

US, Britain and Germany urge their nationals to leave India

Vajpayee won't meet Musharraf at Asian summit, Delhi repeats

REUTERS, New Delhi/Islamabad

Western governments yesterday urged tens of thousands of their nationals to leave India, fearing war between India and Pakistan.

The US State Department yesterday advised Americans to leave. "Tensions have risen to serious levels and the risk of intensified military hostilities between India and Pakistan cannot be ruled out," it said in a travel warning.

There are an estimated 60,000 Americans in India and some 30,000 Britons. British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the Britons should consider leaving and advised against traveling to India.

Germany advised its nationals to leave India if not on urgent business. The United States and Australia prepared to pull out non-essential diplomats.

The United States, Britain and other Western nations have already reduced diplomatic staffing in Pakistan and urged expatriates to leave the country, where there has been a rash of attacks and threats against Westerners by Islamic militants.

In New Delhi, a Japanese envoy called for peace, describing himself as a

representative of "the only country to have suffered the atomic bomb".

Senior Vice Foreign Minister Seiken Sugiura said after meeting Indian leaders including Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh that he saw a "strong possibility" of war unless Islamabad acted on New Delhi's demands to curb militants entering India.

AP adds: India reiterated yesterday that its prime minister will not meet with Pakistan's president at an Asian summit next week, although bilateral meetings are being arranged with a handful of other leaders.

"I think the answer is no," RM Abhyankar, special secretary in India's foreign ministry, told reporters who asked if Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee had any desire to meet with President Gen Pervez Musharraf during the June 3-5 summit of 16 Middle Eastern and Asian countries.

Vajpayee will meet separately with the summit's host, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, and probably with Russian President Vladimir Putin, and the leaders of Tajikistan and China, said Abhyankar.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Salvage of MV Subha virtually abandoned

AROOP TALUKDAR, Barisal

Work to salvage passenger launch MV Subha that sank in Baleswar river on May 23 resumed yesterday morning.

Salvage vessel MV Hamza and naval ships continued operation from 6 am to 5 pm with a break from 12 noon to 3 pm but divers could not recover any dead body from the sunken launch, said Golam Mostafa, DIG, Barisal Range.

There is apprehension among local people that the salvage operation might be abandoned soon due to "pressure from some quarters". When asked, the DIG could not say anything about this.

None could say whether the salvage operation would resume today.

Eight days after the disaster, a

large number of people were waiting on the banks of the river yesterday for bodies of their near and dear ones.

The anxious and weary relatives were still hoping to get bodies of their near and dear ones and asking officials various questions about the salvage operation and recovery of bodies.

But the officials were tightlipped, many of the relatives told this correspondent.

UNB adds from Pirojpur: Salvage operation for sunken launch MV Subha was apparently abandoned yesterday with the departure of all six salvage ships, including the Hamza, after eight days of futile efforts.

The district administration could not confirm whether the sal

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

BNP men 'free' Sramik Dal leader nabbed by BDR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Hundreds of BNP supporters surrounded the Sonargaon Police Station yesterday morning, demanding the release of Selim Huq, vice-president of the district Sramik Dal.

Later, police released Selim, as he was not accused in any case. Selim is the elder brother of Shamim Huq, a listed criminal.

Superintendent of Police Shafiqul Islam said Selim had no case against him. The BDR raided

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Keya Chy of JP arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman leader of the Jatiya Party (JP) faction led by HM Ershad was arrested on Thursday night.

Keya Chowdhury was arrested from her residence at Adabar in Mohammadpur in the city, police said.

Sources said Keya Chowdhury had parked her car on the road in front of her residence at about 10 pm. This created a traffic jam, which resulted in an altercation between her and the wife of a Sub-inspector of Detective Branch (DB) of police.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

JCD activist shot dead in factional clash in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A Jatiyatadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activist was shot dead and at least 10 people were injured when members of two factions of the ruling BNP clashed at Bhatat Bazar under Saikupa upazila of Jhenidah district yesterday.

The dead was identified as Rabiul Islam, 22, of village Mohabbatpur of the same thana. He was the secretary of JCD Fulahari union. Of the victims three received bullet injuries.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Bali meet turns down Tibetan HR body's plea to join WSSD

REZAUL KARIM, From Bali, Indonesia

The final Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) meeting for the ensuing World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) yesterday rejected the appeal for accreditation of an India-based Tibetan human rights organisation.

The appeal for accreditation, required for participation in the WSSD scheduled to be held in Johannesburg from August 26 to September 4, was rejected in a vote by the delegates from all over the world participating in the current two-week PrepCom in Bali.

The non-governmental organisation, Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), was rejected by a vote of 90 in favour of no action to 37 against, with 10 abstentions including India.

Since the PrepCom-4 began on May 27, the India-based Tibetan organisation has been lobbying for accreditation that would allow it to attend all UN-sponsored programmes, but the move met with strong objection from China.

The voting on the accreditation of the TCHRD took place at the Bali International Convention Centre in the morning with a letter from the permanent representative of China before the Preparatory Committee.

The letter set out China's firm

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
June 1		6-42pm
June 2	5-11 am	

Prayer Timings		
June 1		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-42	6-47
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation