

Car bomb blast kills 7 in Baghdad's Green Zone

14 executed bodies found in Mosul, US armed forces chief in Iraq

AP, AFP, Baghdad

A suicide car bomber killed seven people when he struck a checkpoint at Baghdad's Green Zone early yesterday, the second attack in two days at the district that houses Iraq's interim government and the US Embassy, officials said.

In a new development, war crimes trials against Iraq's former Baath Party leaders will begin next week, interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said. He didn't say whether Saddam Hussein would be among them.

In western Iraq, two US Marines were killed in action, the military said yesterday, bringing the number of Marines killed in the region over three days to 10.

In Mosul the bodies of 14 men

killed with a single bullet to the head were found in a cemetery in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Tuesday, local medical officials and an AFP journalist said.

"We have received the bodies of eight young men executed with a bullet to the head," said doctor Ahmad Abdallah Rajab of Mosul's general hospital, adding that they had been dead about 15 hours.

The AFP journalist said that he saw another six bodies in civilian clothes, killed in the same fashion.

A military statement said the two Marines were assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force and died Monday "while conducting security and stabilization operations" in the vast Anbar province west of Baghdad, which includes the battleground cities of Fallujah and

Ramadi.

The Iraqi and US governments Monday called on the United Nations to urgently increase its presence in Iraq ahead of the January 30 election.

But the interim Iraq government and its US backers expressed confidence that despite the insurgency and some calls for a boycott, the vote would be free and fair.

Meanwhile, top US armed forces chief General Richard Myers, visiting Iraq with a group of American celebrities in tow, insisted yesterday that next month's elections would not be derailed by insurgent violence.

Myers, the chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, arrived from Kuwait Tuesday at a military base near Baghdad's airport with come-

dian Robin Williams. American football Hall of Fame inductee John Elway and US model Leeann Tweeden.

His visit Tuesday comes as US and Iraqi forces struggle to bring order to the country ahead of national elections scheduled for January 30, with the US death toll also mounting almost daily.

Myers acknowledged that a spike in violence was likely ahead of the polls but that the elections needed to go ahead as planned.

Tuesday's blast at the Green Zone killed seven people and wounded at least 13 people, said Dr. Hassan Abdel-Satar from Baghdad's Yarmouk Hospital.

Police Lt. Rafid Abid said the attack was carried out by a suicide car bomber.



A member of the Iraqi National Guard (ING) secures the site where a suicide car bomb exploded near an entrance to Baghdad's Green Zone yesterday. A member of the ING was killed and 12 people were wounded in the attack, National Guard and hospital officials said.

'Iran ready to accept US involvement in nuke talks'

REUTERS, Tehran

Iran would not object to Washington joining negotiations with the European Union over its nuclear program provided the United States treated Tehran with respect, Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said yesterday.

Britain, France and Germany began talks in Brussels on Monday with Iran aimed at brokering a long-term agreement over Tehran's nuclear activities, which Washington says are geared to building atomic arms.

Iran says its nuclear facilities will only be used to generate electricity. Washington has so far given only lukewarm backing to the Iran-EU talks, with several officials hinting they expect the negotiations to fail to halt Iran's atomic ambitions.

This approach prompted seven former foreign ministers, led by ex-Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, to argue in a newspaper article Monday that Washington must throw its weight behind the talks if they are to succeed.



Pakistani Foreign Ministry additional secretary Tariq Usman Haider (R) listens to his Indian counterpart Meera Shankar (L), prior to a meeting in Islamabad yesterday. India and Pakistan were scheduled to thrash out an agreement to give each other notice of their ballistic missile tests, but analysts say the rivals are still far from being responsible nuclear powers.

Kashmir leaders end conference with call to reduce violence

AFP, Kathmandu

Separatists from the Indian and Pakistani zones of Kashmir ended a conference in Nepal yesterday with a call for renewed efforts to stem violence and rebuild the economy in the troubled region, organizers said.

The four-day meet held behind closed doors in Kathmandu was a rare chance for separatists from both sides of divided Kashmir to discuss the Himalayan region's future among themselves.

