

Bangladesh to sign deal on avoidance of double taxation with Bahrain

UNB, Dhaka

The caretaker government has approved a proposal ratifying an agreement on avoidance of double taxation between Bangladesh and Bahrain, aiming to augment trade and business between the two countries.

A weekly regular meeting of the Council of Advisers with Chief Adviser Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed in the chair yesterday gave approval to the proposal placed by the Internal Resources Division.

It is expected that the accord will be signed when Bahrain's State Minister for Foreign Affairs visits Dhaka June 21-30, according to chief adviser's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim, who was present at the meeting.

Party reforms must

2 AL, BNP leaders want to get it done even at cost of Hasina, Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chiefs of the two major political parties of the country should be ousted if necessary to carry out reforms in those parties, two leaders from Awami League (AL) and BNP said yesterday.

"Reforms can be carried out by having her [Sheikh Hasina] rectify her actions. If she does not do so, [reforms] can be implemented by ousting her," said Suranjit Sengupta, a presidium member of the AL, at BBC Bangladesh Sanglap held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital.

"I absolutely agree with Suranjit. A party chairperson will be rejected

for failure to carry out reforms," said Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman, a member of BNP central standing committee.

Dr Kamal Hossain, Gano Forum president and a renowned jurist, welcomed Suranjit and Rahman for their "bold statements" and said the topmost leadership of the major political parties have failed to free politics from the grip of corruption, terrorism, black money and nomination trade.

He urged the people to be united and raise their voice for bringing positive and meaningful changes in politics.

Supreme Court lawyer Barrister Tania Ameer said political parties themselves should carry out

reforms within the parties -- not dictated by anyone or the government. The Election Commission however can take some measures to address the issue, she said.

BBC Bengali Service in association with BBC World Service Trust organised the discussion titled BBC Bangladesh Sanglap, the last episode of the second session. BBC's Waliur Rahman Miraz produced and Masud Hasan Khan moderated the event. The third session of the Sanglap will begin from July 21.

"We will first try to carry out reforms with our party chief [in the party]. If she does not implement the reforms, reforms will get the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Notices on 25 Barisal papers, magazines

Why their declaration won't be cancelled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The office of the deputy commissioner of Barisal has issued notices to 25 local newspapers and magazines, asking them to show cause in 10 days why the permission for their publication would not be cancelled.

DC Manzur-e-Elahi said the notices were served on the publishers of the newspapers and magazines on Thursday in the wake of allegations that they are not being published regularly and are involved in corruption and 'advertisement business'.

During an investigation into the allegations, it was found that only seven publications, out of a total of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



PHOTO: STAR

An old village market in Jajira upazila of Shariatpur on the verge of being eroded by the Padma. The photo was taken recently.



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Visitors to Dhaka Zoo yesterday feed gazelles despite the prohibition on such practice. None was there to stop this.

Three killed in Pakistan bus blast

AFP, Islamabad

Three people were killed and five wounded when a roadside bomb blasted a passing bus in Pakistan's southwestern Baluchistan province, officials said yesterday.

Police said the bomb was detonated by remote control late Friday in the industrial town of Hub, not far from the harbour city of Karachi.

"Three people including the bus driver died on the spot while the five injured have been shifted to a Karachi hospital," police officer

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

6 inmates killed in Iraq prison attack

Suicide truck bomb kills 12

AFP, Baghdad/ Hilla

Six civilian detainees were killed and 50 wounded in a mortar attack on a US-run prison facility yesterday in southern Iraq, the military said.

The "indirect fire attack" was on Camp Bucca near the southern port city of Basra, said the statement, adding that no US servicemen were killed or wounded.

Of the some 19,000 Iraqis held in US-run facilities, 13,000 are held in Camp Bucca.

A suicide truck bomb struck an Iraqi army base on Saturday southwest of Baghdad, killing 12 soldiers and wounding 30, army and medical officials said.

Iraqi Army Lieutenant Mohammed Fatlawi said the attack took place at a base near the town of

Iskandariyah, 60km south of Baghdad.

