

# India, Pakistan ban further tests

## S Asian rivals to set up nuclear hotline

AFP, New Delhi

India and Pakistan agreed yesterday to set up a hotline to avoid a nuclear confrontation and to ban further nuclear tests, as the rivals came together to dismiss concerns by the world's more established atomic powers.

The South Asian neighbours, who held nuclear tests two weeks apart in 1998 and have come close to war twice since, said they wanted to "promote a stable environment of peace and security."

The hotline will link the top civil

servants in their foreign ministries, said a joint statement at the end of the two countries' first talks on nuclear risks since the 1998 tests.

"A dedicated and secure hotline would be established between the two foreign secretaries, through their respective foreign offices, to prevent misunderstandings and reduce risks relevant to nuclear issues," it said.

It said an existing hotline between senior military commanders, who have conversations scheduled once a week, would also be "upgraded, dedicated and

secured".

Reaffirming a 1999 agreement, India and Pakistan said neither country would conduct another nuclear test "unless, in exercise of national sovereignty, it decides that extraordinary events have jeopardised its supreme interests."

Despite the two countries' historic animosity, they joined hands to make an indirect criticism of other atomic powers which have expressed concern about the stability

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Czechs squash Orange



AFP, Aveiro

The Czech Republic produced one of the greatest comebacks in European Championships history when they clawed back a two-goal deficit to beat the Netherlands 3-2 here on Saturday.

The Czechs became the first SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

**TODAY'S MATCHES**

FRANCE VS SWITZERLAND  
Live on ESPN at 12:40 am (Tuesday)

ENGLAND VS CROATIA  
Live on STAR Sports at 12:40 am (Tuesday)



UNWINDING AGONY: Netherlands' goalkeeper Edwin Van Der Sar makes an abortive attempt to tip off a powerful strike by Czech Republic striker Milan Baros to level the score during early yesterday's Group D clash at Aveiro's stadium in Portugal. The Dutch lost the match 3-2.

PHOTO: AFP

## Another acid victim dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Salma Begum, yet another victim of acid violence, succumbed to her injuries after about a 20-hour struggle at the Sylhet Osmani Medical College hospital Saturday night.

Salma, 18, hailed from village Kapnakandi under Jaintapur upazila of the district.

Her family said Nasir, son of Monaf Ali of the neighbouring village Kohainagar, had long been trying to have relations with Salma. Recently, he sent a marriage proposal to the family, but that too was rejected. Salma's marriage was arranged with someone of a neighbouring village and the wedding ceremony was scheduled for July 2.

An incensed Nasir went to Salma's house Friday night and SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

## AL fronts call countrywide hartal for June 30

UNB, Dhaka

The two wings of the main opposition Awami League -- Awami Swochhasebak League and Juba Mohila League -- called a dawn-to-dusk countrywide hartal for June 30 protesting 'damage to Bangladesh's image' by choosing a controversial candidate for the top OIC post.

The strike is also to protest "filthy" remarks of Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, Bangladesh's candidate for the post of secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, who lost the vote, leaders of the AL's front organisations announced.

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PHOTO: STAR

Clogged sewer system in Kashaibari of Tejkunipara in the city leaves its narrow, run-down roads waterlogged at the slightest of rain, making the neighbourhood inhospitable.

## Arroyo voted to fresh term

REUTERS, Manila

Long-awaited results of a marathon vote count gave Gloria Macapagal Arroyo a fresh term as Philippine president yesterday, but opposition allegations of cheating and planned protests threatened to undermine her rule. More than five weeks after Filipinos voted in May 10 elections, the final tally by Congress showed Arroyo with 12,905,808 votes, beating her closest rival, film star Fernando Poe Jr, by just over one million.

"It's enough to govern," said Franklin Drilon, Senate majority leader and an Arroyo supporter.

The move paves the way for US-trained economist Arroyo to be declared president later this week, after Congress debates and votes on SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

## Rocket attack, blast destroy Pak airport

AFP, Quetta

An explosion and a pre-dawn rocket attack destroyed an airport in the remote gas rich town of Sui in southwestern Pakistan yesterday, police and security officials said.

A security official said the assailants apparently planted dynamite sticks around the wall of the small two-room facility, which collapsed when the device exploded during the rocket barrage.

The paramilitary Frontier Corps soldiers responded but there were no casualties, the official speaking on condition of anonymity said.

Local police officer Khan Mohammad Buzdar said the air-

port building and its departure lounge was badly destroyed, but there was no damage to its runway.

"More than 20 rockets crashed into the airport building," Buzdar told AFP by telephone from Sui, 480 km southeast of the Baluchistan provincial capital Quetta.

He said the attackers lobbed rockets and also opened fire with Kalashnikov assault rifles and machine guns. No arrests have been reported, he said.

The early morning attack was the second in the area within two days.

Unidentified assailants fired SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

## Clock ticks for private spacecraft's launch

AP, Los Angeles

The stuff of pulp science fiction and children's adventure books could become reality this week high over the Mojave Desert, when an innovative rocket plane points its nose toward space.

SpaceShipOne will try to climb 62 miles up Monday morning, leaving Earth's atmosphere for a few minutes to become the first privately funded, non-governmental manned spacecraft.

The feat would set up SpaceShipOne designer Burt Rutan SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## Mastermind left out in Manik killing case

### Charges pressed against 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police yesterday submitted the charge-sheet for the gruesome murder of journalist Manik Chandra Saha, accusing 12 but allegedly leaving out the kingpin's name.

Khulna Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mosharraf Hossain handed in the document to the chief metropolitan magistrate's court, Khulna.

Sources alleged the 'real motive' and name of the mastermind behind the January 15 bomb-attack that left the New Age's Khulna correspondent lying dead

in a pool of blood, with his head and some limbs blown off, near Khulna Press Club are conspicuously absent in the charge-sheet.

Mosharraf, who replaced former OC Ataur Rahman as the investigating officer (IO) of the case, has named 54 prosecution witnesses. Ataur was suspended for negligence in taking initiatives to arrest Manik's killers.

According to Mosharraf, five of the 17 perpetrators of the killing have already died. They are Mizanur Rahman alias Shohan w h o

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## AL youth front rallies for Kula

UNB, Dhaka

Leaders of Awami Jubo League, youth front of Awami League (AL), yesterday said they will campaign for Kula (winning fan), the election symbol of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) candidate Abdul Mannan, in the upcoming Dhaka-10 by-election.

"We have received instructions from our leader Sheikh Hasina to work for Kula. We will be on the streets till the last moment of the election," said Jubo League Organising Secretary Ataur Rahman Aia.

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## ANTHRAX VIRUS

## Medical test on 2 negative

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Primary medical check-up yesterday found anthrax virus negative in two people held with the tusks of a dead elephant, host of the deadly germ, which was found dead in Yangchha.

The jail super of the district said a laboratory technician of Bandarban General Hospital conducted the check-up on Mohammad Ullah and Jasim Uddin in prison. When asked SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## JS WOMEN SEATS

## Writ filed against 14th amendment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight women rights activists yesterday filed a writ with the High Court (HC) division of the Supreme Court challenging a provision of the 14th amendment of the constitution.

Farida Akhter, Dr Tasnim Siddiqui, Elna Khan, Salma Ali, Saida Akhter, Seema Das Simu and Rokeya Rafiq filed the writ against the provision, which allows politi-

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Prayer Timing		
June 21		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-52	6-55
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation