

# Rebel Kurds declare cease-fire in Turkey

AP, Ankara, Turkey

Kurdish separatists declared a "unilateral cease-fire" in attacks against Turkey yesterday and said they were ready for peace negotiations, but the group maintained the right to defend itself.

The statement came as the Turkish military has intensified operations against the separatist Kurdistan Workers' Party, also known as PKK, in the country's southeast, at the border with Iraq. The guerrillas have been fighting for autonomy in Turkey for more than two decades.

"We are renewing our declaration to halt attacks against the Turkish army," Abdul Rahman Chaderchi, the PKK official in charge of foreign affairs, said in northern Iraq, where the rebels have several bases.

"We want peace and we are ready for negotiations, but if Turkey decides to attack our bases inside Turkey or inside Iraqi Kurdistan, then this unilateral cease-fire will be meaningless. If we are attacked, we will fight back and we have the ability to confront any Turkish aggression," he added.

Turkish troops have massed at the frontier and shelled Iraqi territory while pursuing rebels, drawing criticism from the Iraqi government and raising fears that the conflict could draw in its NATO ally, the United States.

The Turkish government had no immediate response to the PKK statement, but has ignored several past cease-fires declared by the group, ruling out negotiations with "terrorists."

It was unclear if the rebel announcement reflected a desire to ease pressure from the Turkish armed forces, or was a public relations effort to portray the rebels as peace-seeking, and the

## Landslide death

**FROM PAGE 1** confirmed to have died at Lebu Bagan, Kaichyaghona and Sekander colony, adj adjoining the Chittagong cantonment under Hathazari upazila, said sources in the joint forces.

The rescue operation was on till filing of this report late in the evening.

Talking to The Daily Star, Deputy Commissioner Ashraf Shamim however put the death count at 101.

Sources in the district administration said they have been continuing relief efforts with materials from the government funds including 200 metric tons of food grains.

Some 1,000 kg rice, 200 kg flattened rice, 25 kg gur (molasses), 100 pieces of saree and 100 pieces of lungi were distributed among the affected people yesterday.

Besides, they were preparing to provide financial assistance to the affected families.

The government had already allocated Tk 13 lakh for relief and rehabilitation of the victims, added the sources.

Meanwhile, a day after the torrential rain-induced mudslides caused huge casualties and left the city in a mess, people in many areas were still marooned. Power and gas lines remained snapped, compounding their sufferings.

Without supply of gas, locals of areas like Lalkhan Bazar and Debarpur could not cook meals while electricity connections to many city quarters could not yet be restored.

Several thousand people including those in the city centre, Agrabad CDA Residential Area, had to remain confined to their houses.

A, K and L blocks of Halishahar Housing Estate, Shantibagh, Shyamali, Sabujbagh and many areas along the Agrabad Excess Road were under ankle- to knee-deep water till yesterday afternoon.

Ground floors of around 500 buildings in Agrabad CDAR/A were submerged, shutting in the locals.

Umeda Begum Parul, a local, said the rainwater started to recede at around 5:00am but miseries continued as the houses were still littered with soaked cloths and furniture, and the air reeked of waste matter.

Many houses were waist-deep in water that caused damage to furniture and household appliances.

Zahiruddin, a private firm manager living on road No. 26, said they had to stay inside for hours as the rainwater the staircase, ground floor and the road in front were waterlogged till the afternoon.

In Shyamali residential area, Sayma Mitul, a journalism student of Chittagong University, had to wade waist-deep through water to reach the Agrabad Excess Road at around 11:00am. She had the masters examinations scheduled to begin at 12 noon.

Manjurul Haq, a house owner, said the waterlogging they suffered last time was way more severe than that during the cyclonic storm of 1991.

A ward commissioner of Chittagong City Corporation, Md Sekander, blamed the silted up Mohesh Khal (canal) for the waterlogging. Proper excavation and construction of a sluice gate

military as the aggressor. The rebels might also want to give Kurdish candidates in Turkish parliamentary elections next month a chance to make gains at the polls without being accused of links to rebel violence.

The PKK has accused the Turkish military of engineering the collapse of a unilateral rebel cease-fire declared on Oct. 1, 2006.

Turkey's prime minister said Tuesday that the country needs to focus on fighting the PKK inside its borders amid a debate over whether Turkey should pursue rebels in a cross-border operation into northern Iraq.

"There are 500 terrorists in Iraq; there are 5,000 terrorists inside Turkey. Has terrorism inside Turkey ended for us to think about an operation in northern Iraq?" Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan told reporters.

Rebels of the PKK have bases in the mountainous north of Iraq.

Turkey's army chief has said an incursion into northern Iraq is necessary, but said he needed political approval to act. The government pledged to hunt down rebels, but Erdogan has not called for the parliamentary approval required for a cross-border operation.

PKK guerrillas took up arms in 1984, and tens of thousand of people have died in the conflict. The United States and European Union brand the PKK a terrorist organization.

NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, in Turkey on Tuesday, said the alliance hoped Turkey's conflict with the PKK could be resolved "with the maximum of restraint."

could have saved the area from being inundated, he added.

An 18-member diver team of the navy led by Lt Tanveer Ahmed conducted a search operation for those feared washed away in low-lying areas of Halishahar, Shantibagh and Shyamali.

Fire Service and Civil Defence helped the team carry out the four-hour mission that saw none of those reported missing rescued. Later, the team gave out food and mineral water among 300 people in Shantibagh.

UNB adds: Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed yesterday flew in the city and visited Lebu Bagan area in Hathazari.

Later, he visited the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) where a number of injured people were undergoing treatment.

Before leaving for Dhaka, he went to Jahangir Line High School in Chittagong cantonment where the forces have set up a relief centre.

## 100 houses

**FROM PAGE 1** Sazim, a resident of Saikatpara told The Daily Star.

A brick wall, put up by the district administration earlier to protect the localities from mudslides, broke down leaving the families residing in the areas at grave risk, the locals said.

The district administration has been evacuating families from those localities.

Zahedul Islam of Saikatpara said that they could not leave the house, as they have nowhere to go. Almost half of their house got buried under mud and the front door has been blocked as mud has piled up against it.

"We have made an alternative path breaking down the grill of the window," he said adding that many of their neighbours have moved out.

Sarjin, a student of Kalatali primary school, said that all her family members have taken shelter in a single room as other rooms have become unfit for living.

Mazedul Karim, a student of Ramu College, said that their whole house was buried under mud.

Following a visit to the affected areas, Professor Sharmina Reshmin, an environment protection activist of the town said, "the way the mud is coming down it would affect the hotel and motel zone of the town soon." She urged the authorities to take immediate steps.

The new deputy commissioner (DC) of Cox's Bazar Sazzadul Hasan told The Daily Star that a committee has been formed, led by ADC General Arifur Rahman Apu, for taking necessary measures.

Besides, another hill near the town's City College has developed large cracks, which may collapse any moment repeating the Chittagong mudslide tragedy, locals fear.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Sayeed Mahmud Belal told The Daily Star that the authorities had already moved some families from the City College area following the incident.

### Viqarunnisa

**FROM PAGE 1** School, Dhanmondi, Motijheel Govt Boys' High School, Dhanmondi Govt Boys High School, Holy Cross Girls High School and A K High School, Demra.

A total of 564 of Viqarunnisa Noon School obtained GPA-5 out of 750 examinees, while out of 857 examinees, 527 students bagged GPA-5 from Ideal School and College.

The number of other GPA-5 achievers are: 314 from Monipur High School, 281 from Rajuk Uttara Model School and College, 259 from Motijheel Model High School, 178 from Dhaka Residential Model College, 172 from Govt Laboratory High School, 171 from Motijheel Govt Boys' High School, 149 from Dhanmondi Govt Boys' High School, 149 from Holy Cross Girls' High School and 131 from A K High School.

