

Bush vows to strike US enemies

REUTERS, Crauford
US President George W. Bush proclaimed victory in Iraq yesterday but said the war on terror was far from over and vowed to hunt down America's enemies before they could strike.

He closely linked the US-led invasion to oust Saddam Hussein to the campaign to stamp out terrorism launched after the Sept 11, 2001, attacks despite the lack of a definitive connection between the two.

"The battle of Iraq is one victory in a war on terror that still goes on," Bush said in his weekly radio address. "The scattered cells of the terrorist networks still operate in many nations and we know from daily intelligence that they continue to plot against free people."

In an apparent warning to North Korea, Iran, Syria and other countries accused by Washington of supporting terrorism, Bush said the US would continue to work with its allies to bring about a peaceful resolution of the crisis.

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US, allies forming Iraq 'stabilisation force'

Iraq will be divided into three sectors, UN or anti-war states won't have active role

AFP, Washington

The United States and its allies are forming a multinational force to 'stabilise' post-war Iraq and will seek neither a United Nations mandate nor active participation of those countries who opposed the war, a senior US official said Friday.

Iraq will be divided into three sectors to be commanded by the United States, Britain and Poland, which will enlist other countries to provide forces to secure the peace,

said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"The thought is the force would be generated by a coalition of the willing on a bilateral basis," said the official. That would exclude a UN-backed force.

British Defence Minister Geoff Hoon set the plan in motion at a meeting in London Wednesday of 16 countries, Britain, the United States, 10 other NATO members and four non-NATO states.

France, Germany and Russia --

which all opposed the US-led invasion of Iraq -- were not invited to the London "Initial Coalition Stabilisation Operations Conference."

The US official said no UN mandate would be sought for the force, but if some countries felt they needed a NATO umbrella to participate it would be taken up in the alliance's defence planning committee. France is not a member of the committee and so could not use its veto.

Asked whether France,

Germany and Russia were being excluded as punishment for their opposition to the war, the official said, "That's one view."

"Another explanation is that they just didn't offer anything," the official said.

US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who returned to Washington Friday from a weeklong trip that included a stop in Baghdad, held talks earlier in the day.

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Vice-chancellor of Khulna University Professor Abdul Kader Bhuiyan speaks at the Regional Consultation Meeting of the National Policy Review Forum 2003 organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue, Prothom Alo and The Daily Star yesterday at a hotel in Khulna.

Rajshahi 'rapist' put behind bars

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Nurul Islam Nuru, the alleged rapist of a young housewife of Jhina village in Bagha upazila and a local BNP worker, was sent to jail custody by a magistrate court yesterday.

Nuru Islam was arrested on May 1.

The arrest was made 58 days after the rape incident following a home ministry directive.

The directive came after The Daily Star reported the incident in its May 1 issue that said the rapist remained scot-free while the victim's family was under threat for filing the case.

Nuru allegedly raped the 27-year-old housewife of day labourer Emdadul Haq. He had forcibly entered the house in her husband's absence, gagged her and raped her on March 3.

Local people caught Nuru red handed but his uncle Monirul Islam, a local BNP leader, snatched him away.

On March 11, after the police station concerned repeatedly denied recording the case, the victim lodged her complaint with a magistrate's court accusing Nurul Islam of rape and Monirul Islam of helping Nuru get away.

The court ordered the officer-in-charge (OC) of the Bagha Police Station to record the case.

The case was at last recorded on April 22 when the victim complained to the superintendent of police following the OC's denial.

OC Fazlul Haq said one of the accused was already arrested and the other would also be arrested shortly.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami Jubo League workers bring out a procession at Bangabandhu Avenue to protest at the shortage of water and power supply.

Dhaka medical staff close door on child visitors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Panicky staff at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) have virtually banned child visitors as three of their colleagues were arrested following the disappearance of a two and a half-year-old child from the maternity section of the hospital recently.

The staff manning the entrances yesterday turned away all visitors who arrived with children. They said that they would not let children enter the hospital because whenever a child is missing, the blame is

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ADAB censures cabinet report on NGO

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) rejected the recent cabinet committee report on NGOs terming it a 'dangerous black document in the history of the country's NGO activities'.

"The recommendations will destroy the NGO sector and discourage the donors", ADAB President Dr Kazi Faruque Ahmed said in a statement yesterday.

"If the recommendations are implemented, the independent entity of NGOs as part of the civil society will be endangered and the country will be a

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No fund for non-performers

Saifur goes harsh on non-govt educational instts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government would not provide fund to any non-government educational institution for failing to perform well.

