

**BUY NOW - PAY LATER**



**Whirlpool**  
HOME APPLIANCES USA  
Freezers  
Transcom Electronics Limited  
Authorized distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances USA

# The Daily Star

**MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE**  
WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF  
ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA,  
BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESSWARI GREEN,  
MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE  
OF DIFFERENT TYPES.  
**NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.**  
199, TEJGAON I/A, DHAKA.  
TEL: 605967, 607363 SHOW ROOM: 861985

VOL. VIII NO. 134 REGD. NO. DA 781 INTERNET: <http://www.dailystarnews.com> JAISTHA 25, 1405 BS DHAKA MONDAY JUNE 8, 1998 SAFAR 12, 1419 HIJRI 12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 6.00

## Vajpayee welcomes Hasina's offer to visit Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee has welcomed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's offer to visit New Delhi, reports UNB.

In a letter to Sheikh Hasina, Vajpayee said it is his pleasure to welcome her to India. The letter was received on Saturday.

"I will be happy to receive you very shortly," he wrote to Hasina in reply to her letter dated May 31.

The Indian Prime Minister said during the forthcoming meeting at New Delhi, they will be able to discuss "many issues" of mutual interests.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad disclosed this last night to newsmen at the Zia International Airport. He went there to see off his Sri Lankan counterpart Lakshman Kadirgamar.

See Page 12 Col 2

## Sit-in near DSE

### Star Business Report

Police were called in yesterday to disperse a group of agitating kerb market operators who staged a sit-in in front of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) protesting the fall in share prices.

The DSE All Share Price Index yesterday nosedived by 11.43 per cent after gaining over 40 per cent during the last 13 trading days.

The price erosion pulled down the DSE index to 689.47 points from 778.48 points on the previous day.

Chanting slogans against the DSE leadership, the kerb market operators demanded cancellation of the "days manipulative trading".

They alleged that when the share markets started showing signs of recovery, the DSE leadership gave a public statement saying the market was not behaving normally.

"Was the market behaving normally?"

See Page 12 Col 5

## AL peace march at Khagrachhari today

KHAGRACHHARI, Jun 7: Awami League and its front organisations will bring out a peace procession in the town tomorrow, reports UNB.

The peace procession was organised against the backdrop of the Opposition long march towards Khagrachhari, called by BNP and its allies.

The authorities have directed the district administration to extend all protocol facilities, including accommodation at the local circuit house, to the Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia, if she intends to stay there on her arrival at Khagrachhari.

The Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachhari told the news agency that he had been instructed by the highest authority to give proper protocol service to VIPs, including Begum Zia.

See Page 12 Col 6

## Watch Out!

Coming out this week for the World Cup '98 a 56-page, colour tabloid "SPECIAL" with 2 fabulous posters, eye-catching photographs of your hot stars and dream teams. Don't miss it. Watch this page for date.

## Inside Today

### Article

**South Asia's Nuclear Passions**  
Column: Perspectives by Brig (Rtd) M Abdul Hafiz Page 4

### Focus

**Law and Our Rights**  
Share scam cases can go ahead; and Pollution free rivers and sea from legal perspective Page 5

### Business

**SEC can now keep online vigil on CSE trading**  
Both DSE and CSE indices fall Pages 6, 7

# Long-marchers free to go ahead: PM

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that her government would not obstruct BNP's June 9 long march towards the CHT.

"Begum Khaleda Zia has launched this long march programme to create anarchy. But we will not obstruct it. We believe in democracy," Hasina, also President of ruling Awami League, told a public meeting at Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday.

The meeting was organised by her party in observance of the historic June 7. Visiting foreign minister of Sri Lanka Lakshman Kadirgamar also addressed the meeting, chaired

by Sheikh Hasina. Responding to BNP's repeated allegations that the government was creating obstacles to the planned long march, the Prime Minister said, "If any incident of terrorism occurs during the long march, it will be because of internal conflict in BNP. In this regard she mentioned the recent arrest of 'three JCD men with arms.' Turning to peoples' reaction to the long march programme, she said, "We would like to leave it to the conscience of the people. People know it very well that we (AL) fought for the cause of peace, voting rights and their economic emancipation whereas BNP is trying to create anarchy."

