

### EU offers reactors, fuel to Iran

AFP, Vienna  
The EU is calling on world powers to help Iran's nuclear and other industries if Tehran stops enriching uranium but wants Russia and China to join in sanctions, including an arms embargo, if Iran does not, according to a copy of a draft proposal seen by AFP Friday.

The proposal by the trio of Britain, France and Germany says world powers should support Iran's building several light water reactors, set up a nuclear fuel bank and even have the United States drop restrictions on Iran's buying US commercial airplanes, if Iran takes steps to guarantee it will not make nuclear weapons.

But if Tehran does not do this, sanctions should follow including an arms embargo, in an escalating international standoff over an Iranian civilian nuclear power programme which the United States claims hides the development of atomic weapons.

An arms embargo "would have a significant impact on Russian and Chinese arms sales to Iran," non-proliferation analyst Gary Samore said, referring to the two nations extensive trade ties with their Iranian ally.

"The question mark is whether the Russian and Chinese will sign up to the sanctions part," said Samore, a former White House official now at the McArthur Foundation in Chicago.

The four-page draft text, to be  
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### SHYAMPUR DOUBLE MURDER 3 suspects held, AL blames BNP men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people were arrested on suspicion of involvement in the killing of two Awami League (AL) activists on Friday night at city's Shyampur area.

Police arrested Mizanur Rahman, Tajul Islam and Mohammad Shukur Ali from different places of Shyampur in the early hours of yesterday, duty officer of Shyampur Police Station said.

Mohammad Kalu Mia, a member of Swechhasebok League and Mohammad Jamal Hossain Kajal, a local leader of Jubo League, were shot dead on Friday night at Shyampur. Both of them worked at a local re-rolling mill.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mahbubur Rahman, deputy commissioner (DC-East) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), said: "As far as police know, the double murder might have been taken place following an internal feud...We are investigating the matter."

But, opposition AL alleged that  
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# Shopping malls lack adequate safety steps

### Architecture students observe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Architecture students of postgraduate level at a seminar yesterday expressed deep concern over buildings and shopping complexes in the city saying that most of these run high risks of collapse in case of earthquakes, and are vulnerable due to lack of adequate safety and security measures in case of fires.

Department of Architecture of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) and The Daily Star jointly organised the seminar on 'Safety and Security in Buildings of Dhaka' at the auditorium of Civil Building of Buet.

Citing examples of building collapses in the old part of the

capital, Savar, and Tejgaon, the architects said faulty design and construction, lack of expertise in testing soil, erecting buildings on filled up low lands, and using residential buildings as factories are major causes behind the high risks.

They called for proper monitoring at every stage of constructing buildings, strict observance of the building codes, moral obligations of the architects and engineers to help the building owners maintain codes, keeping in place adequate amount of rescue equipment and creating massive awareness on these issues.

Presenting his paper on earthquake analysis on Dhaka, Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury said some very

important areas, including the Zia International Airport and Bangladesh Television, are under threat of earthquakes.

"Buildings in these areas will collapse if earthquake occurs anytime in the city," he said, adding that a good number of buildings of the city are standing on the land prepared through filling those up, which have high risks of collapse even during small and medium level earthquakes.

The rest of the low land in the city is also likely to be filled up and occupied by future buildings, he said, urging all to be aware of such buildings on the newly filled up low

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### Maniac mother

UNB, Comilla

A mother sacrificed her beloved son to satisfy the wish of a Pir only for securing peace and plenty in her temporal life.

The horrendous act of bigotry was committed yesterday morning at Nagarpur village in Muradnagar upazila by the wife of a man who is doing job abroad for the well-being of his family—wife and three children.

Police and local people said Amena, wife of expatriate Shyam Miah, slaughtered her two-year-old son Mamun in compliance with an edict she got from her Pir in dream on Friday night.

Amena, said to be a disciple of Kala Shaheed Pir of Akhaura in Brahmanbaria district, went to her sister-in-law's house at Nagarpur from Kulubari on Friday along with her son Mamun.

