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REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XIII No. 325

DHAKA MONDAY DECEMBER 15, 2003

COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know

POUSH 1, 1410 BS

SHAWAL 20, 1424 HURI

20 PAGES PRICE: Tk 7.00

www.thedailystar.net

Saddam Hussein captured

World leaders hail capture

AGENCIES, London

World leaders including the Iraq war's most prominent opponents welcomed Saddam Hussein's capture, saying it brought a long-awaited end to the career of a brutal dictator and could mark the beginning of peace in Iraq.

The capture ended one of the most intense manhunts in history.

"Where his rule meant terror and division and brutality, let his capture

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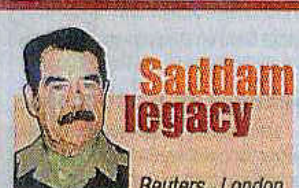
Dhaka terms capture turning point for Iraq

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan last night described the capture of Iraq's fallen dictator Saddam Hossain as a turning point in the history of Iraq.

"We hope this would pave the way for the Iraq people to have a government of their own... a government by the people and for the people of Iraq," Khan told UNB in his brief instant reaction.

Saddam was captured Saturday night from a farmhouse cellar near his hometown of Tikrit.



Following are the key dates in the life of Saddam Hussein:

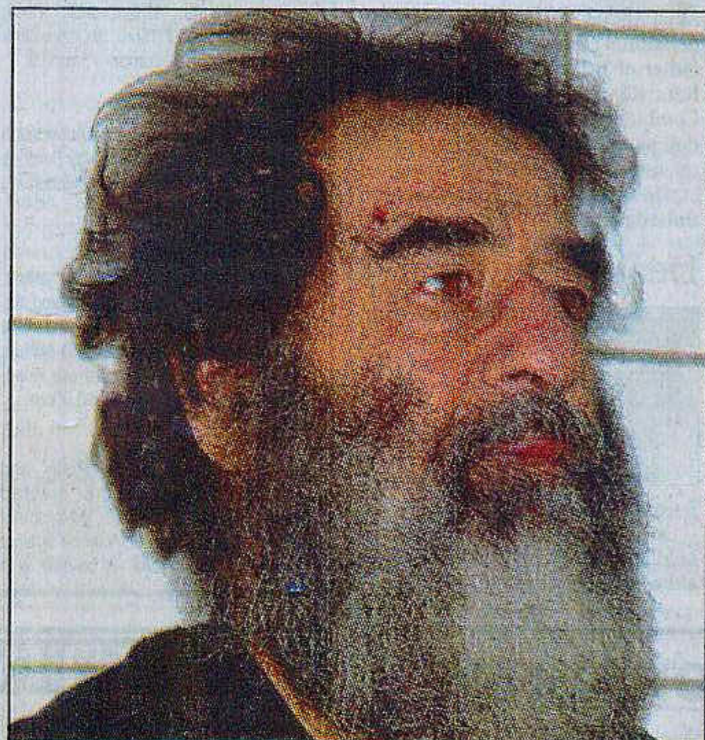
April 28, 1937: Born in al-Awja village outside Tikrit, 150-km (90 miles) north of Baghdad.

Oct 19, 56: Joins an uprising against the pro-British royalist rulers and then becomes a militant in the pan-Arab, secular Baath Party.

Oct 1959: A year after the overthrow of the monarchy, takes part in an attempt to kill Prime Minister Abdel-Karim Kassem. Flees abroad.

Feb 1963: Returns to Baghdad when the Baath Party seizes power in a military coup, but nine months later Baathists are toppled. Caught and jailed. Elected deputy secretary-general of the party while in prison.

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A bearded Saddam after his capture.

Arrested in a dirt cellar on Saturday without a fight, initially identified by Tareq Aziz, identity confirmed by DNA test, news of capture disclosed at a briefing yesterday

AGENCIES, Baghdad

Without firing a shot, American forces Saturday captured a bearded and haggard-looking Saddam Hussein in a dirt cellar under a farmhouse near his hometown of Tikrit, ending one of the most intense manhunts in history.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we got him," US administrator Paul Bremer told a news conference yesterday, eight months after American troops swept into Baghdad and toppled Saddam's regime.

"The tyrant is a prisoner." In the capital, radio stations played celebratory music, residents fired small arms in the air in celebration and passengers on buses and trucks shouted, "They got Saddam! They got Saddam!"

Saddam's deputy prime minister Tareq Aziz, in US custody for seven months, helped to confirm his identity after his capture, an official with the US-led administration said.

"He was identified with the help of Tareq Aziz," said the official, who

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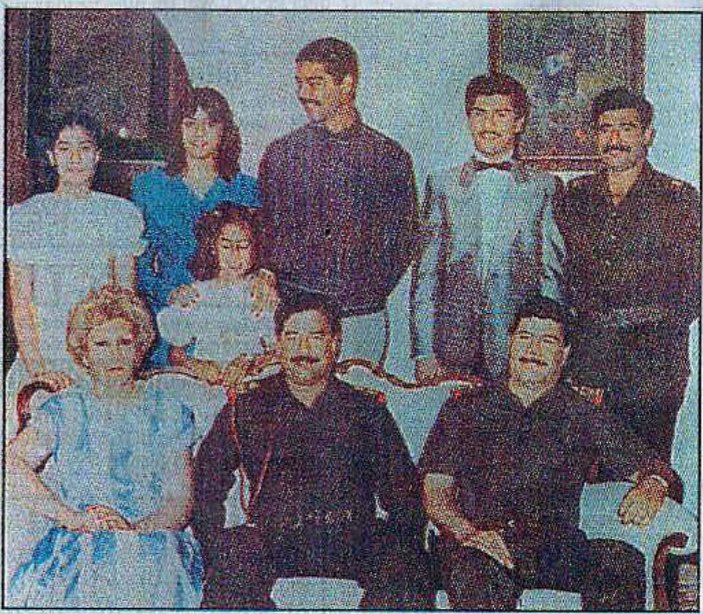


PHOTO: AFP

Those happy days: Saddam's first wife Sajida, front-left, now in Syria; Saddam Hussein, front centre; sons-in-law Hussein Kamel, front right, and Saddam Kamel, standing-right, both assassinated by Saddam in 1996; sons Uday, standing-centre, and Qusay, standing 2nd right, killed by US fire in July 2003; daughters Rana, far left, Raghad, 2nd left, and Hala, 3rd left, now in unknown locations.

How he was caught

AGENCIES, Baghdad

'Operation Red Dawn', which resulted in the capture of Saddam Hussein was sparked by a tip-off from an intelligence source at about 1050 local time on Saturday.

Some 600 US 4th Infantry division troops together with coalition Special Forces swooped on the town of Al-Dawr, near Tikrit in northern Iraq.

The raid focused on two likely hiding places, codenamed 'wolverine one' and 'wolverine

two'. Troops became suspicious of a small walled farm compound containing a metal lean-to structure and a mud hut, just north west of wolverine two.

Searching the compound, troops discovered a tiny 'spider hole' camouflaged with bricks and dirt.

In military terms, a spider hole is a small disguised shaft leading to a subterranean chamber or network of tunnels.

The hut where he was living had two very small rooms.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Saddam to face justice, Bush vows

Powerful explosions rock Baghdad after speech

AGENCIES, Washington

US President George W Bush, cautiously marking a major milestone in the Iraq war, said yesterday that Saddam Hussein's capture "marks the end of the road for him" but not the end of violence in Iraq.

In brief televised remarks at the White House, Bush said Saddam will "face the justice he denied to millions" but gave no details on what will now happen to Saddam, who was captured on Saturday night near his hometown of Tikrit.

"In the history of Iraq, a dark and

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia lays a wreath at the Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial in Mirpur yesterday dawn to pay respect to the intellectuals killed by Pakistan army's collaborators on December 14, 1971.

Nation pays homage to martyred intellectuals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation observed the 33rd Martyred Intellectuals Day yesterday, paying homage to those illustrious sons of the soil who were brutally killed by the Pakistani occupation army.

Sensing their imminent defeat, the Pakistani occupation forces and their local collaborators -- Rajakar, Al-Badr and Al-Sham--kidnapped leading Bangalee intellectuals and professionals on December 14, 1971 and killed them only two days before victory at the end of a nine-month

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

US ready to help govt combat terror

Envoy says at seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

American Ambassador in Bangladesh Harry K Thomas has said that United States is ready to extend cooperation to Bangladesh in tightening border security and strengthening immigration and passport process in a bid to combat terror.

"These measures will help Bangladesh collaborate with other governments to identify and prosecute terrorists," the US envoy added while addressing as chief guest a seminar on 'Community Service for

Mankind' organised by Lions and Leo Clubs of Chittagong Metropolitan at Hotel Agrabad yesterday.

He said US would also cooperate with Bangladesh to improve professionalism and-raise skills of police force through specialised training programmes.

"Regionally, Bangladesh and its neighbours must work to address concerns of cross-border terrorism and other factors that can spread beyond control. Confidence among neighbours is essential to improve

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Musharraf escapes assassination attempt

AP, Islamabad

A bomb exploded minutes after a motorcade carrying the Pakistani president passed a road near the capital yesterday, but no one was hurt, officials said.

The blast damaged a bridge in Rawalpindi, about 10 miles from the capital, Islamabad, but President Gen. Pervez Musharraf was not harmed, state television PTV reported.

Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed told the news agency that the president was returning to his home at Army House in Rawalpindi from the city's airport after a visit to the southern city of Karachi.

Ahmed said it was a bomb explosion and an investigation was under way.

Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan, a military spokesman, confirmed that the explosion happened soon after the president's vehicle

passed. "His cavalcade had passed safely," he said. He declined to elaborate on who might have carried out such an attack on the president.

GEO TV, a private network, reported the blast happened 10 minutes after Musharraf passed the spot in Rawalpindi.

Musharraf, the army chief, toppled an elected government in 1999 in a bloodless coup.

There have been at least two past attempts to assassinate the Pakistani leader.

Both attacks failed, one when a car packed with explosives failed to detonate as Musharraf passed on a congested road in the southern port city of Karachi. Five militants were arrested for involvement in that attack.

Musharraf earned the wrath of hard-line Islamic groups after he choose to abandon the Taliban regime of Afghanistan.

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ



In remembrance of late Durre Samad Rahman, wife of Honourable Finance & Planning Minister, a Milad Mahfil/Jeapod will be held today, the 15th December 2003 (Monday) after Magrib Prayer at deceased's Gulshan Residence (Road-47, House-21, Gulshan-2, Dhaka).

Relatives, Friends and well wishers are cordially invited to attend the Mahfil/Jeapod.

Members of the Family

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চোখ রাখুন কাল থেকে সন্ধ্যা ৭ টা, রাত ১০ টা এবং ১১ টায় শুধুমাত্র এটিএন বাংলায়.....