

2 Kuwaiti soldiers to stand trial for plotting attacks on US forces

AFP, Kuwait City

Two Kuwaiti soldiers are to stand trial on suspicion of plotting attacks on US and other foreign forces, army spokesman Brigadier Yussef Mulla said Thursday.

"Investigation in the case of soldiers suspected of having intentions to attack the coalition forces has been completed," Mulla said in a statement reported by the state-run KUNA news agency.

"Two of the soldiers have been detained and the rest were freed after it was proved they were not involved in aggressive plots on the country... The two soldiers will be referred to military courts for legal action," he said.

US docs party to detention torture

PTI, Washington

US army doctors apparently helped intelligence officers carry out abusive interrogations at military detention centres, perhaps participating in torture, a report by New England Journal of Medicine claimed.

Medical personnel helped tailor interrogations to the physical and mental conditions of individual detainees at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq and the US military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the report, in its yesterday's edition, alleged.

Alleging that doctors violated their professional ethics and the Geneva Conventions, it said that medical workers gave interrogators access to patient medical files, and that psychiatrists and other physicians collaborated with interrogators and guards.

Mandela's only surviving son dies

REUTERS, Johannesburg

The only surviving son of former South African President Nelson Mandela has died in Johannesburg, a hospital official said on Thursday.

Makgatho Mandela, 54, was admitted to hospital late last year for an undisclosed illness.

The 86-year-old Mandela, who lost his other son in a car crash in 1969 while still in prison for his anti-apartheid activities, cancelled some holiday engagements to remain close to his ailing son.



Delaying elections too risky: Iraq officials

AP, Baghdad

Iraq's prime minister is sticking to his position that the country's elections should be held Jan. 30, despite daily insurgent attacks and calls by some for a delay to win over minority Sunnis. He may have little choice.

The government says it does not want to give in to the campaign of violence by Sunni-led insurgents, but there's another reason. Iraq risks even wider violence if it infuriates the Shiites, who make up 60 percent of this nation and are eager to parlay the ballot into a leading political role.

Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi and President Bush have repeatedly promised that the vote will go forward, and both American and Iraqi officials have warned the insurgents would step up their campaign of violence beforehand.

To back down now would allow the insurgents to claim victory, as well as seriously damage Allawi's credibility before an election in which he is also running as a candidate.

"It would lead to more degradation in security and cause a political crisis because the interim government would lose its legitimacy and credibility," said Saad Jawad, a Shiite and senior member of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq.

Jawad's party is a key player in the coalition of mainstream Shiite

parties that is running for the elections. He insisted that Shiites would not resort to violence if the vote is delayed, saying that Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the influential Shiite leader who has been a leading proponent of elections, would not condone it.

But other Shiite clerics and their followers might. One success the United States and its allies have had in neutralizing dissent has been its handling of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. He's kept his militia quiet since a cease-fire agreement in the holy city of Najaf, and fighting in the Shiite district of Baghdad's Sadr City ended in April.

And mainstream Shiites could also make things extremely difficult for the government if the vote is delayed. For example, they could call on their supporters in cities like Najaf, Baghdad, and Karbala to rise up in protest, essentially paralyzing much of the south.

The root of the problem surrounding the vote is that without the support of Sunni Arabs and their leaders, the election process will also be seen as illegitimate. Without their participation in the election, it will be difficult to persuade Sunnis or the Middle East, where leaders are overwhelmingly Sunni, that the vote was credible and the new government is not just the creation of a US-orchestrated plan that began with the war to oust Saddam Hussein.

A relative covers her nose from the stench as 18 bodies are off loaded from a pick-up truck that drove from the northern city of Mosul yesterday moments after it arrived at the central morgue in Baghdad. The bodies of 18 Iraqis lured to their deaths by promises of lucrative work at a US base in Mosul were uncovered yesterday, plus their two drivers. "The men, all from the northern Khadimiya district of Baghdad, were promised lucrative jobs at US bases in Mosul and taken there on December 8," said an interior ministry source.

N KOREA TELLS CITIZENS Be ready for war with US

AFP, Seoul

North Korea has ordered its people to be ready for a protracted war against the United States, issuing guidelines on evacuating to underground bunkers with weapons, food and portraits of leader Kim Jong Il.

The 33-page "Detailed Wartime Guidelines," published in South Korea's Kyunghyang newspaper on Wednesday and verified by Seoul, was issued April 7, 2004, at a time when the Communist regime was claiming that it was Washington's next target following the Iraq war.

The manual, the first such North Korean document made public in the outside world, was signed by Kim Jong Il in his capacity as chairman of the Central Military Committee of the ruling Workers' Party. Kyunghyang did not clarify where it acquired the document classified as "top secret".

That ended speculation over whether Kim has assumed the top

2004 deadliest year for reporters: RSF

AFP, Paris

The year 2004 was the deadliest in a decade for journalists around the world, mainly because of the number of reporters killed in Iraq, the media rights group Reporters Sans Frontieres (Reporters Without Borders) said Wednesday.

At least 53 journalists and 15 media assistants (drivers, fixers, translators, technicians, security guards) were killed last year, the Paris-based group said.

For the second year running, Iraq was the world's most dangerous country for journalists, RSF said.

"Nineteen reporters and 12 media assistants were killed there during the year. Terrorist strikes and Iraqi guerrilla attacks were the main cause."

It added that the US army killed four of the reporters -- employees of the Arab television stations Al-Arabiya and Al-Iraqiya -- in incidents in March and April, it said.

According to the RSF figures, the next most dangerous country for

reporters was the Philippines, with six deaths, followed by Bangladesh, with four.

Those and other deaths in Asia were believed to be because the journalists were investigating delicate matters such as corruption, drug-trafficking and gangsterism, RSF said.

The deaths in the Philippines occurred in areas outside Manila where a feudal system rife with drugs, gambling and corruption runs unchecked, Carlos Conde, secretary general of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, told AFP last month.

Three journalists died in Mexico, while Russia, Nicaragua, Brazil, Peru, Sri Lanka and Nepal each recorded two deaths, the RSF report said.

Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Gambia, Haiti, India, Pakistan, the Palestinian territories, Saudi Arabia and Serbia-Montenegro each recorded one death.

Soldiers asked to disobey Gaza evacuation orders

AFP, Jerusalem

Thirty-four Israeli army reserve officers living in Jewish settlements in the West Bank urged soldiers Thursday to disobey orders to evacuate settlements in the Gaza Strip.

In a petition published by the top-selling daily Yediot Acharonot, the officers, including four battalion commanders, claimed that the planned dismantlement of the Gaza Strip's 21 settlements was "illegal".

"We think that any order to carry out disengagement is a patently illegal order... Such an order must not be carried out by a soldier, according to the state laws and the IDF (army) code," the officers told their commander in the letter.

One of the petition's signatories, reserve lieutenant colonel Yitzhak Shadmi, told army radio that Sharon "does not enjoy the necessary popular legitimacy" to implement his plan.

"Arik (Sharon) once was our hero, we gave him our votes but he did exactly the contrary of what he promised," the officers said.

The petition comes a day after the country's attorney general ordered an investigation against two

settler activists who called on soldiers to disobey orders to evacuate the Gaza settlements.

One of the activists is Noam Livnat -- the brother of Education Minister Limor Livnat -- who launched a movement aimed at gathering the signatures of 10,000 soldiers pledging to refuse such orders.

On Wednesday, Sharon hit back at the movement against dismantling the settlements.

Also on Wednesday, an off-duty soldier who had urged his colleagues to disobey an order to remove settlers from a Jewish settlement outpost in the northern West Bank was slapped with a four-week prison sentence.



A Palestinian police officer stands guard as Palestinian Central Election Commission workers put electoral boxes in a truck in Gaza City before sending them to Khan Yunes and Rafah in the Southern of Gaza Strip yesterday three days before the elections of the new Palestinian president.

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Subjects	Date and Time
1. Lecturer in Computing Studies	11-1-2005 at 3:00 p.m. (Tuesday)
2. Lecturer-cum-Network Engineer	12-1-2005 at 3:00 p.m. (Wednesday)
3. Lecturer in Physics	13-1-2005 at 3:00p.m. (Thursday)
4. Lecturer in Accounting	14-1-2005 at 3:30 p.m. (Friday)
5. Lecturer in English	14-1-2005 at 4:30 p.m. (Friday)

----- Secretary, Manarat Trust

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Directorate of Relief & Rehabilitation

Duryog Babasthapa O Tran Bhaban
(Office of Director (FFW) & Project Director, Disaster Shelter Construction in South West Bangladesh Project)
92-93, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka

Tender No. DRR/Engg-glc/168
Dated: 22-12-2004

Tender Notice

SI No Description

01. Name of work : Construction of disaster shelter in South West Bangladesh.

a) Package-1 (3 shelters) : 1 (one) shelter each at Kaliganj, Shyamnagar & Debhatta upazila of Satkhira district.

b) Package-2 (2 shelters) : 1 (one) shelter each at Keshabpur & Sharsha upazila of Jessor district.

c) Package-3 (2 shelters) : 2 (two) shelters at Moheshpur upazila of Jhenidah district.

d) Package-4 (3 shelters) : 1 (one) shelter each at Jibannagar & Damurhuda upazila of Chuadanga district and 1 (one) shelter at sadar upazila of Meherpur district.

02. Price of tender schedule : Tk 1,000/- (one thousand) only (non-refundable).

03. Amount of earnest money : Tk 4,25,000/- (four lakh twenty-five thousand) only.

a) Package-1 : Tk 2,80,000/- (two lakh eighty thousand) only.

b) Package-2 : Tk 2,80,000/- (two lakh eighty thousand) only.

c) Package-3 : Tk 4,25,000/- (Four lakh twenty-five thousand) only.

d) Package-4 : Tk 4,25,000/- (Four lakh twenty-five thousand) only.

04. Schedule to be had at : Office of the Project Director & Director (FFW), Directorate of Relief & Rehabilitation, 92-93, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka.

05. Date & time of getting tender : 05-01-2005 to 11-01-2005 during office hours.

06. Eligibility of contractor : Pre-qualified contractor selected by Directorate of Relief & Rehabilitation exclusively for this project.

07. Tender to be submitted at : Office of the Project Director & Director (FFW), Directorate of Relief & Rehabilitation, 92-93, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka.

08. Date of submitting tender : 12-01-2005 up to 12.00 Noon.

09. Date & place of opening tender : Office of the Project Director & Director (FFW), Directorate of Relief & Rehabilitation, 12-01-2005 at 2.00 PM.

10. Time for completion of work : 120 days.

11. Other terms & conditions : a) Tenders shall be opened in presence (if any) of the tenderers or their nominated representatives.

b) The authority reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason prior to final acceptance of tender.

Md Fazlur Rahman Khan
Director (FFW)
&
Project Director
Phone: 9860523

DFP-31284-27/12
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