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Govt-UNDP survey in CHT begins

BSS, Ctg

A 13-member Government-UNDP joint mission arrived here yesterday morning to conduct a nine-day survey on development needs and likely risk factors for the development workers stationed in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

Shortly after arrival, the mission led by Michael Heyn held two separate meetings with top civil and military officials and discussed with them the overall situation in the three hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban.

They exchanged views to identify the area of development there, official sources said.

The mission members first held meeting with General Officer Commanding (GOC) and Area Commander of local infantry division at Chittagong Major General Abdul Matin and senior military officials at Chittagong Cantonment.

The mission was briefed by the army about the prevailing situation in the CHT.

The mission had another meeting with officials of the Chittagong division at the circuit house. Divisional Commissioner Mohamad Katebur Rahman and other senior officials were present at the meeting.

The mission is composed of senior government officials and members from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Danish embassy and ADB office in Dhaka.

"The government is committed

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Editors of New York's Bangla newspapers meet Khaleda

BSS, Dhaka

Editors and directors of New York-based Bangla newspapers and Bangla TV channels paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her hotel suite Friday.

During the meeting, Khaleda Zia thanked the editors of the newspapers for regularly releasing reports about her successful operation and health condition when she was in hospital.

The visitors also expressed their satisfaction over Khaleda Zia's quick recovery while wishing her complete recovery, according to a message received here from New York yesterday.

The prime minister also had telephonic talks with ministers and secretaries Friday and gave them necessary instructions on matters of importance.

Meanwhile, wives of senior diplomats of UN Permanent Mission and Consulate General office paid a courtesy call on the prime minister on the same day. Besides, leaders of different organisations based in New York also met her.

Ministers, MPs and leaders of different political parties and secretaries from Dhaka also continued to send cards and bouquets Friday to the prime minister wishing her complete recovery. JP leader Kazi Firoz Rashid, Jamaat-e-Islami MP Moulana Delwar Hossain Sayeedi and different business groups also sent the cards and bouquets to Khaleda Zia.

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Film Society promotes new faces

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
June 2		6-42pm
June 3	5-11 am	

Prayer Timings

June 2		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-46	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Fish trader dies in BDR swoop in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) during an anti-crime drive yesterday beat to death a small fish trader at Swarighat in the city's Lalbagh area.

Lalbagh police said a BDR team picked up the victim, Mohammad Sohel, 20, from Swarighat at about 9:00pm Friday on suspicion. The BDR team dumped Sohel onto the veranda of the Lalbagh Police Station at about 7:30am yesterday leaving no documents with the police.

As Duty Officer of the police station Abdul Gani asked for the papers justifying the arrest they could not provide any.

The members of the team did not have any nameplate. The duty officer asked for their identity but they left the spot without showing their identity.

The duty officer immediately rushed him to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a critical condition and he died there at 4:10pm yesterday, police and hospital officials said.

Lalbagh police are yet to know on what charges Sohel was arrested. The BDR team did not inform the

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) about the operation. Sources said Sohel was the son of Abdul Hossain of village Tuiki, Muladi in Barisal.

The director, Operation and Training of the BDR told The Daily Star that they heard of the incident yesterday evening and that they were touch with their teams to know what happened with the young man. He also said that the BDR team was conducting a raid in the area along with the policemen.

The BDR raids had raised controversy in the past when leaders and activists of Narayanganj district unit of opposition Awami League's student front Bangladesh Chhatra League were arrested and tortured on May 23 and 24.

Relatives of the arrested Chhatra League leaders and activists alleged that they were mercilessly beaten with iron rods after arrest and was seriously injured by the BDR personnel after their arrest.

There were more controversy following the arrest of a

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Gujral, Asma Jahangir's call to avoid war, hold dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR) has called upon India and Pakistan to eschew war and trust in the process of sustained dialogue to resolve all causes of tension between the two countries.

Former Indian prime minister and SAHR Chairperson IK Gujral and its Co-chairperson Asma Jahangir of Pakistan jointly issued the statement recently in the wake of the escalating violence between the two nuclear neighbours. SAHR is a non-governmental regional organisation supporting peace and human rights in South Asia.

It said the spectre of another conflict between India and Pakistan is again haunting one-fifth of humankind. Recognising the histor-

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Gravity-defying German hatrick hero Miroslav Klose does a flip after scoring his second goal against Saudi Arabia at Sapporo, Japan yesterday.

UN pulling families of its staff out of Pakistan

More Western nations, Japan advise their nationals to leave India

REUTERS, New Delhi/Islamabad

The United Nations yesterday prepared to evacuate families of its staff from Pakistan, and Japan joined a growing list of countries urging their nationals to avoid India over fears of war between the nuclear-armed neighbours.

Along the border, where one million troops are facing each other, armies kept up an exchange of mortar and machinegun fire.

Indian police said a grenade attack killed one person and injured 15 in Kashmir, a flashpoint

that has brought India and Pakistan to war twice, as Western nations stepped up efforts to pull South Asia back from the brink.

Meanwhile, a staff member at the Indian High Commission in Islamabad was 'abducted' yesterday by plainclothes men in what India said was a case of diplomatic retaliation.

India's foreign ministry spokeswoman Nirupama Rao told Star News channel that the incident was a case of tit for tat after India picked up a Pakistani diplomat on Friday for spying.

It was not clear when the UN evacuations from

Pakistan would begin, and how many people would be flown home, although a UN source said it could be hundreds.

"A decision has been taken in New York to evacuate dependants in Pakistan because of the current tensions," a UN official said.

Japan urged its nationals to postpone travel to India, after a similar warning about travel to Pakistan. It repeated a call to Japanese already in India to leave.

The United States, Britain and Germany on

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PHOTO: AFP

Foreigners leave India at New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport yesterday due to fear over a war between India and Pakistan. UN also has decided to pull families of its staff out of Pakistan.

AL study claims 106 seats were snatched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday released the highlights of its study report on the last parliamentary election, claiming that the BNP-led alliance snatched away at least 106 confirmed seats of the party through fraudulence of the century.

The alliance won 132 seats out its specially 'targeted' 158 seats through 'vote rigging', the report said.

It identified as many as 17 methods applied in the October 1 election to 'ensure AL's debacle'.

The methods include purchase of vote, capture of polling centres and stuffing of ballot boxes, use of polling agents of dummy candidates, allowing partisan people as polls observers, preventing genuine voters from exercising their franchise, persuading law enforcers to create panic among supporters of a particular party, supply of misleading voter list and cancellation of voting at places after announcement of unofficial results, the study report said.

The AL which got only 58 seats in the 300-member parliament has been alleging 'crude rigging' in the

elections and boycotting the eighth parliament's sessions from the very beginning.

AL chief and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Hasina is due to formally launch the report titled "A Rigged Election: An Illegitimate Government, Bangladesh Election 2001" at a programme at Sheraton Hotel in the city at 10 am today.

The Centre for Research and Information (CRI) of the party conducted the study and prepared the report describing, what it said, the methods of vote rigging, intimidation of voters, controversial role of the caretaker government and the Election Commission, casting of votes more than the number of voters and many other factors.

The report made a comparative study of votes obtained by the AL and the BNP and its present alliance partners in the 1991 and 1996 general elections and said it won the last election through 'fraudulence of the century'.

Analysing seat wise election results, the CRI study said the ruling alliance secured votes through cheating.

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Dhaka concerned at fallout of possible war

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka is seriously concerned over the fallout of any conflict between India and Pakistan.

Meanwhile, western nationals in the country have been asked to be in touch with their embassies.

Foreign Secretary Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday, "We are concerned over the implications of any (outbreak of) conflict between Pakistan and India. We are extra-concerned because both of them have nuclear capabilities."

Reiterating Bangladesh's position, the foreign secretary said Bangladesh have been urging for restraint as it is seriously concerned about peace and stability in the region. "We hope that there would be a constructive dialogue between them."

He said Bangladesh as member of SAARC and as a neighbour was monitoring the "situation very closely".

The foreign secretary confirmed a news that Bangladesh High Commissioner in India Tofael Karim Chowdhury along with Nepalese high commissioner and Chinese ambassador had meetings with Indian Foreign Secretary Chokila Iyer last Friday. The Indian side explained their position during the

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Cronje dies in plane crash

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Former South African cricket captain Hansie Cronje was killed in a plane, which crashed in the country's Western Cape province on Saturday, the country's sports ministry said.

"He (Cronje) was killed. We can confirm that," Graham Abrahams, a spokesman for the sports ministry, told this news agency.

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Gung-ho Germany

Hattrick hero Klose leads Saudi mauling

AGENCIES, Sapporo

Three-time winners Germany defied their critics by crushing Saudi Arabia 8-0 in their opening match to record their biggest ever victory in the World Cup finals here on Saturday.

Kaiserslautern striker Miroslav Klose scored a hatrick of headers as the Saudis were totally overwhelmed under the roof of the futuristic Sapporo Dome.

Coach Rudi Voller's men lifted some of the clouds that had started to gather over the national team with a controlled display in what ended as a training session for the Germans.

Two headed goals by Klose and a strike each from fellow striker Carsten Jancker and midfielder Michael Ballack enabled the Germans to lead 4-0 at halftime of their first Group E game.

Klose completed the first hatrick of these finals with another header after the break and defender Thomas Linke added a sixth in the 73rd minute before substitute Oliver Bierhoff (84) and Bernd Schneider (90) completed the humiliation.

Klose, who now has 11 goals in just 13 international starts, became only the fourth German to score a hatrick at the World Cup finals - but the first since Karl-Heinz Rummenigge smacked a treble in a 1982 win over Chile in 1982.

They became the first team in 20 years to score eight in a finals match, Hungary having demolished El Salvador 10-1 in 1982 in Spain.

It was also Germany's biggest World Cup win and highest score in the finals, surpassing a 7-2 win over Turkey in 1954 when they first claimed the title.

From the outset, the tall imposing figure of Jancker was the focal point of Germany's attacking play.

Whenever possible the ball was hoisted to the striker and the Germans' tactics caused Saudi Arabia all kinds of problems.

Within the first minute, Jancker had dragged a shot wide from a tight angle and six minutes later the striker had the ball in the back of the net.

But the "goal" was ruled out after Jancker was penalised, rather

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Ronaldo's superstar status means little!

REUTERS, Ulsan

Ronaldo has been reprimanded by Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari for failing to do his share of marking and warned that his reputation would not stop him from being substituted during a game.

"He still has a bit of difficulty in responding to the request to mark the opposition when they are trying to play the ball out of defence," Scolari said.

Ronaldo, who is returning to full fitness after being sidelined for over two years by a succession of injuries, was still not at his best during Saturday's practice match between the first team and the reserves, said Scolari.

"Ronaldo is getting better on the physical side and on the technical side but he still lacks rhythm," added Scolari.

Scolari said that if Ronaldo was off-colour during a match, he would substitute him rather than keeping on the field in the hope that he could produce a match-winning minute of genius.

"I will not wait for the end. If I have to change the team, I will. My job is to do what is best for the group."

"No name is so big that he can't be substituted and I'm not going to spare A, B or C. If I have to take a decision, it could be the goalkeeper or the left winger, but I will take it. We have plenty of good players who are not in the team."

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DHL Special report

Judiciary separation

Cabinet body splits on unified judicial service

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet committee on virtual separation of the judiciary has become divided over the issue of forming a unified judicial service, sources said.

The creation of such a service was part of the Supreme Court's 12-point directives issued on December 2, 1999 for separation of the judiciary from the executive wing.

Three of the five-member committee in its ninth meeting yesterday differed with the idea that there should be a unified judicial service.

While one group argued that both the constitution and the

Supreme Court's directives stipulate formation of a unified judicial service, the other group felt that the magistrates should be out of the judicial cadre. They said the magistrates would deal with criminal cases while the judicial service holders would handle civil cases.

The committee headed by Industries Minister MK Anwar comprises LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, ITC Minister Abdul Moyeen Khan and Land Minister M Shamsul Islam.

The committee had earlier preliminary agreed on formation of a single judiciary service. The judiciary cadre also holds this view.

However, the administration cadre that now runs the magistracy had objected to the proposed unified system.

Last month, the cabinet committee heard the arguments of both cadres on the issue. Yesterday's meeting was supposed to take a decision based on the committee's interaction with the cadres.

But yesterday's rift on the issue has now once again both complicated and prolonged the separation of the judiciary, some meeting sources said.

Meantime, the government has failed to implement the Supreme Court's 12-point directives for

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