

UN seeks US help to bury dead

## Cholera claims 2000

## Rwandans daily

GOMA, Zaire, July 27: The United Nations asked for urgent help from the United States Wednesday to bury the nearly 2,000 Rwandan refugees dying daily of cholera in and around this border town, reports AP.

At least 1,800 people are dying each day, the United Nations said, and their decomposing bodies are spreading the disease through the town and the squalid, teeming camps around it.

Ray Wilkinson, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said at least 16,000 refugees have died since cholera was first detected in the camp a week ago.

The epidemic has over-

Dr Kamal blames govt for Ctg incident

By Staff Correspondent

Gano Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain in a statement Wednesday strongly condemned the killing of students in Chittagong and demanded punishment to the killers.

He also blamed the government for its "failure to prevent the clashes" in the port city and said "the law enforcing agencies instead of taking measures against the armed hoodlums of the Jamaat-e-Islami had given them shelter."

Dr Kamal, however, called upon all pro-liberation forces, irrespective of party affiliation to wage a strong movement against fundamentalist and communal forces.

Dr Kamal left Dhaka yesterday for Chittagong, along with Pankaj Bhattacharjee and Major General (Retd) Khalilur Rahman, to inquire into the incident that took place in Chittagong on Tuesday.

## Hasina announces plans

From Page 1 Col 4

elections are held under a caretaker government; therefore the AL needed to secure the support of all opposition parties to compel the BNP to concede to the demand for an interim administration.

"Besides, as leader of the Opposition, I have to accommodate under parliamentary norms, all the opposition parties' views on the question of a caretaker administration," Hasina told her audience.

"But the observations of some quarters about the present AL-Jamaat relations inside parliament are misleading. The AL supporters about the party's commitment towards the spirit of the Liberation War," Hasina said.

Advising the journalists, columnists and opinion builders to use their pens in favour of her one-point campaign for unseating the BNP, Hasina told the meeting that it was the AL which had been upholding the spirit of the Liberation War.

"All my family members were killed by the enemies of the Liberation struggle and I have nothing to gain for myself from politics," Hasina said in an emotion-choked voice.

She also vowed to "materialise the true spirit of the Liberation War in due course."

Terming the BNP a "partner" of the Jamaat, the AL chief observed that although the government had a tendency to impose Section 144 whenever and wherever two opposing parties announced conflicting plans for meetings or rallies, the government did not take such measure regarding Golam Azam's rally in Chittagong Tuesday.

Without quite naming the Jamaat, however, she told the rally that a particular party was using the mosques for its political activities.

She asked her party activists to perform namaz (prayers) at the mosques on a regular basis and thus ensure that the mosques are not used for political purposes.

In an oblique reference to the Taslima Nasreen issue, Sheikh Hasina condemned any attempt at disowning Islam, its holy book and the Prophet.

"We shall not tolerate any derogatory comments against Islam, although we believe in the freedom of religion," the AL chief warned.

During her 30-minute speech Sheikh Hasina told the rally several times that she had no personal political ambition, rather she was committed to the cause of the people.

She called on the people to attend the *gaebanjanaza* (funeral service) for those killed in Chittagong — to be held at the Baitul Mukarram after Zohr prayers today — to organise protest processions

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The Sampradayikata Birodi Chhatra Samaj, an alliance of student-bodies, damaged cars in the city yesterday protesting the killings in Chittagong on Tuesday. —Star photo

## Students protest

From Page 1 Col 5

sponsible for the killings.

Speakers at the Chhatra Samaj rally condemned authorities for "not taking" any effective steps to resist the Jamaat-Shibir forces in Chittagong from doing what they did on Tuesday.

"Police and the local administration sheltered the killers and armed terrorists of Jamaat-Shibir," the student leaders alleged at the rally held in front of Jatiya Press Club.

They urged the students to prevent the killers, collaborators and war criminals from raising their heads again to save the country.

The rally was addressed by Mainuddin Hasan Chowdhury, Ruhul Quddus Babu, Belal Chowdhury, Ragib Ahsan Munna and Sajjad Zahir Chandan.

Earlier, Samaj activists brought out a procession from the Dhaka University campus. Witnesses said that police intercepted the procession near the Teachers Students Centre (TSC). At least seven motor vehicles were damaged at the time.

Samaj leaders claimed that four of their activists were injured during the police intervention.

The Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) also protested the killings in Chittagong.

## 50 killed as Afghan warlords clash

From Page 1 Col 5

HERAT, Afghanistan, July 27: Rival warlords fought a pitched battle in eastern Afghanistan Wednesday, killing at least 50 people even as Afghanistan's beleaguered government pleaded for peace, reports AP.

A powerful commander, known only as Qarar, ambushed Commander Nisar Khan outside a provincial prison in eastern Laghman province on Wednesday, killing Khan and 36 of his men.

Reprisal attacks have left another 13 people dead, according to several Afghan sources, who said the fighting has spread throughout the province.

Meanwhile in the arid capital of the western Herat province, President Burhanuddin Rabbani appealed to Afghanistan's warring factions to lay down their weapons.

Burundi violence claims 200

From Page 1 Col 5

SEOUL, July 27: North Korea has developed five nuclear warheads and is now concentrating on developing missiles to carry them, a North Korean defector who is a son-in-law of Pyongyang's Prime Minister Kang Song-San said today, reports Reuter.

The defector, Kang Myong-Do, 36, told a news conference in Seoul that North Korea was not simply using suspicions about its nuclear programme as a negotiating tactic to obtain concessions from the west.

The administrator for Mbuye district in Muramvya province said he had fled his offices in Mbuye commune to his home, six kilometres away, according to a Burundian radio report monitored here by the BBC.



As US President Bill Clinton (C) turns and starts to leave the East Room of the White House, Jordan's King Hussein (L) and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (R) shake hands at the end of their joint press conference Tuesday. — AFP photo

## Clinton

From Page 1 Col 7

against a Jewish charity in Argentina last week that left at least 95 people dead and Tuesday's bombing in London that rocked the Israeli embassy and left 15 people injured.

"I believe they have got an infrastructure of terror throughout the world," and were engaged in an "all-out war" to block peace, Rabin said.

King Hussein condemned the terrorist bombings and said, "We are going to have to increase our vigilance in this respect because more may come."

Addressing the convention, Dr Kamal Hossain said that the independence would be meaningless if the "anti-liberation Jamaat-Shibir group" continued their "atrocities". He called upon the freedom-loving people to be prepared for the "final struggle" against the defeated forces in the liberation war. Dr Kamal stressed the need for national unity to protect and preserve the spirit and values of 1971 war.

Rashed Khan Menon criticised the Awami League for its attitude towards the Jamaat and for not participating in the convention. "We can no more have confidence in the AL after its absence from the convention in contrast with its earlier assurance" that it would, Menon said.

At least 12 people were hospitalised after police used clubs to break up the demonstration, hospital sources said. Smaller protests were held in half-a-dozen other Srinagar neighbourhoods.

## Left Front convention

From Page 1 Col 3

FAYEZ Ahmed of Sammiliti Sangskritik Jote, Ahad Choudhury of Mukti Joddha Sangsads, Bela Nabi of Mahila Parishad, NGO representative Lutfar Rahman Choudhury, Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid and A N Rasheda of teachers' liaison committee.

Awami League did not join the convention. However, Abdur Razzak of the AL, who is also a leader of the Nirmul Committee, was present on the occasion for some time. But he did not speak.

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Hundreds of demonstrators shouting "we want freedom" and "killers, tyrants leave Kashmir" took to the streets in the Batmaloo neighbourhood of this Kashmir summer capital, witnesses said.

At least 12 people were hospitalised after police used clubs to break up the demonstration, hospital sources said. Smaller protests were held in half-a-dozen other Srinagar neighbourhoods.

Poet Sufia Kamal, in a message on the occasion, hoped that the convention would help reinvoke the Bangalee na-

## No restrictions on foreign journalists

Foreign Ministry last night said there was no restriction to the visit of foreign journalists to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

"Absolutely bogus," said an official of the Foreign Office when his attention was drawn to a report published in a section of the press that visit of foreign journalists was restricted.

A number of foreign journalists are currently visiting Bangladesh and more are expected to cover the SAARC Council of Ministers' meeting July 30-31 in the capital. Journalists from abroad are rather welcomed to visit Bangladesh, the official added.

## Gias Kamal sent to Singapore

Eminent journalist Gias Kamal Chowdhury, who suffered a cerebral haemorrhage last week, was flown to Singapore last night for further treatment, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia ordered his staff to make immediate arrangements for the treatment of the renowned journalist in Singapore.

Chowdhury, Chief Reporter of BSS and correspondent of Voice of America, underwent emergency brain operation at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka after the haemorrhage.

Ministers and leaders of journalist community were at the airport to see the ailing journalist off. Among those present at the airport were Information Minister Nazmul Huda, Whip Mahbubul Alam Tara, BSS Chief Editor D P Barua, UNB Chief Editor Enayeturah Khan and the Financial Express Editor Reazuddin Ahmed.

Besides his close relations, a specialist from CMH accompanied Chowdhury.

## Farida Rahman MP new BCD president

By Staff Correspondent

The seventh founding anniversary and annual general meeting of the Bangladesh Council for Democracy (BCD) was held at the WVA auditorium in the city yesterday.

The president of the BCD, Farida Rahman, MP, chaired the meeting which was addressed by Faridul Huq, Abdul Qaium Mia and Habibur Rahman.

Farida Rahman said the BCD would always work for world peace and development through democracy. In Bangladesh, the organisation would extend its support to those groups which are fighting against the 'fatwabs'.

The meeting also elected an executive committee with Farida Rahman MP as president, Habibur Rahman — vice president, Abdul Qaium Mia — General Secretary, and Anjanmara Rahman — Treasurer.

The BCD is the Bangladesh chapter of the World League for Freedom and Democracy which has branches in 99 countries around the globe.

## UNDP's programme review ends

The government and the UNDP here yesterday ended a two-day mid-term review of the UNDP's ongoing country programme in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The meeting discussed the changes that took place after the approval of the Fifth Country Programme in 1990, says a press release of the United Nations Information Centre.

Overall status of the programme was also discussed apart from matters relating to the impact and focus of the programme with particular reference to women in development.

The UNDP team at the meeting included Elmira Watanabe, UNDP Resident Representative in Dhaka and Henning Karcher, a senior official from the UN body's headquarters.

Economic Relations Division Secretary Lutfullah Majid and other senior officials of different executing ministries headed the government side.

## Publication of Dainik Janata suspended

The Dainik Janata will not come out today, signaling its closure, reports UNB.

"Printing of the paper is suspended until further order," said a notice yesterday by the editor of the Bengali daily Dr Muhammad Asadur Rahman to the Asiatic Printers & Publishers, from where it was printed.

On Tuesday, the management had fired five journalists.

A mouthpiece of the Jatiya Party, the Dainik Janata was published from Dhaka. It was established by deposed President Ershad 11 years ago.

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## The Midnight File

## Turkish air raid kills 70 Kurds in northern Iraq

ANKARA, July 27: A Turkish air force raid killed more than 70 Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq, the Turkish news agency Anatolia reported today. The separatist rebels of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) were killed and a munitions factory destroyed Tuesday when Turkish fighter bombers attacked a group of 100 rebels in the Mayzi region. 20 kilometres (13 miles) from the Iraqi-Turkish border, a military spokesman in Ankara told Anatolia, reports AFP.

## Jiang Zemin to visit Russia

MOSCOW, July 27: Chinese President Jiang Zemin will pay an official visit to Russia on September 2 and 3. President Boris Yeltsin told reporters today. The visit, repaying one by Yeltsin to China, will be the first by a Chinese head of state to Moscow since the 1950s. Yeltsin, asked about his holiday plans, said he would make a working trip by boat down the Volga river in August, reports Reuter.

## Yemeni leaders meet in Geneva today

GENEVA, July 27: The United Nations confirmed on Tuesday that representatives of the government of Yemen and its defeated Southern rivals will meet in Geneva this week for reconciliation talks, reports Reuter.

A UN statement said the two sides would meet on Thursday under UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, who is trying

## Separate peace deals weaken Arabs: Syria

DAMASCUS, July 27: Syria said on Tuesday that separate peace deals with Israel weakened the Arabs, reports Reuter.

Attas told Reuters in Abu Dhabi on Monday that he hoped the Geneva talks could "lay down the pace" for future negotiations between the two sides.

"We have a lot of proposals. If the North is really keen to come to peace and stability it can work," he added.

A senior Yemeni government official, Abdel-Aziz Abdel-Ghani, said the talks were the continuation of those between Ilyani and Attas held in New York while the war was still on.

UN spokeswoman Therese Gastaut said the talks, which were being held at the request of the parties themselves, were "exploratory" and would probably last two or three days.

## Nizami

From Page 1 Col 4

He alleged that a large fund was mobilised to hire troublemakers, spread rumours and cause panic, involve the Chhatra Dal and Ch