

US warns Niger

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Niger government had never had discussions with Iraq about uranium, and called on British Prime Minister Tony Blair to produce the "evidence" he claims to have to confirm that Iraq sought uranium from Niger.

US officials denied that there had been any attempt to "gag" the Niger government, the Telegraph said.

But the Niger official said that Washington's warning was likely to be heard.

"Mr Cohen did not spell it out but everybody in Niger knows what the consequences of upsetting America or Britain would be. We are the world's second-poorest country and we depend on international aid to survive."

On a visit to Washington last month, Blair maintained the accuracy of British intelligence on Iraq's alleged purchase of nuclear material from Niger, saying "we know for sure" that it bought 270 tons of the material from the African country in the 1980s.

Iraq's attempt to procure nuclear material from Niger has become the focus of a political furore in both the US and Britain after the Central Intelligence Agency publicly acknowledged the allegation should never have been in US President George W Bush's State of the Union address in January.

That link was cited as one justification for the US-British invasion of Iraq.

Cohen's intervention in Niger suggested that Washington was keen to draw a line under the "uranium from Africa" affair, the Telegraph said, but added it had also learned that senior US soldiers were in Iraq last week to

investigate movements of Niger's uranium.

Hill factions

FROM PAGE 12
Additional forces were sent to the area and they were yet to report back, military sources said.

The gunbattle started at Krishnamachora area at about 12:30pm and continued for an hour, sources said.

The next string of shooting took places in Hatimara area at around 6:00pm and at Ramoripara at midnight, sources added.

The gunfights followed Friday's UPDF press conference at Kutukchhori, sources suspected, where the UPDF blamed the PCJSS for killing 87 of its activists in the last four years.

On July 26, three were killed and another injured in a shootout between the rival groups at Jurappara in the upazila.

Pandemonium

FROM PAGE 12
Abdur Rashid.

It all started when Sakhawat Hossain snatched the microphone from Masudur Rahman as he was addressing the meeting.

Surji Ali in his speech left the court boycott issue to the individual lawyer to decide whether or not to participate in the programme.

He urged the lawyers to maintain law and order in the court.

Man gets life for killing wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal.

A person was sentenced to life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) with a fine of Tk 10,000 by the Barisal district judge's court for murdering his wife. He is to serve one more year in prison should he fail to pay the fine.

Shahin Mollah, a resident of Baherchar Khudrokhali in Babuganj upazila of Barisal, beat up Kanchi Begum, his wife, on June 5, 2001. She was taken to Barisal Medical College Hospital where she died on June 6.

The charge sheet against Shahin was submitted on July 31, 2001. District Judge of Barisal Sudhenu Kumar Biswas announced the verdict.

In another judgement, the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Barisal, sentenced Sultan Ahmed, supervisor of ferry division of Bholo Rail and Highways office, to five years RI with Tk 5,000 fine or more six months of RI for storing foreign liquors.

Dinajpur clash

FROM PAGE 12
heads of smuggled Indian cattle.

They were caught by Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel Saturday night.

When police rushed to the spot to remove the barricade holding up traffic on the busy highway, the crowd started throwing bricks at them.

Police charged baton, but failing to bring the situation under control after several hours of struggle, they opened fire.

Additional police forces were deployed in and around the Raniganj Bazar to avert further untoward incidents.

The report suggested that vessels, 20 years or older, should ply only during the day.

Commissioning of salvage ships with modern equipment at Aricha, Chandpur, Mongla, Chittagong and Sunamganj points was the other salient feature of the report.

The report quoted survivors as saying that the launch owner, who himself was in the deck, allowed the employees of MV Nasrin-1 to overload the vessel way beyond its capacity of 300 and also carry huge cargo.

Major Asad of Dinajpur Sadar BDR said the six arrestees had been released by afternoon yesterday.

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