# India, Russia fail to sign major defence deal

India and Russia signed a series of military protocols yesterday but the two close allies failed to reach any agreement on a raft of billion-dollar defence deal that could have had far-reaching strategic implications.

The two sides, however, pledged to pursue deals that eluded India and Russia despite two days of intense talks between teams led by visiting Russian Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov and Indian Defence Minister George

Klebanov and Fernandes hinted at the deadlock on the leasing of several TU-22 long-range strategic bombers, as well as the purchase of the ageing Russian aircraft carrier, Admiral Gorshkov.

"The technical discussions have been completed. The price negotiation is what needs to be done, Fernandes told a joint press confer-

ence at the end of the talks. "How much time it will take is too difficult to forecast at this time.

Klebanov's trip of a widely expected deal on the Indian Navy leasing two Russian nuclear submarines.

"I am not ready to address the question concerning nuclearpowered submarines, because I am not holding negotiations on this point," Klebanov said.

"As far as the Gorshkov and TU-22 bombers are concerned, we are finalising negotiations," he added.

Officials said if agreements were reached on all the proposals the total Russian bill for India could be in ccess of three billion dollars. Moscow, which had previously

leased India a nuclear submarine, is presently pressuring New Delhi to shun Western arms bazaars and instead pick up Russian hardware such as the MiG-AT advanced jet trainer and an Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS).

India has been negotiating with Israel for its Phalcon AWACS and with British Aerospace for its Hawk

The three protocols that were

signed yesterday between India and Russia involved one on collaboration in warship building, developing land-based systems for the army, and the aviation sector.

The two others included military and technical cooperation with Fernandes saying the countries had agreed to the joint development of a "fifth-generation" fighter aircraft.

A top Indian defence source said the protocol on cooperation contained provisions for joint ventures in the defence sector, indigenisation of Russian military products as well as joint production and transfer of advanced defence technology to India.

The source said India and Russia also agreed to mass produce an anti-ship cruise missile, which was jointly tested from Indian soil in June last year.

"The supersonic missile which has a 280-kilometre range will be now jointly produced," the source

Two alleged

muggers

UNB, N'ganj



President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury giving away certificates to students of ultrasonography at the Osmany Memorial Auditorium in the city yesterday.

to bury troubled ties

#### BNP activist murdered in Mymensingh

**UNB**, Mymensingh

A BNP activist and freedom fighter was stabbed to death at Putimari bazaar in Dhobaura upazila of the district on Thursday night.

The victim was identified as Shahidul Islam Helal, convenor of Dhobaura Upazila Muktijoddha Command. Police said unidentified miscre-

ants swooped on Helal while he was returning home from Putimari bazaar in a rickshaw. They stabbed him indiscriminately. Helal died on

On information, police rushed to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for

A case was filed accusing seven people, including Harmuz Ali, Chairman of Putimari UP. Police arrested three people in connec-

#### JCD activist

shot him point blank. Rahim died on

Sources said Rahim was the target of some local miscreants who were allegedly involved in the killing of his elder brother Abul Kashem. Kashem was brutally killed near Kalyanpur club a year ago. Rahim was a witness and complainant of

Malek, filed a murder case with Mirpur police station in this connec-

fied miscreant of Kalyanpur area for his alleged involvements in the

businessmen ransacked about 50 shops in Kalyanpur area yesterday. They also blocked Kalyanpur-Paikpara road for about an hour, disrupting traffic.

### Pilferage of power

# Dhaka, Ctg to have pre-paid meters

OUR CORRESPONDENT. Cta

The government will take up two Pre-paid Meter Pilot Projects in Dhaka and Chittagong shortly to check pilferage of power and familiarise consumers with use of such

In the capital, pre-paid metres will be introduced in Banani area under the pilot project.

State Minister for Power Igbal Hasan Mahmood said this at a reception accorded to him by the Chittagong Metropolitan Union of

Journalists (CMUJ) yesterday. "If the Tk 72 crore pilot projects prove a success, the whole country would be brought under such projects in phases," Iqbal said.

At present, the power installations can generate 2600 MW of power a day on an average against the total demand for 3200 MW in the country, resulting in a shortage of around 600 MW and consequent

waging a social movement against such 'system loss'. He, however, said both load

few months of the present govern-

took charge, the PDB had unrealised electric bills of TK 4000 crore now improving steadily, he added.

"Outstanding Woman in Business"

In "Enterprise of the Year" category,

two enterprises Concord Engineers

and Construction Ltd and

Rahimafrooz (Bangladesh) Ltd.

