

## Spy report on Iraq reflects divided agencies

Portions of Oct 2002 intelligence report released

AP, Washington

The White House declassified portions of an October 2002 intelligence report to demonstrate that President Bush had ample reason to believe Iraq was reconstituting a nuclear weapons program.

But the material also reflects divisions and uncertainties among intelligence agencies as to Saddam Hussein's activities.

The State Department, for instance, expressed deep skepticism over claims that Saddam was shopping for uranium ore in Africa to use in making atomic bombs - an allegation that wound up in Bush's Jan. 28 State of the Union address but which administration officials have since repudiated.

"Claims of Iraqi pursuit of natural uranium in Africa are ... highly dubious," said a State Department addendum included among the report's findings.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## Jamuna Bridge tender proceedings stayed for a month

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday stayed for a month the operation of proceedings of a tender for toll collection, operation, management and maintenance of the Jamuna Bridge.

The Court also extended by 30 days tenure of the contract awarded in July 1998 to JOMAC, a multinational consortium doing the work.

The 5-year contract expired yesterday.

The Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (JMBA) has earned Tk 450 Crore in last five years from the first Operation and Maintenance contract.

The orders came upon a writ pending before the court, filed by JOMAC on July 16, challenging the "transparency" of the tender floated by the JMBA in January this year.

Earlier, the division bench comprising Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury and Justice AFM Ali

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

## Crash stalls vehicle movement on Dhaka-Aricha road

A CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Vehicular movement on Dhaka-Aricha highway was stranded for three hours at Joytura due to an accident yesterday morning.

Witnesses and police sources said the accident occurred when a Dhaka bound passenger bus from Aricha terminal collided with a fertiliser loaded truck at Joytura at 7.35am.

At least 11 passengers were injured. They were admitted to Savar Gono Swasthya Kendro.

The bus and the truck remained on the road from 7.35am to 10.15am with at least 400 vehicles both ways stranded.

The vehicular movement resumed at 10.15am when forces from the Dhamrai Police Station removed the bus and truck from the road.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
July 20	5-22 am	6-47 pm
Prayer Timings		
July 20		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	5-52	5-57
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		

# US soldier manning Baghdad bank killed

AP, Baghdad

A US soldier was fatally shot guarding a bank Saturday in the capital, while the US military concluded two separate sweeps in and around Baghdad - arresting more than 1,200 people and seizing weapons, explosives and ammunition, the military said.

The death came a day after two separate attacks on convoys in which one soldier was killed. It brought to 149 the number of US personnel killed in combat since the March 20 start of the war - two more than the 1991 Gulf War total for US deaths in combat.

The soldier guarding the Baghdad bank died at about 2 a.m. outside the Al-Rasheed Bank in western Baghdad, Corp. Todd Pruden said.

Pruden also announced that a US serviceman was injured Friday when the convoy he was in was attacked north of Baghdad with small arms fire, rocket propelled grenades and mortars. Three vehicles in the convoy were damaged.

aged in the attack in Muqadadiyah, 60 miles northwest of the capital, Pruden said.

In another convoy attack Friday, a US soldier was killed when a bomb was detonated by remote control at a traffic circle near the main bridge over the Euphrates River in Fallujah, a city west of Baghdad.

The military also announced it had wrapped up two sweeps - dubbed Operation Ivy Serpant and Operation Soda Mountain earlier in the week. Some 1,210 people were detained in the two operations, including 112 people suspected of close ties to the former Saddam Hussein regime.

The operations, which both ended Thursday, netted some 6,000 mortar rounds, more than 1,400 rocket propelled grenades, explosives, AK-47 assault rifles and other weapons. None of those captured, however, were among those still at large from a list of 55 suspected of close ties to the former regime.

US authorities have captured 34

people on the list, but not Saddam or his two sons.

A US intelligence official speaking on condition of anonymity said Friday that a new audio recording purportedly by Saddam urging Iraqis to continue a "holy war" against US forces is probably authentic and recent - further evidence Saddam survived the war. The message was aired Thursday, the 35th anniversary of the coup that brought Saddam's Baath Party to power.

Violence against US troops has been concentrated in Iraq's "Sunni Triangle," stretching north and west from Baghdad.

At a major Sunni mosque in Baghdad, formerly known as the Mother of all Battles Mosque, preacher Khalid al-Dari called Friday for the Americans to leave Iraq and said the new US-appointed government "will enshrine Iraq's sectarian differences."

Iraq's minority Sunni Muslims have long ruled the country, and

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

## SQ Chy reiterates immunity stand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The lawyer of Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, parliamentary affairs adviser to the prime minister, has said no defamation case against his client was maintainable for the statement he made in parliament.

In reply to the letter sent by Dr Kamal Hossain, the lawyer of The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam, on July 16, Barrister Rafique-ul-Huq, on Friday, said the alleged defamatory statement quoted in Dr Kamal's legal notice was the verbatim report of the speech delivered by his client in parliament on June 26.

"My client is responsible for what he said in parliament and stands by it," he said. "He (SQ Chowdhury) does not feel obliged to specify that the statement made by him was directed either against your client or any one else," he added.

