

'N-energy Iran's future, destiny'

AFP, Tehran.

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei yesterday described Iran's nuclear programme as its "future and destiny", lashing out at critics who have said the drive could come at too great a cost. "Nuclear energy is the future and destiny of the country," state television quoted Khamenei as saying in a speech in Tehran.

The television said Khamenei

"criticised some who, with superficial and narrow-minded views, say that nuclear energy is not necessary for the country at this cost."

His intervention comes as pressure mounts from Western countries for Iran to suspend uranium enrichment, a process that can be used both to make the fuel for nuclear power stations and the core of an atomic weapon.

The United States accuses Iran of

seeking a nuclear weapon, a charge denied by Tehran which insists its atomic programme is peaceful in nature and has every right to the full nuclear fuel cycle.

Although Washington has said it wants the nuclear standoff resolved through diplomacy, it has never ruled out military action to thwart Iran's atomic drive.

Khamenei said Iran's huge oil and gas reserves "would not last forever".



TMSS distributes warm cloths and blankets among 2500 cold-stricken and Monga-affected people at Kaliganj and Nageswari upazilas in Lalmonirhat and Kurigram districts recently with the financial help of AusAid. Australian High Commissioner Douglas Foskett was present at the distribution ceremony and handed over a cheque for Tk 7,00,500 to TMSS for distributing warm clothes among the cold-stricken poor people.



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London suffers fresh gun murder

AFP, London

London suffered a fresh gun killing yesterday when a man was shot dead in a street in the east of the British capital, as the murders of three teenage boys in 11 days continued to make headlines.

Scotland Yard said an armed unit was sent to the Hackney district at 5:34 am (0534 GMT) after receiving reports of shots being fired, and found a man on the ground injured.

The victim -- a black man in his 20s -- was taken to hospital but pronounced dead just before 6:00 am, a spokesman said.

Britain's domestic Press Association news agency said the man was sitting in a car at the time and two black men were seen running from the scene.

The killing will be investigated by detectives from Operation Trident, the Metropolitan Police's specialist unit set up to deal with gun crime within London's black community, it said.

The teenagers' deaths in south London have prompted fears that a gun culture among black youngsters in inner city areas is spiralling out of control and questions about its causes.

Meanwhile in Manchester, north-west England, police said yesterday that two teenagers and a man were shot and injured in two separate incidents overnight.

In the first, an 18-year-old was hit in the back in the inner city Moss Side district at about 9:00 pm Friday near where a 15-year-old boy was shot and killed in September last year, provoking a similar outcry to the London deaths.

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Only short-listed candidates will be called for interview.

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