

DPRK refuses IAEA access to key N-centre

VIENNA, Mar 16: North Korea refused IAEA inspectors access to a key nuclear centre suspected of producing weapons-grade plutonium, the International Atomic Energy Agency said today, reports AFP.

"Important measures which had been agreed were refused at the radio-chemical laboratory in Yongbyon," the IAEA said in a statement issued after a March 3-15 trip to North Korea by IAEA inspectors.

"As a result of this rejection... the agency was not in a position to verify that there had been no diversion of nuclear material at the facility where the relevant measures were rejected," it added.

IAEA spokesman Hans Meyer said earlier that the matter could possibly be referred to the UN Security Council.

Yongbyon, called a radio-

chemical laboratory by North Korea, is one of seven sites that Pyongyang agreed could be inspected by the IAEA after months of stalling. The IAEA suspects it is used to produce weapons-grade plutonium.

The statement was issued after nuclear inspectors briefed IAEA chief Hans Blix on their less than successful trip.

The briefing was followed by a meeting of IAEA ambassadors who considered the findings of the seven-man team, prevented by North Korean officials from fully carrying out inspections at seven nuclear sites.

Meyer earlier also confirmed reports that North Korea blocked the inspectors from visiting some nuclear sites, but refused to name them.

Two killed, 4 injured in separate incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

At least one person was murdered, another committed suicide and four others were injured in separate incidents in the city during the Eid holidays.

On the Eid-day morning one Khalil, 28, was stabbed to death allegedly by his creditor Tareq at a 'chatpoti' stand at Goran.

According to witnesses and police, Tareq approached Khalil and demanded Tk 1200 which the latter had earlier borrowed from him. Enraged by Khalil's refusal Tareq broke a porcelain plate and plunged the sharp edge into the victim's belly.

He was immediately rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared him dead. Police were looking for the alleged murderer Tareq.

On Tuesday night, one Yaqub Ali reportedly committed suicide at Khali Dewan Lane in the old part of the city. Lalbagh police recovered the body yesterday and sent it to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, two photo-journalists were assaulted by muggers at Dilkusha on the Eid evening. The lensmen Azizur Rahim Pue of The Daily Ittefaq

and Asaduzzaman Asad of The New Nation came under attack of the muggers near the BSB Bhaban. They received first aid at the DMCH but details of the mugging incident were not available.

At Bari Maghbazar, a group of unidentified young men stormed the house of Mohammad Shah Alam, 20, and stabbed him. Tuesday morning, reportedly as a sequel to prior enmity. The victim was admitted to the DMCH in a critical condition.

A class-nine student, Rajib, was stabbed at Goran on Sunday evening. Rajib received severe stab injuries in a fight with his rivals that left him hospitalised.

Starving tiger kills TV cameraman

LISBON, Portugal, Mar 16: A starving tiger broke free from its zoo cage in Angola's war-torn capital and mauled a South African television cameraman to death, news reports said Wednesday, reports AP.

The cameraman, identified by the British Broadcasting Corp. as Rick Lomba, was filming the transfer Tuesday of 29 animals from Luanda's zoo to South Africa.

FFW programmes

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and union levels has been fixed at 166,600 tonnes of wheat. This allocation includes special sanctions by the ministry for specific projects in different areas.

Besides, the revised budget incorporates 130,000 tonnes for the FFW schemes under the Water Development Board (WDB) and sanctions for other projects.

Meanwhile, the government has adopted a new policy for the FFW under which the minimum allocation for a scheme has been fixed at 10 tonnes of wheat. The policy has already been given effect from this year. Under this policy, many unions were barred from having any scheme this year as the wheat sanction for the thana concerned was not adequate.

Abdur Rauf, MP from Nilphamari-1 said 136 tonnes of wheat were allocated for two thanas of his constituency — Domar and Dimala. "These two thanas comprise 20 unions. So by no means will it be possible to take up schemes for all the unions with a minimum wheat

allocation of 10 tonnes," he said adding that during the last fiscal year, all the unions were brought under FFW programme as there was no restriction on the allocation of wheat.

Shamsuddoha, MP from Nilphamari-2 consisting of Sadar thana is facing similar problems. His constituency has 16 unions, but only 84 tonnes have been sanctioned to implement the FFW schemes. "We can undertake only eight schemes if we comply with the new policy guidelines", he said mentioning that eight unions of his constituency will be left out of the FFW programme.

When contacted, an official of the Relief Ministry justified the new policy of minimum wheat allocation saying this will ensure tangible development work in the rural areas.

"A scheme having the allocation of minimum 10 tonnes of what can be tangible and effective" he said. The official, however, mentioned that the government is trying to provide more wheat for the FFW programme.

Sajeda also alleged that minority voters in different areas of the constituency were being intimidated by the administration to vote for the BNP candidate.

Earlier, Hasina addressed at least 20 wayside election rallies at Baro Shelai, Amuria, Kullia, Gobtala, Gorigati, Pulom, Gangarampur, Choto Jokha, Goalbain, Shatrujipur, Bethulia and Dhoali in Mohammadpur, Shalikha and Magura sadar thanas.

Nirmul's Mar 26 programmes

Chakal-Dalai Nirmul Samanay Committee will make public on March 26 the findings of its "Gano Tadanta (public enquiry) Commission" against eight people accused of anti-liberation role in 1971, reports UNB.

The Commission, formed by the Nirmul Committee last year, gathered information from various sources across the country and its findings would be made public on the Independence Day, said the committee's member-secretary Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury.

The Nirmul Committee will release the summary of the findings at a grand rally at Suhrawardy Uddyan at 3pm on March 26. The rally will be organised to celebrate the second anniversary of "Gano-Adalat" (people's court).

Activists of the committee will assemble at the Central Shahid Minar at 11 pm on March 25 and light candles in memory of the martyrs of the independence war.

To make its March 25 and 26 programmes successful, the committee will hold meetings in all the 15 thanas of the capital beginning Friday.

Convenor of the Samanay Committee Jahanara Imam told UNB by phone that they would announce fresh programme from the March 26 rally and sought cooperation from all pro-liberation forces to make the March 25-26 programmes a success.

Hasina

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creased the miseries of com-

mon man.

Hasina feared that the ruling party might rig the March 20 parliamentary by-election in Magura-2 and asked the people to unitedly resist any irregularities, including rigging.

"Awami League will not tolerate any rigged election," she warned.

Presided over by Mohammadpur thana AL president Golam Rabbani, the meeting was also addressed by Begum Sajeda Chowdhury MP, Salauddin Yusuf MP, Abdur Rouf MP, Mansur Ahmed MP and Awami League nominees for the by-election, Shafiquzzaman Bachchu.

Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, in her speech, alleged that the ruling party was trying to influence the by-election through intimidation, temptation and bribery.

BNP ministers and MPs are sanctioning grants for different institutions, including mosques and schools, ahead of the polls in utter disregard to the election rules, she said.

Sajeda also alleged that minority voters in different areas of the constituency were being intimidated by the administration to vote for the BNP candidate.

Earlier, Hasina addressed at least 20 wayside election rallies at Baro Shelai, Amuria, Kullia, Gobtala, Gorigati, Pulom, Gangarampur, Choto Jokha, Goalbain, Shatrujipur, Bethulia and Dhoali in Mohammadpur, Shalikha and Magura sadar thanas.

20 garments shops gutted in N'ganj

NARAYANGANJ, Mar 16: About 20 tin shedded garments shops were gutted in a fire which broke out at Deobhog Ali Ahmed Chunka Sarak Market on Monday morning, reports BSS.

All these shops were closed when the fire broke out as it was a Eid ul-Fitr day. The extent of damage is yet to be ascertained.

According to fire brigade sources, the fire originated from a shop and engulfed the adjacent shops within minutes. The cause of the fire could not be known.

The fire brigade personnel from Narayanganj, Hajiganj and Postogola brought the fire under control after two hours of fighting.

Several bales of cotton yarn cuttings, overlock machinery and sewing machines were damaged in the fire, besides, readymade garments, the source said.

Stranded Pakistanis

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A senior government official involved in the repatriation process said that they have not received any response from the Pakistan government "which appeared to have forgotten the citizens stuck in Bangladesh". The officials declined to be named.

"We still hope that the process will start shortly, because construction of the refugee's quarters in Pakistan have been completed," he said.

Foreign Secretary Mufiheen Rahman Osmany, while briefing newsmen on March 10 in Dhaka, however, said that the Pakistanis would soon be ferried home.

Efforts have been made to start the process again, he said. However, the Secretary did not elaborate on the time schedule and number of people to be ferried.

The first group of the 'Biharis' went home after a joint declaration by the then Pakistan Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif and his Bangla-

deshi counterpart Begum Khaleda Zia during the latter's visit to Islamabad in 1992.

A move to repatriate an unspecified number of Pakistani refugees in the second group failed in July due to Pakistan's internal political strife.

Two earlier initiatives to resume the repatriation also failed because of natural calamities in Pakistan in April and June last year.

The last round of talks between Bangladesh and Pakistan on the 'Bihari issue' were held during the SAARC ministerial meeting in Dhaka in April '93. No positive development on the issue was however achieved in that meeting.

Leaders of the Stranded

Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) expressed their dismay over the delay in the return of the Pakistani refugees.

They promised to launch a 'tough agitation' if their return was not resumed within this year.

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20 garments shops gutted in N'ganj

NARAYANGANJ, Mar 16:



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban in the city on Eid Day Monday.

50 injured in Sirajganj clash

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 16: Some 50 people were injured, 10 seriously, in a clash over land between the supporters of two neighbours at a village in Shahjadpur thana today, reports UNB.

The clash erupted following a dispute allegedly between Parjana Union Chairman Baduzzaman and Babar Ali this morning in a sequel to Monday's (Eid Day) incident which left five people injured. On Eid day, five supporters of Baduzzaman were allegedly assaulted when they trespassed on the rival's land.

Of the injured, Babar Ali, 40, Afzal, 39, Abdul Majid, 48, Khan Bahadur, 30, Abdus Sattar, 36, Abdul Malek, 30, Habibur Rahman, 42, Jasimuddin, 30, Afzal Ali, 35, and Sonabahan, wife of Akkas Ali, were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital.

Both the feuding parties accused each other of conducting attacks.

Arafat urges Clinton to save peace process

TUNIS, Mar 16: PLO leader Yasser Arafat called on US President Bill Clinton, who was meeting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin today, to save the Middle East peace process, stalled by the Hebron massacre, reports Reuter.

Arafat made the appeal in a letter sent to Clinton on Tuesday, the Palestinian news agency Wafa said today.

"Abu Ammar (Arafat) demanded in his letter to President Clinton, considering the fact that the (PLO-Israel) accord was signed under his sponsorship... and that the United States is a co-sponsor, to act by deploying efforts and using his influence to save the peace process from the impasse reached after this savage slaughter," Wafa said.

Road accidents

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admitted to the Chittagong Medical Hospital.

Two passengers were killed and 40 others wounded when a minibus skidded off the road and plunged into a ditch near Shatruni on the Dhaka-Aricha highway Tuesday. The Aricha-bound minibus met the accident when its driver stepped hard on the brake ahead of a speed-breaker.

One of the dead was identified as Minhajuddin, 20. The injured passengers were admitted to the Manikganj Sadar hospital.

In another accident on the same highway, two people were killed and ten others injured near Prirampur, Dhamrai yesterday morning.

Witnesses said, a Dhaka-bound bus fell from a bridge when the driver lost control of his vehicle.

The injured were admitted to the Dhamrai Thana Health Complex.

A 60-year-old man died after a bus ran over him near the Jurain rail crossing in the capital at 6:30 am yesterday.

One Jasim, 17, died after his motor-bike hit a traffic island at Nakhalpara Tuesday.

The Saudi statement said it was in 'utmost amazement at the contradictions we face from the Iranian leaders.'

The procession ended at the



Former Shanghai journalist Julie Shi takes in the sights of Sydney's Chinatown Wednesday after creating an uproar in Australia's Chinese community with a magazine article claiming western men are more considerate and more sensitive lovers than their Chinese counterparts. Her article in the 'The Great World' newspaper said eight out of the western men were 'fantastic' lovers and two 'so-so', while two out of ten Chinese men were 'so-so' in bed and the rest 'terrible'.

— AFP photo

Zhirinovsky invites Saddam to attend party congress

MOSCOW, Mar 16: Russian ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky said Wednesday he has sent Saddam Hussein an invitation to attend his party's congress in Moscow next month, Zhirinovsky, whose Liberal Democratic Party scored big in parliamentary elections in December, told reporters he had invited the Iraqi President to the congress opening April 2.

"We have invited all the people with whom we maintain relations, from Iraq and Serbia, from North and South Korea, and other countries," the ITAR-Tass news agency quoted Zhirinovsky as saying, reports AP.

Moldova joins NATO's partnership programme

BRUSSELS, Mar 16: The former Soviet republic of Moldova enrolled Wednesday in NATO's new partnership programme and immediately called on Russia to pull its troops out of the breakaway region of Trans-Dniester. Mirela Snegur, president of the newly independent nation, praised the alliance's new 'Partnership for Peace' programme as a way to help bring stability to the European continent, reports AP.

Escaped convicts free hostages in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO (Brazil), Mar 16: inmates who abducted a Roman Catholic cardinal and human rights activists and escaped from a prison in northeastern Brazil freed their hostages early Wednesday and were surrounded by police, reports AP.

The 11 inmates left only one hostage — the wounded guard — behind when they departed the Paulo Saracate prison, 15 miles (25 kms) outside Fortaleza.

Gunfire was heard inside the prison 20 minutes after the armed car escaped. Globo TV said police were trying to put down another prison uprising.

Rutskoi for single 'great power' state

MOSCOW, Mar 16: A leader of last year's rebellion against President Boris Yeltsin urged the peoples of the former Soviet Union on Wednesday to reunite and rebuild a single 'great power' state, reports AP.

Former Vice President Alexander Rutskoi, in a message fax