

# Winnie Mandela sentenced to jail for fraud, theft

REUTERS, Pretoria

A South African court sentenced anti-apartheid heroine Winnie Madikizela-Mandela to five years in jail with one year suspended yesterday, a day after she was convicted on dozens of counts of fraud and theft.

The prosecution had said a jail sentence was appropriate for Madikizela-Mandela, 66, and her co-accused, broker Addy Moolman, but said the court should take her age into consideration.

Madikizela-Mandela immediately resigned from parliament and posts in the ruling African National Congress (ANC) signalling the likely end of a maverick political career for a woman dubbed "the Mother of the Nation" for her fight against apartheid during her former husband Nelson Mandela's 27-

year imprisonment.

But according to a legal provision cited by magistrate Peet Johnson, Madikizela-Mandela was likely to serve less than a year of her sentence in jail for her conviction on 43 counts of fraud and 25 of theft in connection with a one million rand (\$136,986) fraud scheme.

State prosecutors said letters bearing Madikizela-Mandela's signature were used to secure loans for bogus employees of the Women's League of the ruling African National Congress (ANC), which she heads.

Madikizela-Mandela's lawyers accused Moolman, bank staff and Women's League employees of lying about her role in the scheme. They argued she was duped into participating in a fraud she knew nothing about. Both were also found guilty of theft

charges stemming from allegations that they set up a phoney funeral insurance scheme and then pilfered money from participants' accounts.

"The message has to be sent out that this type of behaviour is unacceptable and will not be tolerated, no matter who the transgressor," Johnson said.

Moolman, convicted on 58 counts of fraud and 25 of theft, was sentenced to seven years in jail, two of them suspended. Both were bailed for 10,000 rand (\$1,370) pending appeals.

Hundreds of people gathered outside the court, many chanting anti-apartheid slogans in apparent support of Madikizela-Mandela. Ranks of police, some in riot helmets, blocked off the court entrance under heavy security.



PHOTO: STAR

Residents of Badda take to streets demanding uninterrupted water supply. Badda is among many areas in Dhaka that are seriously water-strapped.

# Iraq occupation

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son." Meanwhile, Iraq's deputy premier Tareq Aziz has surrendered, becoming the best known figure of the ousted regime to be held, the US military said Friday, as President George Bush said Baghdad may have destroyed the missing arms of mass destruction used to justify war.

Aziz, 67, the urbane face and international voice of Iraq under Saddam Hussein, "surrendered to coalition forces overnight," Lieutenant Yvonne Lukson said at the US Central Command's war headquarters in As-Saliyah, Qatar.

Although one of the best known representatives of Saddam's Iraq, he figures only in 43rd position on a list of 55 most wanted Iraqis and was not considered a member of the ousted president's innermost circle.

US officials said Thursday that he was in US military custody in Baghdad, where his abandoned villa was looted shortly after the capital fell to US troops on April 9.

Twelve former top Iraqi officials have now been reeled in by a US-led dragnet since the fall of Baghdad.

US President George W. Bush, meanwhile, for the first time suggested that Baghdad may have destroyed the banned weapons of mass destruction at the core of this case for military action.

US-led forces scouring Iraq for the chemical and biological weapons that Saddam insisted for years had already been eliminated have yet to turn up any evidence to back up Bush's case for using force to topple the Iraqi strongman.

"But we know he had them, and whether he destroyed them, moved them or hid them, we're going to find out the truth," Bush said in Ohio on a visit to a factory which builds the Abrams tank that played a key role in the war.

US officials -- having surrendered that Iraqis offered -- hold the key to tracking down caches of weapons or elements of arms programmes Iraq was not allowed to have under UN resolutions.

Bush told NBC television that the United States was seeking to confirm evidence that Saddam was dead or "at very minimum was severely wounded" to be sure of the ousted leader's fate.

He said that the task of putting Iraqis in charge of their country may take two years: "It could. Or less. Who knows?"

