

Ammo dump blows up, 12 Iraqis killed

US soldier killed in Baghdad blast

AFP, Baghdad

A dozen Iraqis were killed when an ammunition dump they were looting blew up, locals said Monday, while another US soldier was killed in an explosion.

Two other Iraqis were gunned down by US forces after ignoring warning shots in two separate incidents, the military said, while the body of a western news agency cameraman shot by the US military was being flown home.

The 12 were reported killed in the explosion at a storage dump of confiscated ammunition on the outskirts of deposed dictator Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit.

"Twelve people were killed in the explosion. All lived in a district inhabited by former members of the Iraqi army who were unemployed," said Kazem Hassan, 32, a former tank regiment sergeant now living in the village of Hammad Shehab, some 175 km north of Baghdad.

The fatalities were mostly young jobless men who hailed from four

families living in a neighborhood of the village inhabited by up to 300 families of former servicemen, he said.

The US military confirmed the incident but could only confirm that one body had been found in the aftermath.

US troops Sunday shot dead two Iraqis in separate incidents in the northern region.

One, who the military said was caught looting in southwest Tikrit, was shot after ignoring warning shots. The second died of his wounds after his car was disabled by an explosive device in Baghdad.

"The incident took place in the Karradah district (of the Iraqi capital) at 2:00 pm local time. The soldier was medically evacuated to the 28th Combat Support Hospital where he was pronounced dead at 3:15 pm," it

said.

Reuters news agency confirmed the body of its cameraman shot by US troops in Baghdad Sunday had been flown out of the country to be buried in the West Bank.

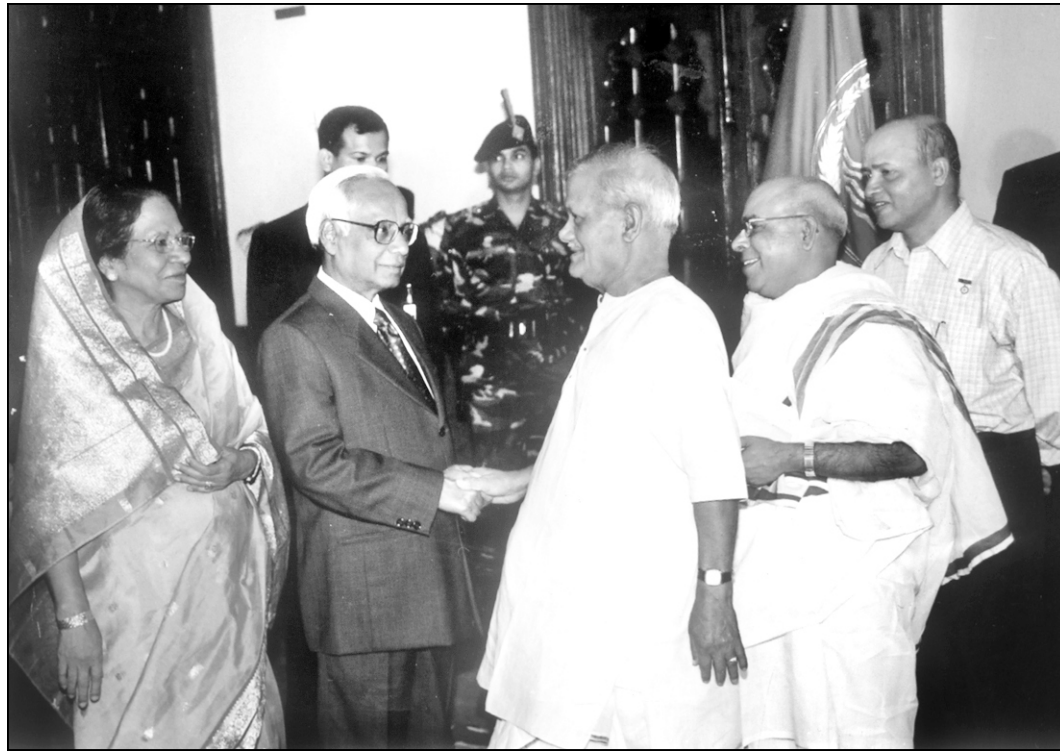
Mazen Dana was shot while filming outside the notorious Abu Gharib prison on the outskirts of the Iraqi capital just a day before he was to go home.

A witness said the award-winning Dana, 43, was shot in the chest on Sunday afternoon by military personnel aboard a US tank, part of a convoy of American military vehicles approaching the prison.

Reuters said Dana was not supposed to have been on the story but had offered to go to aid a newly arrived colleague.

His body was flown to Kuwait on Monday and was expected to be transferred to the Jordanian capital of Amman to be collected by his family.

From there his body would be taken to Hebron, in the West Bank, where his family lives.



President Iajuddin Ahmed and his wife greet leaders of the Hindu community at a reception at the Bangabhaban on the birthday of Lord Krishna yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Car bomb kills 15

FROM PAGE 1
The world body vowed not to retreat from Baghdad, however.

Last week, the Security Council set aside bitter differences over the US invasion to topple Saddam Hussein and set up a new mission to coordinate its mainly humanitarian effort in Iraq.

Clouds of black smoke drifted above, ruffling the sky blue U.N. flag in the late afternoon air.

There was no claim of responsibility, just as there was none two weeks ago when a truck bomb shattered the Jordanian embassy in Baghdad, killing 17 people.

The US occupation forces say Muslim militants or diehard supporters of Saddam Hussein might have set that bomb -- on a "soft target" to destabilise American rule in Iraq.

One UN ambassador called Tuesday's attack an "abominable act of terrorism" that demanded a show of strength in response.

"The explosion was caused by a massive truck bomb," Bernard Kerik, the senior US police officer in Baghdad, said. "We have evidence to suggest it could have been a suicide attack."

Like the Jordanian embassy, the UN compound at the Canal Hotel would have made a relatively soft target compared to the heavily fortified and defended US military posts around Iraq.

CHIEF TRAPPED, MANY MISSING

The complex houses numerous UN agencies, employing about 300 staff. It was the base for weapons inspectors during the long hunt for Saddam's alleged weapons of mass destruction.

"Suddenly there was an explosion and everything fell down," said Fouad Victor, a UN employee who was inside when the blast struck at about 4:30 p.m. (1:30 p.m. British time).

Television pictures from inside the building showed a man addressing a news conference when it went dark at the sound of a huge explosion. Later, television showed a murky scene of dust and frightened people with bloodied faces seeking to flee.

Bleeding workers were led away by US soldiers -- the UN itself has no military presence in Baghdad. One British man, covered in blood, walked out of the compound with a briefcase, head swathed in bandages.

Some of the wounded were ferried away on US helicopters.

UN officials at the scene said that rescue workers were struggling to free Vieira de Mello, a 55-year-old Brazilian career diplomat, from the ruins.

"The explosion took out his office," a UN spokesman said.

The United Nations is playing a limited role in postwar Iraq, with the US-led invasion forces assuming military and civilian control of the country. The UN's main objectives have been the provision of humanitarian aid.

After splits with allies like France, Russia and Germany over the war, Washington has shown little haste in seeking a bigger part for the United Nations in Iraq, although it would like more countries to share the burden of running the country.

US President George W. Bush, who has come under fire for failing to stem violence since the invasion of Iraq, had no immediate comment. He cut short a golf outing on Tuesday and headed back to his ranch to be briefed.

Jalil refutes Bhuiyan

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil has strongly condemned the speech of BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan accusing the AL of wanting to kill former president Shahabuddin Ahmed.

In a statement yesterday, he termed Bhuiyan's speech "politically motivated, false and baseless."

At an election rally at Kendua in Netrakona on Monday, Mannan Bhuiyan reportedly said that the Awami League tried to kill Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed after its defeat in the October 1 general elections.

Jalil said Mannan Bhuiyan was trying to "confuse the people through false propaganda against Awami League."

RMG

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Moniruzzaman told The Daily Star yesterday.

The export volume to Canada increased three times in the first year after Bangladeshi goods were given duty-free access to its market last year, he pointed out.

The EU is the biggest export destination of the Bangladesh RMG, which consumes over 40 per cent of the total export followed by the US. The major export items to Europe include oven and knit garment, leather goods, tobacco, tea, and PVC bag.

The BGMEA president however stressed on establishing quick marketing network and single country fare to reap maximum benefit from the market of the 10 countries.

The 10 countries meanwhile have started scrapping of bilateral trade agreements with Bangladesh as part of their unification process with the EU, sources at the commerce ministry said.

The bilateral trade agreement of 1972 with Poland was annulled on July 22 and with Hungary on August 13 this year.

The other countries may ask Bangladesh to scrap agreements shortly, sources added.

EU members cannot have any individual trade sovereignty as the EU runs all the international trade matters on behalf of its members.

A 'Cooperation Agreement between the European countries and Bangladesh on partnership and Development' was signed on May 22, 2000.

One killed, 30 hurt in Gopalganj bus mishap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

One was killed and 30 others were injured, eight of them seriously, in a bus accident at Barerhat Bazar on the Dhaka-Khulna Highway yesterday.

Police said the accident occurred at noon when a Gopalganj bound passenger bus from Takerhat fell into a roadside ditch, killing a passenger on the spot and injuring 30 others.

The dead is Lokman Mollah, 75, of village Lalpur under Gopalganj. The injured were admitted to clinics in the town.

A case was filed with Gopalganj Police Station. Police seized the bus, but its driver and helper managed to flee.

No-confidence

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The then president of the ruling BJP, Bangaru Laxman, and four senior defence officials were forced to resign over the scandal.

Mr Fernandes also resigned but subsequently rejoined the government.

Water diversion plan

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and the people of India and all the neighbouring countries will be affected. It will also cause political instability in the region," reads the memorandum endorsed at the third SPF rounded off in Tangail Sunday last.

The South Asia Network on Food, Ecology and Culture (Sanfec), Resistance Network Against Trafficking in Women and Children, Genetic Resources Action Network International and Pesticides Action Network, Asia Pacific (PAN-AP) jointly organised the SPF, third of its kind following the meetings in Colombo in 1998 and in Kathmandu in 2000.

The welcome support for Bangladesh's plea for water justice has come at a time when it is putting in all efforts to budge India from diverting water from major common rivers like the Ganges and the Brahmaputra to its drought-prone states. Bangladesh depends on these two rivers for 85 per cent of its natural water flow during the dry season.

Official sources said before going to international forums to seek justice, Bangladesh wants to try all options of resolving the issue through bilateral discussions.

Bangladesh considers that the long overdue meeting of the Indo-Bangla Joint River Commission (JRC) can be an ideal forum for making India understand how dearly the lower riparian will have to pay -- ecologically, environmentally

and agriculturally -- if it goes ahead with the river inter-linking scheme.

Though the JRC is mandated to meet at least twice a year and sharing of Teesta river water was on the cards, JRC meetings has not taken place for over two years now due to reluctance on India's part.

A member of the JRC told The Daily Star that India's unilateral move to inter-link the transboundary rivers contravened Article 9 of the Indo-Bangla Ganges Water-Sharing Treaty, which provides for giving due share of common rivers' water to the co-riparian.

In line with the Bangladesh government's official position of resolving water issues through talks, the third SPF also recommended that transboundary rivers could be inter-linked for augmenting and harvesting water for greater good of the region but that has to come through collective understanding.

"We endorse the initiative to develop a network on river and water issues of South Asia to deal with this matter collectively by keeping people of South Asia united to defend environment, ecology and livelihood," reads the SPF memorandum.

In 2000, the Indian National Water Development Agency (NWDA) laid out a plan stating that it would take up to 43 years to complete the link projects involving building of hundreds of reservoirs and digging of more than 600 miles of canals.

New web worm

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Once it finds a vulnerable machine, Nachi tries to download the patch Microsoft created to make PCs invulnerable to MSBlaster-type viruses.

