## The Baily Star

# **Evidence of WMDs** was 'big bluff'

#### AFP, Berlir

A German member of the UN team investigating Iraq's alleged programme of weapons of mass destruction has accused US authorities of presenting false evidence against the regime, the German weekly news magazine Der Spiegel reports in its yesterday's edition.

His criticism adds to a growing tide of accusations that the United States and its key ally Britain deliberately manipulated information to make it look as if Iraq had weapons of mass destruction

The fear that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein had such arms at his disposal was one of the chief justifications for the war to topple him.

The German inspector, Peter

guards suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Mongla Port Authority (MPA) has

suspended three of its five security

guards on charge of pilfering

machine parts of an abandoned

Rumanian vessel that they were

Amanat Molla, Bellal Hossain and

Shahadat Hossain allegedly sold

the machine parts after taking them

apart from the engine room, said the

official without specifying which

On April 1, 1999, the Rumanian flag

vessel reached Mongla Port with a

consignment of imported Indian rice,

but the unloading operation was sus-

pended after the Food Department

declared two-thirds of the rice unfit for

for theft of ship

machinery

and pilferage

an MPA official said.

three were suspended.

Three Mongla Port 35 hurt in

Franck, was part of the UN weapons that the trucks were firefighting inspection team in Iraq from vehicles. December last year until shortly

March. He told Der Spiegel that US Secretary of State Colin Powell did not present truthful evidence to the UN Security Council in a famous February 5 speech. It was "all a big bluff," Franck

said. "Basically, it was all a show for

the American public. He said Powell used satellite pictures to try to show that decontamination trucks in front of an ammunition bunker were proof that Iraq was experimenting with chemical weapons there.

"What Powell said simply wasn't true," Franck told the magazine. before the US-led invasion in The United States and Britain

should admit they lied when claiming the ousted Baghdad regime had weapons of mass destruction. Scott Ritter, a former UN senior weapons inspector in Iraq, said in an interview published in Geneva vesterday.

Ritter, speaking to the Swiss daily Le Temps, called on US President George W Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair to "have the courage to be held responsible" for telling lies to the public into backing the conflict.

fish farm owner Pijush Kanti

Howlader, was gangraped and

killed by a gang of miscreants in the

early hours of Thursday at

Baharbunia village under

Morrelganj thana of Bagerhat

According to FIR lodged in the

evening, a gang of eight entered the

house breaking open the door at

around 3.30 am. They tied up

Pijush, raped Shabita and then

sent it to hospital morgue for

Police recovered the body and

Shabita's elder brother Liton filed

A procession was brought out at

a murder case with Morrelganj

thana. He also filed a petition seek-

Baharbunia village yesterday

protesting the killing. Villagers

demanded immediate arrest of the

coaster sinks in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, ctg.

Sandwip channel

At least five persons went missing

district.

strangled her

ing security of his life.

autopsy.

culprits.

However, an earlier visit by UN inspectors had already determined

Housewife gangraped, killed in **Bagerhat** 

At least 35 people were injured, 15 of them seriously, in a road accident at Mirhati in Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila yesterday.

bus collision

**B**'baria

assigned to protect from damage nesses, the accident occurred when The abandoned vessel MV an Ashuganj-bound passenger bus Ardeal, which has been lying at the from Brahmanbaria collided headport's outer anchorage, also develon with another bus coming from oped cracks in the hull due to removal of the machinery, but was opposite direction at noon, leaving somehow prevented from sinking, 35 passengers of both the vehicles injured Guards Nazrul Islam, Manu Mia,

The seriously injured passengers are Kamal Mia, 25, Shuva, 5, Jahirul Islam Khan, 38, Shagor, 5, Shireen Begum, 10, Ismail Bhuiyan, 28, Dipu, 22, Karim, 7, Rokeya Begum, 50, Salma Begum, 20, Dipu, 20, Jabbar Mia, 35, Rifat, 4, Arafat, 6, and Al Amin, 25.

They were admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital while the rest given first aid

human consumption. MV Ardeal, whose crew left the country after the vessel was declared abandoned in December, 2000, legally became the property of Mongla PortAuthority.

### **BDR** pushes back seven Indians

BSS, Dinajpur

# **OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria**

According to police and wit-

Drivers and helpers of the buses fled the scene soon after the acci-

54 rescued while being trafficked to India

#### UNB, Benapole

when a sea coaster loaded with cement clinker sank at the Sandwip BDR personnel here on Thursday channel after being hit by storm on night rescued 54 people while they Thursday evening, port and police ources said The coaster. MV Evana. set out from the outer anchorage of Chittagong Port at 10.30am towards Dhaka with 15 crews including the Sareng on board. It was caught in the storm at around 7:00pm and sank in the Sandwip channel, police source

SPACE FANTASY: A girl holds a paper-made model of a space shuttle at a science festival co-organised by the Bangladesh Astronomical Association and the National Science and Technology Museum at Agargaon in Dhaka yesterday. Kids on space odyssey STAFF CORRESPONDENT Museum jointly organised the festival to create interest among Parents spent a happy day with children about astronomy, astrotheir kids at a special science physics and space science. STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna festival held in the city yesterday. Thousands of kids from differ Shabita Rani Howlader, 24, wife of

ent schools and their guardians attended the festival and made models of aircraft, rocket, pyramid, dome, star finders, planet finders and so on. The daylong festival titled 'Kids'

Science Festival' was held at the auditorium of the Science and Technology Museum. The Bangladesh Astronomical

Mahir and Maisha, students of Green Heaven School, were busy making a plane.

Orchi, a play group student of Dhaka Preparatory School, was trying to make a dome and said she would wear it like a cap. Savonto, a class one student of YWCA. said. " It is very interesting to make models with paper cut-

outs. The boy said he knew nothing Association (BAA) and the about great scientists but he would National Science and Technology like to become one.

class seven student of Badsha Faisal Institute, said he did not know whether the plane that he was making would fly. Mashurul Amin, president of

BAA, said they arranged the festival to attract children towards science. "To spread knowledge of science, we were planning to arrange such festivals outside Dhaka also. But we could not implement the plan owing to fund

constraints. "If we get sponsors we are ready to arrange the festival in the

Phone gangs scare

Locals in Monipur area alleged released on condition that he would

On Sunday, police nabbed a young man, Saiful Islam, from Azampur area when he went to collect toll using the name of Subrata Bain. In a similar incident on the same day, two youths --

#### Lake grabbing FROM PAGE 12

Professor Mahbubul Haque, a local killed just outside Chechnya when a resident, said influential people are bus carrying Russian air force personnel was targeted by a female suicide bomber. The woman also died in the blast in the southern Russian republic of North Ossetia, near the border with Chechnya.

# DHÂKA

#### Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Big Daddy'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm

#### Cultural function

Convocation

A visiting cultural delegation of Vietnam will perform traditional song and dance of their country on occasion of 30 years of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Vietnam. Venue: National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 7.00pm.

#### Rotary Dhaka

1.30pm.

West

BMP discussion

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) organises a discussion on

the 'Impact of family repression of women on health: Bangladesh

perspective'. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium. Time: 3.30pm.

Coalition for the Urban Poor (CUP)

organises a discussion on the rehabilitation of slum dwellers. Venue: CUP office,

Mohammadpur. Time: 11.00am

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time:

Rotary Dhaka North

Human chain

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5.30pm.

Sylhet Division Development

Action Council will form a human

chain against violence. Venue:

Muktangan. Time: 5.00pm.

CUP discussion

The seventh convocation of Independent University of Bangladesh will be held with President lajuddin Ahmed as chief Friendship Conference Centre, Sher-e-Banglanagar. Time: 10 00am

#### Discussion

A discussion on the 'Role of communication infrastructure in industrialisation, employment generation and urban and rural development' will be held with Communications Minister Nazmul Huda as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4.00pm

Former Laxmipur BCL leader murdered

#### UNB, Laxmipur

Police recovered the body of a former general secretary of district Chhatra League from a hotel in the town here Thursday night and arrested three people in connection with the murder

Abdus Shahid, also a first class contractor and son of Laxmipur poura commissioner Sujayetullah, went missing since Wednesday.

Police recovered his body from room no 124 of Unique Hotel and his motorbike from a nearby petrol pump at about 11:00 pm.

secretary of district Awami League

300 shanties gutted

FROM PAGE 1 about 3 pm, locals said.

four-year-old son Mahin was miss-Mozammel Hossain, officer-inina. charge of the Dhanmondi Police Another woman, Ayesha, was Station, said as soon as the fire searching for his 10-year-old broke out, it was announced over brother. microphone from a nearby mosque "The cause of n the fire is yet to The police control room was informed of this immediately.

be known and the damages caused are being estimated," said Several fire fighting units from Palashi, Lalbagh and Mohammad Hurmuz Ali, an assistant director of the fire service

#### Monsoon

forecast.