"I dismiss the critics who say that democracy can't flourish in Iraq. It may not look like America. You know, Thomas Jefferson may not emerge," he said, referring to the author of the US Declaration of Independence.

"But the point we're making is that the foundation for democracy is now being laid," he said, downplaying surging anti-US sentiment at demonstrations in Iraq.

Bush, who has said the war will not be over until General Tommy Franks, the commander of US forces in Iraq, says so, nearly declared victory Thursday in remarks earlier in Canton, Ohio.

"We fought a war in Afghanistan, and now we have finished a war -- in the process of finishing a war in Iraq," he said, adding that "the mission is not complete. Our forces still face danger in Iraq."

On the post-war front, Washington's interim administrator in Baghdad has begun the process of rebuilding Iraq's government.

Jay Garner pledged in Baghdad on

## SAHR meeting

FROM PAGE 1 growing militarisation, rising use of religion and general political situation as related to human rights in the region.

SAHR bureau consists of members from South Asian countries. Members of the Bangladesh bureau are Sigma Huda, Hameeda Hossain, Subrata Chowdhury and Mahfuz Anam.

Meanwhile, IK Gujral and Asma Jahangir will exchange views with the members of civil society at 4:30pm today at the Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium.

Besides, SAHR bureau members will hold a press conference at Sheraton tomorrow afternoon.

Thursday to reopen national ministries soon and sounded out prospective local leaders with whom to work on the tough task of rebuilding the Iraqi government.

Garner, a retired US general tasked with overseeing humanitarian relief and setting up an interim Iraqi government, said he hoped to get Iraq's ministries up and running sometime next week.

He said some government ministries would open next week and all would be run by Iraqis, though they would be overseen by "coordinators" from the US-led restructuring team.

US and British coalition forces have also restarted some oil and gas production for domestic use in the battered country, said Major General Carl Strock, an aide to Garner.

"This is strictly for domestic use, for Iraqi internal needs -- it's not for export," he added.

Earlier, Garner began searching for local leaders to work with US forces occupying Iraq to rebuild the country after 24 years of Saddam's rule, meeting with an all-male group of 60 hand-picked Iraqis.

As the United States focused on efforts to establish a new Iraqi government, it found itself in an escalating war of words with Tehran over US accusations Iran was trying to influence Iraq's Shiite Muslims, who represent 60 per cent of Iraq's population.

"We certainly hope that Iran will allow Iraq to develop into a stable and peaceful society. We have sent the word to the Iranians that that's what we expect," Bush told NBC in his first exclusive interview since the war began.

## AL councils

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pointed out. Now that AL's central council was held in December last year and the party has some younger leaders at the policy-making level, it is trying hard to complete holding of councils of thana units by the end of next month and those of 71 organisational district units by June 30.

Equipped with fresh leadership of the units, the AL would be in position to go for a vigorous anti-government movement. It also plans to utilise the 'post-budget public sentiment' to intensify the movement. With the prospect of foreign assistance appearing bleak, the party thinks that the government would impose extra tax burden on the people in the next budget. The party would take up the issue in its movement, sources said.

But the AL leadership apprehends that the government might go for another round of 'anti-crime drive' soon to victimise 'political opponents' and thereby jeopardise the party bid to complete holding of its unit councils.

A senior AL leader recalled that during the earlier anti-crime drive, many of the district and thana unit leaders kept off their homes to escape 'political vengeance.' This greatly affected organisational activities and lowered morale of the party rank and file, he added.

## Youth's body

FROM PAGE 12 His mother, Alken Jan, filed a case with Mohammadpur Police Station accusing some youths including Arif and Masud, who were arrested on Thursday night.

On the basis of information given by the accused, police retrieved the body buried under a mound of sand at the under-construction building site.

Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

Police say Farhad borrowed a revolver from Minto, but he did not return it. The row over it might be the trigger for his killing.

Meanwhile, sweepers of Pisciculture Estate found the head of Safi which was sent to the DMCH for autopsy.

