

Kerry vows to pull out Iraq troops

REUTERS, *Canonsburg, Pennsylvania*

Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry has called the invasion of Iraq "the wrong war in the wrong place at the wrong time" and said his goal was to withdraw US troops in his first White House term.

Under pressure from some Democrats to change the subject from national security -- regarded by many as President George W. Bush's strongest issue -- Kerry tried to focus exclusively on the economy and other domestic topics at a neighbourhood meeting but supporters raised Iraq.

The Massachusetts senator, who has said he would have voted to give Bush the authority to use force if necessary against Iraq even if he had known at the time that Saddam Hussein had no weapons of mass destruction, has struggled to draw clear contrasts with the president.

"I would not have done just one thing differently than the president on Iraq, I would have done everything differently than the president on Iraq," Kerry said on Monday.

He denied that he was "Monday morning quarterbacking."

"I said this from the beginning of the debate to the walk up to the war. I said, Mr. President don't rush to war, take the time to build a legitimate coalition and have a plan to win the peace."

Kerry said Bush had failed on all three counts. He called the president's talk about a coalition fighting alongside about 125,000 U.S. troops "the phoniest thing I've ever heard."

"You've about 500 troops here, 500 troops there and it's American troops that are 90 percent of the combat casualties and it's American taxpayers that are paying 90 percent of the cost of the war," he said. "It's the wrong war, in the wrong place at the wrong time."

GETTING OUT OF IRAQ

Kerry, like Bush, promised that the

Warming

FROM PAGE 12

too costly and wrongly excluded developing nations.

Ministers from Arctic nations are to meet in Iceland in November, after the report is issued, to agree recommendations.

Among conclusions, the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) says the warming in the Arctic will "have worldwide implications."

Run-off from melting glaciers and the Greenland icecap could raise global sea levels and disrupt ocean circulation, it says. And biodiversity elsewhere could be affected because some migratory species breed in the Arctic.

The report also says "Arctic vegetation zones are projected to shift, bringing wide-ranging impacts" and that "Animal species' diversity, ranges and distributions will change, some dramatically."

Meanwhile, it says, many coastal communities and facilities face increasing exposure to storms.

And indigenous peoples would face major economic and cultural impacts, it says. Ultraviolet radiation -- known to cause skin cancer and immune system disorders in humans -- would also rise sharply.

The report also concludes that "reduced sea ice is very likely to increase marine transport and access to resources." The thaw could open short-cut shipping routes between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

But on land, buildings, oil pipelines, industrial facilities, roads and airports could need substantial rebuilding if permafrost thaws, it says.

Families of nat'l

FROM PAGE 1

plunged them into despair and anguish.

"The present government used influence to bungle the trial process to let the killers go scot-free," Mohammad Nasim, son of the late minister M Mansur Ali, told The Daily Star.

"We were hopeful about justice when the previous Awami League (AL) government initiated the belated trial process. But justice now appears as a distant dream."

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday Syed Ashrafur Islam, son of late president Syed Nazrul Islam, said he was in deep doubt over justice as the ruling alliance made naked interference in the trial to save the accused linked to it.

The BNP-led coalition replaced four public prosecutors appointed by the past AL government with people loyal to the accused with the intent to mangle the trial to acquit the accused.

One of the accused has already taken preparations to celebrate his 'sure court acquittal' with feasts in Nagarkanda in Faridpur, he said, quoting a newspaper report.

"It's not fair to comment before judgement ... we expect justice of my father's killing, but the way the government has interfered with the trial process has slimmed down the hope," said Mahjabin Ahmed, daughter of the late prime minister Tajuddin Ahmed.

She said her family was not optimistic about justice.

"We fear we won't get justice," ASM Sayeed, husband of Poly Syed, quoted her as saying.

Poly is the daughter of AHM Quamaruzzaman, one of the four national leaders.

United States would stay the course in Iraq until the country is secure, saying: "We have to do what we need to do to get out and do it right."

He pledged to internationalise the forces in Iraq and do a better job of fighting "a more effective, smarter" war on terror that he said would actually make Americans safer.

Although he declined to set a precise timetable for pulling out U.S. troops, Kerry said it would be possible if certain conditions were met, such as bringing allies to the table to help with security and reconstruction.

He also said Washington should make it clear to the world that the United States had no "long-term designs to maintain bases and troops in Iraq."

