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Russia, NATO sign security deal

PARIS, May 27: The leaders of Russia and the NATO alliance signed the 'founding act' of a new partnership for security in Europe at a ceremony in Paris today, reports agencies.

The founding act of mutual relations is designed to bind Russia into efforts to create a new European security order and ease the 16-nation alliance's eastward expansion by admitting some of Moscow's former communist allies.

The presidents of Russia, United States and almost all the heads of state or government of NATO countries took part in the signing.

The pact is officially called the Founding Act of Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security between the Russian Federation and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The 18 leaders were seated at a large arc-shaped table in the ornate Salle des Fêtes in the Elysee Palace. It was the same room as used last year to sign Bosnia peace accords.

With their flags displayed on electronic video screens behind them, the men sat beneath eight huge, golden chandeliers in the red-and-gold room.

In his opening speech, French President Jacques Chirac said the agreement is a 'fundamental act in the new organization of Europe's security.'

"We will be turning the page on half a century of misunderstanding, of division, on our continent," Chirac said.

In a nod to concerns about Russia's commitment, President Clinton told reporters before the ceremonies that NATO expects to have 'a good partner in Russia.'



US President Bill Clinton (L) shakes hands with his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin as French President Jacques Chirac looks on yesterday at the Elysee Palace. — AFP/UNB photo

WB: Autonomy

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countability framework, rationalisation of workforce and injection of fresh and talented staff at managerial and professional levels, enhancing autonomy of the boards on all policy matters, and enhancing autonomy of management on all operational matters and holding them responsible.

The mission said if there is any lesson of history it is that excessive controls to establish accountability have failed. If anything, bankers have taken refuge behind government's excessive controls and directed lending to cover up their own negligence, moreover, fraud and negligence have undermined the operations of private banks.

The bank proposed a five-point programme to strengthen the NCBs and stem the impending crisis, including aggressive institutional renewal programme for Bangladesh Bank by giving its board full autonomy on monetary policy, bank supervision, salaries, recruitment and retirement, strengthening its enforcement, regulatory and supervision capabilities and disallowing challenges to Bangladesh Bank's actions in any court other than the Supreme Court.

The nationalised commercial banks (NCBs) should not be treated like other state-owned enterprises (SOEs). Fundamental reforms should be brought about in the NCBs. They need to be given full autonomy and responsibility to operate like financially sound institutions.

Other points of programme are strengthening legal framework, forcing better international governance in private and public banks and privatisation of restructured banking system, once improvements in governance and supervision are in place.

Deep tubewells

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(phase 1) is under implementation to produce 22.5 crore litre water daily. It is expected to be completed by the year 2002.

The LGED minister said the government is trying to undertake stage 2 of phase 1 of the project to produce another 22.5 crore litre water.

Besides, efforts are on to take up another project near China-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge over the Buriganga river to produce 22.5 crore litre water.

Zillur said the government is also planning to solve the sewerage and waterlogging problems in the city. He said the public health is under threat as 70-75 per cent people still remained out of the sewerage coverage.

The conference was addressed, among others, by LGED Secretary Hasnat Abdul Hye, WASA Managing Director Dr Azizul Haque and President of Diploma Engineers Association Alhaj Abdul Hamid.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam
Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Email: dstar@bangla.net

BNP wants guarantee of fair by-polls: Mannan Bhuiyan

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said a massive wave of popularity had been created in the country in favour of his party as its opponents got isolated, reports UNB.

"The forts of Jatiya Party have fallen... the Awami League has become isolated from the people... and BNP is getting an unprecedented popularity," he said.

The BNP leader was addressing a meeting at Saidpur in Nilphamari district on the concluding day of his four-day organisational tour of northern districts.

A large number of leaders and workers of the Jatiya Party and the Jubo Maitry, including a number of poura commissioners, joined the BNP at the function.

Welcoming the newcomers in the party, the BNP secretary general said there is no alternative to the BNP in protecting the country's independence, sovereignty and democracy.

"The government has lost its credibility through rigging the past by-elections... we want a guarantee of neutral election in the coming by-election," he said.

Cricket

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field with a bruised hand while attempting to catch Jayasuriya.

Saqin Mushtaq finished with four for 53 as the Sri Lankans were bowled out with two balls remaining in the innings.

Another off-spinner, Arshad Khan, playing his first match in the tournament after flying in on Saturday to reinforce the injury-hit Pakistanis, shared the new ball with Aaqib Javed.

Bowling his 10 overs at a stretch, the tall Arshad removed both openers Jayasuriya and Marvan Atapattu (29), but at a personal cost of 54 runs.

The openers put on 69 by the 10th over and by the time Jayasuriya was dismissed in the 12th over, the score had raced to 120.