"The conference attended by 50 individuals from Jammu and Kashmir, India and Pakistan discussed ways of ending more than five decades of conflict and establishing a secure and prosperous future for the peoples of this vital region of South Asia," said Paolo Gotta-Ramolino, secretary general of the International Pugwash Foundation which organized the meet.

"For the first time in many years, members of political parties, non-

governmental organisations and civil society from both sides of the Line of Control were able to meet each other in an atmosphere of trust and reconciliation," Gotta-Ramolino told reporters.

Pugwash holds conferences around the world to seek solutions to global problems.

He said the participants discussed issues in a closed forum to hear different viewpoints.

"The meeting did not adopt any resolution as it was not intended to put specific proposals for the parties to decide on the Kashmir issue," he said.

Pugwash, which is a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, hopes to hold further meetings, but hasn't set a date or venue.

"This open hearted discussion among the participants is expected to help a lot in building confidence among the people of Jammu and Kashmir, promoting contacts and communication between all parties concerned over the issue lingering for the last 57 years," he added.

Nasa's rover finds new proof of Martian water

AFP, Washington

Nasa's rover Spirit has found a mineral that is the surest hint yet of water on Mars, scientists said Monday.

Spirit discovered a so-called water-signature mineral called goethite in a section dubbed "Columbia Hills," Nasa scientists said.

"Goethite, like the jarosite that Opportunity found on the other side of Mars, is strong evidence for water activity," said Goestar Klingelhofer of the University of Mainz, Germany. He is the lead scientist for the iron-mineral analyzer on each rover, the Moessbauer spectrometer.

Nasa said goethite forms only where there is water, which can be in liquid, ice or gaseous form.

Hematite, a mineral that had previously been found in Columbia Hills bedrock, usually, but not always, forms in the presence of water.

Opportunity has completed six months of inspecting the inside of "Endurance Crater" and is ready to resume exploration of the broad plains of the Meridiani region.

US Army acknowledges 8 deaths of Afghans in military custody

AFP, Washington

The US Army acknowledged Monday that eight prisoners have died in US military custody in Afghanistan since US-led forces toppled the Taliban regime, two more than previously disclosed.

The Pentagon released a list of the death cases investigated in Afghanistan after Human Rights Watch sent a letter to US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld demanding that the United States "get serious about prosecuting people implicated in prisoner deaths and mistreatment."

Investigations in at least three of the deaths are still ongoing, according to the list drawn up by Chris Grey, spokesman for the US Army Criminal Investigation Command.

Previously unreported cases included the death in November 2003 of an individual identified as A. Wahid.

"CID investigation closed and completed report forward to command," the Army Criminal

Investigation (CID) statement said. "Case involved other than US personnel, and Afghan law enforcement officials have been notified."

A senior army official said the case involved a prisoner who was already seriously injured when he was left at the gate of a US base by members of an Afghan militia. The prisoner later died in US custody.

A second previously unreported case dates from January, 2003, according to the CID tally.

"Death investigation of person detained by US soldiers in Wazi Village in January 03," it said. "Case remains ongoing."

Because the case is still under investigation, defence officials would provide no additional information.

The CID list shows that yet another prisoner, identified as M. Sayari, died in military custody on August 28, 2002. It would be the earliest known death of a prisoner in US military custody. The CID said the case was adjudicated by the army, but offered no other information.

Afghan forces capture Omar's security chief

REUTERS, Kandahar

Afghan security forces have captured Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar's personal security chief as he traveled in a van to the southern city of Kandahar, provincial officials told Reuters yesterday.

The capture of the head of Mullah Omar's household security could help US and Afghan forces track down his boss, one of the most wanted fugitives in the US-led war on terror.

"We have arrested top Taliban figures Toor Mullah Naqibullah Khan and Mullah Angar on the way between Arghandab and Kandahar. They were carrying a satellite telephone and some important documents," said one Kandahar official, who requested anonymity.

"We are hopeful we will arrest

more Taliban figures and we hope that we can arrest their leader Mullah Omar," he said.

Khalid Pashtun, spokesman for the provincial government, confirmed the arrests.

