US Marine hurt in firefight at Mosul airfield

AFP, Washington

A US Marine was wounded Monday in a firefight at the Mosul airfield and US special forces found a large weapons cache near the northern city of Kirkuk, the Pentagon said.

Marines from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit came under attack at the Mosul airfield by unidentified assailants, General Richard Myers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

"One marine was wounded. The marines returned fire but the attackers escaped and we have no idea who they were," he said.

Mosul, a major oil city in northern Iraq, has been a scene of shootings and unrest since the arrival of SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Baghdad hospital situation "critical"

AFP, Baghdad

Baghdad hospitals, many of which were wracked by bombings or lootings and have not had their garbage collected for weeks, are facing a "critical situation," a relief group warned yesterday.

A third of them were either directly or indirectly affected by the US-led air strikes, Premiere Urgence said in a statement after completing a survey of 30 of the capital's main hospitals.

The Paris-based group said two of $the \,hospitals \,remained \,closed.$

A quarter of the hospitals were also damaged in a wave of looting by Iraqi mobs following the invasion. Ministries, museums and schools were also pillaged.

The hospitals were robbed of food and both medical and non-medical supplies, the group said. Seven were now being protected

by the US army's Third Infantry Division, while the others were SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Storm plunges

cityinto

darkness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Power cut hit most areas of the city

The Dhaka Electric Supply Authority

(DESA) sources said that the power cut

affected 80 percent of the city as soon as

the storm started at around 9:00pm.

The sources, however, confirmed that

DESA started restoring the electric

Road was severely hampered as several

10:00pm and created great inconve-

nience for the people returning home

if any, could not be confirmed till

The loss of property and casualties,

trees fell on the street during the storm.

Immediately after the storm, the

The communication on Airport

The storm once again hit at around

following a Nor'wester last night.

 $there \,were \,no\,major\,accidents.$

supply in phases.

after the day's work.

Blix attacks US war intelligence

BBC ONLINE

Chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix has claimed that the US tried to discredit his team and used "shaky" intelligence

Speaking ahead of a briefing to the UN Security Council Tuesday, Blix told the BBC that US officials tried to discredit UN weapons inspectors working in Iraq in a bid to win Security Council support for military action.

In a BBCTV interview, Blix also said the

US and Britain appeared to have used "shaky" intelligence, including forged documents, in an effort to prove Iraq had

He claimed US officials tried to undermine his inspection team by telling the media he withheld information from the Security Council about an

"At that time the US was very eager to sway the votes in the Security Council," he said. "They felt that stories about these things would be useful to have and they let it out. In that way they tried to hurt us a bit and say that we had suppressed this.

"It was not the case. It was a bit unfair

and hurt us." Blix said he was "a little bit displeased about it. But you know, this is a rough and tough, rough game and I don't think that we really felt desolate

Blix also said he had serious doubts about the quality of some of the intelligence used by Washington SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Shi'ite Muslims stage anti-American demonstration in Karbala yesterday as thousands converged onto the holy city to mark the death of Imam Hussein.

Major shake-up in police Senior lawyers plan to go IGP removed, 21 top between

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

govt, judges

Senior lawyers of the Supreme Court are planning to request the nonconfirmed judges to withdraw their writ petitions challenging the government's refusal to confirm their ser-

They would also request the government not to appoint any new judge till the crisis is resolved.

Three former additional judges and a lawyer filed writ petitions Saturday, challenging the government's refusal to confirm services of the judges ignoring the chief justice's recommendation. The Supreme Court Bar Association has been protesting the government action since February 20.

Senior members of the association including its president Rukunuddin Mahmud discussed the issue at a meeting yesterday. They noted that the government recently declined to confirm services of 11 additional judges just because the previous government had appointed them. At the same time, the government was recruiting new judges mainly on the basis of their political tilt.

Rukunuddin told journalists following the meeting, "The government must confirm the services of these 11 judges.

He went on, "We have come to know that for appointment of new judges, the chief justice has sent a list to the government. Due to pressure from different ministers, the list includes names of people who are known as corrupt and inefficient. If they are made judges, we will not welcome them.

Sources said the government has meanwhile proposed to the bar association that one out of the 11 nonconfirmed judges would be reinstated on the condition that the on-going movement would be stopped.

But the bar association has rejected the proposal on the ground that such an offer, if accepted, would create a rift in

Yesterday's meeting was attended by, among others, Dr Kamal Hossain, Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan, Abdul Baset Majumder, Dr M Zahir, Ozaer Faruk, Dr Golam Mahbub, Mahbubey Alam and Yusuf Hossain Humayun.

IS session summoned on May 8

President Prof Iajuddin Ahmed has summoned the next session of the Iativa Sangsad at 7:00 pm on May 8 at the Sangsad Bhaban.

