

Dhaka needs to strengthen anti-money laundering law, criminalise terrorist finance

US report observes

UNB, Dhaka

A US report said despite some advancement Bangladesh government's anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing regimes should be strengthened to comply with international standards. "Bangladesh should criminalise terrorist finance. Legislation should provide for safe harbour provisions in order to protect reporting individuals, due diligence programmes, and banker negligence accountability that would make individual bankers responsible under certain circumstances if their institutions launder money," the report said in its Bangladesh chapter on Money Laundering and Financial Crimes. Ann Peterson, assistant secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, released the report in Washington Thursday. It said Bangladesh should create a financial intelligence collection system and establish a viable Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) to analyse the intelligence. A lack of training, resources and computer technology, including computer links with the outlying districts, continue to hinder progress. The report suggested that Bangladesh law enforcement and customs should examine forms of trade-based money laundering. Bangladesh should make further efforts to combat pervasive corruption, which is intertwined with money laundering, smuggling, and tax evasion. Bangladesh should

ratify the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime. However, it admitted that while there is evidence of funds laundered through the official banking system, there is no indication of large-scale abuse. It said money transfers outside the formal banking and foreign exchange licensing system are illegal. The principal money laundering vulnerability remains the widespread use of the underground "hawala" or "hundi" system to transfer money and value outside the formal banking network. The vast majority of hundi transactions in Bangladesh are

Police recovered bodies of two teen-age domestic helps at Uttara and Dhanmondi in the city yesterday. Police recovered the body of Nazma Akhtar, 17, daughter of Kuddus Miah of Kishoreganj, at Abul Hasnat's government quarters in Sector-8 in Uttara. They found the body hanging by the neck from a ceiling fan in the maid's room of the third-floor officers' quarters. Rosy, another maid of the house, said both she and Nazma went to sleep around 10:00pm after supper on Thursday night. She said she saw Nazma hanging from the ceiling fan when she woke up next morning. Hasnat said Nazma had been working in his home as domestic help for seven years. Dhanmondi police recovered the body of a domestic help at

Bodies of two domestic helps recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre vibrant with achievers of outstanding results at O and A levels, their teachers, guardians and other delegates during yesterday's award presentation ceremony arranged by The Daily Star.



Hectic dealings mark the 'holiday market' arranged on the road adjoining Gulistan underpass in the capital yesterday.

Hawkers' markets at Paltan, 11 other spots soon

UNB, Dhaka

LGRD and Labour & Employment Adviser M Anwarul Iqbal yesterday said the government has decided to allow a new hawkers' market at Paltan Maidan in the city on Sundays. He made the disclosure while inspecting some fixed spots for hawkers' markets in the city's Gulistan area. The adviser also said there will be a total of 12 spots in the city for hawkers' markets on specific days. These include the street in front of Maulana Bhashani Hockey Stadium (Fridays), in Motijheel area (Saturdays) and at Paltan Maidan (Sundays). These hawkers' markets will operate from 8:00am to 5:00pm, he said.

Six powers agree on framework for UN resolution on Iran

AFP, Paris

The United States, four European powers and China have agreed on the framework for a new UN resolution toughening sanctions on Iran, French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy said yesterday. The five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany "are fully in agreement on the framework of a new resolution", said Douste-Blazy. The breakthrough came during a telephone conference call held Thursday between political directors from Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States. Washington reported progress

during the two-hour talks, with US officials saying that another conference call was scheduled for Saturday and that work on the draft text could begin next week. The foreign minister said that the new resolution would be drafted under the terms of article 41 of the UN charter, which authorises the Security Council to take all necessary measures, except military ones, to enforce its resolutions. "The political directors also discussed the broad outlines of the contents of the new resolution," said the minister. The UN Security Council slapped sanctions on Iran in December, including a ban on the

sale of nuclear-related materials to the Islamic Republic and a freeze on financial assets of Iranians involved in illicit atomic research. The push for the new resolution came after a report from the UN nuclear watchdog agency, the IAEA, last week which said that Iran had not halted, but in fact was expanding, its uranium enrichment programme. The United States and some other western powers believe Iran is pursuing a nuclear weapons capability. Iran however has denied seeking nuclear weapons, and asserts it has a right to a peaceful nuclear programme.

