

Iraq to 'teach US lesson' if it attacks: Aziz

Bush wants UN action in 'days and weeks'

AFP, Dubai

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said yesterday Baghdad would "teach (the Americans) a lesson" if they attacked and Iraq did not accept the conditions spelled out by US President George W. Bush in his UN speech.

But Aziz, in remarks to Dubai-based Saudi MBC television, excerpts of which were made available to AFP ahead of broadcast at 1500 GMT, said the Iraqi leadership had yet to formulate Baghdad's "final positions" on the current standoff over its alleged pursuit of weapons of mass destruction.

"Iraq does not accept Bush's conditions. He wants to control Iraq, he wants Iraq's oil, he wants to protect Israel," Aziz charged.

However, he added that he would not spell out Iraq's "final positions" on the current standoff, since "Iraq has a leadership that meets and decides" policies.

Bush Thursday gave the United Nations a final chance to confront the "grave and gathering danger" Iraq poses, warning that US "action will be unavoidable" otherwise.

"The just demands of peace and security will be met, or action will be unavoidable. And a regime that has lost its legitimacy will also lose its power," he sternly told the UN General Assembly.

Bush laid out five demands of President Saddam Hussein: scrap his biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons programs and stockpiles; end support for terrorism; cease persecution of the civilian population; free or account for non-Iraqi citizens missing since the 1991 Gulf

War; and end all efforts to circumvent UN economic sanctions.

Vowing that the Iraqis would "fight bravely" if attacked by the United States, Aziz repeated that Baghdad had no chemical or biological weapons and said Bush had failed to come up with evidence that it was seeking to obtain nuclear material.

"Where's the proof" that Iraq is seeking to build nuclear weapons, Aziz asked, adding that the United States had not proved it had made a single seizure of nuclear material destined for Iraq.

An unconditional return of UN weapons inspectors to Iraq would not solve the problem, said Aziz, whose country has repeatedly said that the resumption of arms inspections hinged on a "comprehensive settlement" of outstanding issues with the UN Security Council.

Dragging out arms inspections in Iraq before the inspectors withdrew in December 1998 had become akin to a "business," Aziz charged.

He also repeated earlier remarks to reporters that Bush's speech to the General Assembly was full of "lies."

Meanwhile, US President George W. Bush declared Friday that a new UN resolution on Iraq must demand Baghdad's compliance in "days and weeks, not months and years" under the threat of possible military action.

"There will be deadlines within the resolution," he told reporters a day after demanding UN action on Iraq. "We must have deadlines, and we're talking days and weeks, not months and years."

Bush, speaking as he met with

Central African leaders, again warned the United Nations that its response to the threats posed by Baghdad would determine the world body's place in international affairs.

"How we deal with this problem will help determine the fate of a multilateral body that has been unilaterally ignored by Saddam Hussein. Will this body be able to keep the peace and deal with the true threats... or will it be irrelevant," he said.

In a tough speech to the United Nations Thursday, Bush left Saddam a splinter of a chance to avoid military action by swiftly complying with the 16 UN resolutions he agreed to live by in order to end the 1991 Gulf War.

And he warned the UN General Assembly delegates that failure to act would mean that unilateral US "action will be unavoidable. And a regime that has lost its legitimacy will also lose its power."

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Tough stance

FROM PAGE 1 Dal (JCD), ruling BNP's student front, said the government has taken a 'tough stance' as it is desperate to keep the universities open and does not want to see further closure of any educational institution.

Prime Minister and BNP chief Khaleda Zia has also asked her party's student wing to act accordingly. In a meeting with JCD leaders on Thursday, she ordered them to help create a congenial atmosphere on DU and BUET campuses, JCD sources said.

Huge contingents of police and paramilitary BDR kept both the DU and BUET campuses under siege and did not allow the agitating students to hold their previously announced programmes.

Police did not even allow Sammilta Sangskritik Jote (SSJ) and some other organisations to hold programmes at the Central Shaheed Minar in the last four days.

Yesterday, police barred a procession at the Doel Chattar on the DU campus. The processionists were marching towards the Shaheed Minar demanding immediate airing of ETV programmes.

Meanwhile advance parties of British troops will begin deploying to Kuwait within two weeks in preparation for a possible attack on Iraq, the Daily Telegraph newspaper reported yesterday.

The paper quoted defence sources as saying the deployment would begin after the British parliament's emergency debate on support for US action on Iraq on September 24.

Britain's Ministry of Defence described the report as "highly speculative," saying any decision on sending troops to the Gulf would be dependent on the response the United Nations gives to Thursday's demand for action from US President George W. Bush.

"The report is highly speculative," he said.

Earlier about two years ago, hundreds of people had stormed the village in a bid to evict the villagers.

But soon after the July 29 meeting, the DIG this time visited the village and said there should be no such attack on the villagers of Jahanpur. They should be given work to earn their livelihood and should be rehabilitated properly as early as possible, he stressed.

When contacted, DIG of police MA Hanif said steps have been taken to allocate about 200 acres of government lands for rehabilitating these families shortly. Referring to his meeting with the deputy commissioner of Sunamganj, he said the district administration is also taking steps for employment of those people. "We cannot let these people face any untoward situation," he added.

When asked about the allegation of collecting fees from the shop owners in the park, DCC Assistant Engineer Kamaluzzaman of the zone No. 1 described it as false.

However, another DCC official said action would be taken soon to drive the illegal encroachers away.

Children's park

FROM PAGE 1 Asked, Rustom, a staff of the oil supplier, owned by M Ali & Brothers on the parkland, said his shop did not pay any fees.

A DCC top official on condition of anonymity said no structures in the park are legal.

The encroachment took place due to the local influential people's secret dealings with some corrupt DCC officials, he said.

There are two parks in the ward No. 84 under the DCC zone No. 1. The park at Jatrabari is now used as a bazaar in the evening.

Asked, Mofizuddin Ahmed, executive engineer of the zone No. 1 of the DCC, said, "If any shops are established in the park area, steps will be taken against them."

When asked about the allegation of collecting fees from the shop owners in the park, DCC Assistant Engineer Kamaluzzaman of the zone No. 1 described it as false.



US President George W. Bush meets with Pakistani President General Pervez Musharraf during the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City, New York.

Bush 'highly doubtful' Saddam will comply

British troops to head for Kuwait within 2 weeks

REUTERS, New York

President George W. Bush said yesterday he was "highly doubtful" Iraqi President Saddam Hussein would meet US disarmament demands and that he hoped the United Nations will take action on Iraq in days or weeks.

Bush, a day after laying out a harsh indictment of Iraq in a UN General Assembly speech, told reporters he expected any UN resolutions on Iraq to set deadlines for Iraqi compliance.

"I am highly doubtful that he'll meet our demands," Bush said as he met with African leaders on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. "I hope he does, but I'm highly doubtful."

Asked how quickly he wanted the United Nations to act, Bush said: "We expect quick resolution to the issue."

"There will be deadlines within the resolution," he said. "We're talking days and weeks, not months and years." He said Secretary of State Colin Powell would insist on deadlines in his conversations with other members of the UN Security Council.

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2 children burnt alive in Pabna

BSS, Dhaka

Two children were burnt alive at village Hemrajpur in Sujanagar upazila of Pabna district on Thursday night, police said yesterday.

The victims were identified as Kulsum, 7, and her brother Sweet, 4.

According to police, the fire originated from the kitchen and soon engulfed the house.

The victims were asleep with their mother, Lubna Parveen, during the incident.

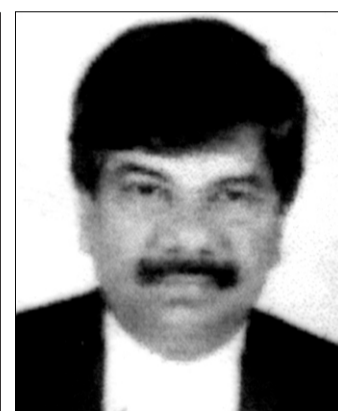
Lubna, however, escaped unhurt, but could not save her son and daughter, police said.

Muggers

FROM PAGE 12 Shajahanpur Railway Colony from Mouchak Market, sources said.

At about 7:15pm, when their rickshaw reached the South gate of Rajarbagh Police Lines, two armed men riding a motorbike stopped the couple and snatched a bag containing Tk 5000, a mobile phone and other valuables from them.

The couple raised a hue and cry but the gang sped away in their motorbike before local people could reach the spot.



Obituary

Advocate Abu Mohammad Murtas, former president of the Bangladesh Lawyers Association, died of cardiac arrest yesterday in the Holy Family Hospital in the city at the age of 45, says a press release.

Murtas worked as a legal advisor on reforms of law under a World Bank-funded project and at The Daily Star.

Former organising secretary of the Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, Murtas, was also a stage theatre performer and cultural activist.

The body was kept at the Teachers and Students Centre (TSC) for sometime after a namaj-e-janaza after Juma prayers yesterday at the Dhaka University Mosque to show respect.

He was buried at the family graveyard at Dhanbari in Tangail.

Molla not GS

FROM PAGE 12 Titas from September 3 to 9.

On September 7, the government made the managing director of Titas an officer on special duty (OSD) for transferring 50 employees under pressure from trade union leaders. A deputy general manager was also suspended the same day.

Following the incidents, the government declared services of all categories of jobs in nine public limited companies including Titas in the energy sector essential under the Essential Services Ordinance of 1958.

