

# Saddam backs down, but remains defiant

UNITED NATIONS, July 27 UN weapons inspectors headed for Baghdad today after the most serious confrontation between Iraq and the United Nations since the Gulf war was defused without a shot being fired, reports Reuter.

But US President George Bush made clear he still had scores to settle with Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

"While Saddam has bent to the will of the United Nations," Bush said in Washington, the question remained whether he could be trusted despite having 'caved in' this time.

In Iraq, Saddam's press secretary wrote in today's edition of Al-Thawra, newspaper of the ruling Baath Party, that the Gulf war ceasefire resolutions were written by "scoundrels and lowly people."

"We owe nothing to the Security Council," Abdul Jabbar Muhsein wrote in his second such attack in three days.

The latest in a long series of tests of will between Iraq and the United Nations erupted on July 5 when a UN inspection team was denied entry into Baghdad's Agriculture Ministry where materials related to missile and possibly nuclear warhead programmes were believed hidden.

The United States and its allies had repeatedly warned that force might be used to bring Saddam to heel, either through air strikes or other military action.

More than 2,000 US marines will assault a beach in Kuwait next month in the latest joint manoeuvres with the Emirati, a US embassy spokesman said in Kuwait today.

AP adds: Iraq seriously considered the possibility of renewed Western force and took steps to counter it before backing down in the arms search standoff in Baghdad.

Kurdish and US officials said Monday.

An American military officer in this Kurdish city of Zakhu, across the border from Turkey, confirmed an Iraqi buildup near the Kurdish-controlled zone and said the Iraqi air force resumed training flights over the past few months.

Ahmed Shaker, an official of the Kurdistan Front which groups major Kurdish parties, said Baghdad had issued a call last week to all Iraqi men between 25 and 30 years of age to report to conscription stations.

He reported increased military activity at "contact points" and Iraqi shelling recently in the area of Sheikhan, southeast of Dahuk, a provincial centre in the middle of the Kurdish-held area. The Kurdish zone extends from the Turkish border to 190 kilometres (120 miles) north of Baghdad.

## BMA working on alternative health policy

By Nazmul Ashraf

Formulation of a national health policy under a non-government initiative is nearing completion.

The Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) took the initiative with a view to helping the government introduce a 'people-oriented' national health policy.

The BMA, the apex body of the country's physicians, expects to finish drafting the policy by the first week of next month.

The BMA-proposed draft health policy would be revised on the basis on recommendations to be sought from various quarters, BMA sources said adding the proposed policy would be submitted to the government demanding its implementation.

The country, at present, does not have any health policy. A controversial health policy formulated in the early days of the Ershad regime was done away with following strong protests by the various quarters.

The BMA initiated drafting its proposed policy about four months back. A 60-member committee headed by Dr A K Shamsuddin Siddiqui, Director of Bangladesh Medical Education, is now working on the policy providing for health facilities to the people upto the grassroots level. The yet-to-be-finalised policy, it is learnt, stresses most on close coordination of the government's family planning activities with those of the medical service.

The move by the BMA followed the association's informal talks with the government leaders and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Health Ministry, sources informed.

Dr Moinul Hasan Saadi, Member-Secretary of the health policy drafting committee, told The Daily Star the draft policy would be placed for discussions at seminars, symposia and opinion-exchange programmes to be arranged at different levels.

Recommendations by the experts in various fields and opinions of the cross-section of people would be accommodated in the draft policy, he added.

Besides, formal talks with the leaders of major political parties would be organised to incorporate their suggestions and mobilise support for the proposed health policy.

After all these, sources said, the BMA would go for media campaign by organising public meetings, publishing leaflets, posters in order to drum up public support.

They said that the national health policies of countries like India, Nepal, Thailand, were consulted by the BMA men dealing with the policy.

The proposed policy provides for setting up of union-based health centres, measures to prevent and cure infectious diseases, supply of pure drinking water, setting up of sanitary latrine at all villages, replacement of "curative health service" by "primary health care," reformation of the health administration and the medical education system, regulation of the private-sector medicare, patronisation of the non-government medical service network, supply of 20 essential drugs by the government as recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO), allocation of 10 per cent of the national budget in the health sector, scientific approach to the traditional indigenous methods of medical treatment, introduction of health insurance system, steps to educate the masses on primary health care, control of the NGO activities in the medical field and checking the unauthorised drug business.

## High Court drops case against People's Court sponsors

By Asiuzzaman

The High Court division bench dropped the case against 24 sponsors of the People's Court that tried Golam Azam from the court list. However, the question still remains as to whether it would be formally withdrawn or not, political and court sources said Monday.

The bench comprising Justice Mozammel Huq and Justice Mahfuzur Rahman ordered the case to be dropped from the list of hearing of cases on Wednesday, as both the prosecution and defence lawyers jointly sought "adequate time" citing "developments in parliament" regarding the case.

Barrister Amirul Islam and Assistant Attorney General Shamsul Karim appeared on behalf of the defence and prosecution respectively.

"This is not the formal withdrawal of the case, the court can revive it anytime," Barrister Shafig Ahmad, one of the defence lawyers said adding that "only the plaintiff can withdraw the case."

The ruling party and the opposition, which were boycotting parliament sessions demanding withdrawal of the case, signed an agreement in the parliament building on June 30 to the effect that the government would withdraw the case.

There was no instruction to the complainant, the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Ramna thana, from the government to take any step to withdraw the case until Monday, the OC said.

A leading Nirmul Committee member said that they were not worried about the case itself but "it was a violation of the agreement."

## Traders start indefinite strike in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, July 27: The hartal, which was scheduled to be held from 6 am to 2 pm today, has been extended for an indefinite period, shopkeepers and traders' samity sources said.

After having no specific assurance from the district administration that terrorist activities would be resisted in the area, the samity extended the hartal for an indefinite period.

All shops and trading centres, including medicine stores, restaurants and petrol pumps remained closed during hartal hours paralysing normal life in this district town.

## Shibir murder case

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baseless and fabricated.

Shafiqul Islam was killed during a gun battle between two rival students' groups on April 18, 1989 on the Rajshahi University campus.

A case was filed with the police, alleging that the 14 accused, led by Ragib Ahsan Munna, shot Shafiq dead at point-blank range.

Referring to the reports of experts and doctors, the judge said that the killers had not shot Shafiq from a close range as mentioned in the FIR, rather the victim was about 10 feet above the unknown assailants.

## Mustafiz off to Paris

Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman left Dhaka for Paris last evening on a three-day official visit at the invitation of his French counterpart Roland Dumas, reports BSS.

The French visit of Rahman is expected to strengthen further the existing bond of friendship between the two countries and also open up new areas of cooperation.

During the three-day visit both the sides will exchange views on a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues.

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A policeman looking for evidence at Shitol Department Store at New Elephant Road in the city yesterday after burglary. — Star photo

## Citizenship Act

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an order with retrospective effect, unless the relevant law specifically provides that the delegated authority can also pass orders with retrospective effect.

And the government was only given to pass an order but not given any authority to pass it with retrospective effect, he stressed.

In support of his contention, Barrister Yusuf cited five judgements of Indian High Courts.

Citing the case of Prof Nurul Islam versus State relating to retirement Dr Nurul Islam, he said the Bangladesh Supreme Court termed the government order as illegal and unconstitutional because there was no such guideline in the law.

Resuming his argument yesterday morning, Barrister Yusuf said as per Bangladesh Citizenship Act of 1951 (amended), Golam Azam was a citizen of Bangladesh by operation of law until April 18, 1973.

He cited a case of Dhaka High Court in which passport of one Asit Ranjan was seized by the government in 1977 on the plea that he left this territory in 1964 and came back in 1972. In this case, Barrister Yusuf said, judges said proof was needed to show that he was not a citizen of Bangladesh and he was an Indian citizen.

The hearing of Prof Golam

## Shitol store

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shop was opened Monday morning, a grilled window at the rear was found broken. Cash and goods worth about Taka 64,967 were also found missing.

The department store was earlier robbed of cash and goods worth about Taka 15 lakh on April 1 this year.

Later, Detective Branch of Police arrested seven people on June 28 in connection with the robbery and recovered only 16 wrist watches and three tolas of gold from them.

JCD activist

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a one-storeyed building at Gulbag, where they shot him and escaped.

Critically injured, Shafiq was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) from where he was shifted to the Pangu Hospital. Shafiq succumbed to his injuries at around 6 pm at the Pangu Hospital.

Family sources said one of Shafiq's friends, Liton, came and took him out at around noon Monday. Later, they came to know that Shafiq was critically wounded and was taken to the DMCH.

Meanwhile, police sources said, three warrants of arrest were issued against the victim. Most of the charges against Shafiq were muggings, the sources said.

Police suspects that Shafiq was murdered following a previous quarrel between two groups of his friends.

## Rao asks judiciary to settle temple dispute by November

NEW DELHI, July 27: India's judiciary has been given until November to settle an explosive temple-mosque dispute, Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao announced today following talks last week with Hindus, reports AFP.

Rao delivered a statement in parliament detailing talks last Thursday with Hindu holy men, which led to the end Sunday of an 18-day drive to build a temple around a mosque in the northern town of Ayodhya.

