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## Saddam interrogated

### Deposed leader remains defiant during 30 minutes of questioning

THE NEW YORK TIMES, REUTERS and TIME ONLINE

The wild grey beard was gone, and he sat on a metal army cot, just awake from a nap, in socks and black

slippers. He was not handcuffed. He did not recognise all his visitors, but they recognised him. That was the purpose of the visit: to help confirm that he was, in fact, Saddam Hussein.

What came next in the Sunday afternoon meeting, according to people in the room, was an extraordinary 30 minutes, in which four new leaders of Iraq pointedly questioned the nation's deposed and now captured leader about his rule. Saddam, they said, was defiant and unrepentant but very much defeated.

"He's not been very cooperative," said the official, who read the transcript of the initial interrogation report taken during the first questioning session.

After he was captured near his

hometown, Tikrit, Saddam was taken to a holding cell at the Baghdad Airport. He didn't answer any of the initial questions directly, the official said, and at times seemed less than fully coherent.

The transcript was full of "Saddam rhetoric type stuff," said the official who paraphrased Saddam's answers to some of the questions.

Asked "How are you?" Saddam responded, "I am sad because my people are in bondage." When offered a glass of water by his interrogators,

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## Whereabouts still unknown

REUTERS, London

Saddam Hussein's whereabouts remained a mystery yesterday even after his capture, with CNN reporting he had been moved to the Gulf state of Qatar and an Iraqi official insisting he was still in Iraq.

The plot only thickened when the US military declined to say where it was keeping the former dictator, who was still being hidden after eight months hiding himself.

"For security reasons we cannot identify where he is at the moment," Captain Bruce Frame from US Central Command in Florida told Reuters.

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## 'I'm Saddam... I'm willing to negotiate'

AGENCIES, ADIWAR, Iraq

"I'm Saddam Hussein, I'm the president of Iraq and I'm willing to negotiate," Major Brian Reed, operations officer for the first brigade of the Fourth Infantry Division, quoted Saddam as telling US troops, who found him on Saturday hiding in a hole at a hut.

The response from the soldiers

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PHOTO: LIBERATION WAR MUSEUM

Victorious freedom fighters march into Dhaka after liberation on December 16, 1971.

## Victory Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation celebrates today the 32nd anniversary of the independence of Bangladesh, earned after a nine-month bloody war against Pakistani occupation army in 1971.

Even after three decades of gaining sovereignty, people in Bangladesh are longing for an exploitation-free just society. Against the backdrop, a grateful nation will pay homage to three million martyrs who sacrificed their lives to earn the

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PHOTO: REUTERS

A US soldier of the Fourth Infantry Division climbs out of the spider hole, in which Saddam Hussein was hiding in a farm near Tikrit.

## Bush for Saddam's public trial

### Britain opposes death penalty

AGENCIES, undated

US President George W Bush yesterday said captured former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein should have a public trial, while Britain said it would play "no part" in any trial

that might lead to his death.

"What needs to happen is he needs to be brought to justice and the Iraqi citizens need to be very much involved in the development of a system that brings him to justice. And

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## GENEVA CONVENTIONS

## Question over Saddam's status

AGENCIES, Undated

The United States promises to grant Saddam Hussein the protections stemming from the Geneva Conventions, but the he is not regarded as an actual prisoner of war.

Rumsfeld yesterday stopped short of saying the ousted Iraqi leader will be granted formal prisoner of war status.

Instead, he said the issue of Saddam Hussein's future will be determined in consultations "at a very high level" with US coalition

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## 8 Iraqi cops die in suicide attack

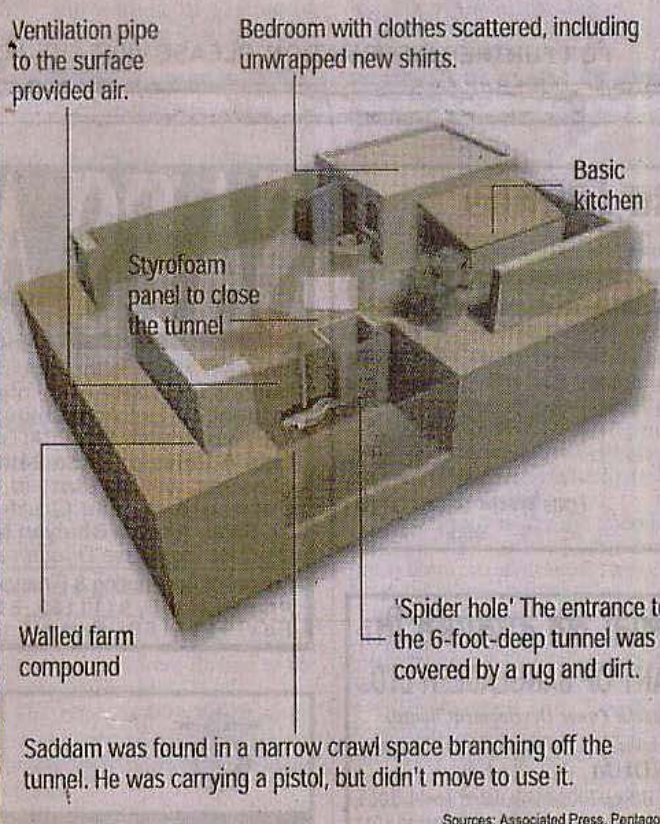
AP, Baghdad

A suicide bomber driving a four-wheel drive taxi yesterday killed eight Iraqi policemen in an attack yesterday on a station in the capital's northern outskirts, their commanders said.