She came down heavily on BNP for its demand to rescind the CHT peace accord and said, "Rescinding the accord would mean war again and a fresh bloodbath." She recalled the historic long march in China by Mao Tsetung. "Mao Tsetung had marched on foot but the BNP chief will launch her long march riding on vehicles." Addressing a capacity crowd at the Paltan Maidan, the Prime Minister acknowledged that disruption in power supply was the biggest problem in the country. See Page 12 Col 4

## Lankan Foreign Minister says N-tests won't affect Colombo summit

By Special Correspondent

The tenth SAARC summit, scheduled for July 9-11 in Colombo, will not be affected by the nuclear tests by India and Pakistan, Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar said here yesterday.

Kadirgamar who arrived in Dhaka on Saturday night to deliver an invitation letter from President Chandrika Kumaratunga to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to attend the summit, told reporters prior to his departure for New Delhi that he was confident of holding the summit.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has accepted the invitation and said she is looking forward to attend the summit," he said. She also expressed the hope that the summit would focus more on economic problems and deliberations would be useful to resolve those.

On the nuclear issue, he said he does not believe that India and Pakistan would go for a nuclear war. "There are sensible people in both the countries who realise the consequences," he added.

However, he ruled out any mediation between the two countries on the nuclear issue.

"Fundamentally, they have to solve their problem... India and Pakistan would realise they have undertaken an awesome responsibility... They would not be trigger happy, the consequences are of everyone's concern," Kadirgamar said. He said that he does not think they would use bombs against their neighbours like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. "But we must get to work. We have legitimate interest on de-escalation of tension. I am totally confident they would not use the bomb," he said. Sri Lanka supports total nuclear disarmament globally.

On the future of SAARC, he said, it has to move from summit to summit. "We are hoping to focus on economic matters. On the sidelines of any summit, various bilateral issues can be discussed. It's natural that Pakistan and Indian Prime Ministers can discuss bilateral issues."

UNB adds: The Sri Lankan minister said he had several rounds of talks with Atal Behari Vajpayee while President Chandrika Kumaratunga had telephonic talks with Nawaz Sharif.

See Page 12 Col 6

## Long march BNP men asked to carry licensed arms

COMILLA, June 7: BNP leader Lt Col (ret'd) Akbar Hossain MP today called upon the leaders and workers of his party to carry licensed arms during the June 9-10 long march, reports UNB.

Addressing a party rally here, Akbar warned that the government will be held responsible if it tries to create obstacle to the long march.

Rabeya Bhuiyan, who presided over the rally said that the ruling party has decided to

See Page 12 Col 6

## 'Carrying arms an offence'

Police have warned the long marchers against carrying arms, reports UNB.

A police press release yesterday said that carrying of licensed arms may encourage possessors of unauthorised arms to create chaos and disorder.

It said that participation in political programme with licensed arms is also an offence under the Arms Act of 1878. The police expressed concern over a press report that a leader of a major political party did

See Page 12 Col 7

## Govt employees continue demonstration

By Special Correspondent

Government employees yesterday staged demonstrations near the Establishment Ministry at the Secretariat, demanding full implementation of the Pay Commission recommendations and change in office timings.

The group of employees led by Shah Alam staged their demonstration behind the building housing the Establishment Ministry as the collapsible gate of the building was shut by police. However, riot police posted there did not intervene.

The group led by Zafar Ahmed staged demonstration outside. They were kept away from the group of Shah Alam with whom they had confrontations in the past.

Both groups, representing the class three and class four government employees, said they would continue their agitation separately.

