

# Taiwan bans plastic bags

AFP, Taipei

Taiwan will introduce today a ban on plastic shopping bags in an effort to help improve the environment.

Companies that distribute the bags will be fined up to 300,000 Taiwan dollars (8,940 US dollars) under the new law, and the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has launched television commercials urging individuals not to use them.

Activists have long complained that Taiwan is drowning in a sea of plastic bags with more than 16 million a day handed out on the island.

The EPA estimates plastic accounts for about 20 per cent of the domestic garbage produced by the island's 23 million people - five per cent higher than in other industrialised countries.

## BTTB calls metered

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access codes for most of the ISPs before introducing the system.

The toll free numbers of the police exchange and fire brigade will also remain out of the multi-metering system.

Subscribers said the BTTB should also exempt the telephone numbers of police stations and fire services from multi-metering.

Brokerage houses that deal in online trading through dial-up connections would not be exempted from the multi-metering system. This will overburden the brokers and hinder the capital market activities.

Since automation of both the country's bourses two years ago, several brokerage houses have been conducting online business.

Meanwhile, a magistrate court on Saturday issued a show cause on the chairman and secretary of the BTTB and the chairman of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), to explain why the enactment of multi-metering would not be declared as illegal. The court has asked for a reply within 10-days.

The case had been filed by the convenor of the Bangladesh Telephone Subscribers Association.

## Advani denies rift

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hardline image, he said he had been working with the allies for over four years.

"I have been accepted by them and no new situation will arise as a result of this appointment," he asserted.

On the issue of BJP agenda, he said the government was that of NDA and not of BJP. Therefore, a Common Minimum Programme (CMP) of NDA would be followed and implemented.

"We have honestly followed CMP for four years. This has nothing to do with my appointment as Deputy Prime Minister," he said.

He further said his appointment had been made after due consultation with the allies.

AFP adds: India's new deputy prime minister Lal Krishna Advani on Sunday dismissed suggestions of a rift between himself and Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpeyi.

Advani, in a television interview, suggested that his promotion may have been prompted by persistent

## Justice goes wild

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government property.

Sources at the Ministry of Environment and Forest said the DFO was transferred suddenly to Rajshahi after he took the Jamuna Builders to court. He also lodged complaint with the police.

They said the DFO's move enraged the chairman of the Jamuna Group -- of which Jamuna Builders is a subsidiary -- who is very close to the top office of the ministry. He then had the forest official transferred.

Official sources said the DFO also earned the wrath of the top office and was rebuked for taking legal action against the Jamuna Builders before being transferred. Earlier, the Jamuna Group chairman had asked the DFO not to take legal action against his construction firm and warned of transfer or sack him if he dared to defy him.

According to the ministry officials, the Jamuna Builders started erecting boundary wall and setting up roads on the 4.53 acres of forestland on April 15 in a move to grab the land.

Its staff threatened the officials and employees of the Forest Department when they tried to save the forestland. The Forest Department then filed a general diary (GD) with the Kaliakoir Police Station on April 19 and urged the

## CCC mayor

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Muhammad Nasiruddin had confiscated the money on November 11, 1992.

After investigation, the charge sheet was submitted on Thursday to the CMM's Court, Chittagong. After receiving the charge sheet, the CMM's Court sent it to the special judge court for proceeding with the trial.

## Muggers

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Kamal Hossain, 30, a head porter of the Sadarghat launch terminal, was shot dead by unidentified men on the rooftop of Hotel Kismot at 26/2 Chittorjanan Avenue in the city's Kotwali area yesterday morning.

Two unidentified men went to the second floor of the two-storey building and shot Kamal in the head at around 10:30am yesterday. He died instantly.

Kotwali police went to the spot and sent the body to the Mitford Hospital for autopsy. According to sources, Kamal often stayed in lone third-floor room of the hotel. The motive behind the killing could not be known.

The duty officer of the Kotwali Police Station said they are yet to file any case as none of the relatives of the victim complained about the murder.

APP adds: Tensions may have eased between India and Pakistan

# Separatist violence in Kashmir kills 8

REUTERS, Srinagar

Eight people, including four rebels and two Indian soldiers, have been killed in separatist violence in India's restive Jammu and Kashmir, police said yesterday.

Violence has surged in recent days in the disputed state despite a reduction in tension between nuclear rivals India and Pakistan who are engaged in a military stand-off over the region.

A police spokesman said four separatist guerillas were killed in an overnight gunbattle at Dheri Dabsi area of Poonch district southwest of Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The army says Pakistani shelling has reduced and there is no mortar shelling from across the border," said Hakim, who has fought in two wars between India and Pakistan.

"But the Pakistani guns continue to roar. This has discouraged all of us from going back to our homes."

Indian officials say at least 43 people -- soldiers and civilians -- have died in fighting on the disputed border since the crisis with Pakistan intensified after a May 14 massacre of women and children at an Indian army camp.

Pakistani officials put the toll on their side at more than 100.

The standoff that has sent one million Indian and Pakistani troops to the common borders calmed down somewhat in early June after intense international diplomacy.

But few of the 130,000 villagers who fled on the Indian side are taking their chances, fearing the guns may boom once again.

"I know we face malnutrition and other discomforts in the camps but we are not ready to return to our homes unless we are sure that the Pakistani guns have fallen silent for good," said Shanti Devi.

Devi, 60, left her home in Chanducheck for a relief camp here, some 35 kilometers southwest of Kashmir's Hindu-majority winter capital Jammu.

Jatinder Kumar, 18, has just been selected to serve as a soldier in the Indian army but he too is unwilling to shift his family back to their village.

"We do not believe statements made by the Pakistani president because he changes his statements after 24 hours. On these circumstances, how can I shift my ailing father and mother to the border village when I will be away to join the army?" he said.

"If the situation on the border has improved, why don't the soldiers come back?" asked Nirmal Kumar of Begha village.

# Road accidents kill 4 in Ctg, 3 in Pirojpur

UNB, Chittagong

Four people were killed and 18 others injured at Madhiyam Mogadha on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Mirsarai upazila yesterday.

Witnesses said an unidentified female passer-by was killed on the spot when a Dhaka-bound bus from Chittagong hit her at noon.

Being chased by locals, the bus rammed into a roadside tree, leaving its driver, Tajul, and two unidentified passengers dead on the spot.

The injured were admitted to the upazila health complex and Mostannagar Hospital.

BSS from Pirojpur adds: Three passengers on a pick-up van loaded with fish were killed and

three others injured in an accident in Umedpur area under Zianagar upazila yesterday.

Police and hospital sources said the accident occurred in the early morning when a Jessor-bound pick-up van loaded with Hilsa fish from Pathorghata overturned.

One of the dead were identified as Palto Bepari, 25, son of Khaleque Bepari of Purbazar village of Madaripur district. Identity of two others could not be known.

The injured persons were admitted to Pirojpur Sadar Hospital.

The bodies were sent to the morgue of Pirojpur Sadar Hospital for autopsy. Police seized the pick-up van but its driver managed to flee.

# One jailed for throwing acid on schoolgirl in Manikganj

BSS, Manikganj

One person was awarded 14-year imprisonment yesterday for throwing acid on a schoolgirl.

The judge of the Special Tribunal for Repression Children and Women Shirin Kabita Akter announced the judgement.

According to prosecution, Abdus Sattar and his friend Sayeed of village Hafez Nagar under Shibalay upazila threw acid on Hasna Akter, 12, when she was asleep at her house on the night in May 1999. A case was filed by the victim's mother in this connection with Shibalay police station.

The prosecution side opposed the petition for bail.

After hearing both sides, the magistrate rejected the bail petition and ordered Khokon to be sent to the Dhaka Central jail.

The court also instructed the jail authorities to provide first class division to Khokon and ensure his proper treatment during detention.

During the hearing, additional police were deployed in the court premises to avoid any untoward incident.

# And He Rises

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Both men had shone like beacons in the opening round of the competition with 25-year-old Ronaldo quickly off the mark against Turkey while Klose, a year younger, making his entrance with a hat-trick against Saudi Arabia.

Klose was all the rage after netting five times, all headers, in three matches - but then his powder ran dry and he finished up being substituted in the final after failing to find the net for the fourth match in a row.

Ronaldo, on the other hand, was going from strength to strength and his two alert finishes brought the Brazilian crown.

"It's a fantastic feeling to be a Brazilian tonight," an overjoyed Ronaldo said. "The whole squad division to Khokon and ensure his proper treatment during detention.

During the hearing, additional police were deployed in the court premises to avoid any untoward incident.

"Just to be here is such a huge world for me. Even if I was not a world champion I would still be happy."

