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Pakistan willing to share Nuke tech with Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pakistani High Commissioner to Bangladesh Alamgir Babar said yesterday that his country is ready to share nuclear technology for civilian purposes with Bangladesh, to help tackle the country's massive energy crisis.

Babar said Pakistan's offer is on the table and Bangladesh has to decide whether the country wants to discuss it.

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar A Chowdhury has already discussed nuclear energy cooperation with Russia and China after the International Atomic Energy

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Next budget to focus on agriculture, power, rural infrastructure

Finance adviser says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam yesterday said the next budget would be somewhere near Tk one lakh crore with concentration on agriculture, power and rural infrastructure.

He said, "Size of the budget for fiscal year 2008-09 will be a little more or less than Tk 99,500 crore. The figure has yet to be finalised as

we are still working on that."

Finance ministry sources said the exact size would be known once the government settles how much to spend in subsidies for different sectors.

Aziz said the budget would be announced on June 8 or 9 (Sunday or Monday). The schedule is different than other years as the government usually announces its annual financial plan on Thursday.

The finance adviser said they believe the deficit this time would remain within 5 percent of GDP.

He was replying to queries from reporters after attending a seminar organised by Privatisation Commission.

The finance adviser said size of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) in the upcoming budget would be Tk 25,500 crore.

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Govt working to empower people

Says CA at banquet for Aga Khan

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed last night said his government is working relentlessly and uncompromisingly to empower people and ensure their right to choose their representatives without fear or intimidation.

"We are in the final phase of achieving desired political aspiration. We are confident that a free, fair and credible election will be held as per the announced roadmap. We are also positive that our reforms and initiatives will be sustainable. To this end, the

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Govt to import 5 lakh tonnes of fertiliser

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government will import five lakh tonnes of fertiliser from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia and Qatar under state arrangement to ease fertiliser crisis and boost rice production in the next fiscal year.

A high-level committee led by the industries secretary has already held talks with the authorities concerned paying visit to the three countries.

The proposal for importing urea may be placed before the Advisory Committee on Economic Affairs today.

The three countries have already sent draft contract letters to Bangladesh authorities following

discussions between the committee and the authorities concerned.

Qatar Fertiliser Company, QAFCO, has already informed Bangladesh that it can export two lakh tonnes of urea as per the proposal prepared by the industries ministry. Qatar has also expressed its interest to export more urea, if necessary.

The UAE in principle has also agreed to export 80,000 to 1 lakh tonne of urea while Saudi Arabia has consented to export one lakh tonne.

Industries ministry officials said the government would set an import target of five lakh tonnes of urea while signing the final agreement.

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GATCO CASE

Hunt on for MK Anwar, other absconding accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Naim Ahmed yesterday said their efforts to arrest the absconding accused in Gatco scam case, including former agriculture minister and BNP leader MK Anwar, will continue.

"Efforts are on to arrest the absconding accused. If they are not arrested we will submit reports to the courts on May 22 as per procedure," Naim Ahmed told a press briefing yesterday after the monthly crime review meeting of the DMP at Rajarbagh Police

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EC to publish report on its talks with parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) is going to publish a report on its electoral reforms talks with political parties, drawing the government's attention to some crucial issues including trial of war criminals to keep them away from polls.

The other vital issues include increasing the number of parliamentary seats, proportional representation in parliament, amendments to Article 70 of the Constitution, introduction of bicameral parliament and empowerment of voters to recall their representatives on grounds of failure to perform properly.

Proportional representation is a system in which political parties are represented in parliament in proportion to the percentage of

votes they got in polls.

"Political decisions are required on the issues. The present caretaker government or the next elected one can consider the matters in future," a source said quoting the EC report that incorporated political parties' recommendations on the issues.

On the EC plan to publish the report, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda had earlier said several times the entire process of holding talks with political parties was transparent, and people will be able to know details of the talks once it (report) is published.

The EC has already finalised the report and directed its secretariat to take steps for publication so that copies of the report can be sent to

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PHOTO: STAR

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed accompanies Prince Karim Aga Khan as he exchanges greetings with representatives of the Ismaili community in Bangladesh at Zia International Airport on his arrival on a 4-state day visit.

50 injured in BDR action in Satkhira

Municipal commissioner assaulted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

At least 50 people were injured as Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel beat up people demonstrating against assault of a Pourasava commissioner by BDR men here yesterday.

The demonstrators barricaded Satkhira-Kaliganj road in the town after Pourasava commissioner Safiguddowla Sagar was assaulted and injured.

The BDR swung into action on them and also assaulted pedestrians and people including journalists and women inside shops and houses nearby.

Satkhira Superintendent of Police (SP) Mirza Abdullahel Baki

along with police force rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Earlier in the morning, the BDR picked up Sagar and beat him up as he had handed over to law enforcers a BDR man along with a woman caught by locals allegedly for unsocial activities about a month back, sources said.

The injured commissioner was admitted to Satkhira Sadar Hospital.

Twenty of the injured including three journalists -- Kamruzzaman of ATN Bangla, Litu of the Juger Barta and Babu of the Kafela -- were also admitted to this hospital. The other injured were

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Ershad to join talks, won't sign nat'l charter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad yesterday said his party will join the dialogue with the caretaker government but will not sign any national charter as proposed by the chief adviser.

Criticising the government for its failure to run the country,

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Prayer Timing

May 20		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-40	6-45
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



Alhaj Abdul Majid Mondol
Managing Director
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Mr. Md. Saiful Islam
Managing Director
Picard (Bangladesh) Ltd.



Mr. Mohammad Sujauddin
Proprietor
Alif International



Mr. Mahmud Hasan Khan (Babu)
Managing Director
Rising Group



Mr. Parvez Hashim
Executive Director (operation)
Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

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