"We want those troops home and my goal would be to try to get them home in my first term and I believe that can be done," he said.

If Kerry were to beat Bush in the November 2 presidential election, his first four-year term would end in January 2009.

Kicking off a Labour Day offensive in three crucial battleground states -- Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio -- Kerry focused on pocketbook issues as he tried to reinvestigate his campaign after new polls showed him trailing Bush by double digits.

On the front porch of Dale and Jody Rhome's house in Canonsburg, he reassured the president's economic policies and said if Americans wanted four more years of losing jobs and health care "then you ought to go vote for George Bush."

Highway

FROM PAGE 1

CNG- run three-wheelers and five pick-up vans abaze.

Sumi was taken to the university medical unit at 9:15am where a doctor confirmed her death.

A disconsolate Koli, Sumi's friend, said, "I can't bring myself to believe Sumi is no more." Many other students echoed her.

Daughter of late Sajjad Mohammad Yunus, Sumi came to the campus only 10 days ago and attended only one class. Their classes began on August 28.

The university medical centre turned into a spot of mourners as students, teachers and others thronged it to have a last glimpse of Sumi. Her namaz-e-janaza was held on Shaheed Minar premises on the campus at around 2:15pm and her body was sent home in a university bus. She will be buried at their family graveyard today.

The university authorities and Savar police filed separate cases.

"We are finding it difficult to avert accidents here as the home and communications ministries are yet to meet our repeated requests to take initiatives for this," the VC said.

Meanwhile, seven people including associate professor of English department Kawzar Hossain have been killed so far in road accidents near the campus. Kawzar was killed on February 1, 2002.

Another criminal

FROM PAGE 1

Chief of a gang named after him, Shamim had feuds with his associates and other rival groups, and one of his men informed Rab about his location on Sunday evening, said sources.

Mollah Shamim told Rab during interrogation that he had more firearms secreted in the Sattala slum.

Rab along with Mollah Shamim went there in the middle of the night. Sensing their presence, operatives of Shamim opened fire on the team that was returned by members of the elite force, Rab sources said.

Both sides were said to have exchanged at least 50 gunshots, in which Shamim received bullets and died on the spot.

An associate of top listed criminal Kala Jahangir, Mollah Shamim was wanted in at least 10 cases including three of murder.

INQUEST, POST-MORTEM
Sub-Inspector Bhabesh Chandra Biswas of Gulshan Police Station prepared the inquest report at Dhaka Medical College Hospital last evening without the presence of any magistrate.

The report read 30-year-old Mollah Shamim, son of Abdur Rahman Bhuiyan of 99/5 Mohakhali at Dakkhinpara, Gulshan, died in a shootout between Rab members and his accomplices. It also said that Mollah Shamim was hit with bullets fired by his own men.

Shamim, who possessed arms and was involved in criminal activities in the locality, had marks of bullet holes on his chest, stomach, back and right hand, it said.

Dr Kamrul Islam, lecturer of Forensic and Medicine Department at DMCH, performed the one and half hours post-mortem from 4:00pm and took out a bullet from his elbow.

Meanwhile, no-one turned up at DMCH till 8:45 last night to receive the body of Shamim.

CASE
Rab handed over four arrestees to Gulshan Police Station yesterday and filed three cases against them under arms and narcotics control acts, and obstruction to law and murder.

Rab men had a close-door meeting for a couple of hours before framing the cases, police sources said.

Govt was aware of Aug 21 attack, says Hasina

UNB, *Dhaka*

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the BNP-Jamaat coalition government was aware of the August 21 grenade attack on her rally that left 19 people killed.

Accusing the alliance of the attack, she said as the government knows the attackers, it can win Tk 1 crore reward announced for giving information about them.

Hasina, also president of the Awami League, was speaking with sports leaders and organisers at her Dhanmondi residence in the afternoon.

The Awami League chief said the announcement of Tk 1 crore reward was "bogus" as the ruling alliance knows that people inside the government did it.

Sports organisers Harunur Rashid and Mobassher Hossain said they would donate Tk 10,000 to 40 people injured in the August 21 grenade attacks. They also handed over a cheque for Tk 5 lakh to the opposition leader.

Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Dewan Shaiful Arefin Tutul, Badar Roy, Lotus Kamal, Golam Sarwer Tipu, Durjoy, Gazi Ashraf Lipu and Saiful were present.

Israeli spy satellite crashes in sea

REUTERS, *Jerusalem*

A rocket carrying an Israeli spy satellite intended to boost the Jewish state's surveillance over arch-enemy Iran has crashed into the sea shortly after lift-off, officials and defence sources say.

The Defence Ministry blamed a malfunction in the third stage of the Shavit rocket, which took off from an air base south of Tel Aviv on Monday. Witnesses saw a flash of light near coastal Palmahim base. There were no reports of casualties.

The Ofek-6 satellite -- the latest in Israel's locally produced line of spy satellites -- was destroyed when it crashed into the Mediterranean Sea. It was developed by a consortium led by state-owned Israel Aircraft Industries.

The loss of the satellite was seen as a major setback to Israel's attempts to upgrade its surveillance system to spy on enemies including Iran which it accuses of developing nuclear weapons.

Israel's strategic defence systems are based on satellites designed to spot incoming missiles.

"Such incidents are very expensive for all involved," a defence source said about the lost satellite.

In a terse statement, the Defence Ministry said "the source of the malfunction in the third stage is being investigated by experts from the Ministry of Defence and the involved industries".

It named Israel Military Industries (IMI), Rafael, Elbit Systems and the Elisra Group, which is 70 percent owned by Koor Industries, as also being behind the satellite's development.

The Ofek is a free-floating satellite that orbits 190 to 430 miles above the earth. It weighs about 300 kg (660 pounds) and its standard life span is about five years.

The setback came days after Israel's missile-killer system, the Arrow II, failed to shoot off a dummy missile in a test-firing off the California coast.

Israeli officials blamed a technical glitch on the failure of the Arrow missile to hit its target, but said the world's first missile-killer had passed the main reason for the test which was to identify the incoming missiles warhead.

WFP raises

FROM PAGE 12

water levels are still high and even where people have gone back to their homes their land is still under water, preventing them planting for the next harvest."

Under the agency's emergency programme, flood victims would receive food aid in return for repairing damaged roads, dykes and embankments.

Half of the 74 million dollars which the WFP is seeking forms part of the United Nation's 210 million dollar Flash Appeal.

Last month, the UN also issued an appeal for donors not to forget Bangladesh. It said only a third of the 210 million dollars it had asked for had been raised.

Aid agencies warn that the post-flood period can be more dangerous than the floods themselves due to the threat of disease and lack of food where crops have been ruined.

Escape from

FROM PAGE 12

that I was in Cox's Bazar."

"The kind fishermen gave me money and helped me board a bus for Gabtoli, Dhaka. They also instructed the supervisor to put me in a Kurigram-bound bus," Liton added.

Liton's parents, Zalat Uddin and his wife Arzina, who gave up all hope of getting their only son back, burst into tears when he reached home at dawn.

Verdict today 29 years

FROM PAGE 1

About 400 undercover and uniformed policemen will remain on high alert guarding the court building, high-rises in the court area and roads in and out of Dhaka Central Jail.

Among the 23 accused, three are in custody, five on bail, 12 have been evading arrest and three died. Eleven convicts in the Bangabandhu Murder Case are among the accused.

In the first information report (FIR) filed with Lalbagh Police Station on November 4, 1975, Kazi Abdul Awal, deputy inspector general (prisons), accused Captain Moslemuddin and four army officers of the killings.

"One army officer wearing khaki uniform giving identity as captain Moslemuddin attached to Bangabandhu accompanied by four army personnel wearing khaki uniform came to the jail at 4:00am on November 3, 1975. They were armed with Stengun and SLR (self-loading rifle). They entered into the jail and killed four prisoners," the FIR reads.

The then officer-in-charge (OC) of Lalbagh Police Station ABM Fazlul Karim, tasked with investigation, visited the scene of killing where a magistrate made an inquest report of the bodies. Later, a postmortem report was prepared and the OC gathered evidence from the scene.

But the infamous Indemnity Ordinance blocked the investigation and trial for about 21 years until officers of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) opened a probe on August 18, 1996.

Investigation Officer Abdul Kahar Akand, assistant superintendent of CID, arrested Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Faruqur Rahman, Lt Col (retired) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan and retired major Khairuzzaman on September 9, 1996.

