

## Mass awareness against drug abuse stressed

International Day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking was observed throughout the country as elsewhere in the world yesterday, reports UNB.

Different social organisations chalked out elaborate programmes to create mass awareness about the adverse effects of drug abuse and addiction.

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed expressed his grave concern at the alarming rise in drug addiction.

In a message on the occasion, the Acting President said the alarming spread of self-destructing drug addiction is now a matter of grave global concern.

He also said extensive anti-drug activities in our society and at regional and international levels are indispensable for the success of this movement.

"Spread of drugs must be stopped once for all", Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said in a message.

Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman speaking as chief guest at a seminar on the problem at United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) here, sought cooperation from all conscious citizens in combating the menace.

He said, this has also started assuming political implications in some countries.

Bangladesh Anti-drug Federation of NGOs (BAF) observed the International Anti-drug day today with a call to free the society from drug menace.

To mark the day, BAF brought out a procession from Shishu Park at Shahabab and dispersed near Jatiya Press Club.

State Minister for Information Nurul Huda, Khurshida Jahan MP, Prof Muniruzzaman Mia, Vice-Chancellor of the Dhaka

University and BAF President M A Jafri attended the procession.

Speakers at the Press Club urged the youths to face the challenge posed by drugs.

Drugs destroy destiny, they observed and called for collective efforts in combating the vices created by drug users and traffickers.

BAF also held a seminar on anti-drug at the Jatiya Press Club. It was addressed by Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Mirza Golam Haftiz and Khurshid Jahan, MP.

Related stories on Page 2 and an editorial

## Cambodian groups fail to reach accord

PATTAYA, Thailand, June 26: Cambodia's warring factions ended peace talks Wednesday after making some progress toward ending 20 years of bloodshed, but they failed to reach a final agreement, reports AP.

The lack of agreement on key issues, including the monitoring of an agreed-upon truce and a halt in arms flows, left open the possibility of more broken pledges and fighting, said diplomats observing the talks.

Resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk told a closing news conference he cannot get the factions to implement a UN Security Council peace plan for Cambodia, beset by war or bloody revolution for two decades.

Reuter adds: The United Nations will not send troops to supervise a Cambodian ceasefire until all warring factions approve a peace plan devised by the UN Security Council, the world body's senior representative to peace talks said today.

See also an editorial



Masayoshi Takemura, leader of the six-member Japanese parliamentary team, handing over a cheque for Prime Minister's Relief Fund to Begum Khaleda Zia at her residence in Tuesday. —PID photo

## An Andaman volcano wakes up with Unzen, Pinatubo

NEW DELHI, June 26: A volcano on a tiny, uninhabited Indian Ocean island has erupted after being dormant for nearly 200 years and is periodically spewing hot lava and ash, officials said today, reports AFP.

Scientists of the Geological Survey of India (GSI) were studying the eruption on Barren Island and it was not clear how long it would last, a GSI official here said.

Barren Island is among the 3,000 islands that make up India's Andaman and Nicobar islands governed by New Delhi. Port Blair, its capital, is some 1,190 kilometres (743 miles) from Madras.

The official said the eruption, the first since 1803, was first noticed by an Indian naval ship at the end of April.

"It is throwing out lava and ash up to 800 metres (2,640 feet) high," he said. "Our scientists have gone there and conducted some studies. The studies are still continuing."

"These are periodic activi-

ties," he added. "A volcano which is dormant will erupt one day. How long it will remain active, this I cannot say."

The Telegraph newspaper said Barren Island was connected to the Indo-Burmese arc of mostly dead or dormant volcanoes, and that lava ejected by the volcano was flowing down the slope of a cone.

It also quoted GSI scientists in Calcutta as saying that the eruption was likely to affect the natural vegetation as well as fisheries in the area but it would in no way disrupt life in Port Blair, 125 kilometres (78 miles) away.

But GSI scientists said the Barren Island volcano was unrelated to the volcanic belt known as the Pacific ring of fire which runs through Japan and the Philippines.

### Deadly gas

Meanwhile, dark burning flows of gas and stones streamed down and erupting volcano in southwestern Japan today, raising fears of a violent

explosion, Japan's Meteorological Agency said.

Huge billowing clouds known as pyroclastic flows rolled down the eastern slope of the mountain like an avalanche, according to televised reports from the scene.

The Meteorological Agency warned nearby residents a major explosion could occur at any time.

"Earthquakes around the volcano are growing in frequency while the volume of pyroclastic flows is increasing," said an agency official.

AP adds from Manila, Mount Pinatubo rumbled Wednesday, spewing ash across a wide area and forcing President Corason Aquino to cancel a visit to a town devastated by the volcano.

The death toll from nearly three weeks of eruptions rose to 338 as late reports reached Manila. Victims include the 9-year-old daughter of a US Air Force sergeant and a Filipino serving in the US Navy.

## Peer Motiur's trial today

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, June 26: The trial of so-called peer Motiur Rahman (a rtd major) of the sensational Shimulia case begins tomorrow June 27 in the court of the Additional District Magistrate Jhenidah on charge of enticing a minor boy named Subrata, son of one Shushil Kumar Ghosh of Kannagar in Jhenidah town to convert him to a Muslim from a Hindu on 29th Sept 1989.

Earlier, his father Shushil Ghosh filed a case against the peer and other six with Jhenidah thana Case No GR 14/90 dated 20/1/90 under Section 365/368.

He has been wanted by the court of ADM Jhenidah in connection to the aforesaid case and he was transferred to Jhenidah sub jail on June 13 from Dhaka Central Jail on production warrant by the order of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Dhaka.

## 10 including cops hurt in clash at Ashuganj

BRAHMANBARIA, June 26: At least 10 people, including three policemen, were injured when villagers clashed at Ashuganj Bazar here this afternoon, reports UNB.

Several houses and a truck were set ablaze during the incident, witnesses said.

The incident occurred after police arrested two villagers of Char Chautala in connection with a brawl that erupted over black-marketing of cinema tickets on Eid day.

The quarrel between two groups continued Tuesday with chase counter chase.

Police in a bid to control the situation picked up Amrul Huq and Nannu Miah. Hundreds of villagers tried to resist the police and later gheraoed Ashuganj police station.

Police were forced to release the arrested on bail.

The two groups later clashed again and set fire to two houses, ransacked several others and burnt a truck in the Bazar area.

## Two injured in city clash

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were injured in a violent clash between two groups of people at Uttar Maishundi in the city Tuesday night.

Kalu Meah and Sayeed, two local youths, were injured when lethal weapons and firearms were used freely in the clash that continued for over two hours till midnight creating panic in the locality.

The clash broke out after a quarrel between two young men over a video cassette and local 'mastans' became involved in it. A case has been registered with Sutrapur police station in this connection.

## Eid-ul-Azha

From Page 1 Col. 5

The ideals of equality and brotherhood of mankind as enshrined in Islam. Special prayers were also offered at the 'Jamaats' for the salvation of hundreds of thousands of people killed in the April 29 cyclone and for the peace and prosperity of the muslim world in general and Bangladesh in particular.

All government and private offices and business establishments were closed for three to four days on account of the Eid.

In Dhaka city, the main thoroughfares were decorated with flags inscribed with 'Eid Mubarak' messages in Bangla and English. The national flag was hoisted atop important public buildings.

Illumination of buildings in the metropolis was avoided this year to grieve the loss of life and property in the April 29 cyclone.

Acting President Mr Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed hoisted an Eid reception at Bangabhaban, while Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia hoisted another at her 'Sugandha' office on the Eid day.

The main Eid congregation in Dhaka City was held at the national Eidgah. President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, members of the council of ministers and high officials were among those who offered prayer at the national Eidgah.

Four congregations were held at the Baitul Mukarram national mosque. Inmates of jails, vagrant homes, orphanages and children's homes were served with improved diet on the Eid day.

## 1 killed, 4 hurt in explosion

KHULNA, June 26: A man was killed and four others seriously injured Tuesday in a bomb blast at Erfan Market in the town, police and hospital sources said here today, reports UNB.

## The Midnight File

### Kurds seek polls in 6 months

MANAMA, June 26: Iraqi Kurds, on the verge of an accord with Baghdad on autonomy, are seeking the formation of a coalition government and free elections within six months, the Kurdish opposition said today. In its three months of negotiations, the Kurdistan Front said it had also demanded an elected national assembly, or parliament, after elections involving all opposition groups, reports AFP.

### 21 executed in China

HONG KONG, June 26: Twenty-one people were executed today for drug smuggling and trafficking in the western Chinese province of Yunnan, the China News Service (CNS) reported. The 21 were convicted in 12 drug cases, including one involving trafficking of more than 90 kg (nearly 200 lb) of heroin. Capital punishment is usually carried out in China with a bullet to the back of the head, reports Reuter.

### Koirala sacks 13 bureaucrats

KATHMANDU, June 26: Nepal's newly-elected Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala has dismissed 13 senior bureaucrats and transferred others to different ministries. A cabinet source said today, a list was being drawn up of executives of state-run corporations who are due to get the ax. Other managers are being considered for dismissal as well, the source said, reports AFP.

## Pawar Defence Minister

From Page 1 Col. 4

place of honour in the comity of nations and ensure its voice is once again heard with respect and attention in world fora.

Our relations with neighbours will enjoy the priority they deserve so that our region becomes an area of peace, prosperity and stability, he said in his first nationwide telecast address Monday night.

The Prime Minister said it is unfortunate that at the very juncture when India needed to give a lead in this historic endeavour its international prestige suffered setbacks and relations with friends and neighbours were neglected.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Manmohan Singh said newspaper reports that India will seek a seven-billion-dollar loan from the International Monetary Fund to tide over a balance of payments crisis were untrue. "We are seeking a loan but have not mentioned any figures," he said. "We are in the process of discussions."

India's external debts amount to 63 billion dollars. Its foreign exchange reserves cannot purchase imports for more than one month.

On Tuesday, Singh told reporters the government would undertake major structural changes in the economy to ease the crisis.

Observers said this implies the government would loosen some of the strict controls on the economy and allow multinational companies greater access to restricted Indian markets.

The Congress and its allies won 241 of the 511 seats to Parliament in the balloting. It is still 15 seats short of a majority and is likely to approach centrist and leftist alliances to provide parliamentary support.

Rao, who has to face a vote of confidence in Parliament within three weeks, told reporters Wednesday that he has initiated talks with senior opposition leaders.

Both he and Singh have to win election to Parliament within six months to keep their ministerial posts.

An Indian court Tuesday ad-

### Kaifu offers

From Page 1 Col. 8

Masayoshi Takemura, MP, leader of the visiting six-member Japanese Parliamentary delegation when it called on her at her residence Tuesday evening.

Pointing out that Japan had extended economic and technical assistance for the development of Bangladesh, he reiterated cooperation in Bangladesh government's effort for relief and reconstruction work in the wake of the devastating cyclone.

He said the two countries had steadfastly maintained friendly and cooperative relations.

Takemura, who is also, the Secretary General of the Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentarians' Association, handed over some cheques and cash to Begum Zia which were collected from various organisations and Parliament members.

Takemura referred to the February election in Bangladesh and expressed the confidence that democracy would be institutionalised in Bangladesh under her leadership and it would be further consolidated.

The delegation chief invited Begum Zia to visit their country.

Begum Zia extended thanks to Prime Minister Kaifu, the government and its people for helping Bangladesh during the crisis.

She said Japan was always a partner in Bangladesh's progress and this role would be further strengthened and consolidated during the tenure of the democratically-elected government.

Begum Zia referred to the liberal industrial policy and congenial investment climate and welcomed Japanese investment including in joint ventures.

joined a petition by the widow of Rajiv Gandhi demanding the white cotton "kurta" he was wearing at the time of his slaying, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

The Chief Judicial Magistrate in the southern city of Madras will hear the petition July 12. He ordered the adjournment after detectives said the homespun kurta was in 20 blood-stained and badly burned pieces, the news agency said.

The Central Bureau of Investigation, which is probing the former Prime Minister's May 21 slaying by a woman suicide bomber, told the court the clothing was under chemical analysis and could not be produced in court.

Gandhi's Italian-born widow Sonia had demanded the shirt for sentimental reasons.

Earlier this month, Mrs Gandhi was given back the Lotto sports shoes her husband was wearing when he was killed.

In a separate despatch quoting unnamed official sources, PTI said Gandhi's kurta appeared to be missing.

The Forensic Department of the Tamil Nadu's state government said the kurta had not yet been brought in for chemical examination, the sources were quoted as saying, adding that a hunt had been launched for the missing pieces.

Related stories on Page 5

## Erosion renders 15,000 families homeless in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, June 26: Water level of the Jamuna has dropped 30 cm in the last 72 hours, but massive erosion by the surging river left thousands of villagers homeless, reports UNB.

About 15,000 families have so far been made homeless at least 20 villages of Kazipur, Belkuchi, Chowah, Shazadpur and Sadar upazilas of the district with erosion taking a serious turn, local administration and witnesses said.

The entire Sohagpur Hat in Belkuchi upazila has been eroded by the gushing Jamuna waters over the last three days.

Serious cracks have developed in the flood control embankments at Sonali Bazar, Beara and Kazipur areas, posing threat to human habitation in vast areas.

## Cyclone shelters

From Page 1 Col. 7

operation to build protections against natural disasters.

The delegation which arrived on Sunday for "proper assessment of cyclone disaster" flew over Sandwip and Chittagong to see the extent of devastation.

Describing what they have seen on news on television and now in the field two months after the disaster, Takemura said it was "beyond our imagination." He said members of the delegation were encouraged to see the progress of rehabilitation work taken up by civil and military authorities and other organisations including the NGOs.

## Flood control

From Page 1 Col. 8

The delegation included, among others, Bangladesh Ambassador to China Farooq Sobhan, Director General of Environment Dr MAH Pramanik and Director of Meteorology Hamiduzzaman Khan Chowdhury.

Addressing the conference, Noman said environmental degradation is a global issue and it has to be fought by the world community collectively.

Besides, ministers and representatives from 41 developing countries, the conference was also attended by representatives of nine developed countries and 12 international organisations as observers at the invitation of the Chinese Government.

## Croatia, Slovenia

From Page 1 Col. 4

It said it would send Interior Ministry troops and army border units to secure frontiers, which Slovenia has said it will take over.

In an earlier statement, the government condemned the independence moves by Croatia and Slovenia, Yugoslavia's two richest republics.

Jets screamed over Slovenia and helicopters ferried officers across the region today after the Yugoslav army stepped up combat readiness in response to the rebel republic's independence proclamation.

Aircraft roared over the Slovenian capital, Ljubljana, in a show of force and army helicopters took officers across the republic.

Troops twice moved out in one border region, Morska Sobota, but no clashes were reported, Slovenian officials said.

Slovenian Information Minister Jelko Kacin said: "The military preparedness of some units of the Yugoslav People's army on the territory of Slovenia has been increased."

He said an armoured brigade and an armoured battalion had been put on the highest State of Alert.

"It's a battle of nerves at this moment. It is not a real war," Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel said.

But some diplomats said the government, struggling to prevent the breakup of the 72-year-old Balkan federation of six republics and two provinces, could be considering a state of Emergency.

Milan Babic, unofficial leader of the 600,000-strong Serbian minority in Croatia, further complicated matters by saying Serbs in their areas of the republic would not recognise the independence declaration.

The army is already keeping the peace in parts of Croatia, whose population totals 4.5 million, after clashes which have killed at least 22 people this year. Many Serbs have taken up arms to block break-away moves.

Croatian media said tension was high in several areas and more trouble was feared.

Yugoslavia has lunched from one crisis to another since the death of communist leader Josip Broz Tito in 1980 and old rivalries were aggravated in elections last year.

Three people were killed in a shoot-out in the Croatian town of Glina overnight and the Yugoslav army has been

sent in to keep the peace, eyewitnesses said.

Local doctors said six others were also wounded, three of them critically when local Serbs attacked a Croatian police station. Two tanks patrolled the town 80 km (50 miles) south of the republic's capital Zagreb, a Reuter reporter on the scene said.

The deaths followed increased tension in Croatia following its independence declaration on Tuesday.

The republic's Serbian minority opposes the breakway moves and at least 25 people have now been killed in clashes in Croatia this year.

Although both it and Croatia say they are "dissociating" from Yugoslavia and taking over the running of all their affairs from central authorities, Slovenia says it is making a more definitive break.

The outside world has refused to recognise independence declarations by Slovenia and Croatia, apparently fearful they could open a Pandora's box of demands for border changes in Eastern Europe and elsewhere.

European governments, Australia and the United States said they favoured a united Yugoslavia and called on the Balkan country's feuding republics to settle their differences peacefully.

The United States Tuesday regretted the vote passed in Croatia declaring independence after having warned the republics of Yugoslavia several times against making such a move.

"We regret this," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said, referring to the resolution passed by more than two-thirds of the Croatian republic assembly Tuesday declaring the republic an independent state.

## City wears

From Page 1 Col. 5

spondent found a few officials, chatting among themselves.

Attendance in the secretariat was also thin. About ten per cent of the staff attended office, according to an official source.

Banks were open, but few transactions held. As customers were scanty, a handful of bank officials could run the office without inconvenience.

Many officials said that they did not enjoy the optional holidays for the past nine years as it was introduced only this year.

This holiday is added to the religious holidays, they said.

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