

WB REPORT ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Environment factors behind diseases that kill 13m a year

Almost a quarter of global disease is caused by avoidable environmental factors, with a toll of 13 million lives a year, the World Health Organisation said in a new report Friday.

diseases and injuries. "We have always known that the environment influences health very profoundly, but these estimates are the best to date," said Dr. Anders Nordstrom, acting head of the WHO.

lems influenced by a poor environment are lower respiratory infections and various forms of accidental injuries. Pointing to potential measures to reduce the burden, the WHO cited safer household water storage and better hygienic measures, as well as better overall management of water resources.

Bulu freed on bail

RIGHT AFTER HE HAD FILED THE CASE, TWO CASES WERE FILED AGAINST HIM WITHIN A SPAN OF FIVE MINUTES ON MAY 30.

After his release just before the Juma prayers yesterday, Bulu went straight to his Gulshan residence where his personal physician examined his health.

Bulu told The Daily Star that he does not understand how two cases could be filed against him within a span of five minutes. He also expressed his astonishment over the statement of KM Shahidullah, in which he said Bulu is not a director of Boishakhi Limited and never was. The statement was published in different newspapers on June 1.

A document signed by chartered accountant firm, Kazi Zahir Khan and Co, was sent to The Daily Star which shows that MNH Bulu holds 4,80,000 shares worth Tk 4.8 crore of the total paid up capital of Boishakhi Media Limited.

Bulu also said he attended a programme organised by Boishakhi Media Limited and handed over receivers to cable operators as the vice-chairman of the company and the entire programme was telecast on Boishakhi television. "If I am not a director then how could I be arrested?" he asked.

Criminal case

REPRESSION PREVENTION ACT WITH Badda police station on Thursday, which was recorded as a case yesterday night.

The complaint says that Anisur Rahman, former DIG of police, defied a court order by not taking his wife Anwara Rahman to a medical lab for a DNA test.

A Dhaka magistrate's court on June 8 issued an order for a DNA test to determine whether the septuplets are indeed the couple's biological children, following a controversy triggered by newspaper reports that the couple are maintaining a household with 14 children, seven of whom are seemingly of the same age. Since the emergence of the controversy the couple has been claiming that the seven children were born to them as septuplets.

Badda police on Thursday took the former police official and the so called septuplets to Dhaka Medical College for a DNA test but Anisur Rahman declined to have the test done saying that nobody else claimed parenthood over the children which proves that the children are his and his wife's.

Prof Muzaffer

IT IS CLEAR FROM THE clarifications issued by Prof Muzaffer Ahmed that he returned the remuneration paid to him for the first few months of the Yayub Hossain professorship because of delays in creating an environment for him to work in, and the university subsequently rescheduled his tenure of appointment, they said.

"A great deal of misinformation has been spread by television and newspaper stories, and it is surprising that this exemplary act of his returning money was not even mentioned," they added.

They regretted that the university has decided to discontinue the Yayub Hossain Chair because of the insistent pressure from the donor. "We are of the view that this sort of Chair is created more to keep a chair associated with the university than for instant research output," they said.

They expressed hope that in the future donors will remember this and the media will be more responsible in publishing such baseless stories.

2 top outlaws

FROM PAGE 1 RAB recovered a rifle and a revolver from the scene.

When they reached the village, the accomplices of the PBCP leaders opened fire on the law enforcers, prompting them to retaliate.

Rab received bullet Fazel and Muktar sources said during the "shootout". They were taken to Naogaon Hospital where the doctors declared them dead.

Fazal, son of Abdur Rahim of Damda village, and Muktar, son of Abdur Gafur of Bhar Tetulia village in Atrai upazila, were wanted in 30 cases including six for murder and 14 for extortion.

According to different sources, a good portion of lands and newly

Hasina: Conspiracy

FROM PAGE 16 their 'partisan role and preparing fake voter list'.

The AL chief said the Election Commission must answer to the people for spending Tk 64 crore in preparing a 'false voter list' ignoring the High Court's order.

"People will not allow playing ducks and drakes with the voter list...it must be updated based on the existing list and made flawless for fair polls."

"Since the massacre of August 15, 1975 a conspiracy is on to eliminate Awami League by killing its potential leaders and organisers, but the conspirators failed in their bid," she said.

The grenade attacks on August 21 and killings including those of Shah AMS Kibria and Ahsanullah Master, were designed to destroy her party, Hasina said, adding, "But Awami League cannot be eliminated."

The Awami League president strongly criticised the government for what she said was unleashing repression during the June 11 'Dhaka siege' and subsequent hartal when hundreds of her party leaders and workers, including former army chief Maj Gen (ret) KM Shafulah, were injured.

She said the BNP-Jamaat government had to arrest the JMB leaders under national and international pressure and but is treating them with special hospitality because all these militants were the creation of the alliance regime.

Reiterating her demand for international investigation, Hasina said the 'Pandora's Box' would have been opened if the international investigation were allowed into the August 21 grenade attacks, August 17 serial bombings and JMB militancy.

She blamed the government for 'tarnishing' the image of the country and 'appointing American lobbyists' to redeem the image by spending millions of dollars from the national exchequer.

After assuming power, the alliance government could not fulfil any of its election pledges; rather it indulged in corruption, loot and terrorism, keeping the people starved, Hasina said.

The opposition combine and other political parties concerned will conduct mass communication across the country during June 22-30 to inform people about the misuse of the BNP-Jamaat alliance government and mobilise them in favour of their demands.

They will put blockades on highways and rail tracks and obstruct river communication on July 2 from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

Dialogue

FROM PAGE 1 society representatives will speak at the dialogue, a CPD press release said, adding that distinguished members of 'Nagorik Committee 2006' who are preparing a Vision Paper for Bangladesh will also be present to receive public feedback.

The grassroots level leaders are now worried about the comments and allegations made by senior leaders.

"I can't work in the party at the direction of Tarique Rahman—who is a joint secretary general—and even the secretary general. As a member of the standing committee, I will follow only the directions of the party chairperson," Oli Ahmed was recently quoted in newspaper.

In an interview with a daily, KM Obaidur Rahman said the senior leaders will welcome the junior leaders when they deserve.

"Those who are now enjoying all benefits will leave the country by the first available flight if the party fails to win the next elections, but the workers who served the party at bad times will stay and face the adverse situation," Chowdhury Tanveer said in a TV interview.

Former speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali blamed Jamaat for the present crisis in different sectors. "Jamaat has utilised government machinery to strengthen itself. It has not done anything for the country in the last four and a half years," he said. "If the Jamaat lawmakers are re-elected under the banner of the coalition, they will destroy the BNP in their areas," he added.

The grassroots level leaders alleged at several programmes even in presence of Tarique that a section of party leaders has made illegal money since the four-party alliance government assumed office. They suggested that the government take actions against the corrupt ministers.

"Apart from the feuds at the top level, the party has also been suffering from conflicts at the grassroots level," said a district level leader of BNP. "The division is clear—one group has made money while depriving the other," he said, requesting anonymity.

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The mission in September would arrive in good time to take stock of progress on election-related issues, including the preparation of the voter list and the development of the debate on electoral reform, said an EU official.

He said the EU mission would be well placed to take account of the preceding missions by other organisations, including the UN. The EC delegation in Dhaka continues to follow election-related developments closely, he added.

Number of landless

FROM PAGE 1 reluctance to distribute khas lands. In the last 10 years, the government has distributed almost no khas land among the landless people.

The land office sources said the national committee on khas land distribution has become almost defunct as it does not meet regularly.

"Most of the distributed khas lands were delivered between 1981 and 1996," said a government official of the land office requesting anonymity. Government statistics say that since the independence of the country the government has so far distributed 44 percent of the 12 lakh acres of cultivable khas land.

But, Barakat's study shows that 88 percent of those lands have been occupied by wealthy and influential people. Only 12 percent landless people who received khas lands from the government are still owning those lands, and 46 percent of them could improve their economic conditions.

"In the last 10 years the government allocated almost no khas land," said the official from the land office.

According to different sources, a good portion of lands and newly

No trace yet

FROM PAGE 16 Begum filed a case with the Mirpur PS early yesterday accusing Jahjan and two other unidentified boys.

She told The Daily Star that Jahjan had visited her house several times four months back and that she had forbidden her son to mix with Jahjan whose behaviour seemed suspicious to her.

Nuke incentive

FROM PAGE 16 "Pay attention to the fact that Hiroshima is only a few hundred kilometers away," he said, referring to one of the Japanese cities that was bombed.

"We believe that war-minded and selfish nations must correct their behavior if they want to have a place in the future world."

Iran has previously given mixed signals over whether it will accept the incentive offer, made by the United States, China, Russia, Britain, France and Germany to Tehran on June 6.

Iran's ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency, Ali Asghar Soltanibeh, said Thursday the international community's "carrot-and-stick" policy over Iran's nuclear program was counterproductive.

"Humiliation and the use of language of threat of referring the nuclear dossier to the UN Security Council... have had a serious impact on mutual trust and confidence on parties involved and thus the process of negotiations," he said.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei also said Thursday his country would not bow to pressure over its atomic program, implicitly rejecting the calls to suspend enrichment.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran will not bend to these pressures. The continuation of this scientific progress is its fundamental and basic right," Iranian state television quoted Khamenei as saying.