The IO also arrested Shah Moazzem Hossain, BNP lawmaker KM Obaidur Rahman and Nurul Islam Manzoor on September 29, 1996. Taheruddin Thakur, shown as an arrestee in the case on November 3, 1996, gave a confessional statement to an additional chief metropolitan magistrate.

The investigator sketched a map of the scene, recorded statements of witnesses and seized 53 items of evidence to press charges against 21 people, including Obaidur, on October 15, 1998.

Former president Khondaker Mushtaque Ahmed and former secretary Mahbul Alam Chashi were dropped from the chargesheet, as they died before the probe started.

Mahmud Hassan was given the overall responsibility of running the case on March 21 that gave the special prosecutors an impression that the government did not want them to fight it.

The trial was halted for 10 months after Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, wife of slain prime minister and one of the high-profile victims of the jail killing Tajuddin Ahmed, filed a petition on January 26 last year seeking trial in the High Court.

In her petition, the AL presidium member said she feared she would not get fair justice in the lower court. The HC rejected the petition on August 25 the same year.

The arguments were complete on August 7 this year and the court on August 21 fixed September 7 for the delivery of the judgement.

Lalbagh Police Station ABM Fazlul Karim opened the probe as the investigation officer and Saifuddin Ahmad, deputy superintendent of police (DSP) of the CID at that time, took over the charge on November 21, 1975.

Saifuddin went to the place of occurrence, but the complainant declined to show him the scene.

The DSP was told that he could not visit the scene and record statements of witnesses without permission from the home ministry, as a three-member judicial probe committee headed by Justice Ahsan Uddin Chowdhury was constituted.

When he sought the permission in 1976, the home ministry said a judicial probe was on and it would inform him in time.

The trial could not be launched for the Indemnity Ordinance promulgated after the assassination of Bangabandhu.

CID senior assistant superintendents Abul Hossain, MG Mostafa, Fazlul Karim and Khalequzzaman were tasked with the probe later and they vainly wrote the home ministry on several occasions seeking permission to launch the probe until December 1994.

The home ministry in an order on August 17, 1996 gave the green light to the probe what the CID investigators opened the next day.

After taking office in 1996 after 21 years in the wilderness, the AL government of Sheikh Hasina repealed the Indemnity Ordinance on November 12, clearing legal obstructions to the trial.

The BNP-led four-party coalition government, after taking office in 2001, cancelled the appointments of four special public prosecutors who conducted the case under the AL, without explanations, on December 15, 2002.

But they were reinstated on December 3 the next year in the face of strong public protest.

The special prosecutors resigned on March 24 this year, saying there were 'unwarranted interference' in the case.

Advocate Anisul Haque, head of the special prosecutors, alleged when the witnesses were giving statements on January 18, defendant and BNP legislator Obaidur Rahman told him: "Who are you? You are in charge of what? I will take steps to remove you."

The government, the same day, assigned public prosecutor of the court Abdullah Mahmud Hassan to cooperate with the special prosecutors in running the case, triggering a 'festering discord' between the special prosecutors and the public prosecutor.

Mahmud Hassan was given the overall responsibility of running the case on March 21 that gave the special prosecutors an impression that the government did not want them to fight it.

The trial was halted for 10 months after Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, wife of slain prime minister and one of the high-profile victims of the jail killing Tajuddin Ahmed, filed a petition on January 26 last year seeking trial in the High Court.

In her petition, the AL presidium member said she feared she would not get fair justice in the lower court. The HC rejected the petition on August 25 the same year.

The arguments were complete on August 7 this year and the court on August 21 fixed September 7 for the delivery of the judgement.

FIR in 1975

FROM PAGE 1

Malvipara. P.S. (not clear), District-Rajshahi and Road No. 3, Plot No. 46, Dhanmondi R/A. Dacca.

More details about the incidents will be illegible in due course. The incident has been report verbally by the inspector General of Prisons Bangladesh. To the Secretary to the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Ministry of Home Affairs, Dacca. Yesterday (3.11.75).

The dead bodies of 4 (four) Prisoners still laying in the Jail. Necessary action may kindly be taken taken in the matter,

Sd. K. A. Awal.
D.I.G. Of the Prisons
Central Jail, Dacca.
Dated 4.11.75.

(Content has been published unedited)

Clinton's heart

FROM PAGE 1

Clinton, a legendary consumer of junk foods who has admitted that his diet may have contributed to his condition, has been deluged with get well messages from around the world since Friday.

Bush and Kerry both called Clinton as did Vice President Dick Cheney, who has suffered four heart attacks and underwent his own quadruple bypass surgery in 1988.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair sent a message of support, and a huge number of bouquets have reportedly been sent to the ex-president's hospital room.

Clinton spent the weekend with his wife, US Senator Hillary Clinton, and their daughter Chelsea at a secure wing at the hospital.

"We feel so blessed and grateful for the thousands of prayers and messages of good will we have received these past few days," the Clinton family said in a statement.

Ever the politicians, they added:

Maya's son remanded

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Rashedul Hossain Chowdhury Rony, son of Awami League leader Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Maya, on a two-day remand.

Police showed Rony arrested in a robbery case filed against his elder brother Dipu Chowdhury.

Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested Rony from his Baily Road billiard club Sunday evening and later handed him over to police.

Utara police produced him before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court at 4:00pm yesterday.

In the report submitted to the court, police pleaded the court for showing him arrested in the robbery case. The report claimed Rony, an extortionist, possesses arms and may have link to the robbery. Rony needs to be quizzed to learn more about the robbery, they said, praying for seven-day remand.

The defence lawyer, however, claimed Rony is innocent and said no case or GD was filed against him. The defence prayed for his bail and cancellation of the remand prayer.

Hearing both sides, Metropolitan Magistrate Nani Gopal Biswas showed him arrested in the case and granted the remand prayer.

Foreign currencies

FROM PAGE 12

into his bag, a customs official at the ZIA said.

"I often visit Dubai and bring cosmetics and computer accessories," said Ahsanul, son of Abdus Sattar of Radhanagar village, Shamsheernagar upazila of Moulvibazar.

Customs officials handed him over to Airport Police Station and deposited the currencies to the customs warehouse.

Rab takes

FROM PAGE 12

Sources said they are now working to find out the addresses and possible hideouts of the people listed as suspects on the basis of the video footage of the grenade attacks. Once they've done this, the leads will be disseminated among Rab, police and intelligence officials to launch a crackdown to net the suspects.

A series of grenade blasts on an Awami League (AL) rally on August 21 killed 20 people and injured over 200 others.

An intelligence official seeking anonymity said they are yet to confirm name or address of any of the suspects.

JUDICIAL COMMISSION

The one-member Judicial Commission formed to probe the August 21 carnage has sent letters requesting depositions to all the dignitaries and Awami League (AL) leaders who were on the dais with AL President Sheikh Hasina during the grenade blasts.

Besides, the commission has asked the authorities concerned to provide names of the intelligence officials who were posted on Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21. The commission will enquire whether they carried out their duties properly. Special Branch, Directorate General of Forces Intelligence and National Security Intelligence personnel are likely to be among the summoned.

The commission, headed by Justice Md Joydul Abedin, has already recorded statements of 76 people.

Sources said the commission did not work yesterday, a holiday.

DU teacher

FROM PAGE 12

adding that police are looking for the owner of the phone.

DU Teachers Association (Duta), meanwhile, in an emergency meeting protested the death threat. "We'll ask the university authorities to ensure Mansur's safety," Duta President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said.

Poorest ADP

FROM PAGE 1

In 2002-03, the government was able to implement Tk 15,408 crore projects out of the revised ADP of Tk 17,101 crore.

Post and telecommunications, shipping and health ministries were the low performers in implementing project aids last fiscal year.

Post and telecommunications ministry could implement only 12 percent of the foreign aid allocated to it while health and shipping ministries utilised 46 percent and 24 percent of the foreign aid allocated to them.

Communications and energy and mineral resources ministries were the two highest performers with over 90 percent utilisation rates.

A planning ministry official said the original ADP is reduced every year despite objections from the implementing ministries, but ultimately, even the scaled-down revised ADP remains partially utilised.

M Hafiz Uddin Khan, former adviser to the caretaker government and also the chief of the Public Expenditure Review Commission, said the government fixes ambitious targets without considering its implementation capacity.

"That's why the government should fix the ADP size in a realistic way," he told The Daily Star. "Otherwise, low-quality and politically-biased projects would be implemented while priority projects would be abandoned."