

Tests confirm sons of Saddam dead

2 US soldiers killed as guerilla warfare continues; Tikrities in disbelief



A TV frame grab from Al-Jazeera satellite news channel shows the house that was raided by US military forces in the northern city of Mosul Tuesday, killing Uday and Qusay.

REUTERS/AFP, Baghdad

Former aides to Saddam Hussein as well as medical and dental records confirmed the ousted Iraqi leader's sons, Uday and Qusay, were killed in a gunbattle with American troops, a US military spokesman said yesterday.

But the deaths of two US soldiers in fresh ambushes in Iraq dented any hopes that the elimination of Saddam's feared sons would also snuff out a guerrilla insurgency against occupying forces.

Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, the US commander in Iraq, said visual identification by four former aides, as well as medical and dental records, confirmed that two of four people killed in the battle at the villa were Uday and Qusay.

"We have no doubt that we have the bodies of Uday and Qusay," Sanchez said. But many Iraqis say they want proof.

A US official in Washington told Reuters there are plans to release

photographs of the brothers' bodies. The official, who asked not to be identified, saw facial photos of the pair and said they "are pretty bad" but recognizable.

Sanchez said US troops had also detained Barzan Abd Ghafur Slayman al-Tikriti, the Special Republican Guard commander who was No. 11 on a list of 55 most-wanted Iraqis. Of the 55, 37 have been captured or killed.

"It confirms that we will succeed in our hunt for former regime members, and in particular Saddam Hussein, wherever they are and however long it takes," Sanchez said.

Sanchez detailed the array of devastating firepower used against Uday and Qusay, who were barricaded in a fortified section of the villa with two others. Firing AK-47 assault rifles, they wounded four

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Saddam tape urges Iraq uprising

FOX NEWS, Baghdad

A new audiotape purported to be of toppled dictator Saddam Hussein, broadcast by an Arab satellite station yesterday, called on former soldiers to rise up against the American occupation.

The speaker said the tape was made on July 20, two days before his sons Uday and Qusay were killed in a fierce attack on a villa belonging to a Saddam cousin in the northern city of Mosul.

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Cost recovery over, first gas field under PSC yields real cash

SHARIER KHAN

The country is getting profit out of a Production Sharing Contract (PSC) for the first time, as the cost recovery for Unocal's Jalalabad gas field was complete in June.

This means Petrobangla will get double the amount of free Jalalabad gas it used to get before June 2003.

Unocal's monthly gas bill that Petrobangla pays in dollars is also reduced by half.

"Unocal has recovered all its costs -- about \$300 million -- from Jalalabad gas sales," said a Petrobangla official.

Petrobangla had been getting 37 percent of gas free from the Jalalabad field. Now its share goes up to 70 per

cent.

The monthly gas billing for daily supply of about 120 million cubic feet of per day (mmcf/d) gas comes at around \$5.5 million.

"We expect the bill to come down to \$2.7 million a month," the official said, adding there is a backlog of three months' bill. "This will reduce

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PHOTO: STAR

Members of a flood-hit family camped in the open yesterday after their lowland home outside the embankment in Mohammadpur was submerged by waters from monsoon-swollen rivers.

Shamsunnahar Hall attack
Probe reports
gather dust

DU CORRESPONDENT

The recommendations made by the three probe committees on police atrocities on the students of Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka University (DU) on July 23 last year have been shelved for months.

Necessary actions against the persons responsible are yet to be taken despite the submission of the reports by the government, DU authorities and police officials.

Police had stormed into the hall on the night of July 23, dragged students from the beds, verbally abused and assaulted them, leaving more than 50 injured.

The one-member judicial commission, formed on July 27 at

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Man arrested
for 'killing'
Michel
remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Momtaj alias Jamai Momtaj, arrested on Tuesday in connection with the abduction and killing of schoolboy Tanjurul Islam Mishel, has been remanded for three days.

Police produced Momtaj before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court yesterday with a seven-day remand prayer. The court granted three days.

Meanwhile, police arrested one Alan from Dania last night suspecting his involvement in the case.

Badly decomposed body of Mishel, a student of class four of Dania Sunrise Kindergarten, was

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7,174 schools, colleges asked to explain exam result debacle

MUSTAK HOSSAIN and AKTAR FARUK SHAHIN

The Ministry of Education has served notice on 7,174 schools, colleges and madrassahs to explain why they performed poorly in the public exams of 2002.

As such, 80 per cent failure in public examinations is unacceptable and unexpected, said the notice.

The ministry directed the listed institutions to show cause within 15 days. It cautioned that failing to

respond to or to improve condition within a year would cause the ministry to cancel the monthly pay order (MPO) and take other stringent measures.

The government is also considering delisting about 290 non-government educational institutions that have failed to produce even a single successful student in the SSC and HSC examinations of

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NCBs mull public agitation for bad loan recovery

STAR REPORT

Unable to show encouraging results in recovering stuck-up loans, the nationalised commercial banks (NCBs) now ponder marching their staff up to the defaulters' establishments and stage demonstrations to make them payoff.

When the banks made the suggestion at a meeting with the Bangladesh Bank yesterday, Governor Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed asked the NCBs to take whatever steps they think would be effective for bad loan recovery.

The governor also expressed dissatisfaction over the NCBs' result

in loan recovery and write-off. The Bangladesh Bank yesterday also set targets for six banks -- four NCBs and two specialised banks -- to write off Tk 4,084 crore by December.

These six institutions have already cleaned up Tk 1,208 crore till June this year since January.

Sonali Bank has already written off Tk 736 crore till June and will have to write off another Tk 764 crore by December. Janata Bank was the worst performer with only Tk 60 crore written off till June and another Tk 940 to be done by December. Agrani wrote off Tk 350 crore till June and will have to do

another Tk 650 crore. Rupali could write off Tk 48 crore and will have to do another Tk 652 crore.

Bangladesh Krishi Bank wrote off Tk 14 crore and will have to write off another Tk 44 crore. Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank failed to do anything in this regard and so will have to write off Tk 40 crore by December.

Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha wrote off Tk 900 crore till June and Bangladesh Shilpa Bank did Tk 433 crore.

The governor asked the chief executives of Janata and some other institutions about their low performance. The managing directors

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Industrial park at Adamjee site to cost Tk 617cr

UNB, Narayanganj

Adamjee Industrial Park, planned at the site of the now defunct Adamjee Jute Mills here, will cost Tk 617 crore to be ready in next two years for accommodating textile and support industries.

Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) came up with the estimate in a project concept paper (PCP) that outlined the proposed industrial park on the strategic site, only 17 km off the capital city and 2 km from the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway.

The price of total 294.88 acres of land for the Park has been estimated at Tk 525.30 crore, which is 85 percent of the total project cost.

Agriculture Minister MK Anwar, who chaired an inter-ministerial meeting that reviewed the PCP at the Adamjee site yesterday, told reporters that the government would act upon the project as soon as possible.

The informal inter-ministerial

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