On that night, she dreamt of her religious guru telling her to sacrifice one of her children for leading a 'peaceful and happy life'.

"Amena slit the throat of her son at about 8:00am and sat in front of the body-unmoved by the harrowing scene," says a firsthand account of the tragedy.

"She didn't seem insane," police said, when contacted.

Informed by Amena's sister-in-law, police rushed to the spot and arrested the killer mother.

Amena reportedly confessed to killing her son. "My son was martyred like Hasan and Hussain," she was quoted as telling the policemen during interrogation.

Body of the slaughtered boy was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

### INDO-BANGLA RIVERS Water ministers to exchange trips next month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Water resources ministers of Bangladesh and India will visit each other's country next month with a view to solving the problems related to the trans-border rivers.

Hafizuddin Ahmed, Bangladesh Minister for Water Resources, and his Indian counterpart Prof Saif-ud-Din Soz will visit the river areas on the borders of the two countries on June 5 and 8, respectively.

Following the visits, the two ministers will sit together in Dhaka to discuss all water-related problems between the two neighbouring countries and find a way to solve them, Hafizuddin told the BBC Bangla Service last night.

The visits are taking place as per a decision taken at the last Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) conference in Dhaka at the end of 2005.



PHOTO: STAR

Professor Ameer Ali Chowdhury speaks at the regional dialogue on "National Elections 2007: Civil Society Initiative for Accountable Development" in Comilla yesterday.

# Iraq forms govt at last

### Security posts unfilled, 26 people killed in violence

AFP, Baghdad

Iraq yesterday formed its first full term post-invasion government, a unity coalition aimed at uniting a country torn by sectarian bloodshed but still lacking permanent ministers in key security posts.

The cabinet of 37 ministers was approved at a session of parliament after being presented by prime minister designate Nuri al-Maliki. Maliki will be officially confirmed in his post once the chamber approves his national plan.

But underlining the pervasive threat of violence, 26 people were

killed violence across the country, including 19 who lost their lives in a bomb blast in Baghdad just hours ahead of the announcement.

The blast hit the Shiite-dominated district of Sadr City, also wounding 58 workers at a food stall where they had gathered for breakfast, the interior ministry said.

Maliki announced the government's formation more than five months after the general election, a wait that had raised concerns a power vacuum was allowing insurgents to seize the initiative.

However his new government lacked permanent appointments for

the ultra-sensitive posts of interior and defence minister after fierce lobbying from Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish factions forced further negotiations.

In the meantime, Maliki will run the interior ministry while Sunni deputy prime minister designate Salam al-Zaubai will run the defence ministry for the next week.

Zaubai was also named a deputy prime minister along with the Kurd Barham Saleh, who also becomes acting minister of state security.

The security portfolios are  
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# Pakistan to propose relaxed visa regime

### Saarc tourism ministers meet in Cox's Bazar today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pakistan is going to propose during the Saarc tourism ministers' meeting in Cox's Bazar today introduction of "group visa" in the seven Saarc countries as a step towards relaxing the visa regime to increase interaction among their people.

"We should have group visas," said Pakistan Federal Minister for Tourism Nilofar Bakhtiar, who flew in yesterday to join the 2nd Saarc Tourism Ministers' Meeting. Pakistan will propose visas for

groups of tourists travelling through tour operators, she said at a press conference at the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the conference at Hotel Seagull today. Besides discussing ways to encourage private sector participation in advancing tourism infrastructures in the region and develop the region as a common tourism centre, the meeting will take decisions on setting up air-links among the capitals of Saarc

# Turkish road crash toll rises to 44

AFP, Ankara

The death toll from a road accident in southern Turkey has reached 44, most of the victims believed to be illegal immigrants from Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

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Prayer Timing		
May 21		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-40	6-45
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



PHOTO: STAR

With a sudden surge in diarrhoea cases in the capital, many patients lie on camp beds at the makeshift extension of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases and Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) yesterday.