Reuter adds: Prime Minister proposed today that a single judicial authority should rule on a religious dispute which has claimed more than 2,000 lives and helped bring down two national governments.

Narasimha Rao told parliament that several sets of legal proceedings over a holy site in the town of Ayodhya should be brought together and handled by one authority.

"The litigation pending in various courts on the subject could be consolidated and considered by one judicial authority, whose decision will be binding on all parties," Rao told parliament in a statement.

He said the process could be completed within four months.

Rao did not specify which judicial authorities would decide the issue but news reports have said a committee of Supreme Court judges would be appointed.

Rao told parliament the six Hindu leaders he had met had agreed to his proposal for a single ruling on the row.

In Ayodhya the fundamentalist Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP, World Hindu Council), which has been spearheading the temple campaign, said on Sunday that it would give Rao only three months to solve the dispute.

Hindus who suspended a controversial temple drive on Sunday say their campaign to claim a crumbling 16th century mosque is far from over.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) says a grand temple proposed for their warrior God Rama will eventually envelop the mosque, no matter what.



Militant Hindu activists working on a new site to construct a temple to be called 'Laksman Temple'. — TV photo

## Chinese girls grab golds

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that US player Bob Samuelsen should have been ejected at that match point after he got a second caution for yelling at officials.

Since an ejection also costs the offending team one point, the match should have ended there.

The International Volleyball Association on Monday agreed. Federation President Ruben Acosta said rules were broken "clearly and indisputably," and gave Japan the fourth set, 15-13.

The US team, seeking its third straight Olympic title, still seems likely to advance to the quarterfinal round.

In men's gymnastics, China placed first Monday in the compulsory with a score of 114.425. The Unified Team was second in the morning session at 114.300; Germany

## Textile workers

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demands of textile workers.

The demands include the abandoning of the government's denationalisation and retrenchment plan, reopening of laid-off mills and factories and the curbing of smuggling.

"The authorities have accepted all our demands save two, which will be finalised within a month after meetings with the Finance Minister," a federation spokesman said adding, "the two demands are forming separate fund of foreign currency earned by the jute mills and the permission of import using that fund."

Eighteen federation leaders, including its convener Abul Bashar and Jute Minister Hannan Shah and State Minister for Textiles, Abdul Mannan, signed the memorandum of understanding, the source said.

## The Midnight File

### Lankan govt urged to set up Muslim battalion

COLOMBO, July 27: A Shri Lanka Muslim leader said today he had urged the government to create a Muslim battalion in the army to fight Tamil separatists. "We have requested the government to set up a separate Muslim battalion or company within the Shri Lanka army to fight the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam), said Muhammad Ashraf, reports Reuter.

### China executes 10 bandits

BEIJING, July 27: China has executed nine members of a large gang of railway bandits for terrorising and robbing 66 passengers on an inter-city train last year, the official China Investigation News reported today. A special railway court in Hubei province gave death sentences to Wang Shengbiao and eight other members of a 45-man gang that held up a train running between Chongqing and Cuchang in central China on September 9, the newspaper said, reports Reuter.

### 3 injured in cracker blasts

By DMCH Correspondent

Armed men left three young men wounded in two separate attacks at Motijheel and Banani in the city Monday.

Mogbul Hossain Liton and Pappu were injured when a group of armed men exploded crackers near the Al-Helal Police Box in the Motijheel area at around 7:30 pm yesterday.

While crossing the road, Liton and Pappu were hit by cracker splinters.

### Ershad faces another corruption case

The Anti-Corruption Bureau yesterday filed a case with Ramna Thana against former president Hussain Muhammad Ershad for taking Tk 2 lakh 76 thousand 324 illegally out of the paid income tax for 1988-89 by abusing his power, reports BSS.

### BCI chief asked to surrender passport

A High Court division bench yesterday granted bail to Mustafizur Rahman, Chairman and Managing Director of Bangladesh Commerce and Investment Limited (BCI) but asked him to surrender his international passport to the Deputy Commissioner, Dhaka, reports BSS.

### Sirajul Alam Khan quits politics

JSD leader Sirajul Alam Khan yesterday expressed his desire to keep himself aloof from politics in the rest of his life, reports UNB.

### Budget

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tions on a total of 127 demands of various ministries were tabled by the opposition members.

### Cabinet

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and Bahrain. The Prime Minister leaves the capital for Bahrain August 8.

### NAM summit

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scheduled to depart for the Indonesian capital August 31.

### PM, Jamaat MPs

From Page 1 Col 3

said adding that nobody should take law in their own hands.

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