Meanwhile, Collegiate School Chittagong, Dr Khastagir Govt Girls High School and Chittagong Govt High School took the first three places under Chittagong board in terms of students securing GPA-5.

A total of 265 students got GPA-5 from Collegiate School out of 395 examinees, 197 obtained GPA-5 from Khastagir School out of 332 students while 171 out of 265 secured GPA-5 from Chittagong Govt High School.

Under Rajshahi Education Board, the first three institutions in terms of achieving GPA-5 are Cantonment Public School and College, Bogra-171, Cantonment Public School and College, Rangpur-144 and Rangpur Zila School-139.

In terms of GPA-5, the first, second and third institutions under Sylhet Education Board are: Blue Bird High School Sylhet-74, Sylhet Govt Pilot High School-64 and Sylhet Cadet College-47.

Barisal Govt Girls' High School, Barisal Cadet College and Barisal Zila School took the first three places securing GPA-5 by 74, 45 and 43 respectively under Barisal board.

The top three GPA-5 securing institutions under Madrasa Education Board are Tamirul Millat Kamil Madrasa Demra, Dhaka, Tamirul Millat Kamil Madrasa, Tongi and Jameya-e-Kashemia, Narsingdi. The number of GPA-5 students are 85, 76 and 56 respectively.

## CA warns

**FROM PAGE 1** talking to reporters in the landslide-hit Kacharigona area, adjacent to Chittagong Cantonment, in the morning.

The CA said the army will remain alert and remove people from vulnerable areas to safer places. He also assured the people of resolving the water-logging problem in the port city.

"Our first task is to rescue, treat and help rehabilitate the affected people," said the head of the caretaker government

Earlier, after disembarking from the plane at Shah Amanat Airport, the chief adviser drove straight to Lebu Bagan in Hathazari where Chittagong GOC Major General Sina Ibne Jamali briefed him about the aftermath of Monday's landslides that killed more than 100 people.

Communications Adviser Major General (retd) MA Matin, Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Mokhesur Rahman and senior civil and military officials were present.

The CA went to Jahangir Line High School in Chittagong Cantonment where an army relief center has been set up. Some 501 injured people from Lebu Bagan, Kacharigona and Workshop areas were brought to the center for treatment. Of them, 47 seriously injured people were sent to Chittagong Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

He distributed rice, biscuit, saree, lungi and money in cash among the affected people at the relief center.

Later, the CA visited Kacharigona and talked to the affected people. He went round the area, consoled the family members of the landslide victims and assured them of all possible help.

After visiting the injured at the CMH, the CA visited another landslide spot in Kusumbagh area and distributed relief materials and money in cash among the affected people.

The CA returned to the capital at 2:50pm.

### Illegal VoIP

**FROM PAGE 1** through those having Internet Service Provider (ISP) licence.

Besides, the former state minister said, when Babu had smuggled a huge consignment of cigarettes into the country, the then finance minister had played a mere onlooker's role.

Babar told the interrogators that each of those in the VoIP business would earn between Tk 4 crore and Tk 5 crore. He claimed that he raised the issue before Khaleda Zia at least 50 times and urged her either to stop the illegal business or legalise it by issuing licence. Each time she assured that she would look into the matter later but it never came true.

Tarique himself made sure no actions were taken against the VoIP operators. Babar also contended that not a single sector was free of corruption during the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance rule.

# 57pc pass in SSC

**FROM PAGE 1** 3,313 from Chittagong Board, 641 from Barisal Board, 713 from Sylhet Board, 6,889 from Madrasah Board and 25 from Technical Education Board.

As many as 10,24,537 students -- 5,51,255 boys and 4,73,282 girls -- appeared in this year's SSC exams under nine educational boards and 5,97,955 of them -- 3,35,443 boys and 2,62,512 girls -- passed.

Pass rate for boys is 60.85 and girls is 55.47 against 64.27 and 59.75 last year.