Decomposed body of young man recovered

JU CORRESPONDENT

The decomposed body of a young man carrying the identity card of a former student of Dhaka University (DU) was recovered from Jahangirnagar University (JU) campus yesterday. A student spotted the dead body in blue striped shirt, black trousers and black shoes in a bush on the eastern part of the university's central playground adjacent to Dhaka-Aricha highway at around 12:30pm. The body was taken to Ashulia Police Station at 2:30pm. The wallet found in the rear pocket of the victim's trousers carried an identity card with the name of Baitul Atik, 30, a student of MBA under accounting department of DU in 2002-2003 academic session. The identity of the dead, however, could not be confirmed as the

North, South Korea reach deal on family reunions

US to keep pressing N Korea on uranium

REUTERS, AFP, Seoul

South and North Korea reached a deal yesterday to resume reunions of families separated during the Korean war in a step at improving ties that were chilled by Pyongyang's weapons tests last year. In their first high-level contact since the North stormed out of a meeting in July, Pyongyang agreed to resume reunions in early May for families separated by the 1950-

1953 Korean War, according to pool reports of the cabinet-level talks held in Pyongyang. North Korea, angered at Seoul's decision to suspend food aid after Pyongyang defied international warnings and launched missiles in July 2006, cut off the reunions. There was no report yet on whether the impoverished North, which had asked Seoul to restore food aid, would receive handouts of rice and fertiliser from the South. The inter-Korean meeting comes

on the heels of North Korea agreeing last month at separate, six-way nuclear talks to begin shutting down its nuclear arms programme in return for up to 1 million tons of fuel oil. The two Koreas are technically still at war because the Korean War ended in a truce and not with a peace treaty. Meanwhile, senior US diplomat John Negroponte said yesterday that Washington would still press

Hearing tomorrow on prayer for Naser Rahman's remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Hearing of the prayer for remand of former lawmaker and Moulvibazar district BNP chief Naser Rahman will be held tomorrow at the Sylhet Sadar magistrate's court. An official letter had been sent to the Comilla Jail authority for sending Naser Rahman to Sylhet for producing him before the Sylhet Sadar cognisance magistrate's court on that day. Earlier on February 28, Sylhet Kotwali police submitted the remand petition in the case filed by much talked contractor Nuruzzaman.

Fire at button factory in N'ganj kills one

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

One person was killed and two others were injured in a fire that broke out at a factory at Nandalpur under Fatullah Police Station yesterday morning. The deceased was identified as Alamgir, 35, a day labourer. The injured, also day labourers, are Bashar, 25, and Bimol Chandra Saha, 35. They were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. Shekhar Das, general manager of Monica Button and

Garment Accessories Ltd, said Alamgir and three other day labourers were cleaning the wastes in the storeroom of the factory at around 9:00am. All of a sudden, a fire broke out there and soon engulfed the entire factory, killing Alamgir on the spot and injuring Bashar and Bimol, he added. He suspected that the fire might have originated from the butt of a burning cigarette. Another day labourer Zaman managed to come out of the choking black smoke of the factory.

On information, fire fighters from Fatullah Fire Station rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze with the help of locals at about 10:30am. Akhter Hossain, brother of the owner of the factory, said fire damaged the machinery of the factory. Fire Service personnel suspect the blaze might have caused from a burning cigarette as there is no electrical circuit in the storeroom. Alamgir's body was sent to Narayanganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

BDR, BSF trade fire at Benapole

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel and troops of Border Security Force (BSF) of India traded gunshots at Putkhali border of Benapole in Satkhira after BSF troops gunned down a Bangladeshi cattle trader yesterday. Sources said BSF personnel shot Zillur Rahman, 35, of South Baropota in Benapole dead early yesterday as he was returning to Bangladesh after purchasing a cattle from India. He allegedly died on the spot and the BSF personnel dragged his body into Indian territory. Tension mounted in the area following the incident resulting in

Weather to improve today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The weather is going to improve from today after the whole day's gloom yesterday with a couple of hours' drizzle early in the morning, the Met office said. The traffic was thin in the city streets throughout yesterday as the city dwellers preferred to stay indoors on the weekly holiday because of a comparatively cold weather and sporadic drizzle. Met office sources said the westerly disturbance that caused the sudden change in the weather has already crossed Bangladesh territory. The duty-forecasting officer of the Met office said the westerly originated over the Mediterranean Sea and headed towards this region crossing Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan. "The westerly wind carries moistures and sometimes causes rainfall in this region while the easterly wind is also active. But it has already crossed Bangladesh territory," he said. "So, we can expect that the



The capital observes cloudy sky and occasional rainfall yesterday following a low over the Bay of Bengal. The photo was taken from Paltan.

First round of NID programme starts today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first round of the 15th National Immunisation Day (NID) begins across the country today with an aim to give polio vaccines to 2.4 crore children under five years of age. All 1,40,000 immunisation centres across the country will remain open from 8:00am to 4:00pm and the children who have already had their polio vaccines are to have the vaccine again. A total of 7,00,000 volunteers, including fieldworkers of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, teachers of schools and madrasas, members of Ansar, VDP and workers of NGOs, would give

Prayer Timing		
March 3		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-10	5-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-07	6-11
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