FROM PAGE 1 Members of the Rapid Action Team (RAT) arrested 38 such criminals in the last three months across the city following complaints. Many such complaints were also made to various police stations. But most of the complaints are not on record as the complainants did not file any general diary. RAT arrested 11 members of a

Five go missing as gang who phoned a man using the name of Kala Jahangir and demanded toll. All of them were arrested about a month back. Being scared of the criminals,

many people paid them toll and did not inform the matter to police sources said. A police official said these crimi-

nals first demand a huge amount of money and in many cases settle for Tk 5,000 to Tk 10,000.

anonymous callers are now threat-

demanded Tk 50,000 from him. The

caller warned him of grave conse-

quences if he did not pay the money.

demanded from a journalist of

Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha

recently, and a general diary was

In the same way, Tk 2 lakh was

plaintiff in the case with death.

On May 27, officials and employ-

Wednesday

that some youths, claiming themselves as men of Kala Jahangir, abducted a businessman for not

paying them toll. He was however not contact police.

Jasim and Mohammad Faruq

were caught from Panthapath.

suicide bombers.

within the space of three days killed 78 people in the republic.

"Eleven bodies were recovered from the debris: nine children and two women," the spokesman said.

The toll had earlier been given as eight children, one man and two women. The blast went off at 3:20 am

local time, destroying several apartments. Rescue workers said about 15 people lived in the damaged apartments.

Arifur Rahman Chowdhury, a

Initial reports of the blast raised fears of another rebel attack, as the war-torn republic has recently been rocked by a number of deadly explosions caused by separatist

Last month, two suicide attacks

On Thursday, 19 people were Mohammadpur stations and the fire service headquarters rushed to the spot in five minutes. he said.

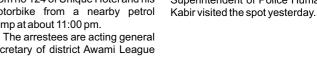
and hotel owner A N M Fazlul Karim. hotel manager Habibullah Zahir and a boarder of the hotel, Syed Al Amin Mesbah. Police suspect Shahid was

strangled. Police launched a vigorous

search operation after the victim's wife filed a general diary with Sadar thana as Shahid did not return till Thursday morning.

Deputy Commissioner Abdul Mannan Howladar and Superintendent of Police Humayun

One of them. Noor Jahan, said her





Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday pushed back seven Bangla speaking Indians through the Hakimpur frontier, foiling a threehour push-in bid by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF)

BDR sources said a BSF team from Agra border outpost pushed the seven Indians including four women and two babies through a place between sub-pillar 55 and 56 of the main pillar 288 adjacent to Ghashuria here during Juma prayers.

The seven push-in victims were apprehended and pushed back into India by a patrol team of BDR battalion-15 at about 3:30pm.

Interrogation of the victims revealed they are residents of Noksal Bari thana under Shiliguri district in the West Bengal State of India and were brought to the Agra BSF camp to be pushed into Bangladesh

Earlier on Monday, BDR thwarted a BSF bid to push 12 Bangla-speaking Indians of a family into Bangladesh territory at Chirirbandar frontier here.

### Cops edgy

FROM PAGE 12 bers of the force. Who will go to die

fully knowing that the criminals will walk away as freemen with the blessing of certain quarters," he said.

The police casualties, however, pale beside civilian victims of the crime wave raging currently.

A spate of killings, robberies, bank heists and lynching all around has robbed my peace, said a housewife. "I even fear to take the children to school," she said.

A small shopkeeper also echoed the same voice. "We are living in a law and order nightmare. When the police are getting killed every day, imagine what will happen to us, asked Mohammad Alam.

"It appears that the whole nation is hostage to the hoodlums. Imagine, they extort money, even from me who earns from hands to mouth," he added

Inspector General of Police Shahudul Haque, however, refused to make any comment on the issue.

Deputy Commissioner of the Detective Branch Farook Ahmed said police identified all the criminals involved in the killing of their colleagues

"We're continuing the manhunt for the criminals," he said

BDR sources said they raided Sadipur village and rescued 15 men, 19 women and 20 children They, however, could not arrest any trafficker

The rescued people were later handed over to Benapole police. Clash leaves

50 injured in Habiganj

UNB,Habiganj

At least 50 people were injured. three of them seriously, in a clash between two rival groups at Katkhal village in Baniachang upazila yesterday. Witnesses said the trouble

erupted at about 4pm when the supporters of Shahid Mia and Safar Ali clashed over playing football on a land adjacent to a graveyard.

During the hour-long clash, both des used lethal weapons. Of the injured, Safar Ali, Samaruddin and Amirul Islam were

admitted to Sylhet Medical College Hospital and 14 others to Habiganj Sadar Hospital.

30 hurt as villagers clash in

Gopalganj **OUR CORRESPONDENT**, Gopalganj

At least 30 people were injured, 10 of them seriously, in a clash between two rival groups of villagers at Bedgram village in Gopalganj sadar upazila yesterday.

Sources said the incident that started out as a scuffle between two groups of children over picking dates soon turned into a full-blown clash as their parents and guardians also became embroiled in the fight. Ten of the seriously injured

people were admitted to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital. They are Shaukat Sheikh, 48, Mamun, 19, Sabuj, 22, Milon, 15, Solaiman Sheikh, 70 Kamrul, 35, Shiraj, 30, Liton, 28, Azim, 38, and Faraj, 32. A case was filed with Gopalganj

police station.

said. Ten of the crews swam ashore while the rest five went missing. Police said a search was for the missing persons.

### Chemical Ali

FROM PAGE 12 But US Central Command and officials at the Pentagon said his status now was considered uncer-

Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said he did not know whether Majid is dead or alive.

"They attacked locations where they believed him to be. There was some speculation afterward that they thought that he had been killed. Now there's some speculation that he may be alive," Rumsfeld told reporters after meeting with lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

Maiid is listed as No. 5 on Central Command's list of top-55 wanted Iraqis from Saddam's government, and is designated as the "king of spades" in the deck of cards given US soldiers to familiarise them with Iragi fugitives.

Maiid earned his moniker for ordering a chemical weapon attack against 5,000 Kurds in the Iraqi village of Halabja in 1988 to end decades of insurrection. At the time, rag was a US ally

Maj. Brad Lowell, a Central Command spokesman. said "there is no disposition next to his name" on Central Command's list.

"Therefore, he's at large," Lowell said

Lowell said he was unaware of any recent intelligence information that led to a reassessment of Majid's status

"Chemical Ali," if caught, potentially could provide information about Iraqi weapons programs. he added

"Anyone on that top-55 list is important to us," Lowell said. "He has that nickname or that tag for a reason. He happens to have a background in chemical weapons."

ees of an insurance company planning to pollute environment caught a youth when he went to their around the graveyard by developing office to collect Tk 50.000. Farlier, a a permanent kitchen market. man identifying himself as Kala Abu Naser Khan, secretary Jahangir telephoned the managing

general of BAPA, urged the local director of the company, asking him people to unite against the grabbers to pay the money. Otherwise, he and keep protesting. would be killed or his children would He pointed out that it was a gross be abucted, the caller warned.

The youth was turned over to violation of environmental law and Motijheel police and a case was filed asked the DCC to act against it. under the Speedy Trial Act. But

#### 3 firemen ening the managing director and the FROM PAGE 1 In another incident recently, a

youth telephoned an official of the sources. Bangladesh Shilpa Bank and

The bodies of the firemen were taken to the Fire Brigade Headquarters and sent back home vesterday evening.

Mohammadpur police seized the van, but the driver fled. A case was filed with Mohammadpur Police filed with Kafrul police on Station.

## Archaic police laws

crime." he said

#### FROM PAGE 12

necessary. An inadequate people-police ratio and use of sophisticated arms by criminals as against outdated ones by police are also causes behind the slide in law and order. The existing number of police personnel is 109,533.

As police work as per the government directives, they suggested formation of a police board to which the policemen would be accountable. The speakers emphasised the need for developing close working relations between police and the magistracy, partnership between police and public and accountability to the people of all other government functionaries to improve the law and order.

They also stressed the need for increasing salaries and other facilities so that policemen could lead a better life. Provision for some allowance to meet office costs at police stations was also suggested. Inspector General of Police Shahudul Haque said, " We could not engage an adequate number of police to prevent crime and maintain law and order since a majority of them remain engaged in checking political violence.

The IGP said firearms are smuggled into Bangladesh and it is an organised crime. "We must bring the gang members to justice to curb this

#### Historic June 7 FROM PAGE 12

which includes hoisting of national and party flags atop the party office in the morning, placing of wreath at the portrait of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum and a discussion meeting at the Institution of Engineers. Bangladesh.

AL President and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina in a message on the eve of the day said June 7 was a milestone in the history of the independence move-

police as applicable to the armed

Divide in BNP

ped up during the last general

elections and peaked during the

young leaders based in a former

election office of the party is trying to

grab everything following the

policymakers have also joined

tension was gradually snowballing

and spilling over to the grass-roots

The Daily Star that it became very

difficult for them to run their minis-

ence. They are controlling every-

directors general and other impor-

and transferred keeping them in the

They said that secretaries,

hands with them, they said.