Nachi also tries to put the correct language version of the patch to any machine it has reached.

MSBlaster targeted many different versions of Windows, but Nachi only seeks out and fixes vulnerable machines running Windows XP.

The worm will also uninstall itself after 1 January 2004.

The Nachi/Welchi worm was described as an "anti-virus virus" by Mikko Hypponen, director of anti-virus research at security firm F-Secure.

"We've seen similar things before, but not to the extent of actually applying Microsoft's own patches to the system," he said.

"Unfortunately Welchi is not perfect and will create some additional problems."

He said the Welchi/Nachi worm could cause problems because it was untested, installed itself automatically, had the potential to cause compatibility problems and created lots of unwanted net traffic.

17 outlaws

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police allegedly for harbouring outlaws.

When asked, OC of Dumuria admitted that his forces ransacked the house but did not club any woman there.

Siddiqur Rahman's wife Alaya Begum, 30, alleged that her husband is being wanted for political reason as he belongs to Awami League and recently refused to pay toll to an influential BNP leader.

Campbell

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invading Iraq.

After speaking to Kelly, BBC journalist Andrew Gilligan alleged in a British newspaper article that Campbell was responsible for inserting the sensational 45-minute claim in the dossier, a week before its publication on September 24 last year.

But Campbell said intelligence chiefs had been in complete charge of preparing the dossier. He was speaking while the inquiry examined a succession of emails from staff at Blair's office raising issues and making suggestions about the dossier's content.

Campbell has always denied he or anyone in Blair's office "sexed up" the dossier to try and make a more convincing case for war.

Blair ordered an independent judicial inquiry into Kelly's death on July 18, hours after he was found dead with his wrist slit in the countryside near his home west of London.

The furor over the Iraq dossier and the subsequent, mysterious death of Kelly -- a former US arms inspector in Iraq -- has left Blair floundering badly in opinion polls and facing his most serious crisis since coming to power in 1997.

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Acid attack

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and Goni Mia, 30, her uncle, also suffered burn injuries.

Hearing the victims' cry, other family members rushed to the spot and found Momen running away. They chased him in vain.

Farzana was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) while Moi Chan was admitted to a local clinic. Two others were given first aids.

Farzana said Momen failed to marry her cousin Lucky as her family had arranged her marriage eight months back. He was beaten up by Lucky's family members while he tried to foil her pre-wedding ceremony (Gaye Halud).

Momen threatened her 15 days ago with acid charge, she added.

A team of the Arahazar Police Station obtained statement of the victim at the DMCH. Police said they are yet to arrest the culprit.

Indonesia names bomb suspects

REUTERS, Jakarta

Indonesian police identified five men on Tuesday wanted for this month's bomb attack at Jakarta's Marriott Hotel and said militant leader Hambali had provided up to \$45,000 to fund bombings in the country.

Chief of detectives Erwin Mappaseng said the five suspects in the Marriott attack included two Malaysians believed to have been involved in the Bali blasts last year that killed 202 people.

One of them was Azahari Husin, an academic who has become the top bomb-maker for the Jemaah Islamiyah militant network.

Mappaseng said police were still investigating whether some of Hambali's money was used for the August 5 bombing at the Marriott, which killed 12 people and wounded 150.

"There were funds transferred by Hambali in June of as much as \$45,000 for Indonesian bombing operations," he told reporters.

Hambali, who authorities say is the mastermind of the al Qaeda-linked Jemaah Islamiyah blamed for the Bali bombings, was arrested last week in Thailand.

Karachi Test

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impressive, having not won a series on home turf since 1998.

But the three-match Test series, to be followed by five one-dayers, presents Pakistan with the opportunity to make a turnaround in home fortunes.

However, Bangladesh will be drawing inspiration from their recent tour of Australia to end a miserable losing streak. The Tigers have lost 20 of their 21 Tests since joining the elite club in June 2000.

"The team morale has been high since our Australian tour last month. Our main task in the first Test would be to play the full five days," Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud told reporters after the final training session yesterday.

Mahmud was optimistic that the team under inspirational coach Dav Whatmore would fare far better this time around than it had done against Pakistan.

As regards the pitch, Mahmud said the wicket would help the

seamers on the first day because of heavy moisture. He also hinted at fielding first should he win the toss.

His Pakistan counterpart Rashid Latif also indicated that he would be happy to use his pace battery, led by Shoaib Akhtar, first up to exploit the condition.

SQUADS
 BANGLADESH: Khaled Mahmud (captain), Javed Omar, Hannan Sarker, Habibul Bashar, Sanwar Hossain, Rajin Saleh, Alok Kapali, Khaled Mashud, Mohammad Rafique, Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza and Tapas Baisya.

PAKISTAN: Rashid Latif (captain), Taufeeq Umar, Mohammad Hafeez, Yousuf Youhana, Inzamamul Haq, Misbahul Haq, Yasir Hameed, Shoaib Akhtar, Umar Gul, Shabbir Ahmed and Danish Kaneria.

Umpires: Steve Bucknor (West Indies) and T Wijewardena (Sri Lanka)

Third umpire: Nadeem Ghauri (Pakistan)
Match referee: Mike Procter (South Africa)

Transport

DUTP goal

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Prof. Sarwar Jahan, chairman of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning (URP), expressed the same view and said, "I think the DUTP project is not well-planned."

Criticising the random 'channelisation' (provision for a special lane for taking left or right turn) of city roads, Prof. Jahan told The Daily Star, "Although it is scientific, the traffic situation here is not the same as it is in other big modern cities."

"As we have many roads where rickshaws ply alongside motorised vehicles, channelisation has proved ineffective," Prof. Jahan added.

He expressed his dissatisfaction at increasing the width of road dividers.

When contacted, Executive Director of the Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB) Quamrul Islam Siddique said, "There was lack of institutional expertise at the DUTP from the very beginning."

"Moreover, suggestions of the project consultants were not followed strictly," Siddique added. He said a new network of roads has to be built to decrease traffic congestion in the city.

Sources said the prime minister is unhappy with the mismanagement and indiscipline in transport sector and asked the communications minister to improve the situation.

She also expressed her dissatisfaction with the performance of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) and Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) at an unscheduled meeting on Monday.

Meanwhile, the associations of transport owners and workers yesterday held a rally at Paltan Maidan, demanding implementation of their demands.

On the other hand, Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Truck-Tanklorry Sramik Dal in statement yesterday asked all its units across the country not to join the strike.

UN vows not to stop Baghdad mission

REUTERS, United Nations

The Security Council vowed yesterday that a deadly blast at the UN headquarters building in Baghdad would not deter the international community from carrying out its mission to help rebuild postwar Iraq.

"Such terrorist incidents cannot break the will of the international community to further intensify its efforts to help the people of Iraq," Security Council members said in a statement read by Deputy UN Ambassador Fayssal Mekdad of Syria, the Security Council president for August.

"Members of the council reaffirmed that this horrible attack that aimed at undermining the vital role of the United Nations Iraq will not affect their determination, and members of the council will stay united against such attacks and to help the Iraqi people restore peace and stability in their country," said the statement, issued after a closed-door briefing on the explosion.

The blast in the Iraqi capital hit the main UN office building, where some 300 people have offices. U.S. officials have said it appeared to be a suicide bombing.

The UN chief representative in Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello, was among the dozens wounded in the blast and his office was destroyed, chief UN spokesman Fred Eckhard said.

But there was no word yet in New York on the extent of his injuries, Eckhard added. Nor was there any immediate word there on the number of dead and wounded.

The spokesman called the blast a personal tragedy as well as a setback for the UN mission in Iraq.

"It is a tragedy, I think, not only personally but also a setback politically for the UN mission," Eckhard said. "The damage is substantial, the human suffering is great."

Mekdad said council members were shocked by the blast and offered their condolences to the families of the dead and hoped for a quick recovery of those injured.

"We wish him (de Mello) and all others who were wounded a very

rapid recovery," Mekdad told reporters.

Mexico's UN ambassador, Adolfo Aguilar Zinser, called on the Security Council's 15 members to display unity in the face of "this abominable act of terrorism which has hit the United Nations in Iraq."

"Our response has to be to show the strength of the United Nations in these circumstances," Zinser said.

Pakistani Ambassador Munir Akram said the attack showed the world body needed to take greater security measures to protect its personnel.

"But I believe at the same time we need to make a greater effort to convince the Iraqi people that the United Nations is acting for their welfare, and that we are a presence that is designed to help them come back to normalcy," Akram told reporters.

Eckhard told Fox Television the United Nations would now have to reassess the danger of the working environment in Iraq.

"It's not a safe environment in which to work so I think everyone was on the alert. But I don't think anyone anticipated an attack as serious as this aimed right at the heart of our operations," Eckhard said.

Like father

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alleged.

Besides, Shamim, Bepari's son, also runs a criminal gang for collecting tolls from local businessmen regularly, locals alleged.

Shamim and his younger brother Shahin top the list of the six accused in Barkat murder case. Three other cases were filed against Shamim -- one in 1996 and two in 2001.

Barkat, a former Jubo Dal activist, was shot at Sat Masjid Ghat in Mohammadpur August 16 and died the next day at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He was also accused in five cases of violence and extortion.

Joypurhat incident

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raising suspicion that they have links with the militants, Inspector of the Criminal Investigation Department Khalilur Rahman said.

"Most arrestees are believers of Jamaat-e Ahle Hadith and educated or being educated in the madrassahs," said Additional Superintendent of Police ABM Shawkat Ali.

Police yesterday confirmed that the arrested Golam Mustafa, son of Ashraf Ali, a union council member of Baniapara in Khettal, and Masudur Rahman Ranu were among the militant leaders.

They were also present during the Dinajpur bomb blast, trained in Natore in March and recruited members to the outfit from different areas of Joypurhat with the help of Montajer Rahman, now on the run.

Police could not wrest more information from the arrestees, taken on a five-day remand since August 17, as the militants have special training on how to face police interrogation, said sources.

Police raided the house of Montajar in Moheshpur village, where the militants congregated before the overnight firefight on August 14, but he had fled with his family.

Police believe the militants of the outlawed outfit might have dropped the munitions somewhere in the three unions while fleeing. The

chairmen and members were asked to work together with villagers in search of the looted arms and ammunition, said the SP.

"The Islamic extremists never looted arms from police before and if they had no target of collecting arms, they might have dropped them in jungles or ponds," said Additional SP Shawkat Ali.

AWARD ON ARMS RECOVERY

Superintendent of Police (SP) of Joypurhat Abdul Jalil Mondol declared the arms recovery prize at a meeting with chairmen and members of three union councils -- Bumbu and Amdol in Sadar upazila and Borotara in Khettal in Joypurhat.

Police believe the militants of the outlawed outfit might have dropped the munitions somewhere in the three unions while fleeing. The

Ramadan detained

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Iraqi leader himself.

Ramadan, a ruthless and long-serving lieutenant who once suggested US President George W Bush fight a duel with Saddam, may have been betrayed by an informant in Mosul -- like Saddam's sons Uday and Qusay -- or captured after a tip-off.

Ramadan himself hailed from the Mosul region. But the north's main city, with its rich mix of Kurds, Arabs, Muslims and Christians, was never very loyal to the old regime.

"He was detained in Mosul as a result of cooperation between the political parties and residents," Adel Murad of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) told Reuters in Baghdad. Another PUK spokesman said he was captured overnight.

In Washington, Pentagon spokeswoman Petty Officer Diane Perry confirmed Ramadan had been captured by Kurds and handed over to US-led forces. She did not know if he put up a fight.

"I'm really pleased that we've captured the vice president. Slowly but surely we'll find who we need to find," Bush said.

The PUK is one of two main Kurdish parties in northern Iraq which fought alongside US forces in the war after running their own affairs, under US air cover and free of Saddam's rule since Baghdad's defeat in the 1991 Gulf War.