Mullah Omar's Taliban militia have been waging an insurgency in the south and southeast of Afghanistan since they were driven from power in late 2001 by US and Afghan forces. Toor Mullah Naqibullah Khan was unarmed when he was arrested with Mullah Angar, another Taliban commander, Monday evening. The security official said they were picked up following a tip-off from a Taliban insider.

President Hamid Karzai has offered to let any Taliban fighters resume a peaceful life following his election in the country's first presidential vote on Oct. 9.

'S Asian rivals still far from being responsible nuclear powers'

AFP, Islamabad

India and Pakistan will thrash out an agreement to give each other notice of their ballistic missile tests yesterday, but analysts say the rivals are still far from being responsible nuclear powers.

A meeting in Islamabad between key officials from the South Asian neighbours, who embarked on a slow-moving peace process in January, will focus on so-called nuclear confidence-building measures.

As well as the test warnings, they will discuss the details of a hotline between top foreign ministry civil servants to avoid the possibility of nuclear conflict through any misunderstanding or accident.

A second day of expert-level talks on Wednesday will deal with conventional arms.

"This is all part of confidence-

building measures, but to become responsible nuclear nations the two countries need to do much more," Parvez Hoodbhoy, a nuclear physics professor at Islamabad's Quaid-e-Azam University, told AFP.

Pakistan and India held tit-for-tat nuclear detonations in 1998 and have twice since come close to war over divided Kashmir. They have also held periodic missile tests.

The countries, which have fought three wars since their independence from Britain in 1947, have refused to sign non-proliferation treaties because they are not formally recognised as nuclear powers.

Pakistani foreign ministry spokesman Masood Khan said Pakistan had an informal agreement with India about advance notice of missile tests but Tuesday's meeting was expected to finalise the draft of a formal deal.

Philippine movie star, presidential candidate Poe dies

AFP, Manila

The Philippines was in mourning yesterday after the country's top movie star Fernando Poe Jr, who nearly unseated President Gloria Arroyo in hotly contested polls this year, passed away shortly after midnight.

The 65-year-old Poe, popularly known by his initials FPJ, fell into a coma after a massive stroke over the weekend and never recovered.

Political figures and top showbiz stars had trooped to the hospital to pay their last respects by his bedside where he had been on life support since Sunday and even his erstwhile rival Arroyo praised him.

Poe was "a good man, a worthy adversary in politics and a great Filipino," the president said in a statement.

She said she prayed hard for Poe after he suffered the stroke, adding "he still had much to do for our people."

"This tragedy comes as a shock to us all. I mourn with the millions of Filipinos who loved him dearly and held him up as a symbol of their aspirations."



Supporters of top movie star and defeated presidential candidate Fernando Poe, gather in front of a funeral parlor where Poe's wake is being held in Pasig, suburban Manila yesterday. Poe, who almost unseated President Gloria Arroyo in the presidential elections in May, suffered a stroke at the weekend and died shortly after midnight Monday.

Ukraine Speaker calls for keeping poisoning out of campaign

REUTERS, Kiev

Ukraine's influential parliament Speaker called on Monday for a scandal over the poisoning of opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko to be kept out of the country's presidential election campaign.

His comments followed a statement by Yushchenko himself that an investigation into the dioxin poisoning, which has disfigured his face, should proceed after the poll, which is being re-run after the Supreme Court declared the first attempt rigged.

Protests against election fraud brought much of Kiev to a halt for two weeks and raised the prospect of serious instability in the former Soviet republic.

Yushchenko returned to Kiev on Sunday after Austrian doctors concluded he had dioxin levels 1,000 times greater than normal. He has accused authorities of being behind the incident.

"We must not go into this over and over again until the election is over," said Speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn, who does not belong to the camp of either contender and played a major role in defusing tension caused by the tainted vote.

BIRDEM (An Enterprise of the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh) 122, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000.			
Employment Notice			
Applications are invited from the citizen of Bangladesh for the following posts.			
Sl. #	Name of the Post	Age in year	Qualifications
1	Sr. Consultant (Radiology) Contract appointment Pay Scale: Tk. 11700-13500/- & other allowances.	--	1. (a) MBBS from a recognized Institution or an equivalent academic qualification as recognized by BMDC, and (b) Registration with BMDC. AND 2. Five years professional experience in the relevant field in the rank equivalent to Consultant/Associate Professor with any of the following postgraduate degrees in the relevant subject or equivalent as recognized by BMDC : PhD/DSc/DPhil/FCPS/MD/MRCGP/FRCP/MPH/DMRD. AND 3. Five Scientific Publications in Medical Journals recognized by BMDC.
2	Asstt. Professor (Immunology) On leave vacancy, Contract appointment Pay Scale: Tk. 7200-10,840/- & other allowances.	--	1. (a) MBBS from a recognised Institution or an equivalent academic qualification as recognised by BMDC, and (b) Registration from BMDC. AND Any of the following postgraduate degree or equivalent in the relevant subject as recognised by BMDC: PhD /DSc/ DPhil/FCPS/MD/M.Phil/MS/M.Sc. (Preference will be given to candidates having teaching experience & publication in the relevant subject).
3	Assistant Registrar (i) Paediatrics (ii) Surgery (iii) Gynae & Obs. Contract appointment Pay Scale : Tk. 4800-8160/- & other allowances. Non-practicing Residential (Single Accommodation)	--	MBBS or equivalent degree from any Medical College or Institute recognised by BMDC with one year of Internship Training and Registration from BMDC. Experience in the relevant field will be preferred.
4	Medical Officer (OPD) Pay Scale : Tk. 4800-8160/- & other allowances.	--	MBBS or equivalent degree from any Medical College or Institute recognised by BMDC with one year of Internship Training and Registration from BMDC.
5	Medical Officer (i) Radiology (ii) ICU (iii) Anaesthesiology (iv) Paediatrics Contract appointment Pay Scale : Tk. 4800-8160/- & other allowances.	--	MBBS or equivalent degree from any Medical College or Institute recognised by BMDC with one year of Internship Training and Registration from BMDC. Experience in the relevant field will be preferred.
6	Research Officer (Immunology) Pay Scale : Tk. 4300-7740/- & other allowances.	30	MBBS or 1 st Class MSc or 2 nd Class M.Sc. with 2 nd Class Hons in relevant subject with one year research experience.
7	Social Welfare Officer Pay Scale : Tk. 4300-7740/- & other allowances.	30	2nd Class Master Degree in Sociology /Social Welfare.
8	Research Asstt. (Immunology) Pay Scale : Tk. 2550-5505/- & other allowances.	30	B.Sc. 2nd Class in the relevant subjects. Experience, if any, will be preferred.
9	Sr. Staff Nurse Pay Scale : Tk. 2550-5505/- & other allowances.	30	Diploma in Nursing & Midwifery. Candidates having not completed Midwifery Course may apply provided they have completed any other equivalent course recognised by the BNC
10	Care Taker Pay Scale : Tk. 2550-5505/- & other allowances.	30	Graduate with 5 years experience in relevant field of a Hospital.
11	Ward Master Pay Scale: 1975-3920/- & other allowances	30	HSC with 2 years experience in relevant field of a Hospital.

Applications are required to be submitted in prescribed form obtainable from the Cash Accounts Section, Room No. 208 (on all working days from 9 A.M. to 12-30 P.M.) BIRDEM, 122 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000. The price of each application form for Sl. No. 1-7 is Tk. 40/- and Sl. No. 8-11 is Tk. 20/- . Age in year indicates completed year on 30.06.2004, relaxable in cases of departmental candidates.

Name of the applied post has to be clearly written on the envelope. One copy of money receipt must be attached with the application form. For the post of Sl. No. 3 & 5 applicants should mention clearly the speciality. Those who applied earlier for sl. # 11 need not apply again. The application alongwith required papers (as per instruction on the application form) should reach on or before 27.12.2004 by post. However local applicants can drop their application forms in the box placed in front of Room No. 230, BIRDEM. Only short listed candidates may be called for interview. Incomplete applications will be rejected.

D-1237

Director General.