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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, report agencies.

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

WB: Autonomy

From Page 1
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 impeding crisis, including aggressive institutional renewal programme for Bangladesh Bank by giving its board full autonomy on monetary policy, bank supervision, salaries, recruitment and retrenchment, 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

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

The LGRD 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 LGRD Secretary Hasnat Abdul Hye, WASA Managing Director Dr Azizul Haque and President of Diploma Engineers Association Alhaj Abdul Hamid.

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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

DSE councillors

From Page 1
cent circuit breaker on fluctuation of share prices. The SEC officials said that they had been watching the situation and would consider the proposal in the near future, meeting sources said.

SEC Chairman Dr Harunur Rashid presided over the meeting while Abdul Huq Howlader, the new chairman, led the DSE councillors including former chairman Imtiyaz Hossain.

Abdul Huq Howlader told The Daily Star last night that the main objective of the meeting was to introduce the new committee of the DSE councillors with the SEC officials.

He said the meeting held threadbare discussion on different issues related with various reform measures in the country's premier bourse.

The meeting also discussed the issues of separation of the DSE management from its council, progress of computerisation and the automation process in DSE trading system.

It also focused on some decisions taken by the SEC to bring about transparency in the country's capital market.

Imtiyaz Hossain joined the meeting as he is still a member of DSE Council, Howlader said.

Ctg port

From Page 1
clone and the roots were blown off by the speedy wind.

Port sources said if the sheds are not repaired on an urgent basis the goods lying stockpiled might be damaged by the heavy downpour continuing for the past few days. The port city also experienced heavy downpour from this morning.

The damaged shed No 16 has huge quantities of auctionable cargo including chemicals, dates, clothes and motor cycles in CKD condition while the other sheds also have export goods and import cargo.

The shore-crane which was damaged at the port jetty by the cyclone, is still lying on the same place.

Talking to this correspondent, Chairman of the Chittagong Port Authority Captain Zahuruddin Mahmud said, 'we have embarked on the rehabilitation work to reset everything which suffered damage by the cyclone. It may not take much time to complete the repair works.'

He said that some of the work at the sheds were required to be done through tenders. He informed that port operation remained the day after the cyclone.

Mahmud said the cyclone left a property damage worth Tk 10 crore at Chittagong port. But it is less than that of the 1991 cyclone when the damages were estimated at Tk 300 crore.

He observed that plans should be taken up to modernise the existing structures of the port, built long ago, to cope with any future disasters like tidal surge and cyclone.

The CAAB probe body also recorded the statements of the officials and employees concerned with the Biman's Airbus flight Friday night.

The committee members said, they may record the statements of the captain of the flight and an expatriate engineer who was on board.

When asked about the reported presence of a young man near the runway during take off, a CAAB official claimed they did not get any such information till yesterday. The official also said they have collected and scanned all tapes containing the conversation between the cockpit crew and the control tower to determine whether there was any person near the aircraft during take off.

CAAB officials suspected that the ill-fated young man climbed the wheel carriage before the aircraft taxied to the runway.

Acid thrown on female garments worker in city

By DMC Correspondent

A teenage female garments worker sustained serious burn injuries as a young man threw acid on her at Godaraghat under Mirpur thana in the city Monday night.

Jesmin, 14, daughter of one Ramzan Ali, came under attack when she was sitting beside a window in their house at about 8 pm. The victim was under treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with burn injuries in one of her eyes.

BNP programme

From Page 1
the national dailies and holding a discussion at the Shilpkala Academy in the city by BNP on May 30.

The programme also includes a discussion meeting organised by the Zila Shishu Sangstha at the Shishu Academy on May 31 at 4 pm, discussion organised by Juba Dal at the party central office on June 3 at 4 pm, Mahila Dal's discussion at the party office on June 2 at 4 pm, Chittagong's discussion at the party office on June 3 at 4 pm, discussion organised by Sramika Dal at the party office June 4 at 4 pm; Krishik Dal's discussion at the party office June 5 at 4 pm and on June 6 discussions by Mukti Joddha Dal at the party office at 4 pm and by Zia Parishad at the National Press Club at 5.30 pm.

Besides, a party press release last night said, all the branches of the party and its front organisations across the country have been instructed to take up similar programmes during May 28-30.

Probe body

From Page 1
death unless they got the detailed autopsy report from Riyadh.

He said the Biman authorities were yet to receive the reply to the message they had sent to the Saudi authorities Monday afternoon.

The five-member inquiry committee of Bangladesh Biman yesterday interrogated at least 20 employees of different organisations working in ZIA International Airport (ZIA).

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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 Juba Dal, 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.

The introduction of the spinners after Aaquin conceded 49 runs in six overs made little difference as Aravinda and Ranatunga smashed a brisk 67 in 72 balls for the fourth wicket.

Sri Lanka moved to 177 for three by the 27th over when Saqlain uprooted Aravinda's middle-stump to give Pakistan a vital break.

Hashan Tillekeratne (38) added 73 for the fifth wicket with Ranatunga, who was run out by a direct throw from Saqlain in the 46th over.

Roshan Mahanama struck a run-a-ball 27 in the slog overs to lift Sri Lanka past the 300-run mark.

First women to pilot chopper around the world in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 27: Jennifer Murray, 56, poised to fly into the record books as the first woman to pilot a helicopter around the world, landed at Chittagong airport at 6:45 pm today on her way to Yangon from Calcutta, airport sources said.

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.'

The trip began on May 10 from Danham, Middlesex, is scheduled to take 97 days, passing through 26 countries, with 80 refuelling stops.

Announce Wage Board Award immediately

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 27: Jennifer Murray, 56, poised to fly into the record books as the first woman to pilot a helicopter around the world, landed at Chittagong airport at 6:45 pm today on her way to Yangon from Calcutta, airport sources said.

She is scheduled to stay here overnight and depart for the Myanmar capital tomorrow at 9 am.

Accompanied by co-pilot Quentin Smith, 32, the reigning world helicopter freestyle champion, the pair will be the first British pilots to attempt this 30,000 miles feat.

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Announce Wage Board Award by May 30

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'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 yesterday demanded that the government immediately declare the 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 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.

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