Barrister Rafique said, "My client is not obliged to take responsibility for any inference made by your client or the Inqilab as to the ostensible target of my client's remarks."

## BCL men beat up Hijbut Tahrir workers at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

At least five activists of Hijbut Tahrir, Bangladesh (HTB) were injured while Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists attacked them on Dhaka University (DU) campus yesterday.

The BCL beat up Sheikh Mohammad Tawfique, a HTB activist and a PhD student of Sociology Department of DU.

Three other activists of the same party were also beaten up in front of the DU Registrar building.

The BCL activists also chopped Mohammad Ejaz Ahmed, a member of the HTB, a pro-Islamic party, in Dhanmondia area.

He was rushed to the Dhaka

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

## Canberra asked to ease visa regime, transfer of technology

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan has requested Australia to consider migration of workforce from and transfer of technology and free flow of capital to a labour-surplus country like Bangladesh, particularly in the context of globalisation.

The request was made when visiting Australian Minister for Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs Philip Ruddock

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

Children paddle to school through floodwaters at Helachia in Gheor yesterday. Although the month-long flooding has swamped much of Manikganj district, schools remained open on government orders.

# Floods take toll on vegetables, rice seedlings

REAZ AHMAD

Floodwaters sweeping through a third of the districts including the prime farming zones have caused great damage to summer vegetables, but have not had the same impact on the staple cereal, rice.

Quoting preliminary estimates, official sources put the damage at five to seven per cent of an average output of 6 lakh tonnes of summer vegetables at this stage.

However, officials of the agri-

culture extension and farm marketing departments said the floods during an 'in-between' period of a crop-cycle have spared the rice growers of major losses.

In the low-lying farmlands, peasants had already reaped the aus paddy before the floodwaters submerged the fields. On the other hand, most of the aman growers are patiently waiting for the water to recede.

An official of the agriculture marketing department, however, feared that if the flood period is

prolonged it would be a looming threat to aman farmers. The official also said the farmers who raised aman seedlings in advance might have already lost some due to flooding of seedbeds in some places.

However, production of more aman seeds this year, compared to the past few years, by the Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) comes as a solace to the farmers who

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

# Political culture must adjust itself to present world order: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has said politics in Bangladesh must be transformed to meet the demands of present global system.

"We should bring qualitative change in politics as it is above everything in the modern state mechanism," she said while inau-

gurating the 9th National Convention of Bangladesh Political Science Association (BPSA) at Hotel Sonargaon here yesterday.

Presided over by President of BPSA and former vice chancellor of Dhaka University Professor Emajuddin Ahmed, the function was also addressed by DU VC Dr SMA Faiz, General Secretary of BPSA Dr M Ataur Rahman and the

newly appointed VC of National University Dr Aftab Ahmed.

Ministers, MPs and a large number of former students of political science attended the inaugural session of the two-day programme which will particularly focus on 'political leadership and gover-

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Two year-old Pakistani girl Noor Fatima lies recuperating from heart surgery at Narayana Hrudayalaya Hospital in Bangalore in India. Fatima was brought to the hospital after her parents took the first bus to travel between the neighbours in 18 months on July 11. The baby has emerged as a symbol of newfound hopes for reconciliation.

PHOTO: AFP

## Nasrin rescue abandoned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government postponed the rescue operation of M V Nasrin-1, as recommended by the local administration of Chandpur, sources said.

The recommendation was made at a tripartite meeting of Navy personnel, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) officials and the local administration yesterday.

The meet agreed that work is not possible during the current monsoon high tide and strong currents.

The Navy personnel detected the sunken vessel at around 150 feet south of the confluence of the rivers Dakatia, Meghna and Padma near Chandpur Puranbazar.

"The chances of salvaging the vessel at this time are nil," said Deputy Commissioner of Chandpur Abdur Rob.

But the operation for recovering dead bodies would continue for some more days, he added.

"The salvage operation would be suspended tomorrow," said Chairman of BIWTA Abul Hossain Chowdhury.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## ANU MURDER Arrestees placed on remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Two persons, arrested in connection with the killing of BNP leader Anwarul Haq Anu, were placed on a one day remand yesterday.

Kotwali police produced the two -- Farida Begum and Delwar Pramanik -- before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM's) Court, Dhaka, at 4:00pm seeking a two-day remand.

In the petition, police said the arrestees are the domestic help and security guard of DCC Commissioner Saidur Rahman Shahid, who was earlier given death penalty in the Advocate Habibur Rahman Mondal murder case. They were arrested under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). So, they were not shown arrested in the Anu murder case.

Anu, 40, was shot dead by a gang of unidentified assailants near the Police Club, about 100 yards away from the CMM's Court Building on July 17.

## Rejoinder

Hizbut Tawheed protested a news item published in The Daily Star on July 16 under the headline 'New outlaw groups swing into action'.

A rejoinder of the organisation signed by its Amir, Prof Muhammad Abul Bashar, said the report was untrue, fictitious and baseless. It claimed Hizbut Tawheed is not an underground organisation and its all activities are transparent and overt.

It also denied involvement of the organisation with any arms and explosives deal.