

Scores held during hunt for Saddam

Iraqi farmer shot dead in Fallujah

AFP, Baghdad

An Iraqi farmer was killed and scores of others detained as US troops searched Iraq for deposed president Saddam Hussein, whose capture or elimination Washington sees as key to ending guerrilla warfare against US troops.

A 75-year-old farmer was shot dead and his son wounded Sunday after being turned back at a coalition checkpoint west of Fallujah, 50 km west of Baghdad, the farmer's family told AFP.

As they prepared to turn around, they came under fire from the checkpoint. The father died on the spot while his son was hit in the jaw and left hand.

The US army had no immediate comment on the incident. A car was in flames Sunday

morning on the main highway to the Baghdad airport, a road where US troops regularly come under attack, but this time an Iraqi was hit, rather than an American.

The vehicle was hit by "a small explosive device or a rocket-propelled grenade" at 8:30 am local time, said Sergeant Brent William, a public affairs officer.

US soldiers were hit in an ambush outside of Baquba, 60 km north of Baghdad Sunday afternoon.

Two soldiers were wounded when a rocket-propelled grenade smashed into a Humvee all-terrain vehicle, witnesses said, adding that US troops had cordoned off the motorway.

The US military had no immediate confirmation.

Despite the violence, US soldiers arrested 202 individuals, including two middle-ranking officials of the ousted Baath party, in the last 24 hours, a military spokesman said in Baghdad.

Street protests for arrest of Rumi's hacklers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Students and teachers of Nazirhat College took to the streets yesterday demanding immediate arrest of brothers Mohammad Azam and Mohammad Nazim who harried Umme Habiba Rumi to death.

Rumi, a second year student of the college, committed suicide by hanging herself Friday following persistent stalking by the two.

Chanting slogans, they marched up to the office of the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) and handed over a memorandum, demanding exemplary punishment of the culprits. They gave the authorities a 48-hour ultimatum to nab the brothers.

Earlier, the angry students and teachers held a rally at the college premises and formed a human chain. Local people also joined in their hundreds to express solidarity.

Meanwhile, students of the Roshangiri High School, where Rumi studied, staged a demonstration in front of the house of Azam and Nazim at noon.

Fatikhchhari police made no progress as yet in arresting the brothers. "We have carried out raids in vain at different places since Rumi committed suicide," said Officer-in-Charge (OC) Ruhul Amin. Additional Deputy Inspector General of Police Naim Ahmed however said, "The culprits involved in this tragic death would not be spared."



PHOTO: STAR

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) forms a human chain in front of the High Court yesterday demanding separation of the judiciary and end to political intervention in the appointment of judges.

Gram Sarkar not a new concept: Bhuiyan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has said the Gram Sarkar is not a new concept, rather all the past governments accepted it in principle and enacted laws to ensure participation of rural people in the development process.

He was talking to reporters at his Secretariat office yesterday.

He said the concept of the Gram Sarkar was initiated first in 1980 by late President Ziaur Rahman through the 'Swanirbhar Gram Sarkar'. "The Jatiya Party passed the 'Palli Parishad Act, 1989' and the past Awami League government enacted a law styled 'Gram Parishad Act, 1997'. Finally, the present government is implementing the Gram Sarkar Act, 2003," he said.

"So as a concept it was accepted by the BNP, the Awami League and the Jatiya Party. However, the formation and structure of the present Gram Sarkar is a little different. It is more democratic, more participatory and is being formed on the basis of consensus," Bhuiyan claimed.

The minister said the 'Swanirbhar Gram Sarkar' of late Zia was a 14-member body and each village was a unit of the Gram Sarkar, but it was not an administrative body.

The Palli Parishad Act, 1989 was quite similar to Swanirbhar Gram Sarkar, but it proposed to set up a nine-member body.

"The current Gram Sarkar Act, 2003 has similarity with the Gram Parishad Act, 1997 passed by the previous AI government, excepting its legal status. The current Gram Sarkar is not an administrative body, it is an auxiliary body of the Union Parishad. An elected UP member heads the Gram Sarkar while an elected woman representative will act as advisor. The villagers will select the 13 other members through consensus," Bhuiyan said.

He said the court objected to the Gram Parishad Act, 1997 because it was declared an administrative unit. As per the constitutional provision, he said, any unit of the local body must

DU strike

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plus first and meet the authorities to reach a decision on our demands and withdrawal of the strike," said a central BCL leader.

