

# Afghanistan dominates Nato summit

Obama welcomes Albania, Croatia as new members

AP, Strasbourg

Asserting his voice at Nato, President Barack Obama yesterday welcomed Albania and Croatia to the alliance and declared to other nations that "the door to membership will remain open."

"It is a measure of our vitality that we are still welcoming new members," Obama said of Nato, which is marking its 60th anniversary at a summit dominated by the war in Afghanistan.

Obama, the one doing the welcoming, is himself new to the table. He is taking part in his first Nato summit and seeking support from allied nations toward the plodding effort in Afghanistan, where the new US president is sending in more troops and civilian help.

As the leaders got down to business, the two Nato summit hosts, French President Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, made it clear they embraced new US leadership. "We are very pleased to work with him," Sarkozy said of Obama. "We trust him."

Meanwhile, outside, police fired tear gas and flash bombs at protesters throwing

Molotov cocktails and rocks less than 2 miles from the gathering of world leaders. First lady Michelle Obama and other spouses cancelled a visit to a cancer hospital out of concern for security, the French president's office said.

One of Nato's stickiest political issues is how and where to grow. Germany, France and many other Nato nations fear any more Nato eastward expansion will further damage the alliance's ties to Russia.

## 30 hurt as 2 trains collide

FROM PAGE 1

Nurul Amin, assistant station master of the junction, said Parbatipur-bound intercity train Rupsha Express collided head-on with a local train at about 5.44 pm.

Driver of the local train M Bazlar Rahman who was also injured in the accident claimed that he drove the train into track-1 after receiving the green signal.

The junction authorities admitted that the accident occurred due to 'a wrong signal'.

The speed of both trains

Said Obama: "The door to membership will remain open for other countries that meet Nato standards and can make a meaningful contribution to allied security."

Founded in 1949, Nato has added members since the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, its Soviet-dominated Cold War foe. In contrast to the alliance's previous eastward expansion, which infuriated Russia, Moscow has not objected to the inclusion of Albania and Croatia in Nato.

was very slow but the passengers received injuries as they jumped from the trains sensing the incident.

Of the injured, Musfiquur Rahman, Abul Kalam and Rashidul were shifted to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital from the Upazila Health Complex as their condition deteriorated.

Meanwhile, the railway authorities formed a four-member probe committee led by division engineer of Pakshi Zone. The committee has been asked to submit its report within seven days.

# Non-govt schools, colleges

FROM PAGE 16

found to be holding the top post in managing or governing bodies of some 30 to 40 educational institutions at a time, in gross violation of rules.

Existing laws of the country clearly said that a single person cannot be president or chairman of the managing committees of more than four institutions at a time.

The ordinance promulgated by the CG aimed to ensure that all activities of the managing committee -- especially financial, development and administrative -- can be run free from political interference.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid has said that the proposed new law for the managing or governing bodies has already been discussed at the parliamentary standing committee on education ministry, and more discussions will be held soon to finalise the draft.

Though experts do not

think that the new proposed draft is any better than the provisions of the lapsed ordinance, some politicians are very critical of the CG proposed law.

Standing Committee on Education Affairs chief Rashed Khan Menon told The Daily Star that the CG prepared the ordinance in such a way that seemed to outline that bureaucrats are intellectual and political leaders not educated at all.

"The CG's ordinance gave extra power to bureaucrats while the contribution of lawmakers and political leaders in establishing and running schools, colleges and madrasas was ignored. So it cannot be accepted," he said.

Present lawmakers and some teachers associations who opposed the provisions of the Ordinance lobbied against it in January when it was formulated.

What was in the CG's Ordinance

According to the ordinance, deputy commissioners would have the responsibility to appoint himself or any first class government officer as president of a managing committee for non-government high schools, colleges and madrasas.

However, a single person would not be able to head the managing committees of more than three institutions.

There was no provision in the ordinance to allow lawmakers to run managing committees.

Also, representatives from the guardians were to be selected from among the top five students of each class instead of through a guardian election.

Some managing committee representatives said the ordinance wouldn't have been helpful as it is difficult for a managing committee to continue the official and development tasks without assistance from local lawmakers.

Office of the Superintending Engineer					
Drainage (R&D) Circle & Project Director					
Removal of Water Logging in Dhaka City Project					
Dhaka WASA, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000					
Memo No: 115/DC(R&D)/Dra(O&M)D-1			Date: 30.03.2009		
<b>Invitation for Tenders</b>					
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2.	Agency	Dhaka WASA.			
3.	Procuring entity name	PD Removal of Water Logging in Dhaka City Project (RWLP).			
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5.	Invitation Ref No.	115/DC(R&D)/Dra(O&M)D-1.			
6.	Date	30.03.2009			
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>					
7.	Procurement method	National Open Tendering Method (NOTM).			
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>					
8.	Budget and source of fund	GOB & DWASA.			
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>					
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22.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Telephone: 9559142			
23.	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject or accept all tenders.				
Engr. Md Waliullah Sikder Superintending Engineer Drainage (R&D) Circle & Project Director RWLP, Dhaka WASA					

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# President's speech

FROM PAGE 1

resolution for its passage since it was the treasury bench that placed it, the officials said.

The resolution will be the first to be passed despite opposition from over half the total number of MPs, senior officials said. Around 200 lawmakers took part in the discussion for over 22 hours until Thursday and almost all of them opposed thanking Iajuddin.

It is expected that the discussion ends today with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Opposition Leader Khaleda Zia speaking on the motion as parliamentary proceedings resume today after a two-day recess, the officials said.

If Hasina and Khaleda participate in the discussion, it will be their second face-off in the ninth parliament since its inauguration on January 25. Earlier, they came face to face on March 1 in an obituary reference on the death of army officials in BDR carnage.

Iajuddin Ahmed addressed the inaugural sitting of the ninth parliament on January 25 amid BNP's boycott.

BNP lawmakers walked out of parliament under Khaleda's leadership, accusing him of violating the constitution by failing to hold the general election in 90 days even after assuming the office of the chief adviser to the caretaker government.

On the next working day, Chief Whip Abdus Shahid placed the thanks-giving motion on the president's address.

During discussion on the motion, both ruling and opposition lawmakers blasted Iajuddin for his role during the rule of the last caretaker government. Ruling AL also criticised him for remaining silent and approving the misdeeds of the BNP-Jamaat government.

A BNP lawmaker even submitted a notice demanding discussion on the president's alleged violation of the constitution but the speaker rejected the notice.

A few AL lawmakers thanked Iajuddin for mentioning, in his speech, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as father of the nation and congratulating Sheikh Hasina on her party's landslide victory in the last election.

# OCs asked no to

FROM PAGE 16

Students are doing politics and the parties will settle the disputes prevailing in the student wings since police are not assigned to interfere in political issues, he said.

Shahidul exchanged views with OCs of 35 police stations and high officials of police at Razarbagh Police-Telecom Auditorium in the capital yesterday morning.

The commissioner also instructed police forces to restore peace and order at educational institutions.

The DMP commissioner said efforts would be made to incorporate the community policing system into police organogram to make the activities of community policing accountable and sustainable.

He gave a two-month time frame to police officials concerned to form committees for community policing and asked them to include people of all walks of life in the committees.

Generally criminals and

corrupt people become sources of police at police stations, he said adding, "Things should be changed so that honest people are encouraged to come to the assistance of police stations."

He said there should be a fixed budget allocation to maintain the expenditures of community police but before the government allocation, funds can be raised from spontaneous contribution of general people.

Such funds must be maintained through bank accounts and it must be audited.

Speakers at the meeting said there is only one police for over 1200 people so it is impossible to curb crime if the concept of community policing is not materialised and their capacities are not strengthened.

Among others, joint commissioners, additional commissioners and OCs of different police stations in the DMP areas were present at the meeting moderated by the DMP commissioner.

# Nor'westers kill 1

FROM PAGE 1

homemaker of Fakirpara, was killed when she was struck by lightning. The seven sustained injuries when their homes collapsed on them.

At least 250 dwellings and standing crops on vast tracts of land were destroyed. The badly affected areas are Kapasia, Belka and Chandipur.

In Sirajganj, a nor'wester left about 10 persons injured and 100 dwellings destroyed early yesterday, our Sirajganj correspondent reports.

It swept through several villages and chars in eleven unions of Kazipur upazila. The worst affected unions are Gandhail, Maizbari, Natuarpara, Shubhogachha and Sonamukhi.

The injured were admitted to Kazipur Upazila Health Complex and Sirajganj Sadar Hospital.

Most of them got injured struck by branches of tree.

The storm uprooted electric poles disrupting power supply.