The results of SSC exams under seven secondary and higher secondary educational boards -- Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Comilla, Jessore, Barisal, Sylhet as well as SSC (Vocational) exams under Technical Education Board (BTEB) and Dakhil exams under Madrasah Education Board were published yesterday.

The examinations began on March 8 and ended in the first week of April 2007. Only 330 examinees secured GPA-5 in 2002 when the GPA system of grading was introduced at secondary level for the first time.

Like the previous years, schools in urban areas, particularly those in metropolitan cities, dominated in securing GPA5 this year.

Among the top ten GPA5 securing schools, nine are in the capital under Dhaka Education Board, six in Chittagong sadar under Chittagong Board, seven in Comilla sadar under Comilla Board, ten in Khulna, Jessore, Kushtia sadars under Jessore Board and six in Sylhet sadar under Sylhet Board.

A highest of 564 students from Viqarunnisa Noon School secured GPA 5 followed by Ideal School and College with 527 GPA 5 receivers. Monipur High School in Mirpur succeeded getting 314 GPA5s.

Double Mooring Collegiate School in Chittagong bagged 265 GPA-5s while Khastagir Govt Girls High School 197.

A total of 255 students from Comilla Zila School secured GPA 5 under Comilla Board while Faizunnessa Govt Girls High School received 129 GPA5s.

No examinees passed the exams from 248 educational institutions across the country. In 2006, the number of such institutions with zero pass rate was 193 while 424 in 2005 and 548 in 2004.

The results of SSC, SSC (Vocational) and Dakhil examinations under all the nine education boards were made public yesterday at 3:00 pm in a press conference at Dhaka Education Board.

At the conference, M Mamtazul Islam, the education secretary, said the percentage of successful students slightly went down this year due to last year's over a month-long strike observed by teachers and staff of non-government schools.

He added that as per a government

### Ex-minister Zia

**FROM PAGE 16** After the ACC Rules 2007, the commission gave them another seven working days to submit their wealth statements.

In his statement received by ACC Secretary Delwar Hossain through his representative, the former state minister stated that he and his three family members own a six-storied building in Banani worth Tk 1.57 crore, a filling station of Tk 1.82 crore and fixed deposits of Tk 2.25 crore.

Ziaul Haque stated that he has a loan of Tk 31 lakh.

# Babar, Mamun

**FROM PAGE 16** In the forwarding report, the investigation officer (IO) said he gathered important information about Babar's illegal firearms and ammunition.

The information derived from Babar is being verified and he needs to be confined in the jail custody until the investigation completes, the IO added.

Opposing the prosecution plea, Babar's defence lawyer Advocate Sanaullah Miah told the court that his client denied the news items published in different national dailies about his given statements to the Joint Interrogation Cell and said these were false, fabricated and concocted.

Moreover, the seized items for which the case was filed were false, the lawyer added.

Meantime, Babar broke down in tears in the dock after seeing his wife and sister. The two asked him to keep patience.

The former state minister was earlier remanded for eight days-- four days under Emergency Power Rules and four days in the arms case. He was arrested in the third round of government crackdown on high profile graft suspects on May 28.

The joint forces also recovered a shotgun, a rifle, a pistol, a Brazil-made revolver, two magazines and 297 bullets from his (Babar) Gulshan residence.

#### MAMUN CASE

Detained controversial businessman Mamun was sent to jail after completion of five-day remand in connection with an extortion case filed with Gulshan Police Station on May 31.

Gulshan police produced Mamun before the court and placed a forwarding report saying that Mamun gave important information about the extortion. He needs to be

ment directive, for the first time this year, the HSC (Higher Secondary Certificate) exam results will be published by the education ministry without first having those sent to the prime minister's office.

In this year's SSC exams, 2,29,263 examinees appeared under Dhaka Board, 2,10,866 under Rajshahi Board, 89,803 under Comilla Board, 1,16,812 under Jessore Board, 61,961 under Chittagong Board, 51,158 under Barisal Board, and 32, 302 under Sylhet Board.

