

Talks on to bury Saddam sons

REUTERS, Baghdad

The US-led authority in Iraq said yesterday it was working on burial arrangements for Saddam Hussein's two sons more than a week after they were killed by US troops in the northern city of Mosul.

"Uday and Qusay are still being looked after by the coalition authority," a spokesman for the Coalition Provisional Authority told reporters.

"We are holding very wide consultations with religious leaders, tribal leaders and members of the Savar robbery

No criminal caught, no booty found yet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police could not arrest anyone or recover the booty looted from a pharmaceutical company employee's microbus until yesterday, three days after the incident.

"We're on a hunt to arrest some suspects. We have sent several teams outside Dhaka to nab the criminals," Motiur Rahman, superintendent of police of Dhaka, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The registration number of the private car, suspected to have been used by the gang and recovered on Wednesday, was fictitious, he said.

Administrative manager of Acme Laboratories Sanwar Habib Sinha, a cousin of State Minister for Health Mizanur Rahman Sinha, came under attack on Tuesday while he was heading for the company plant at Dhamrai to pay monthly salary and bonus of the staff.

The robbers snatched Tk 40 lakh, a licensed revolver and a cell phone from him, the first information report said.

Meanwhile, doctors said his condition was stable yesterday.

Close calls at Dhanmondi Police Station

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A sub inspector (SI) and two others sustained burn injuries when some cocktails went off inside the Dhanmondi Police Station yesterday.

The explosion occurred at noon injuring SI Sheikh Motiur, 40, Monir Hossain, 30, a writer of the PS and Mohammad Taser, 40, a police informant, sources said.

The cocktails exploded when one slipped from Taser's hand, duty officer of the PS said.

The cocktails were being taken to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court as evidence.

The injured received first aid at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, sources said.

Bhandaria robbery, six arrested

UNB, Pirojpur

Police arrested six people in Bhandaria and neighbouring Matbaria upazila on Wednesday in connection with Tuesday's robbery.

They arrestees are Jahangir Hawlader, Qamrul Mridha, Sohag Mridha, Sakhawati Mridha, Kuddus Sardar and Badal Mridha.

A gang of bandits looted 11 shops at Bandar Bazar, the headquarters of Bhandaria Upazila, and got away with valuables worth Tk 1.5 crore in the early hours of Tuesday.

Police have set up a camp at Bhandaria port to ensure the security of people of the area.

Mother feels

FROM PAGE 1 Ripa told The Daily Star on hearing the acquittals of Jahangir Mohammad Adel, his two sons Zobayed Adel and Tareq Adel and two others, who were accused of their part in the killing.

Nazir, who filed the murder case, alleged that the accused were acquitted because of political pressure and non-cooperation of the public prosecutor.

"I saw the bullet that killed my brother was shot from the licensed gun of Jahangir Adel and the experts proved it to the court," Nazir said. "We will appeal to the High Court against the verdict," he added.

Additional Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Golam Mostafa Khan said he was successful in proving the charge beyond doubt. "But it's up to the court how it will take it," he said.

The murder case was filed against Jahangir Mohammad Adel, former deputy mayor of Dhaka and leader of Jatya Party (Ershad), his two sons Tareq and Zobayed and Shahed Parvez nicknamed Pappu and Nitya Sarkar with the Kotwali Police Station. Police arrested Zobjayed and Pappu but Zobjayed

RAT nabs

FROM PAGE 12 Nababar Bagh area with US-made Petra-Brata pistol and seven rounds of bullets, a RAT official said.

Mipur police identified Nazmul as a criminal but could not say how many cases are filed against him.

AL calls hartal

FROM PAGE 12 month-long programme to observe August 15, death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, as the national mourning day.

The programmes include placing of wreaths at the portrait of the Bangabandhu, discussions, blood donations and mourning processions.

Referring to yesterday's attack on the general students and Chhatra League leaders and adherents at Dhaka University, the meeting held the government responsible for the violence.

There was no session jam at the university under the AL government as a peaceful academic atmosphere prevailed there, the meeting said. "But now hoodlums backed by the BNP-Jamaat alliance government are up for destroying the congenial atmosphere at Bangladesh's highest seat of learning," it alleged.

The meeting called upon all to raise their voice against what it termed the tyrant government.

The meeting also decided to send a team of central leaders to Sylhet to resolve the infighting in the Jubo League, the youth front of the party, and take stern disciplinary action against the troublemakers.

The belligerent factions of Sylhet district unit of Jubo League fought a gun battle in their triennial conference on Tuesday in the presence of central AL leaders.

Shazneen case

FROM PAGE 12 23rd prosecution witness and also the investigation officer of the Shazneen case, will be cross-examined on August 3.

Earlier, 22 prosecution witnesses, including the victim's father Latifur Rahman, were cross-examined.

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15, the youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, Chairman of Transcom Ltd, was raped and murdered at their Gulshan residence on April 23, 1998.

Anti-disaster plan

FROM PAGE 12 regard is very important," Jamilur said in the chair's speech to the discussion.

Dr Mehedi Ahmed Ansary of the Department of Civil Engineering of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) presented another paper on the recent quake in Rangamati.

He illustrated his assessment of the preliminary damage caused by the tremor and warned that more earthquakes could strike the district in future.

"Necessary steps for earthquake management should be taken," he said.

Dr Ansary said among major buildings Chittagong Public Library suffered the worst damage while scores of mud houses were flattened.

Mir Fazlul Karim, director of the Geological Survey of Bangladesh, said: "We have to take lessons from the recent earthquakes and move forward for the future management plan."

Among others, Dr Tahmid Al-Hossainy, associate professor of Civil Engineering at BUET and Group Captain Mueen, consultant of Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Center (BDPC), also spoke.

JCD wrath

FROM PAGE 1 Earlier, JCD activists had asked him not to file any report on assault on general students by them.

Residents of the hall said JCD hall unit President Tanjilur Rahman Tanjil and Organising Secretary Shoeb Khondoker stood at the hall gate and ordered the JCD men to attack Tusher.

The attackers -- two of them being Shahid Uddin Shahed and Shohag -- dragged Tusher out of his room and beat him with iron rods and sticks.

"You have no right to stay at the hall as you filed reports against us (JCD)," Shahid shouted at Tusher. "We have allowed you to stay at the hall even after you reported the assault on two students at the hall."

While dragging Tusher down the stairs, the two activists continued to beat him with iron rods, causing serious injuries to his shoulders and left hand.

They left him outside the hall gate, warning him not to return to the hall and file report on JCD attacks on general students in different halls.

Later, DU correspondents of national dailies rescued Tusher from the hall gate and took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He was shifted to the General Hospital yesterday morning.

The DU Journalists Association brought out a silent procession on the campus yesterday, protesting the attack on Tusher and demanded stern action against those involved. They also gave a memorandum to the JCD leadership in this regard.

General Secretary of the JCD Azizul Bari Heli later visited Tusher and said disciplinary action would be taken against those who assaulted him.



A US armoured personnel carrier burns behind a US soldier yesterday under al-Qadissayah bridge leading to Baghdad International Airport.

2 marines killed

FROM PAGE 1 troops, including a grenade attack last Saturday which killed three soldiers guarding a children's hospital.

More than 50 American soldiers have been killed in Iraq since President George W Bush declared an end to major hostilities three months ago, following the collapse of President Saddam Hussein's regime.

US forces say the resistance is being conducted by disaffected members of the former regime. But some correspondents suggest that the Americans' aggressive tactics are making the occupation forces increasingly unpopular.

The US-led Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) is offering rewards of up to \$10,000 for information leading to either the arrest of those responsible for attacks on coalition forces or the prevention of such assaults.

Information about attacks on Iraqi officials working for the authority, acts of sabotage and weapons caches will also be rewarded.

'NOT UNREALISTIC' If elections are held in Iraq next year, those who voted into office would replace the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council.

The 25-member Council (IGC) has opted for a nine-member rotating presidency made up of representatives of the country's different ethnic groups.

Bremer, speaking at a ceremony to reopen Iraq's foreign ministry in Baghdad, said the US-led force occupying Iraq would leave as soon as a new, democratic government was established.

The foreign ministry was looted and gutted by fire after US-led forces entered the capital.

Bremer, who heads the CPA, told officials at the opening ceremony to expect an Iraqi government to be in place next year.

"Your ministry is back at work... and gradually it will move to diplo-

macy," he said.

"I know your work will expand as the steps we are putting in place to establish an Iraqi government progress.

"It is not unrealistic to think we could possibly have general elections by mid-2004 and that is when our work here will be done."

He said that would mark his final retirement as a diplomat.

The BBC's Matthew Price, in Baghdad, says many in the city believe that Bremer's aspiration is very optimistic.

Before elections can be held, the Iraqi Governing Council has to draft a constitution - a process that our correspondent says could be a lengthy process.

Meanwhile, the US has inaugurated a regional council for one of the provinces where it has been facing most resistance - Anbar, west of Baghdad.

The 44-member council's first meeting was chaired by the commander of the 3rd Armoured Cavalry Regiment, Colonel David Teeples, at the US military base at Ramadi.

It is designed to involve locals in decision-making, although the US military will have the final say in how the province is run.

There have been numerous attacks on American troops in the region, which also includes the flashpoint town of Falluja. Reports say the Americans are offering \$500 to any Iraqi handing over shoulder-launched anti-aircraft missiles in the province.

US forces say they have found three such missiles that fell to the ground after being fired at American aircraft flying over Anbar.

Other regional councils have been set up elsewhere in the country.

Bosnian Serb

FROM PAGE 12 10-year history that a life sentence was being passed.

Milomir Stakic, a 41-year-old doctor, was found guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity for establishing a network of brutal prison camps where hundreds of Muslims were killed and thousands tortured, raped or treated with extreme brutality in 1992.

"Dr Milomir Stakic is hereby sentenced to life imprisonment," said Judge Wolfgang Schomburg, reading the verdict as Stakic stood, looking stunned. The court said he would be eligible for parole in 20 years.

Although it has never been imposed before, Schomburg said the maximum penalty was "not restricted to the most serious crime" of genocide.

It was the third time the court has handed down an acquittal of genocide charges, the most serious crime to come before the court and the hardest to prove. The court has convicted only one person, Bosnian general Radislav Krstic, of genocide.

The balding, bearded Stakic had faced two counts of genocide and six counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes for the murder, rape and torture administered in the camps set up in the Prijedor region of northwestern Bosnia during the summer of 1992.

The outcome was being watched closely for its possible influence on the war crimes trial of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic (news - web sites), who also faces two counts of genocide among the 66 charges against him.

Without referring to the Milosevic case, however, the judge said the genocide ruling applied only to Stakic and should not mean another trial cannot reach another conclusion when presented with other evidence.

To prove genocide, the prosecution must prove a prior intent to destroy an ethnic group wholly or in part.

The Milosevic trial has been

Kamal killing

FROM PAGE 1 Nitya Sarkar are absconding.

Kamal, 30, senior vice-president of Kotwali thana unit of the city AL, was gunned down on August 15, 2000, as he protested the hoisting of Pakistan's national flag at the residence of Jahangir Mohammad Adel on August 14, Pakistan's National Day.

The victim's brother, Mohammad Nazir Hossain, filed a murder case with the Kotwali Police Station, accusing Jahangir and the four others. The investigation officer of the case pressed charges against them on March 2, 2001.

The court framed charges against the accused on June 21, 2001 and the trial began on August 5 the same year.

Beetle

FROM PAGE 12 The last Volkswagen-licensed Beetle rolled off an assembly line in Mexico on Wednesday.

Raju told AFP that the members of the club had decided to stage a rally in Dhaka on Friday with the slogan "Beetle strives on in Bangladesh."

Organisers said at least 60 Beetles, mostly from the 1960s, would drive through Dhaka's main streets.

The first Beetles were produced in Germany in 1935, but since 1996, Mexico was the only country still producing the bug-shaped car which is known affectionately by its "Beetle" nickname.

In Bangladesh, the Beetle is more popularly known as the "Bang Gari" or Frog Car and "Kautchap" or Turtle.

Raju said there were about 200 Beetles in Bangladesh, of which more than 100 were in excellent condition.

"The objective of the club is to build confidence among owners and drivers as well as encouraging them to preserve these classic cars which gives a positive image of Bangladesh both at home and abroad, despite poverty and intermittent... natural disasters," an organiser said.

