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# Rockets hammer two Baghdad hotels

### Saddam's lawyers term trial a farce in illegal court; 2 Marines killed; Jordan ready to send peacekeepers to Iraq

AGENCIES, Baghdad/Amman

Defence lawyers for Saddam Hussein said yesterday that the first court appearance of the ousted president was a farce in an illegal court and challenged the legitimacy of Iraq's judicial system which they said was preventing them from going to Baghdad.

Jordanian lawyers Mohammed Rashdan and Ziad Khassawneh told AFP that the televised court appearance in Baghdad by the former dictator was shameful.

"The court proceedings were a farce and theatrics," said Rashdan who heads the 20-member Amman-based team which was appointed by Saddam's wife and three daughters to represent him.

"What happened yesterday was shameful and much worse than the Nuremberg trials," he said of the courts which tried leading Nazi party officials after the defeat of Germany in World War II.

"The judges were appointed illegally by (Paul) Bremer," he said in

reference to the former US administrator who ruled Iraq from the end of last year's war until Monday when he transferred sovereignty to an Iraqi interim government.

"They were supposed to get, at the very least, the approval of the Iraqi people," he said, reiterating that Iraq's government is illegitimate since it was not elected by the people.

Rashdan, who says the lawyers had been threatened by Iraqi officials, said the defence team had asked "several countries, including France, to grant us international protection to go to Iraq to defend President Saddam."

"We are waiting for replies," he said.

The lawyers say they cannot go to Baghdad to represent their client without clearance from the Iraqi Bar Association which has not been forthcoming. The Iraqi authorities "are afraid of the defence team and that is why they are placing obstacles along our path," he added.

For Khassawneh, the ousted Iraqi

president, who ruled his country with an iron-fist for 24 years, was in full command in court on Thursday.

Saddam "is a strong and steadfast man. He enjoys a strong sense of the law and dominated the court and confused the judges," he said.

In court, the 67-year-old former dictator refused to sign legal papers after the charges were read against him, demanding the presence of his lawyers.

Saddam dismissed the court as "a theatre", denounced US President George W. Bush as the "real villain", defended his invasion of Kuwait and called Kuwaitis "dogs".

**ROCKETS HAMMER HOTELS**

Rockets hit two central Baghdad hotels yesterday, shattering the Muslim holiday calm a day after Saddam appeared before the Iraqi tribunal.

The explosions woke residents of the capital who had been riveted by the drama of a deflated but still defiant Saddam brought in chains to

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8



KEEP THE FIRE BURNING... Greek fans light flares as they celebrate in the centre of Athens after the national football team defeated the Czech Republic in the second semifinal of the Euro 2004 on July 1.

# Greece sizzle in ecstasy



Hundreds of thousands of people thronged Greek cities in wild celebrations after the Greek football team surprisingly qualified for the Euro 2004 final on Thursday.

Complete strangers fell into each other's arms, car horns reverberated on the streets and fireworks crossed the Athens sky as Greece exceeded their wildest expectations, beating the Czech Republic 1-0 in the semi-final.

"Athens will burn tonight," said Costas Poulos, 32, one of millions of Greeks huddled around their television screens to watch the thrilling match which was won with a goal in extra time from Traianos Dellas.

Host nation Portugal await in the final.

