S Korea scales down joint US military drill

SEOUL, July 11: South Korea will scale down military drills scheduled for later this year in an attempt to promote reconciliation with North Korea, offi-

cials said today, reports AFP. "No troops will be mobilised for field training on our side during this year's Ulchi Focus Lens military drill," a South Korean defence ministry

Ulchi Focus Lens is a joint South Korea-US exercise held annually since 1976.

spokesman said.

The exercise is the world's largest computer-assisted war games led by US troops. In the past South Korea has mobilised reserve troops and a limited number of soldiers and equipment for river-crossing and other field training.

"The exercise will be scaled back to computer-simulated war games," the spokesman said, adding the move was designed to ease tension between the two Koreas.

Pyongyang has previously lambasted the joint drill, branding it as "international and premeditated war moves."

The two Koreas have remained technically at war since the 1950-53 Korean War which was halted by a shaky armistice. No formal peace

treaty has ever been signed. Ties between the two sides have thawed, however, in the wake of last month's historic inter-Korean summit, which ended with the signing of an accord to move toward reconciliation and eventual reunifica-

Father drinks son's blood

JORHAT, July 11: A man slit his six-month old son's throat and drank his blood in full public view at Gotonga Sunapur in Jorhat district yesterday, reports PTI.

Police said, one Dosorath Baria slit the throat of his sixmonth old son and drank the blood unmindful of the people around him.

As the people raised an alarm and caught hold of the man, police reached the spot. The man with blood on his lips surrendered to the police.

Police was investigating the

WASHINGTON, July 11:

Memory problems are some-

times reversible and not neces-

ease or other forms of dementia.

according to specialists at a

convention on Alzheimer's

problems does not necessarily

signal Alzheimer's disease or

some other incurable neuro-

logic condition," said Gunhild

Waldemar, director of the

Waldemar, who is also a profes-

sor of neurology at Copenhagen

University Hospital, conducted

a 40-month study of 785 pa-

tients complaining of memory

problems and reported its con-

clusions Monday at the World

Tuesday, AFP reports from Jakarta.

rescue effort continued through Monday.

A research team headed by

Copenhagen Memory Clinic.

here, reports AFP.

sarily due to Alzheimer's dis-

incident

Arafat, Barak and Clinton poised to push for Camp David II peace deal

CAMP DAVID, Maryland, July 11: PLO leader Yasser Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister fore 5:00 a.m. (1500 BST). Ehud Barak and US President Bill Clinton were to launch Tuesday in the historic setting of Camp David a concerted bid to settle five decades of conflict and avert a feared spiral of vio-

lence, reports AFP. The three men, to be isolated days. with their delegations at the Catoctin mountain retreat, face problems that have proved intractable in round after round of negotiations dating back to the breakthrough of the 1993 Oslo Accords.

And unlike in 1978 when Egypt and Israel struck a peace deal at the first Camp David. only a week has been set aside to find the holy grail -- a permanent pact that will result in the creation of a Palestinian for the Israelis.

Arafat arrived just before midnight Monday at Andrews Air Force Base, just outside Washington and was whisked off by helicopter to the presi-

dential retreat here, in Maryland. Barak arrived shortly be-

Reporters are sequestered some 20 miles away from Camp David where former president Jimmy Carter hosted the late Israeli and Egyptian leaders Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat together for 13 tense

On Monday, Clinton called for prayers and urged Barak and Arafat to seize the moment to make peace at the summit which has been widely described as a high-risk gamble given the divide separating the two sides on the most critical issues and a mid-September deadline for an accord.

"It's going to be a difficult process, but the fact that they're coming means that we've still got a chance," the US president state with security guarantees said. "And I hope we'll have the thoughts and prayers and best wishes of all Americans."

Arafat has vowed to declare a Palestinian state by the September 13 date with or without a deal with Israel, a prospect that has led many to predict a resurgence of violence if the summit fails.

At the same time, Barak has been beset by domestic political crises and his fragile coalition has been split by defections from far-right parties who accuse him of being willing to make too many concessions to the Palestinians.

He survived a no-confidence motion in parliament Monday just before leaving for the summit and Washington lauded his willingness to fight on in the pursuit of peace despite embittered opposition.

Clinton noted that it was not easy for either Barak or Arafat to come to the summit, but added: "They have come because they think that the price of not doing it is greater than the risk of going forward.'

Both Prime Minister Barak and Chairman Arafat have the vision, the knowledge, the experience and the ability and sheer guts to do what it takes ... to

take it back to their people and see if they can sell it," he said. Before leaving Israel, Barak warned though that the summit would only be successful if the Palestinians accepted "painful compromises."