The Shah Alam faction announced they would stage a sit-in before the Cabinet Secretary's office at 10 am today while the Zafar Ahmed group said they would stage a demonstration and rally near the 20-ster building at the same time.



A section of government employees staged a sit-in inside the Secretariat yesterday. — Star photo

## Oil, gas exploration work

# Promote local companies

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar in the city yesterday said people have the right to know about the ongoing process of contracting out all oil and gas exploration work to foreign companies.

They said the government should promote "our own technology and manpower" and the BAPEX should be equipped with modern technology so that it can safeguard national interests in the oil and gas sector.

They also expressed concern at the repeated accidents at different drilling sites. The government should not lease out all the 23 blocks to foreign companies at a time because this will create problems in monitoring their exploration work, they said.

The speakers who included some noted geologists and oil and gas experts warned against export of gas saying, it will deplete the reserve quickly and

the country will suffer from power crisis. The seminar on Oil and Gas Resources in Bangladesh: Hopes and Aspirations was organised by Bangladesh Jubo Union (BJU). The discussion was moderated by former BJU president Mahub Zaman while eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain, Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, President of Bangladesh Geological Society Rafiqul Islam, PSC member and former Petrobangla Chairman SKM Abdullah, Dr Golam Mohiuddin of BUET, Chairman of Geology Department of Dhaka University Dr Badrul Imam, mining engineer Dr Mushfiqur Rahman and senior reporter of The Daily Bhorer Kagoj Amirul Islam took part in it.

Dr Badrul Imam said the total gas reserve in the country may be at best 25 trillion cubic feet but some foreign companies

and government officials are putting it at 50 to 100 trillion cubic feet.

"If we lease out all the blocks to foreign companies at a time, we will have to export gas as it will far exceed our demand. The gas will be exhausted within 20 years and the country will face a disaster as there will be no energy for power generation", he said.

SKM Abdullah said the propaganda made by some government officials that the country is floating on oil and gas "is not at all true. This is a motivated propaganda that we have enough gas to export," he said.

He said BAPEX should be given the responsibility to explore and extract gas. "We do not know anything about the second round block bidding," he said. People have the right to know about it, he added.

See Page 12 Col 7

## BNP to start long march at 7 am from Paltan Maidan

Main opposition BNP will start its planned June 9 long march at 7 am from Paltan Maidan to press for scrapping the CHT accord and the related acts, reports UNB.

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will lead the long march which will reach Chittagong before evening on the day, said a party press release yesterday.

The marchers will stay overnight in the port city. On June 10, they will assemble at Chittagong outer stadium and restart long march at 8 am towards Khagrachhari under the leadership of Begum Zia.

The opposition leader will address a public meeting at Khagrachhari stadium. See Page 12 Col 2

## BNP for scrapping 'unconstitutional' aspects of accord

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia announced yesterday that if returned to power, they would amend the 'unconstitutional' provisions in the CHT accord.

"We also favour peace accord...but the one signed contains some unconstitutional provisions which require amendments and we'll do it if we go back to power," she said.

The Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad was addressing a press conference at her official residence in the city. Her party plans a long march towards the CHT tomorrow in demand for scrapping of the

CHT agreement and the laws for its implementation. Asked if her party would challenge the accord in the court, the BNP chief said "Our decision on legal action will be taken later... and you'll definitely come to know about it. Presently, we're facing the issue politically."

Begum Zia alleged that the government was obstructing preparations for the long march and resorted to repression on BNP activists ahead of the programme.

She avoided a direct reply when asked how many trans-

See Page 12 Col 1



## Carlos Moya new French Open champion

From Tawfiq Aziz Khan PARIS, Jun 7: Carlos Moya is the new king of clay and he was crowned by 'king' Pele at Roland Garros this afternoon.

In the final that mostly turned out to be ordinary tennis, Moya took his first Grand Slam title with a 6-3, 7-5, 6-3 victory against Alex Corretja. It was Moya's second Grand Slam final while first for Corretja.