Ronaldo's total is the highest since Gerd Mueller scored ten goals in six matches in Mexico in 1970. Ever since 1974 (Grzegorz Lato of Poland, 7 goals) the best goalscorer had always totalled six goals.

The Adidas Golden Boot Award goes to the top goalscorer of the FIFA World Cup. Assists serve as a tie-breaker with the FIFA Technical Study Group deciding whether an assist is to be counted as such.

## Hartal

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The July 4 half-day hartal was called to demand release of all political detainees, including Dr Gerd Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir, Bahauddin Nasim, Haji Md Selim, Sayeed Khokon and Bangladesh Chhatra League President Liakot Sikder and General Secretary Nazrul Islam Babu.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsads and AL President Sheikh Hasina in a statement yesterday condemned Khokon's arrest without warrant and demanded his immediate release.

Hasina expressed deep concern at the arrest of and torture on AL leaders and workers without any cases against them. She blamed their arrest on the BNP-Jamaat ruling alliance.

## 3 Indian ministers

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lation that both will be drafted into Vajpeyi's ruling Hindu nationalist BJP party to help tone up its slipping image.

Health minister Thakur said he quit after being ordered to put in his papers by Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani, who was promoted to deputy prime minister on Saturday.

Thakur, however, added hastily that he would not step out of BJP party.

"There is no question of my leaving BJP. I will do what the prime minister directs," Thakur told reporters.

Political sources in Vajpeyi's government said the decision to ask Thakur to quit was aimed at paving the way for a smooth reshuffle of the cabinet, which was last revamped in September.

The reshuffle is aimed at removing deadwood and bringing new life into the government and

some hard decisions have to be taken," a senior functionary from Vajpeyi's BJP party told AFP.

The health minister had recently locked horns with Vajpeyi's Animal Care Minister Maneka Gandhi over experiments on animals at research centres. The bitter spat ended only after the prime minister intervened.

Media reports say Maneka, a daughter-in-law of slain prime minister Indira Gandhi, could also be shown the door Monday.

"Slowly, slowly I am starting to understand what has happened," Ronaldo said later at a press conference. "It will take time but I am so happy right now. We played a great game and we have given joy to millions of people."

"Even in my wildest dreams I had never imagined that something like this could happen."

"I would be lying if I did not say that every time I step on the pitch, every time I score a goal and every time I enter a ground to play, it is a victory for me."

## Brazil's Fabulous Fifth

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Michael Ballack, was all Voeller's side could muster.

But the Germans started the second half with real intent and almost took the lead within two minutes when Neuville curled in a corner and Brazil defender Edmison blocked Jeremie's diving header as it headed towards the net.

Germany frustrated Brazil during a tight first opening period but the South Americans still created several excellent chances, the best of which came right at the end of the half.

Tackling and hustling the Brazilians tirelessly, Germany enjoyed plenty of possession but it was the South Americans who had the better chances of the half, with Ronaldo seeing three chances go begging.

He should have done better when released on the edge of the penalty area thanks to a sweet pass by Ronaldinho, back in the Brazil side after serving a one-match suspension. With Kahn advancing, Ronaldo's finish with the outside of his left foot rolled a full metre wide.

Kahn was on hand to thwart Ronaldo again on 30 minutes, getting a hand to the Brazilian's toe-poked effort after another clever pass from Ronaldinho caught out the German defence.

Brazil's captain Cafu set his own personal milestone as he became the first player to take part in three World Cup finals.

TEAMS

Brazil: Marcos, Edmison, Lucio, Junior, Cafu, Kleberson, Gilberto, Carlos, Ronaldinho (Juninho 85).

## Most illegals

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Currently, offenders face up to five years' jail or a fine of not more than 10,000 ringgit (2,632 dollars), but courts mostly impose fines.

Malaysia, which is home to some 750,000 legal foreign workers, granted a similar amnesty in 1998.

The government, which has said it aims to deport about 10,000 Indonesians illegals every month, in January launched an offensive against the immigrants with almost daily raids.

Malaysia's increasing intolerance of illegal workers was also turned against legal workers from Indonesia after two riots in January by textile and construction workers.

The government announced that Indonesians would be hired in future only as domestic helpers and plantation workers.

Surprisingly enough, the workers did not resent the closure of the mills

immediately after its announcement by the government. They held a protest rally on Saturday, though.

President of CBA (collective bargaining agent)