The president summoned the session as per power conferred on him under Section One of the Article 72 of the Constitution, a Jativa Sangsad Secretariat press release said vesterday.

This will be the 7th session of the 8th parliament of the country.

Fresh foot-dragging on separation of judiciary

of Establishment until further notice.

Modabbir Hossain was in the hot seat

during the Awami League rule. But the

BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party)

government called him back from

retirement to appoint him as Director

General of Bureau of Manpower,

Employment and Training on one-

His service was then extended

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

further for another year on the first

The new IGP was forced to retire

since November 5, 2001.

year contract in April 2002.

cops transferred

The government is unwilling to accept the amendments to the rules that the Appellate Division finalised to separate the judiciary from the executive.

In a major reshuffle in the police

administration, the government has

removed the Inspector General of

Police (IGP) Modabbir Hossain

Chowdhury and transferred 21 other

top officials with an aim to bring about

Haq has been appointed as the new

chief of police on contract, says an

official notification, which was issued

on April 21 but made available yester-

The outgoing IGP has been made

Former Additional IGP Shahudul

more efficiency and dynamism.

power to amend these rules, which means the separation of judiciary will be delayed by yet another instalment. The law minister has said the gov-

The government wants to retain the

ernment would again seek four months time from the Supreme Court today or tomorrow to implement the 12-point directives to separate the judiciary. The deadline expires on April 26. In that case, this would be the 15th occasion the government has sought time.

12-point directives in December 1999 and both the Awami League and Bangladesh Nationalist Party governments have been delaying the imple-

The Supreme Court had issued the

separate the judiciary before the gen-On January 26 last, the Appellate

Division had finalised the rules and regulations the government prepared It amended parts of the rules and regulations that did not comply with the 12-point directives and fixed three months time to implement them.

After three months of silence, the government now says it is not ready to accept the amendments.

The issue will be heard at the Appellate Division on Sunday.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed said the government would file a petition asking the Appellate Division to grant it power to modify or amend the original rules and regulations.

Talking to journalists vesterday at his office, Moudud said in the modified rules and regulations the Appellate

member Judicial Service Commission. But the government believed that the size of the commission should be

The proposed Judicial Pay

New IGP Shahudul Haq

Commission outlines an increased $number\,of\,members\,from\,the$ judiciary. But government wants

the number to be dominated by those from the executive wing. The modified rules also attach high

importance to the opinion of the chief justice in case of a difference of opinion between the chief justice and the executive wing over promotion and grant of leave of the judicial service

But the government wants to give more importance to the opinions of the executive wing.

3 burnt alive

as shanty set

ablaze in city

Three people including two kids were

burnt to death and two others injured

when a shanty at a Pallabi slum was

set on fire following an altercation in

Salma Begum, 65, Bristy, 7, and 16-

day-old Kamru. Kamal and his wife

The deceased were identified as

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

the early hours of yesterday.

Tap new tech for more farm output

Speakers at open discussion suggest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The farm sector should tap new technologies without upsetting the agroecological balance. Participants at an open discussion

on 'Status of Hybrid Rice and Genetic Engineering in Bangladesh' expressed They added that with the productiv-

ity from high-yielding varieties (HYV) of

rice reaching to a plateau and size of

population continuing to swell, the agro-sector could benefit from hybrid and genetic engineering technologies. However, some proenvironmentalist participants cau-

tioned against negative fallout of adopting these new technologies. They fear it would disturb the ecological balance Representatives from the International Rice Research Institute

(IRRI), academics, researchers, seed marketing companies and NGOs took part in the discussion held under the aegis of Unnayan Shamannay at the organisation's office.

The participants included Head of

the IRRI's Social Science Division Dr Mahabub Hossain, Professor of biochemistry at Dhaka University Dr Zeba Islam Seraj, Deputy Executive Director of BRAC Aminul Alam, Senior Production Manager (Rice Seed) of BRAC Md. Azizul Haq, Managing Director and Advisor of Supreme Seed Company Md. Masum and MA Razzague respectively, Proprietors of Mollika Seed Company FR Malik and Majibur Rahman, and researchers of leading anti-hybrid NGO, Ubinig, Golam Rabbi Badal and Mizanur

Economist Dr Atiur Rahman of Unnayan Shamannay chaired the Dr Mahabub said while taking care

of environmental side effects, Bangladesh could explore the potentials of hybrid and genetic engineering, as it needs to further accelerate foodgrain production to meet the growing demand for an increasing population.