In ideal conditions of 20 degrees and a northerly wind blowing across the stadium the two Spaniards were locked into a battle that was hardly exciting. See Page 12 Col 2

## Shazneen murder

# CID interrogation of 5 arrested nearly complete

By Staff Correspondent

Carpenter Shoni Ram, one of the six people allegedly involved in the Shazneen murder in Gu'shan on April 23, was sent to Dhaka Central Jail yesterday.

CID produced him in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on expiry of a one-day remand.

A bail petition was moved on behalf of Shoni Ram. The court rejected the bail prayer and ordered that the accused be sent to the central jail. CID did not pray for further remand.

CID has almost completed

See Page 12 Col 2

## Prof Mahmud urges BUET teachers to resume duties

By Staff Correspondent

Prof Iqbal Mahmud, who resigned as Vice-Chancellor of BUET on May 4, has urged the teachers of the university to call off their indefinite strike to help restore normal academic activities.

"Since I am resuming my work, I also request you to resume your normal duties," Prof Mahmud said while addressing the teachers yesterday.

In response to his call, the BUET Teachers Association is likely to withdraw its indefinite strike and a decision to this effect will be taken at its adjourned general meeting today, BUETTA sources told this

See Page 12 Col 8

France '98  
COUNTDOWN  
**2**  
Days Away

JOHN PLAYER  
GOLD LEAF  
LIGHTS  
WORLD CUP '98  
UPDATES

## 3 Flos may play in opener

LA BAULE, France, Jun 7 (AP): At 1.93 metres (6-foot-4), Tore Andre Flo and brother Jostein are among the tallest players in the World Cup.

Their cousin, Hvard Flo, is 1.85 metres (6-foot-1). "The whole family is tall, and we call Hvard the midget," said Tore Andre Flo, who nicely fits his description as Norway's biggest offensive weapon.

Aerial attacks are a Norwegian speciality. That's why the three Flos could very well fit into coach Egil "Drillo" Olsen's game plan for Norway's Group A opener against Morocco in Montpellier on Wednesday.

Several brothers have

See Page 12 Col 3

## Hartal at Sylhet protesting loadshedding

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Jun 7: A dawn-to-dusk hartal was observed in the town and its adjoining areas today.

The hartal was called by BNP district unit protesting frequent loadshedding. All kind of vehicles were off the roads, the educational institutions were closed and attendance in the government and private offices was thin.

There was no report of any untoward incident during hartal hours.

The town unit of BNP held a rally at the Court Point in the afternoon with Ahea Reza Chowdhury in the chair. The front organisations of the ruling party also brought out a procession in the town during the hartal.

They held a rally at the Swarna Market Point protesting the hartal call by the opposition.

## Convention on radiation safety needed

By Mizan Ali

An international convention on radiation protection is urgently needed in view of increasing use of radiation generating machines and 'radioactive sources' in industry, agriculture, medicine, research and teaching, said an expert of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The IAEA is not vested with sufficient authority to enforce the basic radiation safety standards in its member states", Dr Jasimuddin Ahmed told The Daily Star in an interview yesterday.

Dr. Ahmed, who has experience of working on radiation safety for four decades, retired as a director of IAEA in 1994 and is currently a consultant to

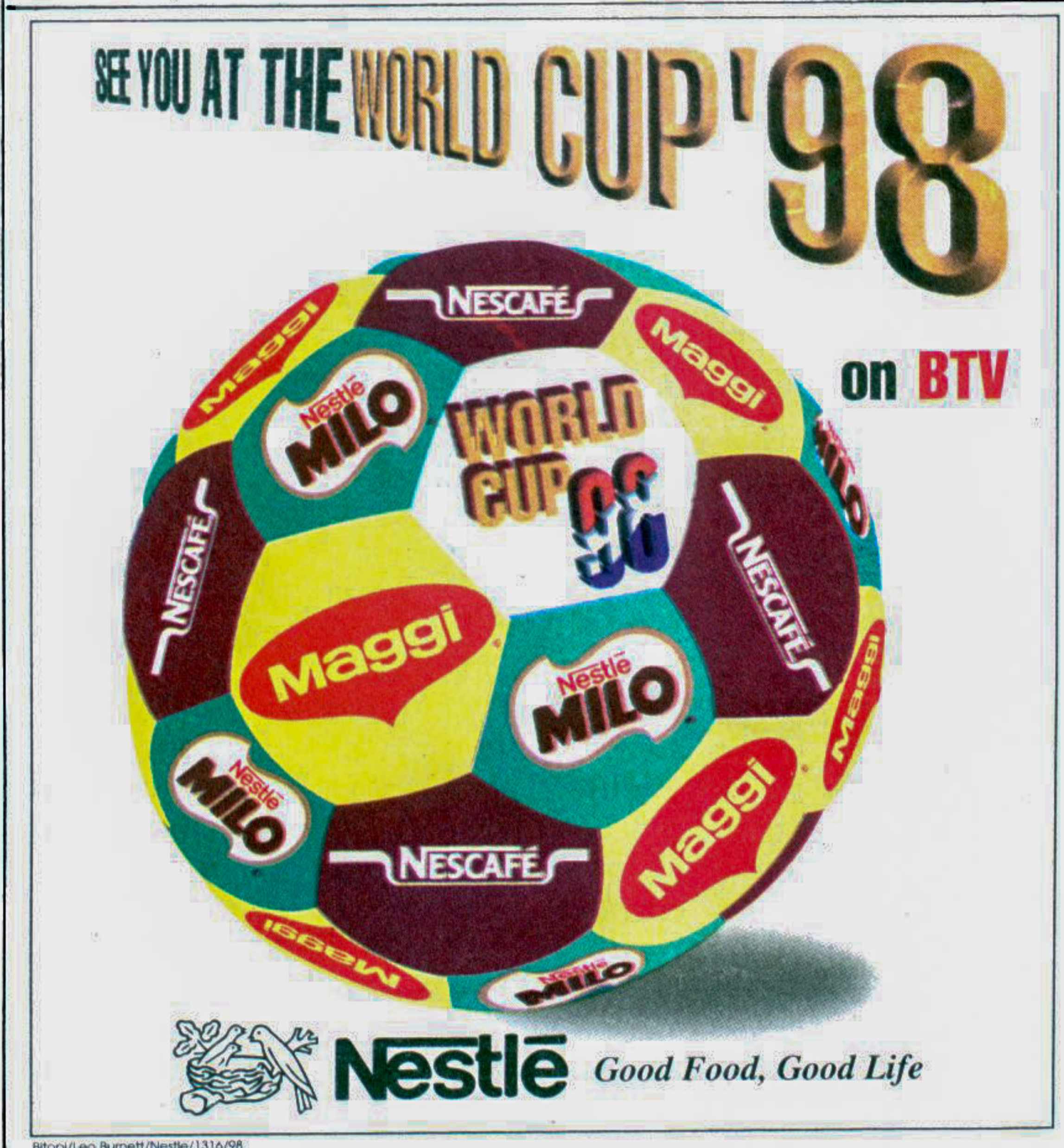
the organisation. "Concern about safety and control of radiation is growing with the passage of time as a number of serious radiation accidents occurred in recent years. A relatively new problem that warrants international action is the smuggling of radioactive material across international borders," he said.

Overexposure to radioactivity has caused at least 69 deaths in 196 accidents involving sealed radioactive sources that affected 25,000 people in different countries, the expert said quoting the findings of an international study conducted recently.

Most accidents occur due to

See Page 12 Col 4

SEE YOU AT THE WORLD CUP '98



on BTV

Nestle Good Food, Good Life