The choice is between a peace of the brave and a violent conflict that will make new victims and that will not resolve any problem," he said, adding that there will not be peace at any

Hanan Ashrawi, a spokeswoman for Arafat's delegation in Washington warned the Palestinians would not bend -from demands for a full Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders, the return of all refugees and the establishment of Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian

"We will not agree to any partial agreements, if Barak wants to end the conflict this is the way to do it," she told AFP.

"It's a very crucial moment, the situation is very dangerous, but the Palestinian position is reach an agreement, and then to one and unified," Ashrawi said.

Bashar elected

Syrian

President

DAMASCUS, July 11

Bashar al-Assad won 97.29 per

cent of the votes in Monday's

nationwide referendum, becom-

ing Syria's 16th president, Inte-

rior Minister Mohammed Har-

people took part, out of the total

registered number of 9.44 mil-

lion voters, a turnout of 94.59

Some 22,439 people voted against, while 219,319 ballot

slips, or 2.45 per cent, were can-

celled, he said in a press confer-

final results of Monday's day-

long referendum to the speaker

of the People's Council, or par-

liament, Abdel Qader Qaddura.

late Tuesday to announce the

date when the 34-year-old oph-

thalmologist, who succeeds his

father Hafez al-Assad, will be

Parliament is due to meet

to "complete procedures."

Harbah said he will take the

per cent.

sworn in

Harbah said 8.93 million

bah said today, reports AFP.

112 killed in fresh fighting in Lanka

COLOMBO, July 11: Tamil soldiers killed during the clash. Tiger guerrillas attacked a village in northeastern Sri Lanka today, killing at least four civilians as ferocious fighting elsewhere killed another 108 people, the government said, re-

Gunmen of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fired mortar bombs at the village of Vilgama in the district of Trincomalee, killing the four civilians and wounding a Buddhist monk, a government statement said.

The attack came after the military launched a fresh offensive against Tamil Tiger positions in the northern peninsula of Jaffna on Monday.

The government's Special Media Information Centre said the guerrillas had lost at least 62 fighters killed in the heavy

fighting at Ariyalai in the Jaffna peninsula on Monday The security forces lost 19 the SMIC said.

It said another 17 Tiger rebels were killed in two separate clashes in the Jaffna peninsula on Monday. At least another 10 rebels were killed when troops destroyed a vehicle

in which they travelled in the Weli Oya region, the SMIC said. For their part, the LTTE's clandestine Voice of Tigers radio said Tuesday that they lost only eight cadres during the clashes and claimed killing 40 government soldiers.

The operation in Ariyalai in the Jaffna peninsula was launched at dawn and concluded by midday after the destruction of LTTE bunkers, the government said.

The LTTE is fighting for a homeland in the island's north, where the Tamil minority is concentrated. More than 60,000 people have been killed in fighting over the past two decades.

afield, northwest England.

energy plans for Japan, which

relies on 51 nuclear reactors to

produce more than one-third of

Mosharraf pleads for smaller families

ISLAMABAD, July 11: Pakistan's Army Chief Gen. Pervez Musharraf declared war Tuesday on Pakistan's soaring population and pleaded for smaller families, reports AP.

At a gathering to mark

World Population Day, the country's army ruler promised to tackle Pakistan's soaring population growth rate on a "war footing" The population of Pakistan, an impoverished country of 140

million, is expected to double by 2030 if it maintains its current annual growth rate of 2.2 per Musharraf, who seized power last October while promising to revive the coun-

try's devastated economy, said he would like to see the population growth reduced to 1.9 per cent in the next three years. Musharraf has promised to restore democratic rule to Pak-

istan within three years. Unbridled population growth rate has been devastating for Pakistan, he said.

It has brought with it a high infant mortality rate of 91 infant deaths per 1,000 births. It has strained Pakistan's poor education system resulting in a literacy rate of barely 30 per cent. Among women it is estimated to be barely 10 per cent.

It also has taken its toll on the environment, said Musharraf. He said burgeoning cities have devastated forest and agricultural land.