Lt. Col. Ali Amer said 10 officers were injured in the blast in the northern Husainiyah district. Residents said at least five civilians, including a five-year-old girl, were also wounded by flying glass and debris.

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**Saddam's hideout** Ending one of the most intensive manhunts in history, US forces captured Saddam Hussein on Saturday in an underground hideout in a farm in Adwar, 10 miles from his home town Tikrit.



'Spider hole' The entrance to the 6-foot-deep tunnel was covered by a rug and dirt.

Saddam was found in a narrow crawl space branching off the tunnel. He was carrying a pistol, but didn't move to use it.

Sources: Associated Press, Pentagon

## PROPOSED ANTI-GRAFT COMMISSION

## Ministers finally dropped from selection body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to drop ministers from a committee, yet to be formed, that would select the members of the proposed Anti-corruption Commission.

The commission would also get financial independence like the Supreme Court and have a wider range of activities than originally envisaged. The three-member anti-graft body will also have prosecution authority under the new decision.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday told journalists that an amendment to the bill for the commission now under scrutiny by parliament will be brought in the next session.

The new move is being viewed as a result of the civil society's demand for dropping ministers from the selection body. The civil society demanded representation of two lawmakers from both treasury and

opposition benches for transparency and credibility.

But the government skirted the latter part of the demand as it feels that the opposition lawmaker would create obstacles to making decisions.

He said a former cabinet secretary would replace two ministers -- law and finance ministers -- in the selection committee. It would also reduce the size of the body from six to five.

The other four members -- two judges of the Supreme Court, chairman of the Public Service Commission and the auditor and comptroller general -- will remain as proposed earlier.

The bill for the commission was placed in parliament on July 10 and is now lying with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Law. The parliamentary body, supposed to scrutiny it in 15

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On the Glorious Victory Day We vow to build a Prosperous Nation

DBBL

বদলে যাচ্ছে এটিএন সংবাদ প্রিয় নাম প্রিয় মুখ

কাওসার মাহমুদ, জ. ই মামুন, মুনী সাহা, বাদল মুস্তাফিজ, মিথিলা ফারজানা, পার্থ ভান্ডার নন্ডে, শাকিল আহমেদ, শাহনাজ মুনী, তুবার আবদুয়াহ, রুমী নোমান, আহমেদ জোবায়ের, এস. এম. আকাশ, ভানুরঞ্জন চক্রবর্তী, ইব্রাহীম আজাদ হান্নান খান,

আজ থেকে প্রতিদিন চোখ রাখুন সন্ধ্যা ৭টা রাত ১০টা এবং রাত ১১টায়

এছাড়া প্রতিদিন প্রতি ঘটায় শুধু মাত্র ATN BANGLA

## PM distributes wheelchairs to injured FFs

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has called for all to engage themselves in the service of their next-door neighbours, illiterate and the poor and distressed people.

"If we can do that, we will be able to establish justice in the society," she observed while addressing a function to distribute wheelchairs among the injured freedom fighters and physically challenged men, women and teachers.

Rotary Club of Motijheel arranged the distribution of 550 wheelchairs at the Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium at Mirpur in the city yesterday.

"People have now become very much self-centred forgetting their

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**Notice**  
In accordance with the NOAB notification, the offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today on account of Victory Day. Therefore, there will be no issue of our newspaper on December 17.

**Notice**  
Today's 24-page edition of The Daily Star includes a 4-page in-house and a 4-page government sponsored supplements on Victory Day.

## Poor facility stymies JS finance bodies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four financial standing committees of the Jatiya Sangsad formed to ensure accountability of the government are facing difficulties to function because of lack of facilities and neglect of the government and parliament.

Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar and chairmen of the committees on

public accounts, undertaking, estimate and finance ministry at a seminar in Dhaka yesterday said they should be provided with logistics and proper attention to make the bodies function effectively.

The chairmen narrated their positions at the seminar, Parliamentary Control and Financial Accountability in Bangladesh: The Role of the

Financial Committees, co-organised by the Jatiya Sangsad and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at Sheraton Hotel.

"There is no institutional arrangements, an inherent deficiency of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament, to take follow up action on the recommendations of the PAC

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## A Dane's own war

PINAKI ROY and CHARLOTTE JACQUEMART

When the Pakistani army launched its genocide in Dhaka on the night of March 25, it thought confining a few visiting foreigners to a hotel would gag the news of the massacre across the world. But the act earned Pakistan more enemies and Bangladesh some life-long friends.

Among the friends is Danish researcher Kirsten Westergaard, whose March 25 experience cut through her soul deeply; it not only



Kirsten Westergaard

prompted her to launch an anti-Pakistan campaign when she returned home, but brought her back to Bangladesh again and again.

The 67-year-old researcher is now on a visit to Dhaka to research on the relations between donors and Bangladesh as a fellow of Danish Institute for International Studies. Westergaard still remembers those days of 1971.

She along with some Danish citizens contributed to liberation by

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