Several senior leaders and a few

Some BNP leaders said the

A number of senior ministers told

October 1, 2001 general elections.

They alleged that a section of the

FROM PAGE 1

cabinet formation.

levels of the party.

tread their lines.

dark

FROM PAGE 12 But a section of slum dwellers. alleging that the fire fighters took

The wind is also wet. The monsoon will last till the end of September. about half an hour to reach the spot, Samarendra Karmakar, deputyattacked them and pelted brick bats. director of the met office said. They also snatched some equip-Thundershowers accompanied ment from the fire service men and by temporary gusty or squally wind obstructed their operation, sources are likely to occur at a few places in said Rajshahi, Chittagong, and Sylhet

Those injured in the clash were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital

Loss of property in the fire was being estimated.

A shopkeeper at the slum claimed Tk 60,000 in cash and goods worth over Tk 5 lakh were gutted at his shop

The day temperature will remain Some women were found unchanged across the country and searching for their kids as they heavy rain is expected within the returned to the slum after the fire. next five days.

## Litany of waste

#### FROM PAGE 1

The roads and highways sub-sector has attracted special attention of the commission where it found that a huge number of low priority projects have been taken up. "For some special reasons, people concerned are over zealous to take up projects related to roads," the commission said. "The ADP size in the sector has gone beyond proper management.

The result is management inefficiency and dissatisfactory implementation rates. Sixty-six of the 188 projects included in the current ADP are limping with less than 20 per cent progress. Forty-two of the projects have an estimated outlay of Tk 6,425.67 crore and till June 2002, only Tk 416.8 crore has been spent on them with Tk 162.5 crore provided for in the current ADP. At this rate, these projects would take 37 years to complete.

While new road projects are being taken, only 35 per cent of the required maintenance cost is allocated against the existing ones, leading to broken-down roads.

The government took up a Tk 18 tries because of the youths' influcrore scheme at Akhaura Railway Station so that Sylhet-bound trains thing and forcing the ministers to from Dhaka do not have to change engines there. This project has a number of technical flaws and will save only 20 minutes on a trip. tant officials were being appointed

A Tk 675 crore rail project has been taken to link Cox's Bazar to

Chittagong, This is low on priority list since a good road link exists and many important schemes like Jamuna Bridge rail link, Dhaka-Joydevpur double-gauge rail line and Dhaka-Bhairab double-line

divisions and at one or two places in

Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divi-

sions, the meteorological office

of 36.0 degrees Celsius was

recorded at Jessore and the lowest

20.6 degrees at Rangpur.

Yesterday's highest temperature

suffer from fund crisis. The Shahjalal fertiliser project was taken up in 1992-93 and has been lying unapproved of for four vears since its inclusion in the ADP There is no physical progress of the project and yet Tk 276 lakh has been spent on salary of the scheme officials and other heads.

The commission also pointed out that a huge number of unapproved projects are leading to drainage of massive amounts every year. It has identified three projects lving unapproved of for nine years, one for eight years, 10 for four years, 22 for three years, 33 for two years and 18

There are even examples such as the balancing, modernisation, rehabilitation and expansion of Ghorasal fertilier plant which have

The commission also observed for fiscal 2001-2002 had been

analysed.

for one year.

been completed but not approved

of that in approving projects, costbenefit analysis and internal rate of return are often overlooked and the planning process is also weak. It pointed out that only 23 per cent of the 374 projects included in the ADP

Quoting a UN report, the keynote forces: introduction of community paper said Bangladesh lies in the policing and citizens' committee at drug producing Golden Triangle and ward and village levels: and amendsmall arms manufacturing Golden ment to the police regulations Crescent. Bangladesh was once used as a transit route. but now there are local users of arms and

The paper also quoted a survey

to the report, 600 to 700 firearms are coming to Bangladesh every month through the borders with India and Myanmar

Faruque Khan said the socioeconomic situation and law and order were deteriorating because of the failure of the law enforcing mechanism

Referring to attacks on police, he said such attacks would increase if the criminals were not brought to

Mahbubur Rahman said as members of a disciplined force policemen should not deviate from heir designated course.

A number of suggestions were put forward in the keynote paper which include upgrading of educational qualification of constables to the HSC level; enhancement of salaries of police; following similar rules for promotion and transfer of

drugs report saying there are nearly two lakh illegal firearms in Bangladesh. Eighty gangs are active and 28 of them are based in Dhaka. According