The Jessore Education Board achieved the highest pass percentage of 60.87 trailed by Dhaka with 60.81, Rajshahi 59.18, Chittagong 57.94, Barisal 50.67, Sylhet 41.27 and Comilla 46.83 percent.

Madrasa Education Board achieved a pass rate of 65.87 percent against last year's 75.81 percent and Technical Education Board achieved 51.08 percent pass rate against its rate of 61.37 last year.

## GPA-5 holders

**FROM PAGE 1** year, while the number was 6,910 in Rajshahi, 2,387 in Comilla, 2,329 in Jessore, 3,313 in Chittagong and 713 in Barisal.

The number of highest GPA holders increased in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Jessore and Sylhet boards, while the number of top GPA holders declined in Comilla, Chittagong and Barisal boards.

Number of top GPA 5 holders saw a sharp increase of 85.19 percent in Sylhet education board while the rise in Dhaka was 13.06 percent, in Rajshahi 5.15 and in Jessore 15.69 percent. The number of top GPA 5 holders however shrunk by 8.92 percent in Comilla, 11.06 percent in Chittagong and 11.09 in Barisal boards.

In Madrasah Board, 6,889 students achieved GPA 5 this year while in Technical Education Board the number was only 25. In 2005, 6,086 madrasa students obtained GPA 5 and only 20 students from vocational schools obtained the highest grade.

The same year, the number of highest GPA achievers was 17,294 while it was 9,886 in 2004.

According to the grading system introduced in 2003, the GPA 5 holders, popularly known as "A+" holders, have to obtain marks above the 80th percentile.

### Hasina

**FROM PAGE 1** constituency in Dhaka in 2001.

Giving details, Noor Ali said he gave Hasina Tk 1 crore in cash. Of the three flats he gave AL leader Sheikh Helal, one was registered in the name of his brother-in-law.

According to sources, Noor Ali also told the interrogators that an application was sent to Rajuk seeking registration of the rest two flats at Unique Prominent on Dutabash Road in Baridhara in the name of Helal's wife.

Hasina wanted 5,388 square feet floor space at UTC building for the IT office of Joy. But it was registered in the name of now detained AL presidium member Kazi Zafarullah, sources said quoting Noor Ali.

Although Zafarullah did not pay a single taka for it, he took a receipt from Noor Ali that he paid him Tk 81 lakh.

Former chairman of Baira Noor Ali also told the joint forces that he received \$ 4 million commission in the MIG- 29 purchase deal in two instalments in 2005, according to sources.

confined in jail custody until the investigation completes, police added.

Selim Prodhon, chairman of Japan Bangladesh Group, filed the case on May 31 accusing Mamun and two of his associates for extorting Tk 8.4 crore from him at different dates between December 8, 2001 and December 20, 2006.

The two other accused-- Rajib Siraj Apu and Kawsar Zaman Bappi-- have been absconding.

Mamun had earlier been remanded for 50 days in different cases.

#### SALMAN CASE

New Market police yesterday submitted charge sheets to the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate in connection with two cheating cases filed against Salman F Rahman and his brother Ahmed Sohel Fashiur Rhaman.

Of them, Salman is now jail custody while his brother is still at large. The investigation officers (IOs) prayed for issuance of arrest warrant against Fashiur Rahman.

The cases were filed on March 19 with New Market Police Station against Salman and his brother for cheating with two people in buying two plots from their Sun City Project.

### Kuwait

**FROM PAGE 16**

of last year without showing any reason. Manpower agencies said a section of Bangladeshi workers there are involved in illegal visa trade, forging of work permits and even in immoral activities. All this might have prompted the Kuwaiti authorities to go for such a step.

Bangladesh sent 475,030 workers to Kuwait since 1976.

## Italian police recover ancient temple

AP, Rome

Italian police have recovered an ancient Greek temple dug up in southern Italy by a construction crew who had dumped or looted the prized artifacts and begun to pour cement over the ruins, authorities said yesterday.