In Jamalpur, a storm hit five villages of Sarishabari upazila, leaving around 50 people injured and over 200 houses damaged, UNB reports.

The affected villages are Bausi Uttarpara, Moddhapara, Fuldaha, Gozaria and Chandpur.

Witnesses said the storm swept through the villages around noon, damaging over 200 houses and uprooting many trees. Around 50 people were injured as their thatched houses collapsed on them.

Standing crops on vast tracts of land were damaged by the violent storm.

Power supply in the upazila snapped as the storm flattened many electric poles.

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# War crime trial

FROM PAGE 1

today and seek their assistance in this regard.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a scholarship awarding ceremony organised by Greater Comilla Samity at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium yesterday morning.

In an oblique reference to Jatiya Party chief and former president HM Ershad the law minister denounced incorporating Islam in the constitution of Bangladesh during his tenure.

The military ruler in 1982 declared Islam as the state religion by bringing an amendment to the constitution that was contrary to the spirit of secularism enshrined in the country's 1972 constitution, he said.

Former despot ruler Ershad, now a ruling party ally, attempted to set up the High Court divisions in all divisional towns and also made Islam the state religion by bringing eighth amendment to the constitution in 1982.

The law minister urged teachers of the country to teach the real education of the liberation war to their students.

dents.

When asked after the meeting whether the present government would bring any change to the constitution the minister said the government is now only two and a half months old.

"We should not make any comment on this issue at this moment. Let's wait and see," he said, adding that secularism was guaranteed in the 1972 constitution.

He told the meeting that students could not come across with the real history of the liberation war since the role of Rajakars, Al-Badars and Al-Shams played in collusion with the Pakistani occupation forces against the country's independence was not portrayed in the texts.

If their names and heinous role had been written in textbooks the new generation would have learnt the facts about the country's liberation war, he added.

Shafique said students should be taught non-communal education to establish the spirit of the liberation war and democracy in the country.

If Kawmi madrasa education is brought under the general curriculum of education and they are registered, madrasa students will then get general education and they can thus secure jobs like students from the background of general education.

This government is mulling a plan to remove the quota system in education so that every brilliant student can get equal facilities in securing jobs after completing education, he said adding that there is no scope for confusion about the government's position on madrasas.

Presided over by Greater Comilla Samity president Md Shahidul Islam the meeting was addressed by, among others, Bangladesh Bar Council member advocate Syed Rezaur Rahman, Press Club president Shawkat Mahmud and former president of Comilla Samity Abul Kahsem.

After the meeting the law minister distributed prizes among students of greater Comilla who achieved good results in the SSC examination.

# DCC blessing

FROM PAGE 1

Instructed by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD), the mayor ditched the eight-kilometre flyover deal on March 31 on grounds of cheating and corruption following an investigation carried out during the caretaker rule.

The locals say it is the only public playground in the eastern part of the city. All the local tournaments, even some Second Division football matches, used to take place there.

During a recent visit, it was found that Orion has made a long thin shed office inside the playground just in front of the gallery. Two gaurds of Falcon group always guard the locked main gate of the field.

Inside, some Orion staffs who stay in the office at night have even cultivated vegetables ploughing the playground.

Asked why they don't allow anybody to enter the playground, an administrative official of Belhassa said he just executes orders from his superior.

"A legal battle is on between our company and the

government as far as I know. I cannot say more than that," the official added.

From the roof of the gallery, it was seen they have divided the playground by raising a wall. A number of concrete mixing machines were also seen in the field.

The local children now play on the lanes and by-lanes in the neighbourhoods. Some of the boys play at the nearby small Golapbagh Park. But the authorities commercially rent out the park as well to organise different fairs including loom fairs, new year fairs and cattle markets during the Eid-ul-Azha.

"We staged protests and formed human chains for the playground. We talked to the local commissioners but didn't get back the park yet," says a local, asking not to be named.

When DCC asked the Oriental Bank to explain, they said Obaidul Karim, local agent of Belhassa, was the chairman of the bank and he influenced their officials to issue the fake guarantee. Following detection of the forgery, the Anti-Corruption Commission filed a case against Karim with a special court. The court on December 27 last year sentenced him to life imprisonment and fined him Tk 6.7 crore.

The court also cancelled the guarantee paper.

Engineer Ashiqueur Rahman, director of the project, was also handed down punishment for corruption.

The DCC floated an international tender in 2003 to build the Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover and signed the deal with Belhassa on June 21, 2005.

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