On the other hand, leaders of the JCD, the student front of ruling BNP, vowed to resist BCL activists until they withdrew the strike. "The BCL men have to end the strike before they enter the campus," a JCD leader said.

DU Vice-chancellor Professor SMA Faiz, mediating between the conflicting groups, said, "I believe an immediate dialogue with the BCL and JCD would end the deadlock."

About the BCL demand for rehabilitation of its ousted men, Professor Faiz said protests prepared to get their students back to their halls.

The JCD activists chased a group of BCL men as they continued barring their rivals from entering the campus on the third day of the strike yesterday that put a brake on academic activities of the DU.

The left-leaning Bangladesh Chhatra Union submitted a memorandum to the DU vice-chancellor, demanding an end to the stalemate.

The Progressive Student Alliance (PSA) will submit another memorandum to the vice-chancellor today and organise a sit-in in front of his office on August 9. At a press conference at Madhu's Canteen, the PSA leaders also demanded that the government restores a congenial atmosphere to the campus.

PSA leaders Luna Noor, Sabbah Ali Khan Collins, Rahman Mizan, Abu Sufian, Mosharraf Hossain, Moniruddin Pappu and Sheikh Faruk were present at the press conference.

The DU authorities yesterday requested all concerned to submit statements on Thursday's untoward incident to Mohammad Siddiqur Rahman, member secretary of the DU fact-finding committee, by August 10.

be elected if it is an administrative unit. So the Gram Sarkar Act, 2003 has not violated the constitution because it is clearly written in the act that the "Gram Sarkar would not be an administrative unit", he added.

Referring to Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina's remarks, he said her government is not at all correct because her government also accepted the basic spirit of the Gram Sarkar and enacted a law to set up Gram Parishad.

He further said the Gram Sarkar is not undemocratic and unconstitutional and there is no scope at all to politicise the body.

Bhuiyan, who is also the secretary general of the BNP, said those opposing the Gram Sarkar had no valid ground for doing so.

Three die in septic tank at Benapole

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two persons and a boy lost their lives when they fell in a septic tank at Benapole in Sharsha upazila in Jessore district on Sunday night.

According to Benapole police, Kishore, 10, slipped into a septic tank when he tried to retrieve a torch light from it. His father Khokon, 38, fell into the tank while trying to save his son.

Neighbour Abdul Daffari and Dulal who came forward to rescue Kishore and Khokon also met the same fate.

Shagor, Khokon and Dulal died in the septic tank and Abdul Daffari was admitted to Sharsha Upazilla Health Complex in critical condition.

Fish trader shot dead by outlaws in Rupsha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Fish trader Azhar Fakir, 50, was shot dead by the cadres of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP, Janajuddha Group) at his residence at Naihati village under Rupsha Police Station.

According to police and the victim's neighbours, a group of PBCP men stormed onto the first floor of Azhar's residence and shot him in the chest and back. He died on the spot.

The slain shrimp trader reportedly played a key role in helping police identify the outlaws of Naihati Union.

Family sources said Azhar had had death threat last Friday.

The body was sent to KMCH morgue for autopsy.

Uttara scheme

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landowners while acquiring their land.

The officials who stand accused are Md. Hasan Bhuiyan, former land acquisition (LA) officer, Dhaka deputy commissioner's office and now senior assistant secretary of energy ministry; Shah Mustafizur Rahman, additional land acquisition (LA) officer of Sunamganj; Abdul Baten, surveyor, Dhaka DC's office; Ali Hossain, kanungo, Shibchar, Madaripur; Abdur Razzak, surveyor, Dhaka DC's office; Mizanur Rahman, kanungo, DC's office, Manikganj; Bazlur Rahman, surveyor, LA section, Dhaka DC's office; Habibullah Sarkar, surveyor, LA section, Dhaka DC's office; Saidur Rahman, surveyor, LA section, Dhaka DC's office, and Delowar Hossain, surveyor, LA section, Dhaka DC office.

Joint drive Body to probe Khalishpur incident formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A one-man body with Lieutenant Colonel Monir of the Bangladesh Army has been formed to probe Saturday's alleged excesses at Khalishpur Charabati in the name of anti-outlaw joint operation.

Sources said Major Zulfiqur of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) has replaced Major Nizam to head the joint forces in the city.

The probe body has been asked to submit its report as early as possible. Two officials of BDR and police were quizzed at the Khalishpur Police Station for their alleged involvement in ransacking the 'Shaikh Bari' in the name of joint operation.

A strong team of army intelligence has arrived here from Jessore to take stock of the situation and find out the motive behind the incident.

They held a closed-door meeting at the Platinum Jubilee Jute Mills resthouse with senior officials of BDR, KMP and DGFJ at midnight on Sunday to discuss the situation.

A large number of people of Charabati testified before the probe body on Sunday night. Their statements have been recorded.

3 shops at JU looted

JU CORRESPONDENT

Robbers looted cash and valuables worth Tk 38,000 from three shops, located at Dairy Farm gate of Jahangirnagar University yesterday night.

Five armed men aged about 30-35 years, came in a yellow taxi cab at around 2:00am and looted the stores after confining Faruq Hossain, a university security guard, inside the taxi cab at gunpoint.

The burglars first broke into a grocery shop - Zoynal store, owned by Zoynal Abedin and looted Tk 30,000 in cash and commodities worth Tk 1,000.

They then burgled Tk 4,000 in cash and goods worth Tk 2,000 from Jhama store, adjacent to Zoynal store.

The gang also broke into a fast food shop, Oasis, and looted Tk 1,000 in cash.

The robbers on their way back threw Faruq out of their taxi when they reached Afzal Filling Station near Savar thana bus stand.

Arman, the owner of Oasis said, "The looters knew the places where we usually keep our money. I think they were following us for a long time and looted the shop when none of us were in the shop".

No written complaints were given to the university and no case was filed with Savar Police Station in this connection.

Cops seize 21 fake notes at Mouchak market, Joydevpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police seized 21 fake notes of Tk 500 and 10 notes of Tk 100 denomination from the city's Mouchak Market and Joydevpur in Gazipur Sunday.

Raiding the overbridge in front of Mouchak Market Sunday afternoon, Rapid Action Team of police arrested Abbas Uddin alias Monir and Zakir Hossain with two Tk 500 and 10 Tk 100 counterfeit notes.

A case was filed against them with the Ramna Police Station. In the other incident, while investigating a case, members of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) found 19 fake notes of Tk 500 denomination in a house at South Chattar in Joydevpur Sunday night.

The CID team arrested Nurul Islam and Monir Hossain in this connection.

A case was filed against them with the Joydevpur Police Station for possession of counterfeit notes.

Shell to wrap

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"It's a large company and thrives on large-scale investment. We projected 5 to 6 per cent of GDP growth in Bangladesh. But nothing helped us grow in Bangladesh," the Shell official told The Daily Star requesting anonymity.

Shell saw Bangladesh as an emerging energy market in 1999, but a series of negative events hindered the market from growing as expected, said the official.

"We will focus on other emerging markets where the economic growth can sustain Shell," the official said.

Shell believes the present market is good enough for Cairn, a small British oil firm.

Reuters quoted Cairn Chief Executive Bill Gammell as saying, "This deal further enhances Cairn's ability to take advantage of the rising demand in the Bangladesh domestic gas market."

The two oil companies sought a government permission to transfer Shell's operation permits to Cairn. Shell will continue its operation in Bangladesh until the permission is granted.

Cairn initiated a new era of foreign private investment in oil and gas sectors by signing production sharing

contracts (PSCs) on blocks 15 and 16 in May 1994 and early 1995.

Originally, Cairn struck the Sangu gas field in block 16 in early 1996 and brought in two financially strong partners - Brown and Roots of USA and Shell Oil of UK-Netherlands - to develop the field.

The offshore Sangu gas field has an estimated one trillion cubic feet of gas. Developed at a cost of over \$200 million, Shell-Cairn sell over 160 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) Sangu gas to Petrobangla. However, Shell had been complaining that Petrobangla was unable to pay its monthly bills in time. There are constant arrears of around \$100 million equivalent to over five months of gas bills.

While Sangu field remained a good concern for Shell-Cairn, the oil companies failed to expand their resource base in blocks 15 and 16. Several exploratory well drilling ended without any positive result, adding to their frustration.

After it signed PSCs for blocks 5 and 10 in the second round block bidding, Shell preferred to go slow as Bangladesh's gas sector growth started underperforming for various reasons.

Pabna college scam

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ation ministry are being implemented, said the sources.

"The appointments were not done according to the rules and so the Tk 25,81,150 which the 'illegally' employed teachers and employees received has to be returned to the exchequer," the probe team said.

Following a complaint lodged by a dismissed teacher of the college, an IAD team of three - Auditor Abdul Mannan, Education Inspector Sirajul Islam and Assistant Education Inspector Monath Ranjan Baroi - detected gross irregularities in the management of the college in May last.

Established in July 1984 as Pabna Night College, the college changed its name to Pabna College (Day and Night) in February 1988 and since then there has been no night shift in the college, the probe found.

The probe termed 'illegal' the drawing of salaries by Assistant Professor of Economics Abdus Salam in the pay scale of Tk 9,500, which only a vice-principal is entitled to. Salam was given the additional duty of vice-principal, despite the college having another vice principal.

Meanwhile, the National University in a letter in April 1995 remarked that the college did not require a second vice-principal.

The probe also found that the deputy commissioner of Pabna and chairman of the college governing body was aware of the irregularities as some 30 teachers and employees of the college complained to him about the irregularities in July 2001.

When contacted, AKM Jahangir, DC of Pabna, said he did not know much about the allegations as he was posted in the district only a few months ago.

When approached, Mahtab Uddin Biswas, principal of the college, denied the allegations. He said he had sent a reply to the education ministry on July 12 last following its letter seeking an expla-

nation of the alleged anomalies. The IAD probe team also questioned the role of the Rajshahi Education Board in the matter and recommended actions against the officials concerned.

The education board continued to renew its approval of the night shift until July 2003, though the night shift has been non-existent since the late eighties. The college enjoyed extra facilities illegally, the investigators found.

Talking to the Daily Star, Professor Nazrul Islam, chairman of the Rajshahi Education Board, said he was not aware of the allegation but would look into it.

AKTEL lowers call charges Wednesday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

AKTEL mobile phone call charges are going to be reduced from Wednesday.

Telecom Malaysia International Bangladesh (TMIB), the service provider of AKTEL mobile phone, obtained permission from Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission to curtail its current charges by 30 to 50 per cent, a TMIB official told The Daily Star requesting anonymity. The new charges will be announced on Wednesday, he added.

Per minute call charge for Mobile Plus will be reduced to Tk 4 from Tk 6. Some certain numbers will have a reduction of 50 per cent. In a special late night rate, the tariff for 30 second pulse will be Tk 2 from 11:00pm to 6:00am.

But there will be no reduction for the prepaid service.

AKTEL is the third operator announcing tariff reduction after GrameenPhone and CityCell Digital.

Hyundai chairman

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bering drunkard.

Chung was on trial on charges stemming from allegations that his company, Hyundai-Asan, helped former President Kim Dae-jung's government secretly pay North Korea \$100 million to get Pyongyang to agree to a historic 2000 summit between the Koreas.

Both Hyundai and President Roh Moo-hyun bemoaned Chung's death, and said they will continue to push for joint business ventures in communist North Korea. But the sudden death of the Hyundai scion, who had been a one-man drive for the conglomerate's money-losing ventures in North Korea, cast doubt on whether Hyundai would manage huge investments that would tax heavily on its already indebted subsidiaries.

Chung left hurriedly scribbled notes for his family and Kim Yoon-kyu, his deputy, appealing for forgiveness and asking that his ashes be scattered over Diamond Mountain, a scenic resort in North Korea where his company runs a money-losing tourism project. He also asked them to "forgive my foolish act." Only parts of the notes were released to the media, so it was not clear whether Chung explained his circumstances further.

Described as shy yet extremely ambitious by aides, Chung was once the "crown hero" of the vast Hyundai conglomerate his late father, Chung Yu-jung, had built from scratch into South Korea's largest business empire, engaged in everything from cars and ships to department stores and computer chips.

The fifth of the senior Chung's eight sons, Mong-hun, rose to the conglomerate's chairmanship in a highly unusual move in South Korea's deeply Confucian corporate society where the eldest son takes over the family's business.

In a family feud in 2000, however,

his elder brother, Mong-hun, revolted and broke away from the group, taking Hyundai Motor, South Korea's No. 1 carmaker, with him.

Hyundai Heavy Industries, the world's largest shipbuilder, also broke away in government-driven corporate reforms aimed at chipping up South Korea's sprawling family-controlled conglomerates into nimble, and more profitable units following the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis.

Mong-hun, left with heavily indebted or only marginally profitable subsidiaries, invested his hopes in North Korean projects his father had initiated before his death in 2001. Born to a peasant family in North Korea, the senior Chung had a passion for investing in the North.