Flower business

field if cultivation of flowers of differ-

ent varieties is boosted through

special measures and on scientific

lines in suitable areas of the country.

He also said, "If I would be the only

person dealing with the entire

admission process, then the gues-

tion of supplying question sheets in

advance could arise. But we had

numerous big names in medical

education involved in the process

Zahid Hossain, when contacted,

told this correspondent, "Our target

here was to increase the number of

students in post-graduate courses,

making such allegation has some

political motive and naturally they

have targeted DAB since we have

links with the ruling party. So, the

allegations are baseless and

intended to tarnish the image of

He further said, "Whoever is

and not to encourage cheating."

General Secretary of DAB Dr

162 students

shared the award.

FROM PAGE 12

FROM PAGE 1

So it is quite absurd.'

# **Business Awards 2001**

omy, says a press release.

of the public to identify the deserving candidates for the prestigious awards. The Daily Star team toiled nominees. A panel of judges comprising top economists, businessmen, bankers, lawyers, chartered accountants and journalists finally analysed the contribution of the candidates and chose one winner from each category.

The Business Person of the Year award will be presented to the most deserving individual for outstanding corporate success. The candidate should possess integrity, business and financial acumen, management

distinguished itself through

Last year Samson H Chowdhury, Chairman of Square Group, won the "Business Person of the Year' award, Salina Akther, Proprietor of Aakor, a handicraft and boutique shop, was awarded in the category

Pilferage of power through illegal connections in the name of 'system loss', sometimes in connivance with a section of officials and employees concerned, makes the situation

The state minister called for

shedding and 'system loss' decreased significantly in the last

Iqbal claimed that system loss in Chittagong has now come down to 18 percent from 35 to 40 percent in The state minister said when he

with about Tk 2100 crore due from the DESA alone. But the situation is

ment that will make Bangladesh a worthy partner of the global econ-

The Daily Star and the DHL sought nominations from members to prepare background paper on the

skills and leadership qualities.

The Outstanding Woman in Business award will be given to someone in business or profession who has made an outstanding contribution to her company or profession and can be considered as an inspiring model for other woman entrepreneurs.

The Enterprise of the Year award will be given to a company that has entrepreneural spirit and a record of innovation.

### FROM PAGE 12

Mirpur police recovered the body at about 8.30 pm and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morque for autopsy.

Victim's younger brother Abdul

Police arrested Jasim, an identi-

Protesting the murder, local

### Chairman Zatindra Lal Tripura,

Poura Chairman Mong Kaching Chowdhury and other political leaders visited the spot yesterday

Fire service sources said the fire originated from a kitchen and spread to the adjacent houses. Fire fighters rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze A fire service personnel was seriously beaten

political organisations distributed relief materials among the victims.

#### ∠ıllur

foreign minister, Zillur said the AL chief never uttered any words "against Bangladesh" and challenged the foreign minister to prove

"A handful of Pakistani collaborators apart, almost all people had contributed to earning the country's independence," the AL leader said.

Khaleda Zia.

sands of innocents and raped Afghanistan.'

elements has proved destructive to the country's independence and sovereignty, he alleged. Zillur urged the foreign minister

party that led the nation during the War of Independence.

Hasina told overseas newspapers, during her visits to the US and the UK in December last year.

## held at N'ganj Police arrested two alleged mug-

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf assured Afghanistan's interim leader vesterday of his nation's full support and said they need to put their troubled past to rest and build relations in the wake of the Taliban's collapse.

"Pakistan is extremely interested in having a peaceful, stable, united, progressive Afghanistan as its brotherly neighbour," Musharraf said at a joint news conference with Afghan leader Hamid Karzai. That "not only serves the purpose of peace in the region but it also serves the economic interest of this entire

Afghanistan needs the support of its neighbour as it tries to restore peace and rebuild after 23 years of war. Pakistan has already pledged dlrs 100 million for Afghan rebuilding and Musharraf said Friday that his government would give Karzai's new government a check for dlrs 10 million to help ease its chronic

Saida Kamal, the youngest daugh-

ter of Poet Sufia Kamal, unveiled the

cover of her mother's book "Ekaale

Amader Kaal" at the stall of Srabon

Ki!" (What My Name Is!) by Sarker

Amin was unveiled at the stall of

Lekhak-Kunjo. Dr. Rajia Khan and

Prof. Harun-or-Rashid translated

The books that arrived at the fair

yesterday include "Naam Bala

Nishedh" by President Dr AQM

Badruddoza Chowdhury, "Bipanno

Ganotantro Lanchhito Manobata"

by Sheikh Hasina, "Khaleda Ziar

Rainoitik Adarsha O Karmosuchi'

by Dr. Emajuddin Ahmad, "Shamsur

Rahmaner Galpo" by Shamsur

Rahman, "Sagorer Joto Khela" by

Muhammad Zafar Iqbal

"Bichchhed". "Birohi" and "Jaan" by

Emdadul Haq Milon, "Comics

Volume Potker Khotkabazi" by

Toriqul Islam Shanto and "Ghare Aagun Legechhe" and "Amar

Din" by Humayun Ahmed, "Hridita"

by Anisul Haq and "Tratuler Jagot"

to expectations, the publisher and

owner of Srabon, a publishing

house, told The Daily Star yester-

"The decoration of the fair is not

up to the mark. We expected more

on the occasion of golden jubilee of

the Language Movement," he

The role of the state-run elec-

by Muhammad Zafar lobal sell well.

Besides, "Chole Jai Basonter

This year's sale does not live up

Lekha" by Kazi Shahed Ahmed.

the book into English.

The cover of "Amar Naam Jeno

"Pakistan and Afghanistan are bound together by a common geography. We are linked by rivers and mountains... We are linked by the bonds of our faith, by the bonds of history, by the bonds of our culture, Musharraf said. "The two countries cannot avoid having close brotherly relations with each other."

Pakistan used to be a key supporter of the Taliban. But Musharraf abandoned the hardline Islamic militia after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States and joined the US-led coalition that brought the Taliban down. Many Afghans, however, still

resent Pakistan for backing the Taliban a hatchet both Karzai and Musharraf said must now be buried. We need to look to the future

and these common misunderstandings from both sides need to be buried, will be buried, I'm sure,' Musharraf said. "They are buried", Karzai inter-

Ekushey book fair

departure from Kabul for several hours. His entourage included 10 ministers, a full third of his Cabinet, underscoring the importance his government attached to the trip. "We Afghans have nothing but goodwill for Pakistan. It's from the heart," said Karzai, wearing the

Karzai, who lived for years in

Pakistan, arrived yesterday for a

two-day visit after snow delayed his

green and blue cape that has become his trademark. For Musharraf's part, a stable Afghanistan could offer opportunities to Pakistani companies. He also wants to ensure that Islamic militants targeted in a crackdown by his government cannot seek refuge in

"We wish to conduct our relations with Afghanistan based on principles of sovereign equality, non-interference and mutual interest." he said. "We have also agreed not to allow each other's territories to be used against the interests of either country.

Prof. Anisuzzaman inaugurated the

programme, while Asaduzzaman

Quddus, Liakat Ali Lucky, Dr.

Mohammad Samad, Hasan Arif,

Mizanur Rahman and Ahkam Ullah,

among others, addressed the

the Shaheed Minar and observed a

one-minute silence to pay tributes to

followed by a cultural function where

Udichi, Surtirtho, Fakir Alamgir, Rubel and Mita Haq performed.

begin tomorrow afternoon at the

FROM PAGE 12 would not happen, Saifur said,

warning that the officials found

responsible for bad loans would no

make sure that genuine traders and

entrepreneurs get loans smoothly. There has not been any industrial

He also advised the banks to

Drishyapot staged a drama.

same venue.

Saifur

be spared.

the language movement martyrs.

The SSI also placed a wreath at

The inaugural ceremony was

The next SSJ programme will

Artist Rafiqunnabi, Golam

Noor, MP

function

presided over the

# Musharraf, Karzai vow

cannot seek legal aid. Debate also rumbles on about

demonstration at the time.

BCS Ansar Association Khademul Islam told The Daily Star that showcause notices were served on some persons supposedly belonging to the Ansar cadre who even did not exist in reality.

some non-existent Ansar officials whose names were published in the

# **Discrimination**

Dhaka in March 1996. For instance, Agrani Bank General Manager MA Yusuf, Superintendent Engineer in Sylhet Jahangir Alam and Jamalpur district Adjutant of Ansar Firoz Khan were serving outside Dhaka at the

Again, the incumbent BNP government has rewarded some top bureaucrats who had allegedly taken stance against the previous BNP government in 1996. Cabinet Secretary Akbar Ali Khan, Communications Secretary Rezaul Hayat, Information Secretary Syed Margub Murshed, Sonali Bank Chairman Aiyubur Rahman, Agrani Bank Chairman ATM Shamsul Huda and Employment Bank Chairman Syed Amirul Mulk have been appointed on contract by this gov-Moreover, incumbent Health

Secretary Fazlur Rahman and Home Secretary Dr. Sadat Hossain had also taken an anti-BNP stance.

Besides, the approach of the government towards disciplining the officials has also given rise to a number of questions.

Inconsistency in the government move happened because some officials were initially served with show-cause notices under the 1985 Government Servants (order and appeal) Regulations, which gave them the scope to seek legal aid.

As the government was unwilling to give them any legal scope to challenge its action, it issued showcause notices on others under the Government Officials (Special Actions) Ordinance, 1979. As per this ordinance, when fired an official

the criteria in which the officials have been identified as participants of the Janatar Mancha. Actions are being taken against a select group of mid-ranking officials for taking an anti-BNP stance in 1996, although several thousands officials and employees of the secretariat had done the same. Besides, showcause notices were served on some officials who did not participate in the Mancha or any anti-government

The then secretary general of Such notices were served on

edition. According to it, these officials were participating in a discussion meeting. However, Islam categorically said that no such

meeting did ever take place. Those who received the showcause notices made identical replies that there was no specific

charge against them. On Thursday, Director of Bangladesh Film Archive AKM Shamim Chowdhury, replying to his second show-cause notice forwarded to the information ministry said. "I was not informed of any specific charges against me. For the third time I am requesting (the authorities) to supply me with specific information supporting the allegations brought against me Until those are provided, there will be no legal basis for departmental action against me.

Posing questions to Information Secretary Syed Margub Murshed who issued the show-cause notice. Chowdhury said Murshed was among the 35 secretaries who met the president on March 27, 1996 and expressed their unwillingness to discharge their duties. Therefore, Syed Margub

Murshed does not have the legal and moral rights to issue such notices, he argued. Some officials of the secretariat

expressed their grievance to The Daily Star, saying that in 1996 officials were stripped for going to the office and now they are being fired for joining the Janatar Mancha. A deputy secretary (then an

senior assistant secretary), on condition of anonymity, said, "In March 96, when my secretary had oined the Janatar Mancha, many unior officials like me had no option but to follow suit." Some officials said on March 27

1996, 35 secretaries breached government rules and met the president. They had told the president that it was not possible for them to continue their iob unless the caretaker government was formed The secretaries also declined to attend a meeting convened by the prime minister. Yet, no action has been taken against them, instead they are being rewarded, the offi-On March 30 1996, the BNP

government resigned, and BNP eader Prof. AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury -- now the president -demanded at a rally in front of the BNP central office the same day that the secretaries who ioined the Mancha and the AL's noncooperation movement be fired

# Air pollution

these categories of vehicles.

As the emission levels of pollutants from in-use vehicles are dependent on vehicular and fuel characteristics and level of maintenance as well as operating conditions, any strategy for reducing air pollution in the city must address these issues.

The World Bank estimated that a reduction in emissions from vehicles tot he extent of two-thirds of the current level can be achieved by correct use of lubricants, designed specifically for two stroke-engines, and proper maintenance of vehicles.

Even moderately successful programme might reduce emissions by one-third, thus saving considerable amount of costs in terms of medicare, the report said.

The retailers of lubricants and drivers, who buy these, share responsibility for the problem, the

report said adding the high profit margin of low-quality lubricants encourage retailers to boost their sale and many drivers are under the mistaken notion that more viscous lubricant oil in greater quantities protects engines and improves fuel economy.

lead to rapid deterioration of engines, thereby increasing expenses in terms of depreciation of vehicles and other related expenses. A nine-year age-limit on baby

In fact, it said these practices

taxis has already been agreed between the government and the babv-taxi owners and this should be enforced, the report said.

It suggested that an accelerated renewal programme be designed, whereby the entire fleet is phased out before 2007 (assuming 1998 was the last year when a large number of two-stroke engine babytaxis were imported).

# Light at tunnel's end

But some sources said the actual figures of system loss are much higher than those. They attributed this to poor distribution system and corruption by a section of officials and employees of the DESA and the An official of the Japan Bank for

International Cooperation (JBIC) in

Dhaka said, "If the pilot project is

successful, it can be replicated in

other areas of the country to prevent system loss." Of the six distribution lines now covered by the scheme, four under the PDB are in Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna and Mymensingh and two under the DESA are in

Dhanmondi and Jurain areas of the The pilot project is one of the two components of the Power Distribution and Efficiency Enhancement Project. The other

component is rural electrification. Different system loss reduction targets have been fixed for the six 11 KV distribution lines which are known as feeders. Renovation, upgrading and expansion of distribution lines, replacement of service connections and consumer meters and installation of new sub-stations and transformers are being done under the project. The PDB officials in Chittagong

said the pilot project in the port city aims at reducing system loss in

Molla, member (engineering) of the DESA said they have completed most of the work under the scheme. Only replacement of consumer meters is yet to be completed. System loss in Dhanmondi

6.2 MW power among nearly 6500

consumers in Agrabad, Pathantuli

CGS Colony, Sheikh Mujib Road

In the capital, Abdul Mannan

and adjacent areas.

feeder has already come down to eight per cent while in Jurain, it has decreased to around 16 per centalmost half the previous level in both the areas. The work on the three other

feeders is also going on well, sources said.

#### Hasına

FROM PAGE 12 elected vice-president of the Barisal

College twice, contributed greatly to the 1990s anti-autocracy and other democratic movements. Earlier, the namaj-e-janaza of

Faruq was held in front of the Awami eague office at 11:50 am. Party central leaders, including Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed,

Abdul Jalil MP, Prof Abu Sayeed, Adv Rahmat Ali MP, Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Abdul Mannan, Obaidul Quader, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Mohiuddin Ahmed, Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin and Sultan Mohammad Mansur attended the

Agrabad overhead feeder by eight The body was later taken to per cent from around 28 per cent Barisal from the Awami League now. The feeder distributes about

known.

Eleven of the 14 injured who were admitted to Gonoshashthya Hospital were later released. Two children among the injured were taken to the houses of local people and given first aid.

Chapainawabganj, Bilqis, 20, of Islampur, Dhamrai, and Shariful, 18, were under treatment at Gonoshashthya Hospital. "Their condition is critical," said a doctor on Meanwhile, Awami League

In a statement, she prayed for salvation of the departed souls and early recovery of the injured people.

they were demanding toll from some youths in the area. He also recovered a gun from their possession. A Another report adds: A gang of armed muggers looted Tk 65,000

from a trader Akiluddin near Fatulla

The trader alleged that police did

gers along with a gun from Falpatti

SI Ziaur Rahman arrested

Hannan, 18, and Manik, 19, while

area in the town yesterday.

Bazaar yesterday evening.

One burnt alive

In another incident of fire, ten houses were gutted at Muslimpara in the town at about 3 pm yesterday.

up by unruly people during the District administration and local

FROM PAGE 12 Refuting the statement by the

In the statement, he mentioned names of two ministers -- Matiur Rahman Nizami and Ali Ahsan Muzahid -- who were against the War of Independence, served the Pakistani occupation forces in 1971 and are now in the cabinet of "These collaborators and their associates who had killed thou-

women during the war have shouted slogans to make the country an So, Khaleda Zia along with these

to refrain from such propaganda against the Awami League, the

The cabinet of Khaleda Zia consists of Taliban supporters,

Bus-truck collision FROM PAGE 1 Their identity could not be

The seriously injured M Bhutto, 22, Ainal Huq of Debinagar,

president Sheikh Hasina expressed her deep shock at the loss of lives in a tragic road accident at Savar vesterday.

She also urged the authorities concerned to take effective steps to ensure safe journey of the passentronic media did not play their due role, he complained. The Dhaka International Trade

book fair as it draws hordes of visitors." he pointed out. Meanwhile, the Bangla Academy held a discussion titled "50 Years of Language and Culture of Different Ethnic

Fair should not coincide with the

Nationality in Bangladesh" as part of its regular afternoon programmes. Sugato Chakma presented the keynote paper at the discussion, with Prof. Abul Kalam Monjur Morshed in the chair. Prof. Aftab Ahmed and Sanjib Drong took part in the discussion, which was followed by a musical soiree in the

evening The Bangla Academy will hold a painting competition for children, on "Amar Ekusher Probhat Feri" this

Artist Emdad Hossain will inaugurate the competition as chief guest, while Prof. Abul Monsur Mohammad Musa, director-general of the academy, will deliver the

The academy will also hold a

discussion titled "50 Years of Amar

welcome address.

Language and Literature Abroad in the afternoon. Muhammad Nurul Huda will present the keynote speech, with Prof. Sarder Fazlul Karim in the chair. The ten-day programme of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote (SSJ)

Language Movement veteran

Ekushey: Practice of Bangla growth for the last five years as banks stopped sanctioning loans due to "unrealistic attitude" of the previous finance minister, he said. Responding to trade unions demand for relaxing finance ministry's control on banks, he said steps are underway and 80 per cent of the ministry's control has already been was inaugurated at the Central relaxed. The rest 20 per cent control Shaheed Minar yesterday afterwould go in next 2-18 months, the Finance Minister informed.



The ill-fated passenger bus that was badly damaged in a head-on collision with a truck at Savar yesterday