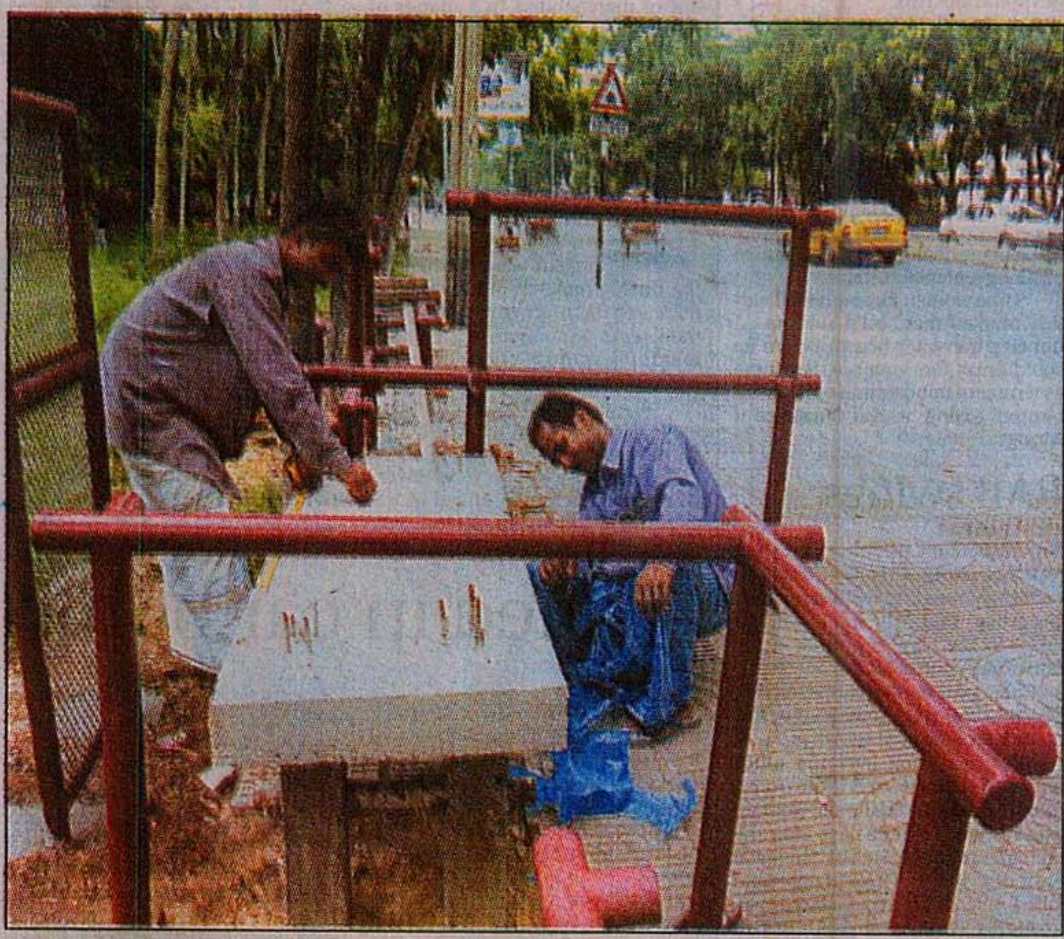
"There's no sleep until the final is over on Sunday," Poulos told AFP before jumping into his car to head to Athens central Omonoia square, the city's traditional place of celebration. Tens of thousands of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

**FINAL**

Portugal vs Greece

Live on ESPN & MTV at 12:40 am (Monday)



Workers build a concrete bench, one of many, on the sidewalk from Doyal Square to Shahbagh yesterday, as Dhaka City Corporation launched a project on footpath facelift.

# Marlon Brando dies at 80

**REUTERS, Los Angeles**

Marlon Brando, one of the most influential actors of his generation, has died, according to media reports yesterday citing his lawyer. He was 80.

A family friend told FoxNews that Brando died on Thursday night at 6:20 pm (22:20 GMT) in a Los Angeles-area hospital after being taken there on Wednesday. The cause of death was not immediately known.

Brando, with his broken nose and rebel nature, established a more naturalistic style of acting and defined American macho for a generation with classic performances in "A Streetcar Named Desire" (1951), "The Wild One" (1953) and "On the Waterfront" (1954).

To many, Brando remained the motorcycle-riding rebel he played in "The Wild One." Asked what he was rebelling against, Brando replied, "Whaddya got?"

Brando won an Academy Award for "On the Waterfront" and another for his brooding, at times numbing, portrayal of the patriarch of a Mafia family in "The Godfather" (1972).

But Brando also railed against Hollywood and chafed at the pomp of stardom throughout a stormy career. In 1973, he refused to accept his second Oscar to protest the treatment of American Indians and

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

# Law change soon to check brick-kiln emissions

**REZAUL KARIM**

The Ministry of Environment and Forest has prepared a draft to amend the existing law on checking brick-kiln emissions.

The Department of Environment (DoE) prepared the draft and held a high-profile meeting on Tuesday with Environment Minister Tariqul Islam in the chair.

Highly placed sources said the government has decided to enforce the law to impose a ban on use of wood in brickfields. The draft also proposed to strictly maintain the height of brick-kiln chimneys.

Around 60 percent of the country's brick manufacturing units run with requisite 120-feet high chimneys and the ministry has given top priority to force the remaining kilns to meet the standard, sources said.

Environment ministry officials said the government is preparing realistic laws that the brick kiln owners would be able to follow.

The draft also proposed to allow construction of brickfields one kilometre away from a city, town or important establishments such as schools, colleges or hospitals. The requirement of distance may be less in hilly areas, they added.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

# Villagers beat up Bangla Bhai man

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi**

A backlash against Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) started yesterday evening as residents of Shikdari-Sakua village beat up a JMJB cadre and handed him over to police.

The villagers caught Saiful Islam, a teacher of Kudapara Ahadia Dakhil Madrasa suspecting he was involved in the murder of Awami League leader Yasin, which Saiful admitted to them later.

The villagers also recovered leaflets with picture of al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden, booklets and documents carrying name and monogram of the al-Qaeda from a room of the madrasa.

However, police did not arrest Saiful who admitted his close link with Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai, operations commander of the JMJB.

Sources said Abu Siddik, investigation officer of the Yasin murder case, sent Saiful to a safer place. Siddik however declined to comment.

Local AL and 11-party alliance, meanwhile, held a grand rally in Bagmara on Thursday demanding judicial probe and immediate arrest

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

# Fertiliser, machines, irrigation to get cheaper: Anwar

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

With the doubling of farm subsidy this fiscal year, the government has chalked out a series of measures to cut input cost to make agriculture profitable for the long hard-pressed farmers.

Announcing this yesterday, Agriculture Minister MK Anwar said the measures covering a wide range of inputs including fertiliser, farm machinery and irrigation are aimed to bring relief to farmers and enhance agricultural output to make the predominantly subsistence farming a commercially viable one.

The newly passed national budget for fiscal 2004-05 raised farm subsidy to Tk 600 crore from Tk 300 last year.

The cost-cut will come in terms of subsidy for various chemical fertilisers like triple super phosphate (TSP), murate of potash (MP) and di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) to bring down their market prices at par with the already subsidised urea fertiliser. Subsidy for irrigation, free distribution of home-grown low-cost farm machinery,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

# 6 killed in car bomb attack on Turkish governor

**AFP, Ankara**

Six people died and 23 were injured yesterday when suspected Kurdish rebels carried out a car bomb attack on a Turkish provincial governor just as his convoy drove by, officials said.

Governor Hikmet Tan, who escaped injured, told reporters his car was badly damaged in the blast in the city of Van, some 90km west of the Iranian border, but he and his police escort managed to speed away from the downtown area where the attack occurred.

A second bomb was defused shortly afterwards, police spokesman Ramazan Er told a press conference in Ankara.

"Our impression is that the attack was carried out by the PKK", the Kurdish rebels of the former Kurdistan People's Party (PKK), renamed Kongra-Gel, the police spokesman said.

The attack came a month after

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

# Quake kills 18 in Turkey

**REUTERS, Tunceli, Turkey**

Eighteen people were killed and 27 injured when an earthquake hit remote villages in the eastern Turkish province of Agri yesterday, devastating the local stone and earth houses.

Soldiers worked with residents to rescue people trapped in the rubble and set up tents and mobile kitchens for those made homeless. Anatolian news agency said. Istanbul's Kandilli Observatory said the quake measured 5.1 on the Richter scale.

An official at the local governor's office said the village of Yigincal, with about 100 houses, suffered severe damage in the quake, which struck three villages in Dogubayazit

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

# RAB swings into action in Sylhet today

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet**

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) aiming at improving law and order of Sylhet swings into action today.

A spate of bomb attacks lately pushed Sylhet on the brink of law and order breakdown. The elite force that will work along with regular police was likely to reach the divisional headquarters by last night.

Meanwhile, newly joined

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

# AL, BNP clash leaves 26 hurt at Nilphamari

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari**

At least 26 people were injured in a clash between the Awami League (AL) and BNP activists at district headquarters yesterday.

Witnesses and police said the trouble began at about 5:00pm when a procession brought out by the AL in support of today's hartal reached in front of the district BNP office.

A group of BNP men, equipped with lethal weapons, attacked the AL procession, leading to a fierce clash between the activists of the two rival political parties.

Five of the injured Dipak, Lipon, Azahar, Wahidul and Farhad—were admitted to Nilphamari Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

Police have been deployed in front of the district Awami League and BNP offices to fend off further trouble.

**Prayer Timing**

July 3	Azan		Jamaat	
	Start	End	Start	End
Fajr	4-10	4-45		
Zohr	12-45	1-15		
Asr	5-00	5-15		
Maghrib	6-55	7-00		
Esha	8-17	8-45		

Source: Islamic Foundation

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