Ctg magnate

FROM PAGE 1 parishad (UP) Chairman Abul Kashem and Aeochia UP Chairman Ahmedul Haq, said police sources.

However, despite intense rescue efforts at the remote areas of Fatickhari, no further arrests could be made.

Meanwhile, four previously nabbed relatives and associates of the suspected abductors were shown arrested.

Gittu Nasir's elder brother Abul Hossain and BDR Salim's elder brother Habib Ullah were placed on a five-day remand on Wednesday.

Two alleged accomplices of Gittu Nasir, Osman and Azim Ullah, were produced before the court yesterday with a remand prayer.

Tax staff continue

FROM PAGE 1 clearing imported goods and preparing import documents were not hampered, sources said.

Bangladesh Customs Association (BCS) held another meeting yesterday at the conference room of the NBR and discussed the latest development.

The association leaders declared that a fresh programme would be announced tomorrow seeking an end to the 'arrest and harassment' of tax officials.

The association formed a five-member committee, headed by Manzur Mannan, member, NBR, to discuss the issue with the higher authorities.

The association leaders yesterday met with Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr Kamal Siddiqui and apprised him of the 'harassment' of customs officers.

Malaysia

FROM PAGE 1 office after a meeting of the ministry.

Some 50,000 Bangladeshi workers recruited on ad-hoc basis are currently in the country. The MOU would also specify that the workers must be fluent in Malay and English and the country of origin must attest to this efficiency.

JCD attacks

FROM PAGE 1 chapter of the main opposition party Awami League, to call an indefinite strike on the campus from tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the government decided that four-year honours degree would be considered equivalent to previous three-year honours and one-year master's degrees, according to an education ministry press release, faxed to The Daily Star last night.

The government asked the establishment ministry and the Public Service Commission to take necessary steps to that end. Earlier in the day, the DU syndicate after an emergency meeting sent recommendations to the government on the degree but decided to mention the four-year honours course as "four-year integrated course" in certificates.

On Wednesday night, students of Fazlul Haque and Shahidullah halls brought out a rally, demanding recognition of four-year honours course as professional degree.

The JCD activists hurled bricks at the demonstrators injuring a mathematics student, as the rally reached Jagannath Hall.

They launched fresh attacks on BCL activists at Jagannath Hall, Shahidullah Hall and Fazlul Haque Hall and drove around 20 of them out of the dormitories. At least 10 BCL activists were wounded in the rampage after midnight.

To protest the incident, the BCL staged a rally on the campus yesterday morning and more than 100 JCD leaders and activists swooped on the demonstrators as they were bracing for a procession.

JCD leaders Farhad Hossain Azad and Abdul Kadir Jewel led the attackers who snatched batons from on-duty policemen to attack their rivals. By the time police tried to teargas the marauders, at least 40 BCL leaders and activists, including its President Liakat Ali Sikdar, were injured.

Vice-presidents Balaram Poddar and Aminul Islam Amin, Organising Secretary Khalilur Rahman, Publication Secretary AHM Masud Dulal, Social Welfare Secretary Momin Patowari, Sports Secretary

Alternative

FROM PAGE 12 duced to track cases for speedy trial, he said.

There are about one million pending cases at different courts of the country with more cases coming on and the current structure is not suitable for speedy disposal of the cases, said Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud, president of Supreme Court Bar Association.

Barrister Mahmud said the country is a sort of resources and there are a few judges and the only way out is the ADR.

Mahfuz Anam, Editor of The Daily Star, special guest for the programme, said a law infrastructure is as important as the citizens' right to live.

Without a proper legal system, democratic process of a country is at jeopardy, he said adding that Bangladesh should formulate laws to cater the need of the time.

He underscored the role of the media to create awareness among people about the ADR.

Dr M Zahir said the ADR is a proven prompt judgement system in other countries. He underscored the need for efficient court administration and proper management for prompt disposal of cases.

Among others Aminur Rashid Khan Mamun, president of BCLA, and Zakir Hossain also spoke at the programme.

Judges and lawyers of the Supreme Court and law professionals attended the seminar.