The beheaded body of Safu was found at his family graveyard at Madhya Pierebagh on Thursday evening.

## Road accident

kills 4 in

## Mirersarai

UNB, Chittagong

Four people were killed and nine others injured in a road accident on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway at Fakirtula in Mirersarai upazila in the early hours of yesterday.

Sources said the mishap took place at about 1:40am when a Dhaka-bound bus was rammed by a truck from opposite direction.

The dead were identified as Sirajul Islam, 36, Enayet Hossain, 42, Saiful and Abul Hossain, 26.

Sirajul Islam and Enayet Hossain died on the spot while Saiful and Abul Hossain succumbed to their injuries at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

The injured were admitted to the hospital where condition of two was stated to be critical.

All the victims were passengers of the bus. Police seized the truck, but its driver fled away.

## Army chopper

crash kills

## 13 in Pakistan

REUTERS, Islamabad

Thirteen people died when a Pakistan army helicopter crashed in the country's northern mountains, the military said yesterday.

"An M-17 helicopter of the Pakistan Army Aviation met an accident Wednesday night near Astor district of the Northern Area," the Inter Services Public Relations Directorate said in a statement.

## Jamuna Group

FROM PAGE 1 men, including Babul, who owns the newspaper.

Babul is embroiled in a raft of land-grab cases. Four cases were filed against him with Savar police on May 6, 2000, July 28, 2001, September 10, 2001 and August 28, 2002. Two cases were filed with Badda Police Station on April 28, 2002 and May 5, 2002. Another case was filed on April 19, 2002 with the Joydevpur Police Station on a similar charge. Babul has two other cases filed with the CMM's court.

Also, the state minister for home affairs filed a general diary with Ramna Police Station, accusing Babul of a death threat.

Sources said the businessman was arrested, as he threatened Mahmudur Rahman, Bol executive chairman, on Monday with death for not issuing licence to Jamuna Brewery and Distillery Limited to produce beer in Bangladesh.

A caller also threatened to kill Rahman and asked him to pay tolls, according to a report. Rahman informed the home minister about the incident.

The Bol executive chairman said on Thursday the Daily Jugantor owned by Babul carried a 'fabricated' report against him and the Bol as well.

## Tareq Aziz

FROM PAGE 1 into custody by the American military

"They're collapsing like a house of cards," said Army Lt Col. Tom Kurasiwicz, a Pentagon spokesman.

According to defence officials, Aziz would become the 12th of the 55 wanted individuals taken into custody. Three others are believed dead.

The silver-haired, cigar-smoking Aziz used his command of English and strong negotiating skills to become Iraqi official best-known to the Western world aside from Saddam himself.

He was a rarity among Saddam's followers, a Christian not linked to the Sunni Muslim Tikriti clan that has formed the backbone of Saddam's rule.

# Chittagong port

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Shipping -- a private company.

The groups are struggling hard to push out each other from container cargo market to dominate the shipping business.

Though the CFTC is dominated by Bangladeshi citizens, they registered their ships with foreign countries only for some trade facilities, according to sources.

The facilities include exemption from paying import duty and taxes to Bangladesh government, privilege in transaction of foreign currencies and opportunity of getting loans from foreign banks.

Most of these ship owners take foreign vessels on the basis of 'time charter' and transport goods from and to Bangladesh ports at much higher cost. They charge around US\$40 than the local flag carriers for carrying a 20-foot container.

The CFTC often imposes congestion surcharge and bunker surcharge on goods to and from Bangladesh.

They also keep close liaison with Main Line Operators (MLOs) and make unofficial deals for getting containers. They had managed a general waiver from the department of shipping in loading and unloading cargoes from Bangladesh ports, which was against the spirit of the 1982

ordinance. The general waiver, however, was declared illegal and without lawful by the High Court.

The BOGSOA chairman has been demanding full implementation of the 1982 ordinance for development of business of local ocean-going ships.

Referring to the five feeder operators, he said they had been dominating container business in the country for long.

The CFTC is also working as agents of foreign companies, harming the interest of the nation, he alleged.