Hossain, however, regretted that due to lack of regulatory frameworks IRRI was not being able to transfer to SEE PAGE 11 COL 8 Selina were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with burn injuries. The duty officer of Pallabi Police Station said Kamal had set fire to his SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

Sun Rises | Sun Sets April 23 6-23 pm

April 24 5-31 am

Frayer Hillings		
April 23		
	Azan	Jamaat
ajr	4-45	5-10
ohr .	12-45	1-15
sr	5-00	5-15
/laghrib	6-28	6-35
sha	7-35	8-00
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Shamsur Rahman murder: HC asks accused Litu to surrender

The High Court has ordered former KCC ward commissioner Asaduzzaman Litu, a chargesheeted accused in journalist Shamsur Rahman murder case, to surrender before the lower court in two

Syed Amirul Islam and Justice Mirza Hussein Haider passed the order on Monday.

Journalist Shamsur Rahman of Janakantha was gunned down at the Iessore bureau office of the daily at

10 chargesheeted for killing 2 cops in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Ten people have been chargesheeted for killing two constables of Hagachha police camp in February this year. Investigation officer of the case Mallick Ruhul Islam submitted the chargesheet to a magistrate's court here yesterday. The chargesheeted accused are

Raihanul Islam, Mamun, Shahin, Milon, Sadik, Zakir Hossain, Abed Ali, Sobhan, Salek and Sabar Ali.

According to the chargesheet, the accused killed two police constables -- Fazlul Haq, 40, and Motaleb, 38, on the night of February 4, while they were on patrol duty at Hagachha

After the incident, police arrested 14 people in connection with the killing.

Of the arrestees madrashah student Raihanul Islam of Hagachha village and Sohrab of Mahmudpur village gave confessional statement before the court of magistrate M Idris Siddique on February 10. They narrated the incident mentioning the names of other people involved in

US eyeing bases in India Washington wants own airbases there

AFP, New Delhi

The United States wants greater access to Indian defence infrastructure as it believes the country's strategic location offers a bright alternative in Asia, a report said Tuesday.

News portal Rediff.com quoted extensively from a classified report commissioned by the US Defence Department which gives a comprehensive account of the American perspective of defence ties between the two

The Defence Department report says the US wants access to Indian bases and specifically wants to set up airbases on Indian soil.

"American military officers are

infrastructure," Rediff said, quoting the

centre of Asia, astride the frequently the US military," the report said.

being distributed among decisionmakers in the US and a handful of members of the Indian government.

The report quotes American defence officials as saying that the US military would be "able to touch the rest of the world" and "respond rapidly to regional

"For many, India is the most attrac-Indian military infrastructure repre-

An officer is quoted saying India's importance increases if existing American relationships in Asia sour, for instance, with its key allies like Japan, South Korea and Saudi Arabia.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

candid in their plans to eventually seek government officials.

"India's strategic location in the travelled sea lanes of communication linking the Middle East and East Asia. makes India particularly attractive to

According to Rediff, the report is

It says the report is based on interviews of 23 military officers and 15 government officials and some others. Its author Juli A. MacDonald met with several Indian defence officers and

tive alternative ... eventual access to sents a critical strategic hedge against dramatic changes in traditional US relationships in Asia," the report says.

Fund crunch leaves water project floating

into uncertainty implementation of the Dhaka WASA's Tk 1,800 crore Pagla Water Treatment Project, which was to The project aimed to supply 45 crore

litres of treated surface water daily was taken up in 1998 for relieving pressure on fast depleting ground water in the city. It was to meet about 30 per cent of the demand for water Under the project, water would be

through a 40-km long pipeline. Though WASA (Water and Sewerage Authority) has selected site for the plant, prepared project concept paper and floated tender, it failed to raise funds. A top official said the government is

project for one year, but the Chinese

brought from the Padma near Mawa

we would look for alternative sources." Meanwhile, extraction of ground

water by WASA deep tube-wells has declined by about 30 per cent in many areas of the city in the recent weeks due to further fall in ground water level. "Water level has gone further down

capacity even at 70 metres. The situation will worsen next year," a senior WASA official said. Quoting a survey of the Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) in December last, he said water level was at 46.24 metres below the surface. " It is a figure of static level of

goes down further." The survey said the city's ground now negotiating with the Chinese water level has dropped by 20 metres government for a soft loan for the over the last six years

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

water. When pumping starts, the level

7:30pm on July 16, 2000

Internal Container Depot as water crisis has compounded in recent days. side has offered supplier's credit. EDITOR: MAHFUZ ANAM-Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd., 229 Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1205, 8124966, Fax: 8125155, 8126154, GPO Box No: 3257, www.dailystarnews.com, E-mail: dseditor@gononet.com, dsreport@gononet.com, dsreport@gononet.com

Army personnel supervise water rationing from their camp near Kamalapur

in the summer. In some areas, pumps are not extracting water at their full STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A division bench comprising Justice

Water experts blame the fall in