Chung Mong-hun frequently visited North Korea, meeting top North Korean leaders. He played a key role in arranging a historic summit between the two Koreas in 2000.

The meeting was a breakthrough in efforts to reconcile the North and South and helped former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung win the 2000 Nobel Peace Prize. But Chung's seemingly reckless deals in the North soon boomeranged after Kim stepped down in February after a five-year term.

Hyundai's projects stumbled amid rekindled tension over the North's suspected development of nuclear weapons.

An independent counsel appointed by President Roh Moo-hyun to investigate the summit scandal announced in June that Hyundai-Asan sent \$500 million to North Korea secretly and through improper channels, shortly before the 2002 summit, but said only \$400 million was a company investment to secure business rights covering tourism, railways and an industrial park.

2 killed, 40 hurt in Chuadanga bus mishap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

Two persons were killed and 40 others injured in a road accident on the Chuadanga-Kaliganj Highway yesterday.

The dead were identified as Nazrul Islam, 40, of village Amirpur and Sirajul Islam, 38, of village Garabaria of Chuadanga sadar upazila.

According to police and witnesses, the accident occurred at about 9:30 am when a Kaliganj bound passenger bus from Chuadanga overturned at Purapara on the highway, killing the two on the spot and injuring 40 others.

The seriously injured were admitted to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital.

Eight outlaws held with arms in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Eight cadres of an outlawed party were arrested with arms and ammunition at village Nawdagoindapur in Mirpur Upazila of the district in the early hours of yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the house of Sadaruddin of the village at around 3am and nabbed the outlaws.

They (police) also recovered one Shutter gun, two bullets and some other weapons from their possession.

The arrestees are Sadaruddin, Latif, Rumel, Sohel, Nazim, Shamim, Zahurul and Zahir.

Police said the arrestees belonging to the outlawed New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP) were holding a secret meeting at the house.

Mamtaz Uddin

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Anisur Rahman hired a group of seven killers in exchange of Tk 2 lakh for murdering Mamtaz.

The seven accused in the charge sheet are Arif, Shukur Babu, Alam, Shameem, Faruk, Babar Ali Babu and Santu. All the seven are workers of local BNP.

The charge sheet said Anisur Rahman, a Dhaka-based industrialist, developed enmity with Mamtaz Uddin after he failed to get nomination from the Lalpur-Bagatpara constituency during the last parliamentary polls.

The charge sheet was placed before a first class magistrate yesterday after CID Inspector Shahidullah Sheikh submitted it on Sunday night.

Shahidullah Sheikh was heavily criticised for the "conventional" charge sheet of Purnima rape case in Sirajganj just after the October 2001 elections.

Of the accused, Anisur Rahman got ad-interim bail from the High Court, Arif was arrested soon after the murder and Babar Ali Babu and Faruk were arrested during investigation.

Mamtaz Uddin, a freedom fighter, former AL lawmaker and district vice president, was murdered at Darapara in Lalpur upazila on June 6.

Amir-Ul

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basis of their seniority in violation of rules and conventions at the advice of a section of lawyers, Amir said.

They are isolating the prime minister from the people and democracy, he added.

The demands of the implementation council include cancellation of the provision for income tax return by lawyers, implementation of the directives issued by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in Masdar Hossain case and consultation with the chief justice in the appointment and confirmation of judges.

Advocate Altaf Mahmood Israfil, president of the Dhaka Bar, also spoke at the press conference while senior lawyers Barrister Shawkat Ali, Syed Ahmed, Abdul Salam Talukdar and Advocate Yusuf Hossain Humayun were present.

Imam murdered in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

An imam of a mosque and madrasah teacher was murdered at his residence at Bazar Road on Monday night.

Hafez Mawlana Mufti Md Giasuddin, 31, was Pesh Imam of Palashpur Jame Mosque and a teacher of Khwaza Mainuddin Madrasah.

Gias expelled Mahub, a student of class eight and Islami Chhatra Shibir cadre, for violating rules, sources said. The murder might have something to do with the expulsion, sources added.

Shibir cadres in collaboration with the Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal cadres attacked the madrasah. But the students resisted them.

On Monday night, Gias was sleeping in his balcony when the murderer struck him with a sharp weapon. He died on the spot.

Abdul Jabbar, the victim's elder brother, filed a case with the Barisal Kotwali Police Station.

Jamaat-e-Islami City Aamir Moazzem Hossain Helal refuted the allegations.

Police informant shot dead in N'ganj

BSS, N'ganj

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