After receiving information about the discovery during construction work on a tourist resort on the coast of southern Calabria, police used helicopters to locate the site near the town of Crotona, said art squad officials from the Carabinieri paramilitary police.

More than 50 artifacts, including columns and mosaics, had been excavated from the site and used to decorate another hotel complex nearby, while other pieces had been placed in a dump to be reused as construction material.

When police located the site last week, workers were preparing to lay the foundations of the resort hotel on the remaining ruins, said Gen. Giovanni Nistri, the head of the art squad.

"It would have been the final tombstone for this temple," Nistri told a news conference in Rome.

Police identified two suspects for possible prosecution for failing to alert authorities about the find, damaging the site and for illegal possession of archaeological artifacts, Nistri said. The two were not arrested.

Italy is full of archaeological treasures many undiscovered and developers are required to report any finds. Countless public and private works have been scrapped or delayed over the years as state archaeologists descended on building sites, and it is not uncommon for developers to fail to report a discovery and plow through ancient treasures.

In Rome, plans to build a third subway line have been delayed for decades, and in 1999, the construction of a parking garage caused outrage after workers sliced through a Roman villa during hurried preparations for the Holy Year celebrations and mosaics and ceramics from the ruins turned up in a garbage dump on Rome's outskirts.

The discovery of the Greek temple is of "extraordinary historic and artistic value" and experts believe it may be part of a larger ancient settlement, the Carabinieri said in a statement.

The ruins are "one big puzzle" for scholars, as the area was previously thought to be devoid of such important public buildings, said archaeological superintendent Giovanni Guzzo.

The temple mixes two styles of Greek architecture, combining the austere Doric with the more graceful decorations of Ionic. It was probably built between the fourth and third centuries B.C. by the Bruzi, an Italic population that lived under Hellenistic influence, which at the time extended across southern Italy, Guzzo said.

### Daily Dinkal

**FROM PAGE 1** According to UNB, the other accused in the case are Tarique's business partner Giasuddin Al Mamun, Sheikh Razzak Ali, Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder (already died), Barrister Nazmul Huda, Major (retd) MA Mannan, Manjurul Ahsan Munshi, Fazlul Azim, Nurul Amin Talukder (already died), Ali Asgar Lobi, Rokonuddin Molla and Akim Mosharraf Hossain.

Metropolitan Magistrate Abdullahih Baki accepted the case and summoned all of them to appear before the court on July 16 in person.

Court sources said the complainant alleged that the political big shots were the directors of Daily Dinkal Limited that is registered with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies. But, he alleged they "haven't submitted service return for the last several years".

Earlier on June 5, Khaleda Zia, Tarique Rahman, Jamaat chief Matiur Rahman Nizami and 25 others were charged with the August 21 grenade attacks on an Awami League (AL) rally in the capital about three years ago. Badar Aziz Uddin of Cox's Bazar, a victim of the grenade attacks, filed the case with the CMM Court, Dhaka.

### Private credit dips

**FROM PAGE 1** bank, National Board of Revenue and Anti-Corruption Commission.

They also urged the governor to place the issue before the government high-ups immediately.

During the meeting, the governor urged the high bank officials to increase credit flow in different thrust sectors including agriculture and garment, sources said.

According to Bangladesh Bank statistics, private banks disbursed 2.9 percent of the total loans in agriculture only whereas the nationalised commercial banks disbursed the rest.

The private banks' contribution was 9.79 percent in disbursing loans for livestock, fisheries and forestry sectors.

The chief executives of the private banks have assured the central bank of disbursing some seasonal loans to the agriculture sector, sources said.

The governor also urged the bankers to simplify the import procedure so that importers of essential commodities can import goods quickly.

The meeting also discussed several issues including recovery of bad loans and increasing use of banking instruments to prevent forgery.

Deputy governors Nazrul Huda and Ziaul Hasan Siddiqui were also present.

# 7 Afghan cops killed