The incentives package includes the lifting of some US trade sanctions and international support for the "building of new light water reactors in Iran," according to a copy of the proposal shown to AFP.

Terrorism

FROM PAGE 16 ICFM bears a special significance as it will pave the way for the forthcoming Islamic Summit, scheduled to be held in Senegal later this year with substantial number of issues of great importance on the agenda.

Foreign ministers from Muslim countries attending the meeting are expected to deliberate on recent developments in the Middle East and other issues pertinent to the Muslim Ummah, they said.

Issues to be addressed by the ICFM also include Middle East peace process and the discord between Iran and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

According to the programme schedule, opening ceremony of the 33rd session of ICFM will take place at the Gulistan Palace in the morning of June 19. President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev will inaugurate the meet.

The inaugural session will also be addressed by Foreign Minister of Yemen also Chairman of the 32nd ICFM Dr Abu Baker Al Qirbi, Secretary-General of OIC Dr Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Foreign Minister of Malaysia Syed Hamid Albar, and Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Elmar Mammadyarov.

On the sideline of the 3-day ICFM, Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation will be holding a photo exhibition.

The Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation, an institution affiliated with OIC has planned a series of presentations with a view to introducing youth issues into the agenda of OIC and to brief the delegations on youth activities.

Among the activities at the side of the conference are the following: presentation of youth activities to the foreign ministers and heads of delegations, presentation of the book series titled 'Humanitarian tragedies in the OIC countries', and presentation of youth activities to OIC and the international media.

Countries having observer status in OIC will also participate in the Baku conference. Russia's Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov will also arrive in Baku to attend the 33rd meeting of OIC Foreign Ministers' Board. Russia has been participating in OIC as an observer since June last year. This will be its first participation in a ministerial level OIC meeting.

Mass arrest

FROM PAGE 16 husband Ruhul Amin, who works at a video shop at Mugda, and implicated him in a theft case as she could not bribe police.

"Police wanted Tk 1,000 from me through a broker for my husband's release from the police station. As I could not arrange the money, my husband was implicated in the theft case," Asma said with tears in her eyes.

45 Taliban rebels killed in Paktia bombings

Wednesday ended Thursday -- was part of Operation Mountain Thrust, the biggest push against militants since the fall of the Taliban government nearly five years ago, it said in a statement.

Involving more than 10,000 Afghan and coalition troops who have been put in place in the south over the past few months, the operation was launched in mid-May.

It is intended to "set the conditions" for NATO's takeover in the coming weeks of command of the volatile south, which is the birthplace of the Taliban movement and sees the most insurgency-linked violence.

Despite the presence of more than 30,000 troops and the growing capacity of the Afghan security forces, insurgents have been able to launch significant attacks in the past weeks, increasing fears of a Taliban comeback.

The rebel movement, which wants foreign "infidels" to leave Afghanistan, directs most of its attacks at Afghan and coalition troops but also targets people siding with the new government or working on reconstruction projects.

On Thursday 13 Afghans were killed in bomb blasts apparently aimed at people working with foreign companies.

Ten people were killed in the deadliest attack on civilians in months when a timebomb exploded on a bus taking workers to a coalition-run air field in the southern city of Kandahar.

Five interpreters, a cleaner and a driver were killed on the bus, coalition spokesman Major Quentin Innes said. The three other dead were bystanders. Sixteen people were wounded, he said.

Taliban spokesman Yousuf Ahmadi said the group was targeted because "these people were working for Americans".

"Anyone, anywhere in Afghanistan working for US forces will be targeted. They must quit working for Americans or their friends," he told AFP by telephone from a secret location.

In a separate attack two men employed by a Turkish road construction company were killed when a bomb exploded under their vehicle in southwestern Nimroz province.

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Drogba led the charge even though the introduction by van Basten of imposing Hamburg hardman Khalid Boulahrouz did add some steel to the Dutch back four.

Robben, whose darting sorties had been well tracked by Emmanuel Ebouie in the game, had his first shot on goal in the 70th minute, but Tizie was up to the task. An effort with five minutes to play was blasted high.

Van Persie turned savoury in the 77th minute, chesting away a dangerous Drogba header that had nutmegged Boulahrouz, beaten van der Sar and was headed for the back of the net.

The Africans continued to press and the Dutch captain was forced into a series of smart saves, notably of a Gilles Yapi Yapo shot, in the tense closing moments.

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Nepal govt

FROM PAGE 16 discussed promptly. "We are pretty optimistic, but arms management has to be raised," the diplomat said on condition of anonymity.

"They are all pushing for early (constituent assembly) elections, and you have to have (arms) decommissioning before the elections, so it's not too early to make a commitment to disarmament," the diplomat said.

Friday's meeting was historic, said Kapil Shrestha, a political science professor at Nepal's Tribhuvan University.

"Now it will be difficult for the Maoists to return to the jungle as they have come too far from their earlier position," Shrestha said.

"This shows that both the government and the Maoists are sincere and serious enough to establish peace in the country," he said.

Koirala, 84, was due to fly to Bangkok for medical treatment on Saturday.

Prachanda, whose name means "the fierce one", disappeared a decade ago to wage a rebellion that has claimed more than 12,500 lives since 1996.

But the rebels, who entered into a loose alliance with the seven-party coalition last year, have observed a ceasefire with the interim government that came to power in April after mass protests forced Gyanendra to end 14 months of direct rule and reopen parliament.

Nepal's newly-reinstated parliament adjourned Thursday for 18 days in an effort to boost the peace process.

Parliament reconvened for the first time in four years in April but the rebels have been calling for the dissolution of the house and the establishment of a new interim government in which they too will be represented.

The current peace initiative is the third since Nepal's Maoist insurgency erupted. Two previous attempts to hammer out a peace deal failed and the impoverished nation was plunged back into conflict.

Holland

FROM PAGE 1 But Ivory Coast pulled one back in the 38th minute through Nice striker Bakary Kone who was allowed to run across the face of the edge of the penalty box before drilling an excellent shot high beyond Dutch goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar.

That crowned a period of good possession for the Africans, who had come within inches of scoring five minutes earlier through Didier Zokora, whose cracking 25-yard shot beat van der Sar only to come back off the woodwork.

Didier Drogba, who was booked for fouling van der Sar and will miss the last match against the Serbs, missed the chance to draw the Ivory Coast level in the 42nd minute, making a hash of a two-on-one with fellow striker Aruna Kone unmarked and the goal line begging.

Kone then went close in injury time with a shot that rifled over van der Sar's crossbar.

The second-half opened with several shots on target, the best effort coming from a van Nistelrooy piler-driver that drifted high at the last moment.

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Suu Kyi's relative files petition with UN HR council

AFP, Washington

A family member of Myanmar's jailed pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi on Thursday filed the first petition with a new UN human rights council, challenging her detention by the country's military junta.

The petition was filed just as the Geneva-based council officially took over at 22:00GMT on Thursday from the discredited UN Commission on Human Rights, which has been abolished by the world body as part of UN reforms.

It was filed on the relative's behalf by American lawyer Jared Genser, who is also president of Freedom Now, a US-based group striving to free "prisoners of conscience" across the globe.

Freedom Now submitted the petition directly to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, a five-member panel of human rights experts led by Algerian Judge Leila Zerrougui which will operate under the council.

10-man Angola

FROM PAGE 1 Earlier, Angola defender Jamba cleared off the line from substitute Jesus Arellano after Ricardo saved from Mexico striker Guillermo Franco.

The Mexicans started well but coach Ricardo La Volpe's five-man backline struggled to get forward fast enough to trouble an African team who defended deep from the start.

The first half's best chance fell to Franco, who picked up a loose ball in the box only to hit his shot straight at keeper Joao Ricardo from point blank range.

Mexico's captain and Barcelona centre back Rafael Marquez also snacked a free kick off the post in the 13th minute from just outside the area.

Angola again seemed awestruck and their first meaningful attack did not come until the 23rd minute, when Figueiredo fired a powerful right-footer from about 20 metres just over the bar.

Lone striker and captain Akwa looked an isolated figure up front against Mexico's three central defenders until a switch in the second half. But he also went close after 32 minutes, heading over from Figueiredo's nicely curled freekick.

TEAMS MEXICO: Oswaldo Sanchez; Ricardo Osorio; Rafael Marquez; Carlos Salcido; Mario Mendez; Gerardo Torrado; Pavel Pardo; Gonzalo Pineda (Ramon Morales 79); Zinha (Jesus Arellano 52); Omar Bravo; Guillermo Franco (Jose Fonseca 74).

ANGOLA: Joao Ricardo; Delgado; Jamba; Kili; Loco; Andre; Mateus (Mantorras 68); Mendonca; Figueiredo (Rui Marques 73); Ze Kalunga (Milly 83); Akwa.

Yellow card: Delgado (13), Andre (44), Kalunga (50), Ricardo (86). Red card: Andre (79) Referee: Shamsul Maidin (Singapore) Attendance: 43,000