

UNSC gives Iraq last chance to disarm

Seven-day deadline to accept terms

Disarming Iraq

- 1991** April: Creation of UNSCOM, UN special commission charged with certifying destruction of Iraq's biological, chemical and ballistic weapons
- 1998** Aug 5: Iraq suspends its cooperation with UNSCOM and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Nov 11: UNSCOM quits Baghdad
- 1998** Dec 17: UN Resolution 1284 replaces UNSCOM with UNMOVIC
- 2000** Baghdad refuses to cooperate with the new body
- 2002** Nov 8: UN Security Council unanimously approves motion to send UNSCOM back in with tough mandate

UNMOVIC: destruction of Iraq's biological, chemical and ballistic weapons (nuclear control remains IAEA's remit)

REUTERS, United Nations

The UN Security Council unanimously approved yesterday a resolution giving Iraq one last chance to eliminate its weapons of mass destruction or face "serious consequences."

The resolution, drafted by the United States and co-sponsored by Britain, gave Baghdad a week to accept the terms and promise to comply.

The vote capped eight weeks of tough negotiations on a text after US President George W Bush challenged the United Nations on Sept. 12 to compel Iraq to implement UN resolutions ordering it to disarm.

The resolution gives UN arms inspectors who have been out of Iraq for four years, "immediate, unimpeded and unconditional" rights to search anywhere, including Saddam Hussein's presidential palaces, for chemical, biological or nuclear weapons, and threatens Iraq with "serious consequences" if it fails to cooperate. Bush expressed pleasure on Thursday that the United Nations had taken up his challenge to work with Washington to disarm Iraq and warned Baghdad that if it balked, the United States and allies would "move swiftly, with force, to do the job."

Earlier, at a news conference in Washington, Bush said, "The United Nations will vote on a resolution bringing the civilized world together to disarm Saddam Hussein."

Bush said he had spoken to Russian President Vladimir Putin and French President Jacques Chirac on the telephone, and while unwilling to speak for fellow leaders said: "I am optimistic that we will get the resolution vote."

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Devotees offer first *jumma* prayers during Ramadan at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque in the city yesterday, with many having spilled out of the mosque area onto the road close-by.

PHOTO: STAR

Prisoner dies at BMCH

A CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Yunus Shikder, 50, an on-trial prisoner of the Barisal Central Jail, died of cardiac arrest at the Barisal Medical College Hospital (BMCH) Wednesday afternoon.

Police said Yunus arrested by a magistrate's court on October 31, was an accused in a case of extortion, violence and looting (case No. 16/30-102) filed by his opponent Babul Dewan.

He was sent to the Barisal jail by a magistrate's court on October 31.

The on-duty doctor at the BMCH declared him dead on Wednesday after he was taken to the hospital.

The body of Yunus was received by his son Babu Sikder.

ISPR clarifies

The Inter-services Public Relations Directorate (ISPR) in a press release last night said that assistant film director Rashedul Hasan who died

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Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Nov	Sehri	Iftar
3	9	4-4:48	5-18
4	10	4-4:48	5-18
5	11	4-4:48	5-18

Feni Jubo Dal activist dies in police custody

Army earlier seized 3 crackers from him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An activist of ruling BNP's youth front Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, picked up by army yesterday, died in police custody while being taken to Feni Sadar Hospital.

Our Feni correspondent reported that an army team picked up Saiful Islam, 22, an alleged criminal, from his Bashpara village home at 10:00am yesterday and recovered three crackers from him during body-search.

He was handed over to Chagalnaiya police at 3:00pm.

Saiful fell sick at about 4:00pm and was sent to Chagalnaiya Health Complex. He died on way while being shifted to Feni Sadar Hospital.

Army sources in Dhaka said Saiful was picked up by a team of joint forces as local people alleged that he was a criminal. The team recovered three crackers from him during body-search. During interro-

gation he confessed that he possessed firearms but the team, acting on his statement, could not recover those.

He was not tortured during interrogation and was handed over to Chagalnaiya police unhurt, the army sources here said. They said Chagalnaiya police also recorded in their case diary that Saiful was

handed over to them unhurt. But later they came to know that Saiful died, the army sources added.

With this, the death toll during the ongoing Operation Clean Heart rose to 22.

Meanwhile, the army arrested 170 people including 32 'listed criminals' from different parts of the country during the last 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday.

The troops also seized nine firearms and 240 rounds of ammunition.

Till yesterday, army arrested 5,000 people and recovered 750 firearms along with 18,000 rounds of ammunition since the crackdown on criminals began on October 17.

