

# 'Saddam will be ousted before US attack'



Saddam Hussein

AFP, Washington

US intelligence experts believe that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein will be ousted by members of his inner circle before US forces launch a major ground attack, the Washington Post reported yesterday.

Faced with a US military assault and the choice of either being Saddam's successors or being imprisoned or killed in the fighting, top-ranking military officers or senior Iraqi officials likely will try to eliminate the Iraqi leader, several current and former US officials and intelligence experts told the daily.

"Someone will take action and cause it to happen," said one former high-ranking CIA officer.

Senior US officials, including Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, have recently spoken publicly about Iraqis eliminating Hussein themselves, either through assassination or by sending him into exile.

Late last week, White House spokesman Ari

Fleischer made similar comments.

"The cost of a one-way ticket is substantially less than (the cost of war)," Fleischer said.

"The cost of one bullet, if the Iraqi people take it on themselves, is substantially less than that," he said at a press briefing late last week.

Earlier this year, US President George W. Bush directed the CIA to undertake a comprehensive covert program to topple the Iraqi leader, including authority to use lethal force.

The intelligence agency was instructed to increase support for and contacts with opposition groups inside and outside Iraq, and to expand efforts to collect intelligence about pockets of anti-Saddam sentiment within the Iraqi government, military and intelligence services, the Post wrote.

Earlier report says, Saddam Hussein will be captured by the Americans, commit suicide, set oilfields on fire or

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## Rickshawpuller dies as police shotgun goes off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A rickshawpuller died when a bullet, accidentally fired from a policeman's shotgun, hit him at Sayedabad in the city yesterday morning.

The rickshawpuller, Mominullah, 52, was sitting on his rickshaw at the Shamibagh rail gate when the bullet hit him in the abdomen at about 8 o'clock in the morning. He died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital at 8:45am.

The policeman, Shahin Miah, 56, who took Momin to the DMCH after the incident, was later closed by the Demra police.

Shahin told newsmen at the Demra Police Station that he was on a night-duty along with constable Sattar.

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## Commissioners may get more arms licences

Mayor meets PM, talks security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka yesterday met Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office with a set of recommendations on ways to provide protection to the ward commissioners.

They discussed the latest assassinations of two ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)-backed commissioners of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and moves to protect the ward representatives in the city corporation.

He tendered the suggestions adopted earlier at a meeting at the Nagar Bhaban on Thursday after ward commissioners KM Ahmed Raju and Shahadat Hossain Shikder were gunned down in less than 48 hours.

After the meeting, Khoka told reporters the prime minister was considering a move to allow the

commissioners to carry licensed firearms. Round-the-clock police protection for the commissioners was also carefully thought about at the meeting.

"The prime minister is considering plainclothes policemen for the commissioners," the mayor told BBC last night.

Four BNP-backed ward commissioners have been slain since the April 25 city corporation election.

Asked if it was sensible to take special steps to protect the commissioners while the worsening law and order across the country remains a public worry, the mayor told BBC that it is government's job to improve the law and order in the country. "At the same time, it is also critical to act timely to save the ward commissioners."

The mayor backed the demand for the police protection as 'situa

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## College student shot by muggers dies at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shot in the abdomen allegedly by muggers at Dhanmondi on Tuesday, Jasmin Akther Rita, a college student, died at the Dhaka Medical College yesterday.

The victim's family, however, claimed that Rita has been killed by goons hired by relatives of Javed.

Rita and Javed had an affair but two years ago Javed married someone else because of family pressures. But Javed continued seeing Rita, much to the displeasure of his family and in-laws.

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## Gibbs' near miss

Cricketers' woe in SA continues

AFP, Benoni, South Africa

Herschelle Gibbs finished three runs short of a world record fourth successive one-day international century as South Africa crushed Bangladesh by ten wickets in the second one-day international at Willowmoore Park here yesterday.

The South African opener slammed 97 not out off 66 balls as his team raced to a victory target of 155 in just 20.2 overs.

He seemed set for his century when he faced leg-spinner Alok Kapali with his score on 96 and six needed for victory.

Gibbs charged the first ball of the over and Kapali sent it far down the leg side. It was called wide and went to the boundary - five runs in total -

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PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh batsman Al-Shahriar is bowled out by South African paceman Makhaya Ntini during the second one-day international at the Willowmoore Park in Benoni yesterday.

## Differences on arsenic project patched up

Govt, WB likely to sign agreement tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government and the World Bank are likely to sign tomorrow an agreement on extension of the \$44.5 million Bangladesh Arsenic Mitigation Water Supply Project (BAMWSP).

At a meeting yesterday afternoon, Local Government, Rural Development (LGRD) and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday afternoon and the WB officials resolved that the project should continue.

The funding would come from the bank's unutilised fund of some \$25.2 million and \$2.5 million from the public exchequer.

The WB headquarters in

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# ICT policy on the cards

MUSTAK HOSSAIN

A draft information communication technology (ICT) policy is likely to be placed before the cabinet soon.

It is aimed at building an 'IT-driven nation' by the year 2010, ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan told The Daily Star.

A countrywide IT infrastructure will be developed to ensure every citizen's access to information. This will develop human resources, e-commerce, banking, public utility services and all on-line IT-enabled services to ensure transparency, good governance, better management and sustainable development.

The objective of the policy is to promote and facilitate use of IT in all sectors of the economy, Moyeen said.

Dependable and rich data banks are essential for efficient management and operation of public and private sectors. But these are lacking now, the minister said adding, the policy has been drafted keeping in mind that IT has been declared as a thrust sector.

Laws will be framed to regulate IT issues like IPR (intellectual property rights), protect data, spread IT education and to deter cyber crimes.

The policy recommends setting up of national databases which will

be reliable and available for all. Ministries and all government directorates will introduce automated systems.

There will be an apex body to monitor and promote the IT industry as well as IT education to produce professionals so that Bangladesh can compete successfully in the fast growing global IT market.

The policy suggests introduction of IT education in public and private educational institutions for producing skilled IT manpower. Facilities will be provided to promote IT education and computer aided education at all levels.

Development partners and non-

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Oct 7		5-40 pm
Oct 8	5-53 am	

Prayer Timings		
Oct 7		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	5-46	5-50
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation