warning of a rift in ties and accusing Washington of breaking its promises by allowing the key Iraqi oil

city of Kirkuk to fall to Kurdish fighters.

the headline in the Radikal newspaper.

"24-hour nightmare in Kirkuk," was

whose commentator charged: "It is obvious that the promises were not To Turkey's alarm, US and Kurdish fighters took control of the northern Iraqi city without a fight Thursday after what they said was a popular uprising

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

But a commander of the Patriotic Union Kurdistan (PUK) said Kurdish fighters had been ordered to leave Kirkuk and should be out of the city Friday or Saturday. The capture of the city rekindled fears in Ankara that the Iraqi Kurds

might move towards independence and

revive separatist ambitions among

Turkey's own Kurds

following the departure of troops loyal to

However, Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul said Thursday he had won assurances from US Secretary of State Colin Powell that they would be driven out by US reinforcements. Turkey has repeatedly threatened to intervene militarily in northern Iraq if

Kurdish forces seized Kirkuk or Mosul

 $home\,to\,some\,of\,Iraq's\,largest\,oil fields.$

If after some days, no response is received. such unclaimed bodies might be buried

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The BCS General Education Association yesterday demanded immediate cancellation of appointment of officials from administration cadre to posts in

The education ministry recently appointed 41 deputy secretaries from service by 'releasing' educationists from among education cadre officials and

It will hold a rally on Sunday at the Shikhya Bhavan to press the demand. If the demand is not met by Sunday, the association will go for a greater movement, the statement said. It said the government decision is 'unprecedented'. The unilateral

decision taken by the education

by the association's president Mohammad Kafiluddin and general The association earlier informed the education minister and sought Prime

PID proposals

A senior official in the information

Photojournalist

Conductors of a bus assaulted a photo-

When the bus reached in front of the press club at about 2:30pm, he asked the conductors to stop it but it went up to

consequence' if he complains to police officer at Ramna thana said they are

Anti-war protest

Other organisations that include political, socio-cultural and student bodies and development agencies

bring out a 'peace procession' from its office in the city to express solidarity Manjurul Ahsan Khan and Mujahidul Islam Selim, president and general secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, urged the countrymen to join today's grand

grip on Iraq, the US would continue its aggression in other oil-rich countries

Progressive Students Alliance

Leaders of Islamic organisations and Jamia Islamia Fazlul Alam, Allahr Dal, Chhatra Majlish, Islami Biplobi Parishad, Islami Oikya Andolon and many other organisations brought out anti-war processions. Several thousand people took to the They also circulated lists of Anglo-

Neon sign

pants and pedestrians.

in Arabic, shouldn't you?" the top CAAB official quipped. Another senior CAAB official told The Daily Star that the neon sign was

is the need to have this Arabic neon

installed there at the instruction of some

"I came from abroad last week and when I looked out from the window of the aircraft, I was puzzled," said Shahdat Hossain of Kalabagan. "At first I thought I landed in some Middle Eastern city by mistake! Later I realised it's Dhaka and

they are just trying to change its look."

"I have never seen any public installations with Arabic signage unless they have anything to do with religion. What is the point of having it at ZIA?"

Metro TV in an interview broadcast late

been brought down and the Iraqi people are now facing a brighter

During this process, as per the PSC Petrobangla liquidated UMC-Ocean Energy's bank guarantee of three million US dollars in early 2001 and You should be happy to see the signage

American products among the partici-

top policymakers. "We don't know what Air passengers and visitors were surprised and even confused to see it

wondered Shahed Khan of Uttara.

is alive but clearly he is no longer in

control has been broken," Powell said in the Washington interview. "Where he is as an individual I don't know, but it really doesn't make any difference any more. The regime has

Govt 'extending' PSC

to a new investor. The American companies were

Tracts region was terminated in January 2000 after three years of unsuccessful activities. It was given a one-year extension in the following month although there was no such contractual provision. And that also was terminated in February 2001. Successful lobbying gave the oil

PSCs were in effect. The government also extended the "terminated" PSCs of Occidental and Okland-Tullow. Both the companies failed to fulfil their work commit-

area of 1100 kilometres in late '97.