City BNP meets today

An emergency meeting of the Dhaka City BNP will be held at 29 Minto Road official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament at 7 pm today, reports UNB.

City BNP Convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka MP has requested all members of the convening committee and ward commissioners belonging to the BNP to attend the meeting.

Share scam

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for the defendants pointing out that under the SEC Act there are provision for punishment of upto five years rigorous imprisonment. But there could not be any warrants of arrests against the accused from the CMM's court, which could only issue summons.

They further argued that the order of the CMM did not mention the offences committed by the accused. The CMM's court had no jurisdiction to accept the case, nor there is any summary of cognizance of offence or delegation of authority through gazette notification to the executive director of SEC.

Besides, the case petition did not contain any list of prosecution witnesses, without which the Magistrate cannot issue summons or warrants, they further argued.

Dr M Zahir, on behalf of the prosecution, countered the defence arguments saying that there could be questions on the warrants of arrests but not on the cognizance of the offences. Neither the revision petitions identify any causes for unfair justice.

Announce Wage Board Award immediately

The Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday demanded that the government immediately declare the Wage Board Award and take necessary steps for its implementation, reports BSS.

BFUJ President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and General Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, and acting president of DUJ Shubha Rahman and General Secretary Azizul Islam Bhuiyan in a joint statement said, unnecessary delay in declaring the Wage Board Award would foil the sincere attempt of the government.

They also demanded setting up a permanent Wage Board under the Newspaper Employees (Services of Conditions) Act 1974 and a special court for ensuring the implementation of Wage Board Award in newspapers and news agencies.

The leaders hoped that the government would ensure professional honour, rights and wages of the journalists and newspaper employees, raising the standard of the newspaper industries and declaring the Wage Board Award.

Announce Wage Board Award by May 30

Leaders of journalists' unions and press employees' associations urged the government to announce the 5th Wage Board Award by May 30 to avert the 24-hour strike scheduled for Saturday, reports UNB.

"No newspaper will be published on Sunday if the demand was not met by Friday," they told a rally in front of the Times-Bangla Trust Bhaban yesterday.

The Central Coordination Committee (CCC) of three federations of newspaper industry and DUJ organised the rally as part of its three-day action programme that began yesterday.

Chaired by Bangladesh Times Press Workers Union president Mozammel Huq, the rally was addressed, among others, by CCC leaders Amanullah Kabir, Mosharraf Hossain, Kamruzzaman Khan, Zahurul Huq, Bazlur Rahman Milon, Mahtabuddin Khan, Ruhul Amin Gazi, Golam Sarwar Azad and Mujibul Haq.

A similar rally of the newsmen and press employees will be held in front of the Ittefaq and Inqilab offices at 11 am today.

'50pc couples now use contraceptives'

Nearly 50 per cent couples now use some sort of contraceptive, a giant leap from 8 per cent in 1975, but concerns are creeping up whether the pace can be sustained in future, researchers say, reports UNB.

A study carried out by the Population Council and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) found that the contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) rose to almost half of all married couples in 1996-97.

During the same period, the total fertility rate was halved from 6.4 to 3.3, but needs to fall further to achieve replacement level fertility, about 68 per cent, according to the study presented at a seminar in the city yesterday.

To increase the CPR to the level needed to achieve the replacement fertility, the family planning programme should reach 22 million couples, double the current number.

This means more resources will be needed to sustain and strengthen the programme in the next decade, says the study, titled 'Increasing the Financial Sustainability of Family Planning Service Delivery in Bangladesh'.

But, there is a growing concern that the resources available to fund the programme will be increasingly inadequate to cover its cost.

Examining the feasibility of financial sustainability of the programme by reducing its net cost, the researchers suggested modification of the service delivery system and generation of revenue from home delivery.

After studying 2,590 contraceptive users both in rural and urban areas, they found that clients of oral contraceptives are willing to share the costs of services.

Some clients expressed willingness to pay for services at home while others would prefer to receive the same at a clinic for less, says the study report, prepared by Kim Streathfield, Sayyid Kabir and Naushad Faiz of Population Council, Kanta Jamil of USAID and Barbara Janowitz of Family Health International.

Hostess Trolley

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Let's make things better.
PHILIPS

Motherhood Day

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In Bangladesh, three women die every hour of complications due to pregnancy and childbirth. Maternal mortality is considered an indicator of the overall status of the women in a nation.

The government has committed adequate resources to support the provision of service that are essential to prevent maternal deaths, the prime minister said.

She appealed to all agencies and development partners to support the government focusing their effort and allocating resources on reducing maternal mortality and enhancing the status of women.

The Prime Minister said the government would strive to make facilities and health services 'woman friendly' so that the privacy and dignity of a woman seeking service is preserved.

"We will also address and commit ourselves to removing all violence against women ranging from denial of adequate care to physical abuse. We also make the commitment to monitor closely the situation and follow up on actions undertaken," she said in the declaration.

5 JU teachers dismissed

By JU Correspondent

Five teachers of Jahangirnagar University (JU), who went abroad for higher education, have lost their jobs recently for not returning within the specified period, administrative sources said.

The teachers who were dismissed belong to the Departments of Pharmacy, Botany, BBA and English.

Formalities are on to dismiss three more teachers for the same reason, the sources added.

At least 70 JU teachers are now abroad for higher education.

4 joint secys transferred

By Staff Correspondent

Four Joint Secretaries have been transferred, according to an order of the Establishment Ministry on May 24.

Azizur Rahman of the Ministry of Health goes to the Ministry of Jute. He has been replaced by Abdul Kayyum Thakur of the Planning Division.

Mohammed Hossain Serinabat, posted recently at the Finance Ministry, has been transferred to the Planning Ministry. He has been replaced by S M Matur Rahman, who had been an OSD at the Establishment Ministry.

Power & water

From Page 1

water supply.

Sources in the Power Development Board (PDB) said it will not be possible to fully restore power in the city and its surrounding areas till completion of repair works on the damaged sections of the power lines.

An official of PDB told The Daily Star that more time would be required to complete the repair work on the damaged towers, poles and lines. He claimed that since Sunday, the situation has improved in the city. But the supply in its adjoining areas could not be restored fully, he added.

He said in greater Chittagong, 240 MW electricity was supplied Sunday against a demand for 300 MW. Power is coming from the second unit of Raozan power plant and Kaptai hydro-electric station. The first unit of Raozan was kept inoperative to run the second unit on trial basis, the official said.

18 projects

From Page 1

ing expenditure.

The ECNEC also decided to give priority to implementation of projects which have already been taken by different ministries under ADP in cycloic affected areas.

Addressing the meeting, the prime minister said more 2000 cyclone shelters would be constructed in coastal areas. She gave directives to authorities concerned to take necessary measures for mobilising foreign aid for the purpose.

Pvt EPZs

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The meeting also decided that the an 'executive cell' would be set up under the Governing Board on private sector EPZ. Initially, the cell would be formed with 36 people, including eight first class gazetted officers.

The organisational structure of the cell has already got approval from the Establishment Ministry and it is now under consideration of the Finance Ministry, the sources said. The expenditure for the cell will be met from its earnings.

Errata

In our two stories titled "BNP's conditions for participating in by-polls" and "BNP, Jamaat unlikely to join by-polls", published yesterday, the name of BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan was mentioned instead of BNP MP and former State Minister for Civil Aviation Abdul Mannan. We regret the error.

NOTICE
A discussion meeting on privatisation of state owned enterprises will be held on May 29, 1997 at 11-00 a.m. in the Conference Center of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), 60, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka. Mr. Kazi Zafrullah Chairman, (State Minister) Bangladesh Privatisation Board will be present and all informations relating to the projects under privatisation will be given at the meeting.
Interested buyers of such projects are requested to attend.
Secretary General
FBCCI

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
কর কমিশনারের কার্যালয়
কেন্দ্রীয় জরীপ অঞ্চল, বাংলাদেশ, ঢাকা
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আয়কর জরীপ সংক্রান্ত বিশেষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের নির্দেশক্রমে কর বিভাগের কেন্দ্রীয় জরীপ অঞ্চল, বাংলাদেশ, ঢাকা কর্তৃক আধিকার ভিত্তিতে (Survey) চতুর্থ, খুলনা এবং রাজশাহী সিটি কর্পোরেশন এলাকায় ০৩-০৫-৯৭ইং হইতে অভ্যন্তরীণ জরীপ (Internal Survey) কার্যক্রম পরিচালিত হইতেছে। অভ্যন্তরীণ জরীপে সাধারণভাবে গ্রাহমিক তথ্যের উৎস হিসাবে বিভিন্ন সরকারী, আধাসরকারী, স্বায়ত্তশাসিত এবং বেসরকারী সংস্থা/প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে নতুন করদাতা চিহ্নিতকরণ এবং পুরাতন করদাতাদের সম্পর্কে জরীপ দল তথ্য সংগ্রহ করিবে। জরীপ কার্যক্রম চলাকালীন সময়ে জরীপ দলের প্রত্যেক সদস্য নিজ নিজ পরিচয়পত্র সঙ্গে রাখিবেন এবং প্রয়োজনে তাহা প্রদর্শন করিবেন।
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