Our staff correspondent in Khulna reported that joint forces yesterday arrested Shafiqul Islam Hossain, senior vice-president of the city unit of ruling BNP's student front Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and former vice-president of C

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Patenga boozers flee army

NURUL ALAM, Chittagong

The once bustling 'open-air bar' at the sea-beach in Patenga has become almost inoperative with launch of the army-led anticrime drive.

Police said the smugglers who used to run the bar went into hiding, fearing arrest. Even the boys employed in selling liquors are now hardly seen in the beach area.

Interestingly enough, the arrival of visitors to the sea-beach has dipped, sources said.

"Smuggling through the Patenga coastal area has almost stopped thanks to the army crackdown...and most of the areas in Patenga look deserted," a policeman seeking anonymity said.

A senior official of the Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) said all shady businesses in Patenga came to an end. After sundown, people hardly come to the beach area, which was once abuzz with midnight boozers, he said.

Illegal foreign liquors and other contraband goods were available in the area before the army crackdown.

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1.5 lakh applicants for fixed phones BTTB may not be able to meet demands this year

MUSTAK HOSSAIN

The Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) is unlikely to be able to meet the pending demand for fixed telephones by the year-end to fulfil the commitment made by the telecommunications minister, sources said.

Over 150,000 applications are pending in the capital. Of the applicants, 27,000 have deposited Tk 18,400 each against demand notes.

"I don't see any prospect as there is no immediate investment plan in fixed line telephone," a BTTB engineer told The Daily Star. BTTB has 11,500 applications pending with its Motijheel exchange, 21,000 with Central, 15,000 with Fakirapool, 21,000 with Moghbazar, 12,000 with Gulshan and 12,500 with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar exchanges.

In some of the exchanges, there are still unutilised lines for giving new connections, which total about 24,000.

The Demra, Chawkbazar,

Sources in BTTB said the estimated demand for fixed phones in the capital is more than 250,000 but prospective telephone seekers do not apply as they believe BTTB would not be able to meet their demand.

The demand for fixed telephones will increase next month when BTTB will reduce the demand note charge to Tk 10,000 from Tk 18,400 now, which is highest in the world. The exorbitant charge was fixed to discourage prospective subscribers, they said.

BTTB has 31 telephone exchanges under its multi-exchange in the city, which includes Gazipur, Savar and Savar Export Processing Zone (EPZ).

When asked, an official said these analogue telephones under Moghbazar exchange will be converted into digital ones on priority basis.

Lalbagh, Zingira, Gandaria, Jatrabari, Mugdapara, Goran, Mahanagar, Savar, Savar EPZ, Tongi, Gazipur and Narayanganj exchanges have still capacities to give new telephones, one source said seeking anonymity.

But there is no unutilised lines in Motijheel, Central, Sher-e-Banglanagar, Uttara, Mirpur, Siddhirganj, Nilkhet and Gulshan exchanges, he said.

BTTB, had a target to convert all analogue telephones in the city into digital ones by the year 2000, but could not fulfill it.

About 5,000 analogue telephones under the Moghbazar exchange are yet to be converted into digital ones.

When asked, an official said these analogue telephones under Moghbazar exchange will be converted into digital ones on priority basis.

Open doors to capitalists, Jiang's call to CP

China won't adopt multi-party democracy

REUTERS, Beijing

President Jiang Zemin called on China's Communist Party to open its doors to the new capitalist rich yesterday at the opening of a watershed congress expected to usher in a new generation of leaders.

But Jiang, speaking before a backdrop of a giant hammer and sickle, also stressed the China would not follow Western-style multi-party democracy or abandon its traditional support base of workers and peasants.

Jiang told the 2,114 delegates in Beijing's cavernous Great Hall of the People the theme of the congress was modernising the party to adapt to the wrenching social and economic changes as China opens its potentially vast market to the world.

Outside, streets lined with glitzy office blocks and shopping malls were splashed with red flags and slogan-bearing banners highlighting how China's Socialist political system lags far behind its breakneck capitalist-style economic development.

Vice President Hu Jintao, 59, is expected to take over as party chief after the congress as head of the new "fourth generation" of leaders after Chairman Mao Zedong, paramount leader Deng Xiaoping and Jiang.

But Jiang, 76, is expected to pull the strings from behind the curtain by installing allies in the new leader

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Deng Pufang, eldest son of late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, claps his hands as Chinese President Jiang Zemin walks in for the opening session of the 16th Communist Party Congress in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP