

### Saddam 'to face just 12 charges'

AP, Baghdad

Saddam Hussein could face up to 500 charges at a tribunal, but he will be tried on only 12 well documented counts because prosecuting him on all would be a "waste of time," the prime minister's spokesman said yesterday.

Laith Kuba also said Saddam was likely to be tried within the next two months on a range of charges, including alleged crimes committed in Iraqi Kurdistan.

"There should be no objection that a trial should take place within that time," Kuba said during a press conference. "It is the government's view that the trial of Saddam should take place as soon as possible."

No date has been set for the trial of Saddam, who has been held in a US-run detention facility in  
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# Settlement courts in limbo for red-tapism

### 400 abandoned property cases pending for one year

ASHIQUIR RAHMAN

The country's two Courts of Settlement, which mainly deal with abandoned property disputes, have been inactive for over a year now due to bureaucratic tangles and negligence.

At least 400 cases are pending with the courts that operate under the housing and public works ministry, said a ministry source.

According to government rules, the First and the Second Court of Settlement cannot start their yearly business, from June 1 to May 31,

without a government order on retention of administrative and judicial officials for them.

But much to the sufferings of the justice seekers, the judicial functions of the courts remained suspended for last business year, as no such order came from the housing ministry, a court source said.

This forced 16-member staff of the courts to sit idle for over a year. A district and sessions judge, who functions as a chairman, and an additional district and sessions judge and a deputy secretary, who are members of each of the settle-

ment courts, are among them.

Resentment runs deep among the court staff, as the ministry remains indifferent to the standstill.

According to a court source, officials of the ministry either lack the efficiency needed to do the job within a timeframe or just duck the responsibilities.

The ministry officials though acknowledged the yearlong stagnancy at the settlement courts but denied the allegation of negligence.

"We too are concerned at the stalemate and doing our best to end  
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### Removal of ADB alternate director disgraceful

Says AL

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The removal of the Bangladesh representative from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is "unprecedented" and "disgraceful", said the main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday.

The AL said the incident has tarnished the image of the country abroad.

AL General Secretary Abdul Jaiil in a statement said the removal came due to the government mismanagement at international level and appointment of an unqualified official as the ADB alternate executive director.

He rapped the government for the removal, saying such an incident  
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Large masses of household and industrial wastes clog the Buriganga river, the lifeline of Dhaka, near Shyambazar in the old part of the city.

### BB fines Premier Bank Tk 1 lakh

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Bank has fined Premier Bank Limited Tk 100,000 under the Money Laundering Act for not keeping clean about their clients' particulars.

"The commercial bank failed to  
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## Govt slammed for unrest at DU

### Dr Kamal, B Chowdhury call for JS resolution to free educational institutions of cadres, non-students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Oikya Mancha Convenor Dr Kamal Hossain and Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) Chairman Badruddoza Chowdhury accused the government of creating anarchy on the Dhaka University campus through unleashing police and a pro-government student organisation.

Addressing a joint press conference at the National Press Club yesterday, they urged the Jatiya Sangsad to take a unanimous resolution in the coming session to drive out non-students and armed cadres from all the educational institutions of the country.

They called upon the countrymen to observe a 'violence and a  
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## QURAN MISHANDLING US blames 'few' jailers, media

REUTERS, Crawford

The White House sought on Saturday to minimise damage from new revelations about US personnel mishandling the Quran at the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, prison, accusing a few people of violating policy and the media of blowing "isolated incidents" out of proportion.

It was the administration's latest broadside against the press over abuses at Guantanamo. Last month, the White House attacked Newsweek and went so far as to ask

the magazine to help repair damage to America's image.

The US military on Friday released details about five cases in which the Islamic holy book was kicked, stepped on and soaked in water.

In one case, a guard's urine splashed onto a detainee and his Quran. Southern Command said a guard urinated near an air vent and "the wind blew his urine through the vent" and onto a detainee and his Quran.

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### Tigers fail to avoid innings defeat

AL-AMIN from Chester-le-Street

Bangladesh survived only 17 minutes on the third morning of the second Test before being bowled out for 316 and England ran away with an innings and 27 runs victory at the Riverside ground here on Sunday.

While a defeat was a forgone conclusion, Aftab Ahmed and Tapash Baisya came out to bat in front of a few hundred spectators to play as long as possible and wipe out those 46 runs to avoid an innings defeat.

But Matthew Hoggard proved too hot to handle for Tapash and number eleven Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza, Jadoon said he had also invited  
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## Indo-Pak talks on gas pipeline start

AFP, Islamabad

India's petroleum minister, Mani Shankar Aiyar, began talks with Pakistani officials yesterday on a proposed multi-billion dollar gas pipeline to run from Iran through Pakistan, officials said.

Aiyar met with Pakistani counterpart Amanullah Khan Jadoon, they said.

This was the first meeting between the Indian and Pakistani oil ministers on the 2,600-kilometre (1,612-mile) overland gas pipeline project. The two sides will hold delegation-level talks later in the day.

Jadoon said he had also invited the Iranian oil minister for talks on the pipeline and that they could take place in the next few days.

The United States has expressed reservations about the proposed Iranian project, which has an estimated cost of about 4.5 billion dollars, because of its concern about Tehran's nuclear programme.

The official Associated Press of Pakistan quoted Aiyar as telling reporters that New Delhi was not under US pressure.

"There is no pressure in this regard. Nobody can pressure us; we would not accept anybody's pressure," he said.

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Prayer Timing		
June 6		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-45	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