This was decided at a pre-budget discussion on education at the finance ministry yesterday.

The government would also audit all the educational institutions and classify them into different categories on the basis of their performances, it was also decided.

"Although we spend a lot in salary for the teachers and employees of the non-government educational institutions, we do not get desired result from many of them," said Dr Osman Farouque, education minister.

After classifying them, the government would decide which institutions to remain on the list of the Monthly Payment Order (MPO) to get allocation from the government, the minister said.

Result of students in board

exams would determine the classification of the educational institutions, according to sources.

The decision followed Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman's severe criticism against misuse of fund by the non-governmental educational institutions.

"We can no longer misuse government's fund for those non-performing schools and colleges," he said.

Raise voice to stop repression on press

Speakers on World Press Freedom Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Honest, courageous and factual reporting can ensure press freedom and protect journalist from harassment, observed speakers at a seminar in the city yesterday.

The speakers comprising ministers, politicians, media personalities and teachers also felt that united voice involving everyone was the need of the hour to stop all

sorts of repression on journalists.

Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism and Communication (BCDJC) in association with the forthcoming Bengali daily 'Naton Dhara' organised the seminar at the CIRDAP auditorium marking the World Press Freedom Day.

Former Justice Golam Rabbani chaired the seminar on "Press

Freedom: Global and Bangladesh Perspective" while journalist Jaglul Ahmed Chowdhury moderated it.

Two separate papers were submitted to the seminar -- one by Afsan Chowdhury, director, Human Rights and Advocacy, BRAC and the other by Saleem Samad, local representative of Reporter Sans Frontiers.

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Statement of raped college girl recorded in Bagerhat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An HSC examinee of the Chitalmari Bangabandhu Mohila College in Bagerhat district was returned to her father at the Khulna court compound by six men on April 29 who abducted her a week ago.

The abductors brutally tortured and raped her after confining her at several places, her father stated in the first information report (FIR) lodged with the Chitalmari Police Station. A case has been recorded under the Women and Child Repression Control Ordinance.

Police also recorded the statement of the college student.

According to the FIR, six armed

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Hasina asks govt to step down for midterm polls

UNB, Rangpur

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the government to step down, paving its way for mid-term election to 'save the nation from a disaster' under the alliance rule.

"People have lost confidence in the government. So it has no right to cling to power," she told a big rally at Rangpur Zilla School ground in the afternoon.

Hasina said the alliance government has totally failed to run the country and destroyed vital sectors by politicising those.

Terming the BNP-Jamaat government as "champion" of corruption, the Awami League chief said people are suffering from a sense of insecurity at the rising incidents of terrorism.

Citing instance of withdrawing assistance by Denmark and the Netherlands governments as well as donor agencies from Bangladesh, the former prime minister said the development partners were reluctant to give money due to corruption of the government.

Reminding the people of election pledges made by the alliance

of uprooting terrorism and corruption, she said secret killing, snatching, dacoity, repression, torture and rape have now become the order of the day.

In the last 18 months of BNP-Jamaat rule "21,000 women and children have been raped and 24,000 people brutally killed", she added.

She said prices of essentials including rice, pulse, soybean oil and kerosene have gone beyond the reach of the common people.

The opposition leader said the government has released 45,000 criminals from jail and unleashed a reign of terror across the country.

Sheikh Hasina said during her rule Rangpur was declared a separate division but the present government annulled the decision. "We had also taken initiative to establish Women's University, Science and Technology University here."

Chaired by district Awami League president Abdur Razzak, the meeting was also addressed by general secretary Abdul Jalil, Motia Chowdhury, Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Sultan M Mansur, Abdul Mannan, Ashiqur Rahman, Sheikh Helal Uddin and Hamida Banu Shova.

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Regional JRC meet in Sylhet tomorrow

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

A regional meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) will be held tomorrow at the Zakiganj border in Sylhet to discuss formulation of an action plan and a model test to dredge the river Surma, official sources said.

The meeting will also discuss immediate flood protection measures necessary in the Borak valley across the Indian border to protect embankments on the Kushiara

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Another innings defeat looms for Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

South Africa were only two wickets away from wrapping up the GrameenPhone Test series after a dramatic third day that saw Bangladesh lose 18 wickets at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

At stumps on Saturday, Bangladesh limped to 204-8 in their second innings, needing another 24 runs to avoid their 13th innings defeat in 19 Test appearances.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
May 4		6-29 pm
May 5	5-21 am	

Prayer Timings		
May 4		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-34	6-38
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation