

2 comets plunge into sun

WASHINGTON, Jun 4: Two comets plunged into the sun this week, an hours after the second one hit, the sun spewed out a mass of solar gas, NASA reported on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

The comet strikes and the gas ejection are probably unrelated, but seeing two comets enter the sun's atmosphere in such quick succession is rare, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said in a statement.

The unusual phenomena, observed by NASA's Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO), were also captured on video.

SOHO instruments have seen more than 50 comets, including many so-called sun grazers, but none so close together.

The first comet entered the sun's atmosphere on June 1 and the second on June 2. The gas eruption also occurred on June 2.

The eruption of solar gas was directed away from earth and does not pose a hazard to earth or orbiting astronauts.

Selected images and an image sequence of the new observations can be found at NASA SOHO website http://umbr.nas.nasa.gov/comets/soho_sungrazers.html.

Thousands of Kosovo refugees flee to escape Serbian attack

TROPOJA, Albania, Jun 4: Thousands of shell-shocked Kosovo refugees who escaped Serbian artillery back home face misery and squalor in the most destitute region of Europe's poorest and most backward country, reports AP.

More than 5,000 refugees fleeing homes shelled or burned by the Yugoslav military have flooded the impoverished border town of Tropoja and surrounding villages in the last five days, since the full-scale Serbian artillery offensive began. Thousands more are said to be en route.

Some families, including women, children and the elderly, have been on their feet for two days or more, trekking across perilously narrow mountain paths. Some are said to have died of exhaustion or in accidents. They often suffer dehydration, diarrhoea and skin infection.

Emete Nitaj gave birth to a healthy boy Sunday while climbing a mountain with about 100 refugees from the besieged western Kosovo region of Decani. Minutes later, she had to start walking again to keep up with the convoy.

Her family decided to call the baby Clirim, the Albanian

word for liberation. "Maybe he'll grow up in a liberated Kosovo," she said, nursing the 3-day-old infant in a hospital room in Tropoja.

Local officials and villagers near the border have been overwhelmed. The people of this poorest Albanian region opened their homes and shared their limited basic food — bread, milk and cheese — with the newcomers.

"I have food only for two more days," said Hasan Mulaj, 55, a teacher from Tropoja, who is hosting 30 refugees. His wife bakes five loaves of bread every night for the "guests," but she says this is still not enough.

Many men take their families across the border, then return to fight the Serb onslaught. Others say resistance is hopeless and stay.

What refugees hope will be the liberation of Kosovo is a hazy, distant goal, while bloodshed continues in the Serbian province where ethnic Albanians overwhelmingly outnumber Serbs.

The Kosovo Liberation Army, a clandestine rebel force of unknown size, is fighting for the province's independence, a goal shared by most ethnic Albanians.

Casualty figures are increasingly sketchy, but well over 200 people have been killed since early March. Monitors of the 54-nation Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said Wednesday they saw plumes of smoke and fires in villages across the border.

United Nations relief officials have brought trucks with food and other supplies to the border region, but the most immediate problem is providing shelter for everyone.

On Wednesday, groups of refugees, mostly women and children, were lying on roadsides and adjoining areas, waiting to be picked up by the locals. Tap water runs only once a day, and most people have not washed since last Saturday.

"We are used to these conditions because we've always been poor, but we are worried about the Kosovans because they have had a better life," said Ujeza Hyka, 21, whose parents have sheltered ten refugees. "Here they are terrified."

Women stay together in backyards, while men, most of whom carry guns, walk in the town square, stay at the mosque or drink coffee in the cafe.

Meanwhile, there's gunfire

every now and then as elders teach boys under age 20 how to use a gun in case they have to.

Many of the men insist they'll ultimately prevail over the attacking Serbs.

Opposition groups to hold rally defying ban in Nigeria

LAGOS, Jun 4: Nigerian opposition groups prepared to challenge military rule today by calling on activists to march in major cities dressed in black and bearing coffins to remember those who died for democracy, reports Reuters.

The mass processions which will take place in all major cities across the country shall be conducted peacefully, said the Joint Action Committee of Nigeria (JACON), a coalition of 45 pro-democracy groups.

But the police in the biggest city and opposition stronghold of Lagos warned that a ban on demonstrations had not been lifted and vowed to deal with any one found contravening the law.



Supporters of Imelda Marcos flash the V-sign while displaying her old election posters after attending a mass Thursday in Manila upon learning the government lawyer's move to acquit Imelda in a graft case. Imelda's case is on appeal before the Supreme Court that earlier ordered her imprisonment for 12 years. — AP/UNB photo

Army chopper crashes in Jakarta: 11 killed

JAKARTA, Jun 4: A military helicopter plunged into a cloud-covered mountain Thursday in the disputed territory of East Timor, killing two top commanders and nine other officers and soldiers. One man survived, reports AP.

The US-made Bell 205 helicopter exploded on impact, military Lt. Col. Supardi said in a telephone interview from Dili, capital of the former Portuguese colony. It was raining at the time, and visibility was poor.

"It was a pure accident," Supardi said.

Separatist rebels who have been fighting the military for two decades sometimes clash with soldiers in the area, but there was no indication that they had shot down the helicopter.

The victims included Maj. Gen. Yudomo, who was appointed last month as military commander for eastern Indonesia, including East Timor, and

Col. Slamet Sidabutar, commander in the territory.

Yudomo, who was based in the resort island of Bali, and the other officers were on an inspection tour when the helicopter crashed.

Army Capt. Muhamad, the military spokesman in Dili, survived with serious injuries. The helicopter shattered into pieces on impact, leaving only the tail intact.

Hampered by rugged terrain, rescue workers evacuated burned bodies from the remote site near Viqueque, about 110 miles (180 kilometers) east of Dili. The helicopter went down four minutes after taking off from the nearby town of Baucau.

The city is 1,200 miles (1,920 kilometers) east of the capital, Jakarta.

The Indonesian military invaded East Timor in 1975, and has maintained a heavy presence there ever since.

5 N-powers hope to find formula to ease tension in S Asia

GENEVA, Jun 4: Foreign ministers of the five major powers will today aim to agree a joint stance towards India and Pakistan over the Asian arch-rivals' sudden emergence last month as nuclear weapon states, reports Reuters.

The five — the United States, China, Russia, Britain and France — hope to find a formula that would start a process towards easing tensions caused by the blasts and ensure no more are staged, diplomats said.

US President Bill Clinton, speaking as experts from the five in Geneva worked on a statement the ministers could approve, said Washington's aim was "to forge a common strategy to move India and Pakistan back from their nuclear arms race."

And in Geneva, a spokesman for Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov said Moscow hoped "that we will be able to find a coordinated approach to this specific problem."

The meeting, starting at 5.30 pm in the United Nations' Palais des Nations, is the first of a series planned by major

powers to try to push South Asia's nuclear genie back into the bottle after five tests by India and six by Pakistan.

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who arrives early today in Geneva for the meeting, said before leaving Washington that Indians and Pakistanis should recognise they were far less secure now than before the blasts.

Both countries have said they broke the some five-decade global status-quo — during which the big five were the only declared nuclear powers — because they had security fears.

The United States has imposed economic sanctions on the two, but the other four powers are opposed to following suit. Russia's Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov said this would only drive them into a corner.

Albright has made clear she will not push the sanctions line, but will be urging India and Pakistan to join the 1970 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) which bars passing weapons technology to non-nuclear states.

The big powers — the perma-

nent members of the UN Security Council and known as the P5 — would also like the Asian rivals to sign up to a ban on production of fissile material and join the 1996 Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

But India, which argues it was one of the first promoters of global disarmament, has long insisted it will only consider joining these pacts once the major nuclear powers had agreed to negotiate on total nuclear disarmament within a set time-frame.

Presiding over today's meeting, which could last several hours, will be China's Foreign Minister Tang Xiaxuan, current chairman of the P5. Also present will be Britain's Robin Cook and Hubert Vedrine of France.

Right now the most important thing both sides can do is to cool it. Take a deep breath and to begin to climb out of the hole they have dug themselves into," Albright said in Washington after Clinton's remarks on Wednesday.

After her arrival in Geneva, she will have bilateral meetings with Primakov and Tang.

Rain slows massive relief operation in Afghanistan

FAIZABAD, Afghanistan, Jun 4: Torrential rain has slowed the massive relief operation in northeastern Afghanistan where about 5,000 died and thousands were left without food and supplies following last Saturday's devastating earthquake, reports AFP.

"We were waiting for an aircraft to arrive from Tajikistan with fuel but it failed to make it because of the rains which made landing dangerous," said Gilbert Greenall of the United Nations.

Other short airstrip at the main earthquake relief base here was submerged after being hit by a flashflood, causing

planes to slip and slide dangerously along the metal-shedged runway.

Faizabad, a town of 5,000 people, is surrounded by hills and the Russian military Antonov-32 planes cannot land here in bad weather.

For about five hours until mid-afternoon Wednesday, the four helicopters operated by the United Nations and the Red Cross made sorties to evaluate the extent of damage and evacuate injured.

"But they had to cut short their missions as there is insufficient fuel at Faizabad and they had to return to Tajikistan to refuel," Greenall told AFP.

Metropolitan

What's on today . . .

- Rally and walkathon:** A rally and a walkathon upto Osmani Memorial Hall, organised by the Department of Environment, will be held to mark the 'World Environment Day'. Venue: Supreme Court premises. Time: 9 AM.
- Inauguration:** The inaugural ceremony of the 'World Environment Day' programmes will be held. Organiser: Ministry of Environment and Forest. Chief guest: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Venue: Osmani Memorial Hall. Time: 10 AM. The PM will open the 'Environment Fair' at 11:05 AM.
- Discussion:** An open discussion on 'Sea-level rise: Bangladesh's vulnerability', organised by the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB), will be held. Venue: Osmani Memorial Hall. Time: 2:15 PM.
- Symposium:** A symposium, organised by the United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB), will be held in observance of the 'World Environment Day'. Venue: UNAB office, 55, Dilkusha. Time: 5 PM.
- Open discussion:** An open discussion on 'Environmental law and court', organised by the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA), will be held. Venue: Osmani Memorial Hall. Time: 3:30 PM.
- Ladies lunch:** Women's Voluntary Association (WVA) will hold its 'International Ladies Lunch '98' to raise funds for underprivileged children. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 10 AM to 5 PM.
- Painting exhibition:** A 5 day solo painting exhibition by Sovon Som, art critic and painter from India, will begin. A seminar on 'Visual work of Rabindranath Tagore' will be held on the occasion. Venue: Gallery 21, 765, Satmoesjid Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 5:30 PM. The exhibition will remain open from 10 AM to 8 PM till June 9 daily.
- Film show:** A film 'Death in the Maiden' by Roman Polansky will be screened. It will be followed by an open discussion. Venue: Biswa Sahitya Kendra auditorium. Time: 4 PM.

Norwegian envoy calls on Alamgir Yusuf's call to make Nat'l Vitamin-A programme a success

Norwegian Ambassador to Bangladesh Hans Fredrik Lehne called on State Minister for Planning, Science and Technology Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir at his office yesterday, reports UNB.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Jamaluddin Ahmed, former officer of National Bank Limited, Motijheel Branch will be held today at 1 pm at Markata village under Chowdhagram police station in Comilla district.

Weather

Rain, gusty wind likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna, Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

According to Met Office, no appreciable change in day temperature is expected over the country during the period.

Country's highest temperature 37.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Satkhira and the lowest 22.2 degree Celsius at Sitakunda.

The sun sets today at 6:43 pm and rises on Saturday at 5:11 am.

Nawaz Sharif announces nat'l self-reliance fund

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has urged the nation to generously contribute to the newly formed National Self-Reliance Fund, says a Pakistan High Commission press release in Dhaka.

"I appeal to every Pakistani living in Pakistan and abroad to deposit their donations in the fund," he said in his brief address telecast by PTV Tuesday evening.

Following is the message of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to the nation: "March 28 is a memorable day in the history of Pakistan. On this day, we decided to build our future as a self-reliant nation."

We have started the struggle to make Pakistan a dignified and prosperous country by making it free from foreign loans. The National Self-Reliance Fund is being created for this purpose.

"I appeal to all Pakistanis living in the country or working overseas to wholeheartedly make donations for this fund to enable Pakistan to meet the challenges for achieving self-reliance and for making the defence of Pakistan impregnable."

Train crash death toll may cross 100 in Germany

ESCHEDE, Germany, Jun 4: Cranes and sniffer dogs worked through the night today to search for survivors of Germany's worst rail disaster in half a century, reports Reuters.

Between 100 and 120 people, including at least four children, were feared dead after a train travelling at 200 kph derailed and slammed into a road bridge near Eschede train station north of the central city of Hanover on Wednesday.

Police said they had retrieved 73 bodies from the bullet-nosed inter-city express and could see three more corpses trapped in the wreckage. Rescue workers expected the toll to rise above 100.

At least 30 people were seriously injured. There were still two rail cars buried beneath the collapsed bridge and other wreckage the workers had not yet reached.

Three 300-ton cranes worked under floodlights through the night to try to lift the concrete slabs.

"It's not an easy task to remove the bridge remnants because it has to be done in a way that prevents it from collapsing," said Hans-Joachim Lindenberg. "We still have hopes, faint though they are, of finding survivors."

Police could not confirm reports that a group of school children was still trapped in the wreckage.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, R&H
Narayanganj Road Division
Shimrail, Narayanganj

R&H Notice Inviting Tender

- Tender Notice No : 336/Narayanganj Road Division, year 1997-98.
- Name of work : Supply of summer & winter liveries for regular/work charged employees of different designations working under Narayanganj Road Division and Narayanganj/Bhittikandi Road Sub-Division, Toll Plaza & Ferryghat during 1997-98 financial year.
- Estimated cost : Taka 3,13,690/-
- Earnest money : 6,274/- through Bank Draft/ Treasury Challan/Pratirakha Sanchayapatra/5-year Bangladesh Sanchayapatra and Bonus Sanchayapatra from any scheduled bank in favour of the undersigned.
- Time allotted for work : 30 (thirty) days from the date of issue of work order.
- Eligibility of contractor : "A to E" general class R&H Directorate enlisted contractors.
- Offices where tenders to be had at : Executive Engineer (R&H), Road Division, Dhaka/ Manikganj/ Munshiganj/ Gazipur/Narsingdi/ Narayanganj/Planning & Design Division, Dhaka Zone, Sarak Bhaban, Dhaka and Sub-Divisional Engineer (R&H), Bhittikandi/Narayanganj Road Sub-Division, Shimrail, Narayanganj.
- Offices to receive tender : Superintending Engineer (R&H), Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka/Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Dhaka Zone, Sarak Bhaban, Dhaka and Executive Engineer (R&H), Narayanganj Road Division, Shimrail, Narayanganj.
- Last date & time of selling tender : 10.6.98 up to office hours.
- Date & time of receiving tender : 11.6.98 up to 12:30 PM.
- Date & time of opening tender : 14.6.98 at 1:00 PM by Executive Engineer (R&H), Narayanganj Road Division.
- Date & time of lottery : 17.6.98 at 1:00 PM.
- Estimate approving officer : Superintending Engineer (R&H), Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka.
- Price of tender : Tk 500/- (non-refundable) per set.
- Head of expenditure : 168-Repair.

Shahabuddin
Executive Engineer, R&H,
Narayanganj Road Division

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Public Health Engineering Directorate
Project Director
Office of the Additional Chief Engineer
Rural Water Supply all over the Country (GOB-4) Project
14, Shaheed Captain Monsur Ali Sarani (Kakrail), Dhaka-1000

Appointment Notice

Applications are invited from the bonafide Bangladeshi citizens for filling up the following posts of on purely temporary basis (for the time of functioning of project) under the Rural Water Supply all over the Country Project (GOB-4) under the Directorate of Public Health Engineering.

Sl No	Name of post and pay scale	Number of posts	Age limit of candidate	Educational qualifications and experience
1.	Estimator 3400-6625/-	1	From 18 years to 30 years maximum	Diploma Engineering (Civil) or equivalent.
2.	Head Assistant 2250-4735/-	2	-do-	Bachelor
3.	Upper Division Assistant 2100-4315/-	2	-do-	Bachelor
4.	Car driver 1875-3605/-	2	-do-	Class VIII passed, 3 (three) years practical experience of driving car with genuine driving licence

Terms and conditions:

- Applicants will have to send application or submit in person stating a) Full name b) Father/husband's name c) Permanent address d) Present address e) Date of birth and age on 1-7-98 f) Educational qualifications g) Nationality h) Religion i) Experience (if any) etc to the Project Director (Additional Chief Engineer), Rural Water Supply Project (GOB-4), Public Health Engineering Directorate, 14, Shaheed Captain Monsur Ali Sarani (Kakrail), Dhaka-1000.
- Age of the candidate on 1-7-98 should be from 18 to maximum 30 years. No affidavit of age will be acceptable.
- a) Attested copies of certificates of educational qualification b) Character certificate from the class I gazetted officer c) Citizenship certificate from chairman of Union Parishad/Pourashava Chairman d) Two attested copies of recent photographs e) Experience certificate (if any) will have to be attached with the application.
- Candidates working in the government, semi-government and autonomous bodies must apply through proper channel. Age limit is relaxable for departmental candidates.
- For freedom fighters age limit is 32 years. But they will have to attach attested copies of certificate signed by the chairman of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad or bonpayer and the countersigned by chief adviser of Bangladesh. If there is no eligible freedom fighter, candidate freedom fighter/son of Shaheed Muktiyoddhas/daughter fixed quota will be followed. Wards of martyred freedom fighters will have to submit the photocopy of the attested copy of freedom fighter certificate of their father and the ward freedom fighter/ward of freedom fighter should be mentioned in the application.
- During viva voce test candidates will have to produce original certificates of educational qualifications.
- The name of post and own district will have to be mentioned on the envelope of the application.
- Incomplete and erroneous applications will be cancelled outright.
- Government stipulated quota will be followed in selection of candidates.
- Departmental candidates will be given preference in case of same result.
- Last date of receipt of applications directly or by mail is 1-7-98 (till office hours). After this date no applications will be received whatever may be reason.

Farid Uddin Ahmed Mia
Project Director
(Additional Chief Engineer)
Rural Water Supply Project (GOB-4)
Directorate of Public Health, Dhaka.

DFP-12179-315
G-1261

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Facilities Department, Ministry of Education
Tangail Zone, Tangail

Tender Notice

No 23/GPS/FD/T-Z/97-98 Dated: 18-5-98

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 are invited from Facilities Department's 1997-98 financial year renewed A/1 & A/2 class enlisted contractors/contractors' firms for reconstruction of the undermentioned Govt Primary School under "Govt Primary School Reconstruction & Repair" Project.

Group No	District	Thana	Name of institution	Remarks
01.	Jamalpur	Sadar Thana	No 2 Palthalia Govt Primary School	

- Last date of purchasing tender : 09-06-98 (up to office hours).
- Last date of receiving tender : 10-06-98 (up to 12-00 Noon).
- Date & time of opening tender : 10-06-98 (at 12-30 PM) to be opened in presence (if any) of the tenderers.
- Offices where tender document will be available from & received at : Office of the Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Tangail/Mymensingh/Kishoreganj/ Dhaka/Savar/Narsingdi/ Faridpur/Madaripur/Narayanganj, Deputy Commissioner, Police Super, Tangail, Officer-in-Charge, Kotwali Thana, Tangail & Assistant Engineer, Facilities Department, Jamalpur.
- Earnest money : Tk 14,000/- (fourteen thousand) only should be deposited with the tender in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled bank in favour of Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Tangail Zone.
- Estimated cost : Tk 6,84,250/-
- Time limit for completion of work : 03 (three) months.
- Price of tender : Tk 400/- (four hundred) only (non-refundable).

Terms & conditions:

- Contractor himself or his representative (representative's signature duly attested by the contractor) can purchase the tender document on application in contractor's letterhead pad & production of original copy of registration book & VAT registration.
- Contractor should submit attested copy of 1997-98 financial year's licence renewal fee deposit challan & attested copy of VAT registration certificate with the tender documents.
- Income Tax & VAT will be deducted against each bill as per govt rules.
- Tender will be treated as cancelled outright if the rate quoted is more than 5% below the estimated cost.
- Bill will be paid subject to receipt of allotment contractor shall be bound to complete the work even if there is no allotment.
- Contractor cannot claim any financial benefit if, under any circumstances, the work is stopped or cancelled.
- Such contractors/contractors' firms as could not complete last financial year's allotted work and whose progress of allotted work is not satisfactory, need not participate in this tender. Even if participate, their tender will be treated as cancelled outright.
- Name of educational institution may be cancelled/changed any time, the contractor can not claim any financial compensation.
- "Eligibility Evaluation Form" attached to schedule should be properly filled in.
- The authority reserves the right to accept/reject tender in part or full without assigning any reason.

Executive Engineer
Facilities Department
Tangail Zone, Tangail

DFP-11537-24/5
G-1259