After the announcement, officials and employees of the nine companies can not participate in any movement, meeting and procession inside the office compound for the next six months.

When asked about this, the TGEU leaders said they will abide by the government decision if taken to improve performance of Titas.

Among others TGEU's vice-presidents MA Kaium and Shah Alam and joint general secretary Didarul Alam spoke at the press conference.

TGEU President Noor Mohammad Azad was not present at the press conference. When asked, the leaders said he could not attend due to illness.

Benazir appeals

FROM PAGE 12 The rejection of all three appeals effectively ends her chances of standing in the elections, although Benazir's lawyers have challenged her criminal conviction and a law barring convicted persons from contesting elections in the Sindh high court, where a hearing is scheduled for September 17.

Benazir's three nominations to stand in the October 10 elections being staged by the military government were rejected early this month on the grounds of a July conviction for failing to answer corruption charges. She has lived in self-imposed exile in Britain and Dubai for more than three years.

The rulings were greeted with shouts of "shame, shame" from Benazir supporters in the Sindh high court, initiated by her lawyer Anwar Ahmed Yousf Zai. The judge immediately ordered his arrest for contempt.

Hundreds of her supporters were gathered inside and outside the court and more than 40 were detained before and after the announcements.

Lawyer Farooq Naik told Reuters he was very disappointed.

"We sought justice from the two Godfathers

FROM PAGE 1 commissioner Shahidullah Khan said, "We are determined to arrest the godfathers who provide shelter for the city's criminals. We have also started the process of registering their criminal records."

"We are monitoring the activities of these godfathers. But we need to get the green light from higher authorities prior to arresting some of the godfathers," said the CMP commissioner, adding that the godfathers have political connection.

He informed that the number of identified criminals has increased as per the updated list.

Khan said 673 out of the 900 listed criminals had been arrested so far and some of them came out from jail custody after obtaining bail from court. "Our police are on the hunt for the rest of the absconding criminals," he added.

He said a list of identified drug lords in the city has also been prepared.

"We will also arrest those drug lords. Besides, we have prepared a list of those who go around lobbying for freeing the arrested criminals from the thanas in the city," he said.

Benson & Hedges

FROM PAGE 12 and Omar Khaled Rumi.

The bands at the final event included Dhrubo, Subconscious and Ebong Sri from Dhaka, Fusion, Orchid, Warrior, Recent, Triangle and Sound Vibration from Chittagong, Chorus from Khulna and Salvation from Rajshahi.

The four solo finalists were Nigar Sultana from Khulna, Ashfaque Bari Rumon from Rajshahi, Beauty Das from Chittagong and Raju Ahmed from Dhaka.

A large assembly of invited guests marked the ceremony that started at 4:30pm.

The best performers were awarded in several categories of the Benson & Hedges "Star" 2002.

The categorical awards were picked up by Subconscious for best band, Ashrafur Bari Rumon for best soloist, Beauty Das for best vocalist, Johon Alamgir for best guitarist, Kamrul Hassan for best bassist, Ruptanu Das Sharma for best keyboard player, Ashrafur Bari Rumon for best lyricist, Zubair for best instrumentalist, Toni for best percussionist and Warrior for best composer.

The final round, as in previous years, was restricted to only adult invited guests and anyone under the age of 18 was neither admitted nor

high court judges but justice was not done. It is a big blow to democracy," he said.

Benazir has been struggling to stage a political comeback in the face of a series of barriers put up by President General Pervez Musharraf, who has threatened her with arrest if she tries to return to Pakistan.

Yesterday's announcements came a day after a special Accountability Court sentenced her jailed husband Asif Ali Zardari to seven years' imprisonment with hard labour for corruption and abuse of power.

Zardari, who has been jailed without being convicted since his wife's overthrow in 1996, was found guilty of receiving kickbacks and misusing his authority as the husband of the then prime minister. He was also fined \$675,000.

Benazir's Pakistan People's Party denounced the verdict and said it would appeal.

Floods city

FROM PAGE 12 bottle and for every one hundred bottle we sell we have to pay Tk 3000 to the nearest police station to avoid harassment," said a drug dealer in Chankharpool.

Another dealer said, "We get the drug supply from bordering districts like Jessore, Meherpur, Dinajpur and Chapainawabganj. It comes in trucks or passenger buses at night."

Yesterday, many drug dealers were seen selling Codokuff bottles in Chankharpool after dusk even in presence of patrol police. Most of the customers were young men.

Codokuff contains sedative and analgesic narcotic substance -- codeine -- found in opium. Because of the small concentration found in opium, most of the codeine in medicinal products is synthesised from morphine.

In medical practice, codeine is used for relief from mild to moderate pain (arthralgia, back pain, bone pain, dental pain, headache, migraine, myalgia and surgical pain), non-productive (dry) cough, and diarrhoea.

But its use without doctor's advice is dangerous. When contacted, some doctors said it is dangerous if taken without doctor's supervision because the drug, especially which contains synthesised codeine, has many side effects.

It must be avoided by persons with chronic heart disease, advanced respiratory insufficiency, bronchial asthma, and raised intracranial pressure, they said.

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Bush on Kashmir

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"It is not religion which impels a terrorist act. It is often a sense of frustration and powerlessness to redress persistent injustices," he said.

"India's ongoing mass military buildup reflects its own desire for domination over South Asia and the Indian Ocean," Musharraf said. "In the interest of regional and global stability, this must be discouraged."

The general, who took power in a bloodless military coup in 1999, urged a resumption of a dialogue with India and said Kashmiris should be "fully associated" with discussions on their future.

He reiterated his calls for a mutual withdrawal of troops from the Indian-Pakistani border, a ceasefire on the line of control in Kashmir and talks on nuclear restraint and a balance of conventional arms.

"It is a country which has abandoned democracy for dictatorship and makes these empty noises," Nirupama Rao told Star News television from New York.

Musharraf, a key US ally in the war on terrorism, has denied Indian charges his country was arming and training Kashmiri militants who have launched a series of bloody attacks on Indian targets.

But he again expressed sympathy for their cause Thursday.

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TV viewing time linked to kids' behaviour problems: Study

REUTERS, New York

Kids who spend more time watching TV--regardless of the content of the programming--are more likely to behave aggressively and have other types of social problems, a study has found.

"Prolonged television watching may be considered to be one of the new symptoms of this era of technology, and it deserves more attention and evaluation in every aspect," write study author Dr. Elif Ozmert of Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey and colleagues.

"Families should be advised to restrict the television viewing hours of their children and to encourage them to participate in active peer relationships," they add.

To investigate whether television viewing might have effects on children's behaviour, the researchers surveyed the parents of 689 students in the second and third grades.

They found that the children watched about 2.5 hours of television each day, on average, with their viewing time increasing during the weekend, according to the report in the September issue of Archives of Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine.

The more television a child watched, the more likely he or she was to exhibit social problems and delinquent and aggressive behav-

our, the report indicates. For example, children who watched more than 4 hours of television daily showed more delinquent and aggressive behaviour than those who watched 2 hours or less per day. And this aggressive behaviour was seen regardless of the content of the television programming, the researchers note.

"Thus, it was speculated that not only the prolonged television viewing but perhaps the inactivity and social isolation while watching television may have contributed to increased aggressive behaviour scores," the authors write.

The children's age and sex were also associated with their likelihood of watching more than 2 hours of television daily, study findings indicate.

With every one-year increase in age, kids were 33% more likely to watch more than 2 hours of television per day. And boys were nearly twice as likely as girls to watch more than two hours of television daily.

It is not known, however, whether television viewing puts children at risk of behaviour problems, or if children with behaviour problems are just more likely to watch television, the researchers note.

"In either direction, it deserves further consideration," they write.

Commenting on the study, Dr. Flauro Koplin Winston of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania told Reuters Health that it gives "more evidence we need to be watching what the children are watching."

DU reopening

FROM PAGE 1 Haq, Dr M Aminul Haq Bhuiyan, Prof. Kazi Nurul Islam, Prof. AK Monwar Uddin Ahmad, Prof. Mofizul Mannan, Prof. Meghna Guha Thakurata, Prof. Akmal Hossain, Prof. Mezba Kamal, Prof. Fakrul Alam and Assistant Prof. Shishir Bhattacharya.

Two murders

FROM PAGE 1 Sources said Tareq went to play cricket with his friends at the C & B filed yesterday morning. At about 11:30am, he got into a fight with players of the rival team who, at one stage, hit him on the head with a cricket bat.

Tareq was rushed to the DMCH in an unconscious state where he died at about 3:30pm. The body of the victim was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

No case was filed in connection with the murder, duty officer of Pallabi Police Station said.

Separate teams went to the spot as well as the DMCH to investigation into the matter.

Second round of Special NID today

BSS, Dhaka

The second round of Special National Immunisation Day (NID) will be observed today across the country.

During the drive, 1.5 crore children will be given two doses of polio vaccine at 1.20 lakh centres throughout the country.

The first round of Special NID programmes was observed on July 10 when both polio vaccine and vitamin doses were given to 1.5 crore children of the country.

N'ganj clash

FROM PAGE 12 The bullet injured persons, identified as Kabir, 20, Nuru, 16, Almas, 18, Sumon, 22 and Jewel, 25, were admitted to local hospital and clinics.

Police have been deployed in the area to avert further clash.

No case was filed in connection with the incident till filing of this report at 7pm yesterday.



Policemen guard the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday as part of an ongoing siege on the Dhaka University campus.