

## AU summit seeks to ease Darfur, Somali tensions

AFP, Banjul

African leaders were expected yesterday to agree steps aimed at easing tensions in the Darfur region of Sudan, where civil war has claimed 300,000 lives, and in strife-torn Somalia.

Diplomatic sources said a Saturday session addressed prospects for future African political integration and a charter for African democracy, main themes of the weekend meeting in Banjul, capital of the west African state of Gambia.

The proposed charter would ban attempts to change member-states' constitutions so as to extend the terms in office of African presidents.

But the sources said the project had been postponed because of the strong opposition of some presidents attending here.

Predicting that outcome recently, South African Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma publicly deplored the refusal of certain countries to adopt what he said would be a charter that would complicate efforts by unpopular presidents to remain in power.

Addressing the summit Saturday, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan expressed concern to his fellow Africans at conflicts still raging on the continent and at suppression of press freedom in some African countries.

"The conflicts in Darfur, Ivory Coast, Somalia and northern Uganda continue to outrun efforts for a solution," he said.

On Saturday, a top AU official told the more than 50 African leaders they must pay more urgent attention to crises in Sudan and elsewhere.

"We are being summoned urgently to look at the crises in Sudan, Darfur and Somalia," said Alpha Omar Konare, chairman of the AU commission.

## It's now World

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sad football," said the online version of Lance sports daily.

The only dark cloud hanging over France's win was the violence that broke out in Paris as celebrations turned violent on the French capital's renowned Champs-Elysees.

Police fired teargas at bottle-hurling youths and some revellers were injured after being hit by flying bottles.

England meanwhile was plunged into a doom it has experienced so often as its hopes vanished in a penalty shootout, just as they had in five of the last eight tournaments.

The British press shed no tears over the last game of coach Sven-Goran Eriksson's five-year reign, blaming the Swede for a lack of adventurous tactics and poor squad selection which it said snuffed out England's best chance of winning a World Cup since its only triumph in 1966.

"He leaves his post today, taking with him the king's ransom that was his reward for five years of mediocrity," said the News of the World tabloid.

Most commentators said Wayne Rooney provoked his team's exit by getting sent off for standing on the groin of Portuguese player Ricardo Carvalho, but David Beckham limping off with an injury in the second half also hit England's hopes.

Ten men hung on but Frank Lampard, Steven Gerrard and Jamie Carragher all had spot-kicks saved by Portugal 'keeper Ricardo Cristiano Ronaldo — a teammate of Rooney at Manchester United — converted the decisive penalty.

Victory was sweet for Portugal's charismatic coach Luiz Felipe Scolari, who had masterminded victories over England at both the 2002 World Cup, when he was in charge of Brazil, and at Euro 2004 with Portugal.

Meanwhile, Germany was gearing up for a huge party on Tuesday when Jurgen Klinsmann's exciting young side will come up against the Italians, whose own success has come against the backdrop of a match-fixing scandal at home.

The Fan Mile in Berlin was being extended to allow up to a million fans to follow the action from Dortmund on big screens.

## Paban

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Moving the bail petition yesterday, Paban's lawyers argued that their client was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him and since Robin did not mention him as a leader of any carjacking ring, he should be granted bail.

The council is acting as if it is parallel with the central bank, observed the officials. Although there are a number of banks in the country which operate on Islamic principles, there has not been a standard guideline for Islamic banking and that is why the central bank took the initiative to frame the new guidelines.

Some officials of the banks that are operated on the basis of Islamic principles said the Shariah Council often interferes with a bank's day to day business. It even insists on seeing internal circulars of a bank.

The prosecution told the court that Paban was directly involved with carjacking and Robin's confessional statement proves it.

A Detective Branch (DB) team captured Paban on Bailey Road with a stolen Toyota Premio on June 7.

Three criminals in Motijheel hijacked the vehicle at gunpoint on October 13 last year.

DB produced Paban before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court on June 8. The court then ordered to send him to jail rejecting the bail prayer.

The same court placed Robin on a four-day remand against the prayer of a 10-day one.

## AL walks out

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actions. "The police officer was killed when hit by stones thrown by them (opposition activists)," he said.

"The leader of the opposition should understand that her instigation can create a dangerous situation in the country. I urge the leader of the opposition to withdraw her directives," Babar said amid protests by the AL lawmakers.

The Helmand police chief said earlier that 12 Taliban were killed in fighting that erupted in Sangin late Saturday after rebels attacked Afghan police and army and coalition troops.

It was not immediately clear if this was the same battle in which the British soldiers and the interpreter lost their lives but a coalition spokesman said it "probably" was.

"Twelve Taliban bodies were left at the site after two hours of fighting with joint forces," Khalid told AFP.

The British deployment to Helmand, one of the most restive provinces in the country, is intended to help the government extend its authority and bring Taliban-linked rebels and drug-lords under control.

The province is a focus of Mountain Thrust, which includes forces from Afghanistan, Canada, Britain and the United States and has resulted in the killing of hundreds of rebels since it

use tinted glasses in most cases. We usually try to overlook them because the owners of those vehicles are very powerful," said a traffic sergeant while talking to The Daily Star.

"The government is pushing the opposition towards confrontation by attacking every programme (of the opposition)," AL lawmaker Mohammad Nasim said.

Responding to the AL lawmakers, BNP lawmaker KM Obaidur Rahman also speaking on a point of order blamed the opposition for enforcing unconstitutional programmes like blockade. "The government will be strict in future if anyone attempts to create anarchy in the name of movement," he warned.

## UAE withdraws

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The Ambassador took up the matter with UAE interior minister. The UAE minister reviewed the case and decided to withdraw the deportation order.

The news came as a relief for the parents of the boy as well as the Bangladesh community in the UAE, said the foreign ministry release.

## Islamic banking

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the Shariah Council.

"If the Bangladesh Bank refrains from circulating the [focus group recommended] guidelines under pressure from some higher authority, the forces opposing the alliance government might take an initiative to implement the guidelines during the caretaker government's regime. That could create a negative impact on the alliance government during the next election," the report pointed out.

The central bank in February finalised the new guidelines for Islamic banking that makes the provision for Shariah Council optional. The guidelines also allow banks to decide whether they want to be a member of the Shariah Council.

According to the new guidelines, a bank may form a sharia supervisory body to monitor its Islamic banking services but the board of directors of that bank will be accountable to the central bank for its overall operation.

Presently, banks have their own sharia councils and there has been a central sharia council to look into whether Islamic banking as a whole is in compliance with the Islamic principles.

The central bank could not issue a circular with its guidelines due to last minute pressure from different Islamic groups including a certain partner in the ruling alliance as well as Bangladesh Sharia Council (IBSC) and others.

Before scripting the guidelines, BB formed a focus group comprising Shariah Council members and representatives from different Islamic banks. Shariah Council members in the meetings of the focus group recommended making Shariah Council mandatory to keep exerting their influence like before. However when the central bank framed the final guidelines it did not accommodate the council's recommendations.

As per the proposed guidelines, commercial banks will have to maintain separate accounts for their Islamic banking services at the branches where such services are provided and they also have to maintain separate statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) and cash reserve requirement (CRR) with the central bank for such services.

At the same time, the central bank also finalised the guidelines for new Islamic banks in the country. In case of a new Islamic bank, the sponsors will have to offload 50 percent of the bank's shares and sponsor directors will not be allowed to own shares worth more than Tk 2.5 crore.

Currently, there is no separate guideline for Islamic banking in the country. The central bank, for the first time, formulated the guidelines for new Islamic banks and for the banks already providing Islamic banking services at some of their branches.

Some officials of the banks that are operated on the basis of Islamic principles said the Shariah Council often interferes with a bank's day to day business. It even insists on seeing internal circulars of a bank.

The council is acting as if it is parallel with the central bank, observed the officials. Although there are a number of banks in the country which operate on Islamic principles, there has not been a standard guideline for Islamic banking and that is why the central bank took the initiative to frame the new guidelines.

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The Bangladesh Bank as the regulatory body often consults with stakeholders while framing policy guidelines, but it is in no way obligated to accommodate any view or recommendation put forward by any of the stakeholders. But surprisingly, DGI in its report explicitly suggested that the central bank incorporates the focus group's recommendations in the guidelines.

"The Bangladesh Bank, after failing to bring changes into the focus group recommended guidelines in the face of opposition from most of the focus group members, took steps to circulate the guideline prepared by itself, after changing two important sections of the recommendations," the report pointed out.

The six commercial banks presently providing Islamic banking services in the country are Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd, Al-Arafah Bank, Social Investment Bank Ltd, Exim Bank Ltd, Oriental Bank Ltd and Shahjalal Islami Bank Ltd. Some other banks also provide Islamic banking services in some of their branches.

According to the central bank proposed guidelines, a commercial bank may form a separate company with Tk 100 crore paid up capital for providing Islamic banking services. The subsidiary company will need to offload 49 percent of its share while the parent company may own the remaining 51 percent.

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## 14-party

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The AL will also bring out mourning processions across the country at 4:00pm today in remembrance of Golam Mostafa Milon, allegedly killed in police excess yesterday.

The namaj-e-janaja of Golam Mostafa will be held at 12:00pm today in front of the AL Central Office at Bangabandhu Avenue. The 14-party leaders and activists will bring out a mourning procession from Muktangan and head to the Central Shaheed Minar.

The four-party alliance government has become hostile, as it has realised that it would not be able to hold on to power for much long. "That is why they have started killing people," Hasina said alleging that the ruling party's hired goons killed Sub-inspector Abul Bashar yesterday.

Condemning the killings of Bashar and Milon, she said a police personnel had to die just to keep a corrupt family in power.

"They [the ruling parties] have been looting people's money over the years and now they are killing people so that no one can protest against them," said Hasina.

Urging people to be aware about the activities of the government, Hasina said, "The more they kill, the more people there will be protesting against them."

"The government has no other options and it has to accept the 14-party's reform proposal or resign," she said. The people of the country have been suffering a lot due to the price hike of essentials and insecurity of life and property, and terrorism, Hasina added.

## SL president's

FROM PAGE 1  
invitation from the Bangladesh government.

A foreign ministry source in Dhaka said the visit would be rescheduled later.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Navy chief Rear Admiral M Hasan Ali Khan, arrived in Sri Lanka on Sunday on a visit at an invitation by the Sri Lanka Navy.

## 25 NRBS

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local and international organisations and inter-ministerial meetings in the last two years.

This is for the first time that the government is arranging extra facilities for the expatriates who have made significant contributions for keeping the country's macro economy stable by sending remittance, thus increasing the foreign reserve.

The 25 NRBS will avail themselves of all facilities and status like the CIP declared by the Ministry of Commerce for outstanding contribution in the field of business, sources said.

Among them, five will be awarded the CIP status for sending highest remittance in a year while ten each in two other categories for investing and importing Bangladeshi goods.

The CIP status will be given for one year and will be reviewed every year.

The government had earlier decided to issue remitter's card for sending big volume of remittance in a year. But the idea was abandoned as the finance ministry did not agree to the proposal, sources said.

Around five million Bangladeshis living abroad send over \$4.5 billion a year.

## Archeological

FROM PAGE 16  
prohibits collecting and selling any antique including terracotta objects. It prohibits collecting even the soil from an archaeological site.

The matter was reported to the higher authority but no initiative has yet been taken against the illegal business, the senior official added.

Some terracotta objects were lost from the Annik Temple at Putia a few months ago although the security guards were patrolling on the temple premises. The thieves were reported to have been using cell phones for informing the guards' movements, said the Archaeology Department regional director.

The probe committee formed after the theft is, however, yet to start investigation, said an official of the department.

Some miscreant groups are even engaged in digging different archaeological sites hoping to find antiques for their illegal business.

Meanwhile, Sirajganj police acted on a tip-off recovered a Vishnu statue in Bhagura upazila of Pabna district as it was going to be smuggled abroad. The Archaeology Department officials said the statue has not yet been handed over to it.

In another incident, the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recently recovered some old coins from Gokul area in Bogra.

Rajshahi police are yet to recover a statue stolen from an old temple in Taherpur in the district a few years ago.

Hundreds of archaeological sites, including the palace of Balihar king in Naogaon and the palace of Dinnath Roy in Dinajpur, are facing ruination due to a lack of proper maintenance, said an Archaeology Department official.

## Cop, activist killed

FROM PAGE 1  
the six-hour demonstration starting at 9:00am. The law enforcers charged batons, lobbed tear gas shells and fired rubber bullets to disperse the opposition activists who were throwing stones and brickbats at them, witnesses said.

Dozens of vehicles and a train were damaged as drivers tried to defy the blockades, snapping rail and road communication across the country.

The clashes between the police and opposition workers in Narayanganj, Sirajganj, Pabna, Kishoreganj and Sylhet left about 100 wounded.

In Dhaka, businessmen kept shutters down, educational institutions remained closed and the presence at public offices was thin. Only rickshaws and a few auto-rickshaws and minibuses plied the streets.

Authorities deployed more than 10,000 additional police and paramilitary troops in the capital and other cities.

A Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) source said they treated nearly 50 people injured in yesterday's clashes in the capital.

Besides electoral reforms, the opposition's demands include changes in the caretaker government system and resignation of the chief election commissioner (CEC) and the two election commissioners.

In Dhaka, clashes between the police and opposition activists took place mainly at Mirpur, Mohakhali, Russell Square and the old part of the city. The opposition activists damaged a number of vehicles and hurled brickbats at the law enforcers during the sporadic clashes.

Riot police and opposition demonstrators locked in a fierce battle for about four and a half hours at Murgapara intersection on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway in Narayanganj for 10:00am.

Thousands of demonstrators threw stones at the police, forcing them to retreat and taking control of the busy highway. Pickets set fire to about 10 vehicles.

Half an hour later, additional police forces from Kancharpur rushed to the area and engaged in violent clashes with the pickets.

SI Bashar died during the clashes. Following the death, the police started indiscriminately beating opposition men, local people and journalists.

Blockades on Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Sylhet highways created serious traffic congestion near Kancharpur Bridge and Meghna ghat areas.

Opposition leaders and activists led by AL leader Gazi Golam Dastagir brought out a procession at Rugganj in Narayanganj and took position at the Tarabo intersection around 10:00am.

As police chased the opposition activists, they pelted brickbats at the law enforcers. The clashes left at least 25 persons, including policemen and Dastagir, injured.

The police lobbed at least 50 rounds of tear shells and picked up a number of opposition activists.

**OPPOSITION ACTIVIST**

Golam Mustafa Milon, 45, was critically injured when police charged baton, fired tear gas canisters and rubber bullets to disperse the opposition workers in front of Titumeer College at 10:30am.

Milon died around 10:45am while being taken to a nearby clinic. As the news of his death spread, Mohakhali area turned into a battlefield. Agitating leaders and workers brought out a procession carrying his body at 12:10pm.

But as police intercepted the procession at Banani Road No. 8, clashes broke out between them and the demonstrators.

At one stage, the police took away the dead body and dispersed the procession, leaving some 15 opposition men injured. Later, the body was sent to DMCH for autopsy.

Milon's wife Rekha said her husband was first injured when a tear gas shell hit him. Later, the law enforcers tortured him to death in front of Titumeer College.

Mahabubur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Gulshan Police Station, said the opposition worker died of cardiac arrest.

Asand traced by profession, Milon hailed from Mathbaria of Pirojpur. He left behind his wife, three daughters and a son.

Earlier, opposition men led by AL Presidium Member Tofail Ahmed brought out a procession at about 10:00am in Mohakhali area. Soon processions led by Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, Samyabadi Dal leader Dilip Barua and Gono Forum leader Pankaj Bhattacharya joined them.

At least 25 people including AL leader Abdul Latif Siddique and a photojournalist were injured in sporadic clashes between the police and demonstrators in Mirpur area in the morning.

Mirpur-10 ward unit AL Treasurer Mohammad Mostafa was critically injured when a police van hit him around 11:45am. The vehicle was being chased by a group of demonstrators.

Mostafa is undergoing treatment at Orthopaedic Hospital (Pangu Hospital).

Latif Siddique and several others

were injured when police in riot gear barred a procession on Mazar Road around 10:30am and beat them indiscriminately.

Demonstrators threw stones at the police and chased them several times during the melee that ended around 12:30pm.

Locals said the police picked up an innocent shopkeeper during the clashes.

Workers of the 14-party opposition combine damaged at least eight passenger buses and other vehicles at Mirpur-10 and at Begum Rokeya Sarani after police had prevented them from taking out a procession.

At least 14 people were picked up from the area.

At Russell Square, opposition workers clashed with the police intermittently throughout the day while in Jurain pickets set fire to a police vehicle.

Our Sirajganj correspondent reports: At least 50 people, including District AL President Abdul Latif Mirza MP, police and journalists were injured in a clash between police and 14-party combine at Hati Kumrul on the Dhaka-Bogra Highway.