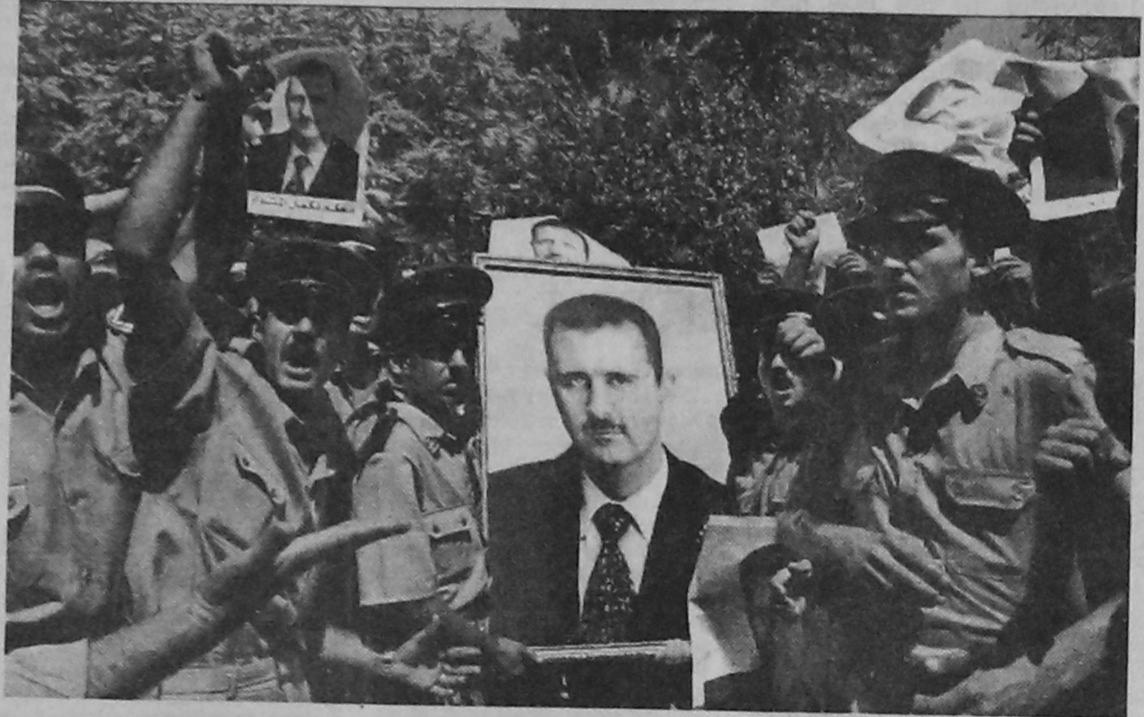
Runaway population growth also has resulted in sprawling slums in all the country's major cities, he said.

Musharraf said his army-led government has a plan to reduce the population growth.

RHD Notice Inviting Tender



her party members in Lahore on Monday. Kulsoom said the authorities had put her under house arrest and police besieging her home were not allowing members of her family to enter. - AFP photo



Syrian policemen carry pictures of Bashar al-Assad outside a polling station in Damascus on Monday as Syrians go to the polls in a plebiscite to give Assad a seven-year term as president, one month after the death of his father Hafez al-Assad who ruled the country for 30 years with an iron grip. - AFP photo

"If you have difficulty find-

difficulty in naming (objects,

streets...), these are probably

the signs of other conditions,"

emphasises "memory loss that

affects day-to-day function".

The Alzheimer Society pub-

According to Waldemar, ini-

Waldemar noted.

the most common early signs of

Memory loss can be curable:

Researchers

You should see a doctor if warning signs of Alzheimer's

your memory fails again and disease and seeking an early

ing from Alzheimer's disease or ing your way around (going

another types of dementia. back home, walking in the

Other causes of memory loss Alzheimer's disease. They may

If the underlying cause of lishes a pamphlet on the ten

"This is a very interesting tial troubling signs may include

the memory problem is one that alert signs of the illness which

range from depression, high not be Alzheimer, they may be

Alzheimer Congress 2000 here.

The team found only 43 per

"Its important to realise that Memory loss among 20 per cent neighbourhood...) or "persistent

cent of the patients were suffer-

other causes that could be

blood pressure, thyroid disease

or alcohol dependence syn-

can be treated, it's important to

identify it so therapy can be-

study that underscores the im-

13,500 KG.

drome, she said.

gin," said Waldemar.

the appearance of memory of the patients stemmed from

BRIE W

Wedding party bus crash kills 10:

At least 10 wedding party guests were killed and 13 injured

when the crowded bus in which they were travelling plunged

into a ravine in East Java, the state Antara news agency said

24 seats but carried 39 people," Antara quoted Magetan police

chief Superintendent Budi Susilo as saying. The agency said

that when the accident happened in Sarangan village, in

Magetan district, on Sunday night, the vehicle became caught

on a pine tree half way down the 30-metre deep ravine. The

Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES

Tender Notice

No. 02/2000-2001

from interested Manufacturers/Distributors/Suppliers of the supply

of the item mentioned below as per details/specifications mentioned

Tender schedule mentioning full details/specifications of items.

terms and conditions will be available from the Manager (Cash &

Banking), Head Office "BALAKA" & Accounts Officer (Cash

Payment Unit), Admin Building, ZIA, Dhaka of Biman Finance

Directorate, Dhaka and Office of the Divisional Commissioner (1st-

12th storied Govt. Office Building, 1st Floor, Room No. 206).

Segunbagicha, Dhaka on payment of Tk. 500/- (Five hundred) only

per set (per group) non-refundable by applying own letter head pad

Purchase Section, Stores & Purchase Directorate, Admin. Building.

ZIA, Dhaka and Biman Press Building, Farmgate, Tejgaon, Dhaka &

Office of the Additional Divisional Commissioner (General), Room

No. 205, Segunbagicha, Dhaka latest by 1130 hours (BST) on 27-07-

2000 and will be opened on the same day at 1400 hours at the

premises of Stores & Purchase Directorate, Admin. Building, ZIA.

Biman Management reserves the right to increase or decrease

the quantity of the items and can accept or reject any or all the

Sealed tenders should be dropped in the tender box kept in Local

"The bus plunged into a ravine after its brakes failed. It had

Britain agrees to remove nuclear fuel from Japan

TOKYO, July 11: The British government today capitulated to Japanese demands that it remove a consignment of nuclear fuel which arrived here accident at a uranium plant last with faked quality control data, September in Tokaimura, 120 MOX fuel is a key part of the reports AFP.

The embarrassing dispute over the fate of the suspect fuel, shipped to Japan by British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL), ended in BNFL also agreeing to pay 40 million pounds (60 million dollars) in compensation to its Japanese customer.

But environmentalists, who dogged an armed ship carrying the mixed plutonium oxide (MOX) fuel when it arrived seven months ago, reacted angrily to what they said was another potential disaster on the

Britain again apologised could take between two and over the incident, which dealt a three years for the fuel to arrive fresh blow to Japan's nuclear back in BNFL's plant at Sellpower programme after a fatal km northeast of Tokyo.

"The UK government is committed to cooperating with the Japanese government over the return of the fuel," Anna Walker, head of energy at the British trade and industry ministry, told a news conference at the British embassy in Tokyo.

The agreement was announced after talks Tuesday between the Japanese trade and foreign ministries and a visiting delegation led by Walker.

Groups including Greenpeace, however, vowed no let-up as Walker announced that it

Tender Notice: 35-EA (Raj) (99-2000).

Name of work Social afforestation in two rows on either side of

Ghoraghat-Phulbari-Dinajpur Road, from 12th km to 19th km total 8 km Group No. 2, from 2nd km to 10th km total 8 km of the same road including 1 (one) year maintenance.

As per tender schedule.

Roads & Highways

Directorate's all "A" to "E"

General Category enlisted

contractors (having Value

Added Tax registration

certificate) only can take

Tender will be sold from

the office of the Executive

Arboriculturist, R&H,

Dhaka/Rajshahi, Sub-

Arboriculturist, R&H,

Rajshahi/Khulna &

Rangpur at the prescribed

price during office hours on

all working days. But, no

tender will be sold on the

date of opening tender and

Chief Arboriculturist,

R&H, Paikpara, Mirpur,

Dhaka and office of the

19/07/2000 (upto 12:30 pm).

23/07/2000 (at 1:30 pm).

govt. holidays.

undersigned.

Divisional/Assistant

part in the said tender.

Estimated cost Earnest money : As per tender schedule. Time limit for: As per tender schedule.

completion of

work Contractors eligible to participate in

Offices where tender to be had

received at Last date of: 18/07/2000 (upto office

10. Last date of receiving tender 11. Date & time of opening tender

lottery

expenditure

(After collecting tenders from other offices). 24/07/2000 (at 11:00 am).

hours).

of: 168-RBF.

Md. Abdul Hamid Executive Arboriculturist Rajshahi

forgetting the names of close Hundreds of houses burned in Java

JAKARTA, July 11: Thousands of people were homeless and one person dead after fighting broke out on Indonesia's main island of Java, police said today, reports AP.

Sgt. Nyoman Sudarma, a local police officer, said fighting erupted between two villages. about 300 kilometres east of Jakarta, on Monday.

He said the violence, which eft hundreds of houses destroved by fire, started after a squabble broke out between residents from both villages. Sudarma said dozens of se-

curity forces had been deployed to the area. Fighting between rival

communities in the predominantly-Muslim region is quite frequent and is often sparked by arguments over money. Separately, in eastern In-Sealed tenders are hereby invited by Biman Bangladesh Airlines donesia's Maluku islands the navy impounded two boats try-

ing to smuggle hundreds of homemade guns and machetes into the area, the official Antara news agency reported to-Lt. Col. Ditya Soedarsono, a navy officer, said the boats were

found on their way to the city of Ternate, a Muslim stronghold in the north of the region. The report did not say when

the boats were captured. More than 3,000 people have been killed in 18-months of fighting between Muslims and Christians in the Malukus.

Also, in war-torn Aceh province, unidentified gunmen launched a grenade attack early today, against a chemical plant owned by one of former President Suharto's sons, police said.

Lt. Col. Syafei Aksal, a local police chief, said the grenades | minister for 12 years, is now hit two fuel tanks within the complex in Muara Dua district in north Aceh, about 1,700 kilometres northwest of touches to a solution to Fiji's 7-Jakarta.

There were no reports of ca-

portance of recognising the friends or relatives, placing objects in unusual places and regularly forgetting appointments. again," according to Waldemar. · and accurate diagnosis," she

Bill Thies, vice president of medical and scientific affairs for the US Alzheimer's Association, said their research showed the important role that family and friends can play in helping identify memory loss problems in individuals when they arise.

Being aware of cognitive changes in a loved one are important, whether it is for Alzheimer's disease or for treating a potentially reversible condition," he said.

anti-depressant treatment and

The research team identified a few ways to improve some memory problems, including changing a person's diet. high seas.



Australian Prime Minister John Howard (L) greets Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee (R) as Indian Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh (C) looks on, prior to talks on Monday. Howard is on a two-day official visit to India. - AFP photo

Speight may become a cabinet minister

SUVA, Fiji, July 11: The lease his 27 hostages and turn tribal chiefs said Tuesday that coup leader George Speight could be offered a Cabinet post appoint a new president and government, reports AP.

"There is a chance." Sitiveni Rabuka told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. "He's been given so much and I wouldn't be surprised if they include him on

in 1987 and then ruled as prime head of the Great Council of Chiefs, which has been called upon to put the finishing week hostage crisis by naming a new president and government. Speight has said he will re-

leader of Fiji's influential in his rebels' arms on Thursday as the chiefs meet.

Speight has been holding the hostages since storming Parwhen they meet Thursday to liament on May 19 saying he wanted to protect the interests of indigenous Fijians and disenfranchise the ethnic Indian minority. He and the military, which

seized control of Fiji 10 days after Speight's coup, signed an agreement Sunday to end the Rabuka, who led two coups crisis, which has paralyzed the country's economy. The agreement includes an amnesty for political crimes until Thursday, when military

commander Commodore Frank Bainimarama is to step down as the Immigration and Naturalhead of state, along with the interim government he installed a week ago. wants her deported.

Garbage avalanche

Death toll rises to 85

sive pile of garbage on the outskirts of the Philippine capital rose to 85 today with scores of others reported missing, officials said, reports AFP. Fourteen more charred bod-

smouldering garbage that crashed into shanty homes a day earlier. "Casualties as of 5:00 p.m. (1500 BST) have reached 85." from 71 earlier in the day, Kit Villaranda, a Philippine Red

rescuers were bloated and burnt beyond recognition. "Most of the bodies are be-

identifying the dead," she said. Heavy rains last week caused a 50-foot high pile of trash at the Payatas district to collapse into a community of scavenger families on Monday, in the

worst tragedy of its kind in

Philippine history. Princess from Bahrain seeks

CAMP PENDLETON, Callfornia. July 11: A princess from Bahrain who fell in love with a US Marine and fled the Gulf using fake US military documents is seeking political asylum here, saying she faces persecution if she return to her island nation, reports AP.

with a non-Muslim," said Meriam Al Khalifa, 19. "To make it even worse, he's an American." Al Khalifa's hearing before

MANILA, July 11: The death toll from the collapse of a mas-

ies were pulled out Tuesday afternoon under the pile of

Cross official at the site, told All 14 bodies recovered by

youd recognition, even the relatives are having difficulty

asylum in US

"I did the worst thing possible in my country, to fall in love

ization Service is scheduled for July 17. The State Department

its electricity.

the tender

Offices where tender to be

selling tender

12. Date & time of

13. Head

DFP-16849-6/7 G-1284

GD-661

in the schedule:

20 Count Thread (Cotton)

during any working day upto 26-07-2000.

Dhaka in presence of the tenderers (if any).

tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Ganjee Roll

Stores & Purchase Directorate

Dy. General Manager (Purchase)