

# Iraqi anti-corruption chief, deputy killed

17 slaughtered bodies found

AFP, AP, Kirkuk/ Qaim

The head of an anti-corruption unit in this northern oil city and his deputy were shot dead in a drive-by attack while 17 slaughtered bodies were found in Qaim, a police source said yesterday.

"Colonel Rahim Othman Said, chief of the Kirkuk anti-corruption brigade and his deputy, Lieutenant Colonel Ghanem Jayad Jabbar, were shot late Wednesday by gunmen in a BMW" sports car, Colonel Adel Zein el-Abidin said.

"Jabbar died instantly, while Colonel Said was dead on arrival at

the hospital in Kirkuk," a disputed city in northern Iraq that been the site of many attacks against Iraqi security forces and civilians.

It was the first time that the anti-corruption unit had been targeted, however.

Kirkuk police chief Turhan Yusef said attackers had tried to kill him Thursday as he was driving in an unmarked car.

At least 17 bodies in civilian clothes were found scattered near a town close to the Syrian border that is considered an insurgent hotbed, with 11 shot in the head and another beheaded, witnesses said yesterday.

day.

The 11 who were shot in the head had their hands tied behind their backs, according to the witnesses, which included a reporter for The Associated Press. They were found near a small hamlet called Jabab, about 19 miles east of Qaim. It was unclear when they were killed.

The Interior Ministry also confirmed that another six bodies were found near Qaim outside the village of Fosfat. Interior ministry Maj. Falah al-Mahamdawi said the six

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PHOTO: STAR

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive director of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), yesterday addresses a post-budget briefing in Dhaka as Prof Mustafizur Rahman, CPD research director, looks on.

# Budget for fooling people ahead of polls: Hasina

UNB, Gopalganj

Leader of the Opposition and Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina has termed the proposed budget for the fiscal 2005-06 "anti-people", saying it has not reflected people's hopes and aspirations.

Addressing her party's leaders and workers at Tungipara yesterday, she said the government placed the budget for deceiving people ahead of the national polls.

She accused the government of not doing any development work during its three and a half years of

rule, rather it caused sufferings to the life of the people by raising the prices of essentials ahead of budget presentation.

The alliance government made an arrangement in the budget for plundering national resources by its party activists, she alleged.

She pointed out that salaries and allowances of the prime minister and the ministers were raised in June 2002 while the salaries and allowances of officials and employees of the republic have been enhanced this year.

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# DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR UN REFORMS Tokyo to urge Dhaka to co-sponsor move

SHARIER KHAN, Nagoya, Japan

Japan will ask Bangladesh to co-sponsor its move to place a draft resolution for reformation of the United Nations, paving the way for Japan, India, Germany and Brazil to become permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Japanese Senior Vice-minister for Foreign Affairs Ichiro Aisawa will make the request to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia during his two-day visit to Dhaka beginning today.

In an interview with The Daily Star at his Tokyo office on Tuesday, Aisawa said Japan, along with India, Germany and Brazil will soon submit a draft resolution for the UN reform.

"We would like to propose Bangladesh to co-sponsor this draft resolution, since Bangladesh has always been supportive of Japan," he said.

Aisawa's visit is the second by a Japanese minister after Shuzen Tanigawa, another senior vice-



Ichiro Aisawa

minister for foreign affairs, visited Bangladesh last month to confirm Dhaka's support for the Tokyo's move.

"Reformation of the UN is very important. This year marks the UN's 60th founding anniversary. The world has changed much since its inception and we have to reform it to make it meaningful for the future world," Aisawa noted.

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# Advani withdraws resignation

AFP, New Delhi

The head of India's opposition Hindu nationalist party, Lal Krishna Advani, has withdrawn his resignation submitted after criticism of his praise of Pakistan's founder, a report said yesterday.

The decision by Advani to stay on as leader was expected to be formally announced at a meeting of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) later Friday, the Press Trust of India new agency said, quoting unnamed party officials.

Advani quit Tuesday, throwing the BJP into turmoil, after a week-long

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# DIALOGUE WITH DU AUTHORITIES JCD, BCL stick to their positions

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) -- student wings of the ruling BNP and the opposition Awami League (AL) -- have not changed positions from their earlier stances regarding a dialogue with the Dhaka University (DU) authorities to bring back normalcy on the campus.

Top leaders of the JCD and BCL have softened voices against each other but they blamed the DU

authorities for failing to arrange a dialogue to resolve the problems.

A top JCD leader said the DU authorities should give extra attention to resolve the ongoing problems. "The authorities should have discussed the issue with us with more responsibility," the JCD leader added.

One of the BCL leaders said the authorities should have taken proper initiatives to arrange the dialogue and contacted with them

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# Crackdown on cross-border crime to continue Babar tells BBC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babar yesterday said the government will continue its crackdown against any sort of cross-border crime.

"The government has adopted the policy of rooting out all kinds of terrorist activities, if there is any, inside our border," Babar told the BBC Bangla Service last night.

Denying the Indian government's allegation of insurgents' camps inside Bangladesh's border, Babar said,

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# Lanka, India open talks for defence pact

AFP, Colombo

Negotiations were underway between India and Sri Lanka for a defence cooperation pact, visiting Indian Foreign Minister Natwar Singh said here yesterday as his hosts faced a deepening political crisis.

Singh, who arrived in Colombo Thursday for talks on boosting trade and economic cooperation, said bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and India were a model for others in South Asia.

The proposed pact would provide a formal structure for the ongoing

ing cooperation between the defence establishments of the two neighbours, Singh told reporters here.

"The defence agreement is in the process of being finalised," he said.

He declined to elaborate but said India would shortly begin the training of Sri Lankan policemen.

The two countries also formally agreed to set a December 2005 deadline to upgrade their current free trade agreement to a "Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement", a joint statement said.

They had in addition discussed

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Prayer Timing		
June 11		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	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		