Record OSD

FROM PAGE 1 was created to meet administrative requirements," he said. "The provision for appointing an officer as the OSD was there in the past and will exist in future also. The system is followed all over the world."

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, he said the officials were made the OSD for various valid reasons.

"This is a very temporary arrangement. The officers who have been serving as the OSD for a long time are either facing charges of corruption or are highly inefficient," he claimed.

He said it has been witnessed in recent years that a section of civil servants have become highly politicised and they serve the party of their choice, when it is in power, like its activists.

"These partisan officers remain the OSD for a long time. When another party comes to power and it does want them to have any role because of their past record," he said.

Some senior officials of the Ministry of Establishment however said the number of the OSDs is currently very high because 500 officials have been promoted to the rank of deputy secretary against 150 vacant posts.

It would take some more time to solve the problem because there is lack of the required number of vacancies.

Sources said there are instances that some officials were given posting three or more times, but no

Shajahan Shisir, DU unit President Delwar Hossain and General Secretary Hemayet Uddin Himu, central committee members Rozina Parvin and Mizanur Rahman, Bablu, Mithu, Jewel, Tuhin, Iqbal, Razib, Salma, Aparna Pal and Tarek were also among the injured. The injured were admitted to different hospitals and clinics.

The JCD activists again attacked a rally of the Bangladesh Chhatra Union, taken out in protest at the attack, and beat up its leader Sohel Parvez. They intercepted another protest procession by the Progotishli Chhatra Jote.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and its General Secretary Abdul Jalil, leader Asaduzzaman Noor MP and some other top leaders visited the injured at City General Hospital.

Hasina also visited the injured at Dhaka General Hospital and told reporters that the coalition government persistently violated human rights after coming to power.

Unaware of the government decision on recognising the four-year honours course as professional degree, the BCL leaders at an afternoon press conference vowed to push ahead with the strike for their four-point demand, including arrest and expulsion of JCD attackers and compensation to the injured.

They also announced that they would take out a procession and hold a rally in the capital today, enforce strikes at all educational institutions on Sunday and bring out processions countrywide on Monday.

The Bangladesh Chhatra Federation and Bangladesh Chhatra Maitri protested the attacks led by the JCD.

3 alleged child lifters beaten to death in Mymensingh

UNB, Mymensingh

Three alleged child lifters were killed in mob beating at East Narail village in Halaughat upazila yesterday.

They victims were identified as Billal, 27, Hanif, 45 and Ramzan, 35. All of them were accused in a number of cases, police said.

Police and villagers said the three kidnapped a 12-year old boy, Apon, of Tejkinipara in Dhaka, from a house he took refuge at a village in the upazila on Wednesday.

They confined the boy in Billal's house at the village from where he managed to escape yesterday morning and reached East Narail.

As the kidnappers continued to follow Apon, local people rescued him, caught three of the abductors and lynched them to death.

Apon, son of Afazuddin, left his house in Dhaka on Tuesday following a quarrel with his mother and took refuge at a house here after having failed to reach his maternal uncle's house at Gabrakhalhi in the same upazila.

JS body

FROM PAGE 12 health ministries in its next meeting scheduled for August 30.

Harun Al Rashid presided over the meeting which was attended by members Prof Shajahan Mia, Khurram Khan Chowdhury, Dr Ziaul Hoq Mollah, Mosharraf Hossain, Moazzem Hossain Alal, Sultan Mahmud Babu and officials concerned.

ministries or departments concerned did not accept them because of their previous service record and as a result, they remain the OSD for a long time.

Establishment ministry sources said there are also officials who are not physically and mentally fit for holding important positions because of illness.

"There are many in the administration who are continuing their jobs purely on humanitarian ground," he said. "The World Bank has been pressing the government to downsize the administration. It is possible to retrench a good number of officials on valid grounds, but the government is still keeping them in service as the OSD for humanitarian reasons."

Border patrol

FROM PAGE 1 the BDR have agreed on joint patrolling and India has sent a proposal to Bangladesh for working out the modalities.

Advani told the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Indian parliament, yesterday that the federal government was in touch with administrations of the border states and a necessary number of BSF men would be deployed.

Delhi officials said joint patrol will not entail simultaneous exercise along either side of the border but on certain scheduled days mutually agreed upon.