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TRANSKOM ELECTRONICS

Bangladesh, UK can work together for counter terrorism
Says Anwar Chy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Anwar Choudhury, the departing British high commissioner, yesterday said huge opportunities have been created for the UK and Bangladesh to work together on important issues such as counter terrorism, business and education.

"I believe the avenues are open now to go ahead, although once the two countries had relations on aid and immigration only," Choudhury said while addressing a farewell ceremony arranged by Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) in the afternoon.

Sylhet Divisional Commissioner Dr Zafar Ahmed Khan, Deputy Commissioner Harun Ur Rashid Khan, British-Bangladesh Chamber Directors SI Azad Ali and Saad Gazi spoke among others while SCCI chief Zunnun Mahmud Khan chaired the programme.

Choudhury, who will be leaving Bangladesh in May on completion of his 4-year term as high commissioner of Great Britain, said "I came with a mission from a country which I love in a country which I love also."

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City water crisis eases a little

Residents of some areas complain of dirty water

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Residents of several city neighbourhoods kept complaining about dirty water in the supply of Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) while some parts of the capital have seen a little improvement in the water supply situation.

People of some parts of Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Rampura, Bashabo and Moghbazar and some areas in the old part of the city continue to suffer from severe water crisis for the past couple of days.

The residents of Mohakhali and Mohammadpur, however, said yesterday that they are getting water supply during the daytime.

The Wasa authorities have blamed the frequent load-sheddings for the crisis, and said that the situation will get better within a few days after 23 deep tubewells, now being set up, start operation.

"The water crisis has made our lives miserable. We have been getting water for only three to four hours a day for the last ten days and we have been managing all our household work with this little water," Syed Ahmed, a resident of Pirebagh in Mirpur, told The Daily Star on Monday.

"We even wait until midnight to collect water as we do not get any supply during the day," Ahmed went on narrating their woes. "And often, the water we get is not enough to meet our demand," he added.

With pitchers, buckets and bottles, the frustrated people of Pirebagh gathered at Jhilpar the same day and demanded ensuring water supply in the area.

Shahriar Morshed, a resident of Babar Road in Mohammadpur, told The Daily Star that they had faced acute water crisis for four days this week. "The water we are getting from Wasa supply is too little to fulfil our needs," he said.

Morshed also alleged that the under-construction buildings in the area are using up too much water, creating the acute crisis.

The mobile water distribution container of Wasa is hardly enough to meet the demand of drinking water in the area, he said adding

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Govt asked to scrap review body on women dev policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Naripokkho and Durbar Network yesterday demanded cancellation of the committee formed by the government to review the National Women Development Policy (NWDP) 2008.

At a press conference held at the National Press Club yesterday, the women's rights activists said that if the necessity of reviewing this

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Parties asked not to form poll alliance with war criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War Crimes Facts Finding Committee (WCFFC) has called on all political parties not to form any alliances with parties related to war criminals.

The committee in a statement yesterday said that war criminals in the country are trying to avert any trial against them using the influence of a few Arab countries. These countries are now putting pressure on the government to protect

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PHOTO STAR
Pedestrians use water falling out of a Chittagong Wasa carrier being refilled at a Wasa pump yesterday. A large quantity of water is lost or wasted this way every day when the city dwellers experience water crisis in this dry season.

CNG-RUN BUS Govt forms committee to re-fix fare

UNB, Dhaka

In the wake of a raise in CNG price, the government has formed a three-member committee to recommend the rates of CNG/diesel-run bus fares.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) requested the passengers to commute at previous fares until the government reviews the recommendations to be placed by the committee for re-fixing the fares.

A deputy director of BRTA has been made convener of the committee that will put forward the recommendations after gathering proper information and data. Two

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Ministry clarifies SSC structured question system

UNB, Dhaka

The education ministry yesterday issued an amended notification under holding SSC examinations under the structured question system.

This structured question system would be considered as creative question system (CQS) and only the SSC examinations of Bangla first paper and religious studies would be held under the new system from 2010 and it would be introduced fully from 2011, said a PID handout.

The schools concerned have been asked to ensure the introduction of the system in class VIII on a limited scale from the current year. It will be introduced fully in class VI, VII, VIII and IX from the next year.

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Dhaka College students clash with cops again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Clashes between Dhaka College students and law enforcers erupted again yesterday in and around the college campus as the students staged a demonstration for the second day protesting Tuesday's police action on them.

The students also vandalised several vehicles during the demonstration.

Police filed two cases with New Market Police Station against 400 to 500 unidentified people in each of the cases on Tuesday night for assaulting law enforcers.

However, none was arrested as of 6:30pm yesterday.

Witnesses said students started thronging the college campus at about 9:00am although the authorities had suspended all classes yesterday following Tuesday's violent clashes that left over 50 people including teachers, students and law enforcers injured.

Around 100 students brought out a procession on the campus at about 10:00am protesting Tuesday's police action and marched towards the Mirpur Road.

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1b people in Asia affected by surging food prices: ADB

AFP, Madrid

One billion people in Asia are seriously affected by surging global food prices, the director general of the Asian Development Bank, Rajat Nag, said Wednesday in Spain.

"This includes roughly about 600 million people who live on just under a dollar a day, which is the definition of poverty, and another 400 million who are just above that borderline," he told a news conference in Madrid.

Soaring food prices will be the

REINSTATEMENT OF JUDGES Sharif, Zardari hold last-ditch talks

AFP, Dubai

The leaders of Pakistan's ruling coalition held talks in Dubai yesterday with their month-old alliance on the line amid a deadlock over the reinstatement of judges sacked by President Pervez Musharraf.