Jamaluddin Quader Chowdhury, a director of the QC Shipping and a brother of Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, told The Daily Star he does not feel any necessity of registering their vessels in Bangladesh.

"We do business for our clients and it is irrelevant where our ships are registered," Jamal said.

He admitted charging higher freight than others and claimed, "We provide better service."

The QC director also agreed that it was much harder for locally registered ships to have access to foreign banks for loans.

He rejected the allegation that they were working for foreign companies to the detriment of national interest.

## French minister

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On international plane, he said the Iraq issue and French position would also come up.

In the economic field, Lummaux said bilateral trade and French Direct Investment would figure high during the official talks.

He said the two-way annual trade, which is in favour of Bangladesh, amounts to 500 million US dollars. Bangladesh's exports fetch around 400 million dollars while imports cost 100 million dollars.

France invested USD 240 million in Lafarge cement factory and 15 million in an LPG plant in Chittagong.

Describing the bilateral relations as excellent, the French ambassador hoped that Renaud Muselier's trip would further strengthen the ties.

Muselier will be leading a five-member delegation comprising advisors of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the tour.

He will call on Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan and Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury. He will also meet Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar and visit the Sangsad Bhaban.

## BCS jobs

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Asked to comment on the issue, a JCD leader told this correspondent that they undertook the campaign to post their men in different sections of the administration.

"We need it to ensure our supremacy in the administration," said the JCD leader, requesting anonymity.

He, however, expressed the apprehension that all of their candidates would not get through the viva as 'there are some Awami League-backed members' on the board.

Some JCD leaders said they were dealing with the cases of at least 500 candidates.

Meanwhile, Public Service Commissioner (PSC) did not allow the children of freedom fighters to attend the ongoing viva on grounds of coming up with certificates issued by the Muktiyodha Sangsad.

Slapping a new rule after the completion of preliminary and written examinations, PSC declared the certificates invalid and asked the candidates to bring fresh ones from the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs.

## Cricket

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and featured one more four than his partner.

The Protea pair who began the day on 84 for two, batted sensibly to reach their hundreds before cutting loose. Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud tried as many as seven bowlers to break the partnership.

Rudolph's debut hundred was a vindication of the talent that gained him selection for South Africa in the third Test against Australia in Sydney last year.

However, he was then controversially omitted in favour of a non-white player after the intervention of United Cricket Board (UCB) president Percy Sonn.

The southpaw also played in South Africa's 'unofficial' Test again India at Centurion in 2001, a match which was stripped of its status following India's refusal to play under the authority of match referee Mike Denness.

Mahmud, while speaking in frustration at the way his bowlers failed to maintain any discipline in the day's play also praised the two unbeaten South African batsmen.

"It is yet another disappointing day for us but I can't blame the bowlers because Rudolph and Dippenaar batted really well. We missed a couple of chances, otherwise the scenario would have been different," he said after the match.

About his dropping of Dippenaar when he was on 46, Mahmud admitted afterwards it was not a very difficult catch which he should have taken.

(SCOREBOARD ON PAGE 13)

# WB questions legality of Iraq mission

REUTERS, Washington

The World Bank has legal questions about whether it can send a team to Iraq before sanctions on the country are lifted and before a government there has been established, bank sources said.

According to sources, in a Thursday morning meeting, the bank's staff and management presented the executive board with documents suggesting the bank is not yet in a position to send a technical mission to Iraq despite calls from its largest shareholder, the United States, to do so as soon as possible.

"It is not possible; they can't send one until there is a United Nations resolution or a government that could ask for such a mission, so in the absence of both there is no possibility of doing it at the moment," one bank source with access to the documents told Reuters.

Management called the informal briefing to let the board members, who represent the shareholder countries, know what the latest developments in Iraq were.

Bank President James Wolfensohn was present at the meeting and did not give the board any indication of when a mission is likely to be sent. The sources said Wolfensohn is expected to call another meeting when he decides it is appropriate to send a team.

Wolfensohn has repeatedly said the bank cannot properly assess the task of

rebuilding Iraq until it has a team on the ground to look at the damage from the war.

Tensions among the bank's 184 shareholders erupted during the bank's spring meetings earlier this month when the United States said the bank should send a team to Iraq as soon as possible. The US Treasury already has 14 people in Iraq looking at the economy.

However, other shareholders indicated they did not want the bank or the International Monetary Fund to become involved until it was clearer what role the United Nations would play. And World Bank officials said they did not believe it was legally able to do so.

In communiqués issued at the end of the meetings, the shareholders said the differences had been resolved and a mission should be sent as soon as it was appropriate to do so. Wolfensohn also conceded he had been given the necessary authorisation.

But neither the communiqués nor Wolfensohn specified what conditions would need to be in place first.

Iraq was a founding member of the World Bank in 1945. The last loan was approved in 1973. The country defaulted with the bank in 1990 and must now pay \$82 million to the bank to clear its debts and become eligible for assistance again.

# Residential hotels

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the authority for issuing licences for hotel business, is required to examine certain important documents submitted by the applicants for the licence.

Such documents should contain information as to the number of rooms in the proposed hotel and whether they are fit for healthy accommodation. Other information required includes the rate of tariff to be charged by the hotel and its fire-fighting and security arrangements. But it has been found that most of such papers and documents are dubious, thanks to lack of supporting confirmation from competent authorities. And on the basis of such dubious papers, licences are issued by the deputy commissioner's office when it sees the City Corporation's trade licence in favour of the applicant.

According to Dhaka City Corporation sources, the number of unapproved residential hotels, set up on the basis of a simple trade licence, would be more than one thousand. These hotels are mainly of three types: hotels of low standard, medium standard and a fairly tolerable standard.

The low standard hotels are mainly located near bus terminals, railway stations and wholesale market areas. The room rate is said to be low in such hotels. In some of the hotels, a group of boarders stay in a single room with consequent economy in room rate.

Such low-standard hotels, as reported, are mainly located in Kamalapur, Jatrabari, Sayedabad, Sadarghat, Islampur, Gulistan, and Nawabpur areas. Their boarders mainly comprise transport drivers and workers, small traders, job seekers, and new arrivals of small means. The overall environment

# UN control on oil

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and that the UN oil-for-food program be phased out gradually.

To assuage fears that the United States and Britain are grabbing Iraq's oil, the United States plans some kind of international oversight, but not from the United Nations, diplomats said.

But doing away quickly with 16 resolutions the United States helped craft over the last decade is bound to engender opposition among a majority of council members and force Britain again into the role of seeking a compromise.

Adolfo Aguilar Zinser, Mexico's UN ambassador and the current council president, said on Thursday most members did not want the oil-for-food program stopped abruptly because 60 per cent of the Iraqi people were entirely

dependent on it.

"We feel that it should be phased out gradually because we cannot terminate a program that has such significance for such a large proportion of the population," he told reporters.

The Washington Post, in its Friday editions, said Bush administration advisers on Wednesday adopted the Pentagon's proposal for eliminating all UN controls over Iraq, rather than the State Department's preferred step-by-step approach.

Distributions would be monitored by the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund. But the Post said the Iraqi Central Bank would be in charge of profits from oil, some of which would be spent on reconstruction designated by the Pentagon-run Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance or by the Iraqi Interim Authority.

The US-drafted resolution would also ask Annan to appoint a special representative, who would work with American officials in Baghdad but apparently have little power. Annan so far has refused American requests to do this, arguing that the Security Council would have to make a decision and Washington would have to spell out clearly what the envoy would do.

## Water level

FROM PAGE 12

its water level after heavy rainfall in the upstream.

Locals, however, said the new flow of water has somehow removed the heavy concentration of pollutants in the water. Since the beginning of the lean period, the Buriganga waters grew extremely polluted with industrial waste. The colour of the water has changed to deep black and its smell is very offensive.