Doctor Ali Shammari from the town's general hospital also confirmed the attack.

Earlier three people died in separate attacks in Baghdad on Saturday, while the US military said

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Musharraf withdraws curbs on media

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf yesterday agreed to withdraw curbs recently imposed on private television channels that sparked wide criticism at home and abroad, officials said.

He took the decision during a meeting with Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA) representatives at his office in the garrison city of Rawalpindi, a top information ministry official said.

The official said PBA would develop and present a draft code of ethics for electronic media to the government within three days.

Musharraf issued a decree on Monday giving the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) extra powers after the media criticised his suspension of the country's chief justice.

"The President has agreed to withdraw the PEMRA ordinance after assurances by PBA that they

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Bush urges senators to try again to pass immigration bill

AP, Washington

President Bush, calling the nation's current immigration situation unacceptable, urged senators to try again to pass legislation that he described as imperfect but the best option available.

In his weekly Saturday radio address, Bush said the bill would not grant amnesty to illegal immigrants, that they would have to pay fines and take other steps to get on a path to legal status and possibly citizenship.

"Securing the border and upholding family values are not partisan concerns," the president said. "They must be addressed, and this bill is the best way to do it."

Bush recorded his address Friday in Germany where he was attending a summit with other

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Lanka kills 30 Tigers in jungle battle

Japanese envoy hopeful of salvaging peace process

AFP, Colombo

At least 30 Tamil Tiger rebels and one soldier were killed when Sri Lankan troops overran four guerrilla jungle bases, the defence ministry said yesterday.

Soldiers captured the bases of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) during an offensive late Friday and early Saturday in the eastern Batticaloa district, the ministry said.

"The army confirms that 30 LTTE terrorists have been killed in the

confrontations, including three who had committed suicide in desperation," the ministry said in a statement.

It said one soldier was killed and 17 others were wounded in the battles.

There was no available comment from the rebels. Both sides are known to inflate the losses of the other side while playing down their own casualties.

The report came as Japan's special envoy, Yasushi Akashi, was ending a four-day visit to the island

Saturday. He said he was hopeful that the troubled peace process could be salvaged.

The escalating fighting since December 2005 has shattered a 2002 truce brokered by Norway. Since then, more than 5,000 people have been killed in the ethnic conflict.

Yasushi Akashi, 76, a former UN diplomat and trouble shooter in Cambodia and Kosovo, said the run-up to his visit had been marred by an upsurge in fighting in the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

PATRONISING MILITANTS Sedition case against Minu kept waiting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A sedition complaint against Mizanur Rahman Minu, detained Rajshahi city mayor, for patronising militants still hangs in the balance even after two months as police authorities await home ministry's approval for it to be accepted as a case.

On April 8, advocate Moazzem Hossain from Mollahpara, Rajshahi lodged the complaint with Rajpara Police Station in Rajshahi against four people including Rajshahi city mayor and former BNP lawmaker Minu, former telecommunications minister barrister Aminul Huq, former Rajshahi deputy commis-

sioner (DC) Aziz Hasan and then Rajshahi superintendent of police (SP) Masud Miah (dismissed in 2006).

The complainant accused the four of taking part in subversive activities as well as aiding and abetting militants of banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

When asked, Joydev Chowdhury, an assistant commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP), said, "We recorded the complaint as a general diary and sent a letter to police headquarters for necessary permission from home ministry."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Henin retains French Open title

AP, Paris

Justine Henin claimed her third consecutive French Open title and her fourth overall Saturday, taking advantage of 19-year-old Ana

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Putin not ruling out 2012 run

AP, Moscow

President Vladimir Putin, who is constitutionally barred from seeking a third term next year, left the door open for a return to the Kremlin in 2012, a Russian newspaper reported yesterday.

"There is still a lot of time," the daily Kommersant quoted Putin as telling reporters Friday, during a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Prayer Timing		
June 10		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		



PHOTO: STAR

RISKY BUT CHEAPER RIDE... Fish fry sellers travel to the capital from Mymensingh on the roof of a train yesterday to sell those for fish farming.