Former premier Nawaz Sharif flew to the Gulf emirate on Tuesday for talks with Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) leader Asif Ali Zardari, with a 30-day deadline on resolving the dispute set to expire on

Wednesday.

The one-time rivals agreed in March to push through a parliamentary resolution to restore dozens of judges forced out by key US ally Musharraf in November last year when he declared a state of emergency.

But their dispute resurfaced when the PPP insisted the reinstatement of the judges, including former chief justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, be done via a constitutional package that

includes plans for judicial reforms.

"We are committed to restoration of the judges within 30 days," Sharif, who heads the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party, told a private Pakistani television channel as he headed to the talks on Wednesday.

He said the reforms to the constitution and the judges getting their jobs back "have to be delinked", adding however that he would be "happy to discuss the package."

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End monopoly in business

Suggests probe body to control price of MS rod

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A high level government-formed committee that probed excessive price increase of mild steel (MS) rod has suggested breaking the monopoly in the market for the major construction material to bring down its spiralling prices to a reasonable level.

The committee headed by Housing and Public Works Secretary ASM Rashidul Hye submitted its report containing eight-point recommendation to Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman yesterday.

The probe report also asked for amendments to import and taxation policy to increase import opportunity in the sector.

The government will review the recommendations and start implementing those next week.

"Monopoly leads to manipulation of market one-sidedly. We need to break it immediately for a sound competition in the market for MS rod," the adviser told reporters briefing them about the probe report.

Earlier, the commerce ministry at a meeting on April 17 found no

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ARREARS RMG workers block road in Dhaka, Ctg

STAR REPORT

Several hundred garment workers yesterday blockaded the DIT road at Rampura in the capital demanding payment of their salary arrears.

Hundreds of vehicles remained stranded on the road for about an hour due to the blockade.

Meanwhile, garment workers yesterday put up barricade at Dewanhat intersection in the port city for payment of salary arrears disrupting vehicular movement on

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PHOTO STAR
Workers of a garment factory in Chittagong city barricade the main street at Dewan Mor yesterday in demand for three months' wage arrears, causing a traffic jam in the area.

Lankan troops kill 34 rebels in fighting

AFP, Colombo

Two days of fighting between government troops and Tamil Tiger rebels across Sri Lanka's embattled north have left at least 35 dead on both sides, the defence ministry said yesterday.

Security forces advancing towards rebel defence lines in the Mannar district killed at least 11 guerrillas on Wednesday, the ministry said but did not give its own casualty figures.

Another 23 rebels were shot dead during ground battles across the Jaffna, Vavuniya and Mannar regions on Tuesday, the statement said, adding that one soldier was killed and four hurt.

The military also accused the rebels of shelling a civilian settlement in Welii Oya on Wednesday injuring a 66-year-old man.

There was no immediate comment on the ministry casualty reports from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who have

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Life Standard Chartered The Daily Star

A Film, Photography & Lyrics Contest 2008

The last date of submission for the Standard Chartered-The Daily Star "Celebrating Life" film, photography and lyrics contest is 30th June, 2008. For detailed information please check our website - www.celebratinglifebd.com. Those who have already submitted entries will be considered as part of this contest, they need not be sent again. New entries may be sent. Submissions must be sent to The Daily Star office.

For any further enquiry, please contact: Rafi Hossain, Festival Coordinator The Daily Star 19, Karwanbazar, Dhaka - 1215, Bangladesh, Phone: +88-02-8124944, 8124955, 8124966

Star WEEKEND MAGAZINE

Since there will be no newspaper on Friday May 2, 2008 due to May Day, The Star Weekend Magazine will be distributed on Saturday May 3, 2008 along with the newspaper.

One Step Forward Two Steps Back?

বিআরটিএ'র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সিএনজি চালিত অটোরিক্সার ভাড়া বৃদ্ধি সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সিএনজি জ্বালানির মূল্য বৃদ্ধির প্রেক্ষিতে সরকার কর্তৃক সিএনজি চালিত অটোরিক্সার ভাড়া নিম্নোক্তভাবে পুনঃনির্ধারণ করা হয়েছে:-

ক্রমিক নং	বিষয়	পূর্বের হার	বর্তমান হার
১।	প্রথম দুই কিঃ মিঃ ভাড়া	১৩.৫০ টাকা	১৪.০০ টাকা
২।	পরবর্তী প্রতি কিঃ মিঃ ভাড়ার হার	৫.৫০ টাকা	৬.০০ টাকা
৩।	বিরতিকালের জন্য ভাড়ার হার	প্রতি ১ মিনিট ০.৭৫ টাকা	প্রতি ১ মিনিট ১.০০ টাকা
৪।	সর্বনিম্ন ভাড়া	১৫.০০ টাকা	১৮.০০ টাকা
৫।	দৈনিক জমার হার	৪৫০.০০ টাকা	৪৫০.০০ টাকা

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল সিএনজি অটোরিক্সার মালিক ও চালককে উল্লেখিত বর্তমান হার আগামী ১৫ দিনের মধ্যে মিটারে পুনঃসংযোজন (ক্যালিব্রেশন) করে নিতে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। বর্তমান হার মিটারে পুনঃসংযোজন না হওয়া পর্যন্ত অটোরিক্সার ভিতরে যাত্রীদের সহজে দৃশ্যমান স্থানে উপরি-উক্ত হার প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল মিটার সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে নতুন ভাড়ার হার আগামী ১৫ দিনের মধ্যে মিটারে সংযোজন করতে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

পরিচালক (ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং) বিআরটিএ

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