

# Breakthrough as Honduras rivals agree to talk

AFP, Tegucigalpa

The de facto leader of Honduras, Roberto Micheletti, has agreed to reopen dialogue with deposed President Manuel Zelaya, candidates for the country's November presidential elections said Thursday.

Zelaya, who is holed up in the Brazilian embassy, said shortly beforehand that a breakthrough dialogue had begun with the de facto government to seek a peaceful end to the country's political crisis sparked by his June 28 ouster.

The announcements came after the UN Security Council agreed to a request from Brazil for emergency talks on the three-month crisis in the Central American nation on Friday.

The presidential candidates met first with Micheletti in the heavily-guarded presidential palace and then visited Zelaya at the embassy.

"We've obtained the commitment of Mr Micheletti to restart dialogue with this reference point (a first peace plan proposed by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias) or any other," said Elvin Santos, a presidential candidate from the Liberal Party, speaking for the four candidates.

Arias, a Nobel peace laureate who brokered the first failed peace talks between the two sides, said Monday he "would be willing to go" to Honduras to follow up his mediation effort.

He still urged both sides to sign July's San Jose accord, which called for Zelaya's return to the presidency.

Zelaya secretly entered the country on Monday, throwing the country into chaos, provoking mass street demonstrations and a military clampdown, temporary airport closures and curfews.

"At this time I can say that the dialogue has begun with the forces of the nation," Zelaya said on Radio Globo after meeting with the auxiliary bishop of Tegucigalpa, Juan Jose Pineda.

Zelaya said he had met Wednesday night with "a representative of the de facto government" whom he would not identify.

"We have not advanced at all from the inflexible position that they (the interim government of Roberto Micheletti), have," Zelaya said, but he described the meeting as "positive."

Earlier on Thursday in a brief interview with CNN, when asked whether he was returning to the country to reclaim the presidency, Zelaya said "I never lost that title" and added that he would stay in the embassy "as long as it takes to end the coup d'etat. The country breathed a sigh of relief as business resumed Thursday with the lifting of a daytime curfew and reopening of airports. A nighttime curfew still held.

Thousands of Micheletti supporters marched past the Brazilian embassy dressed in

white and carrying banners reading "Out with Mel" (Zelaya's nickname).

"I'm here to defend Honduras from the communism of (Venezuelan President Hugo) Chavez," said housewife Mariela.

The firebrand Venezuelan leader influenced Zelaya in his swing to the left after the Honduran's election in 2005.

Several thousand Zelaya supporters moved their demonstrations to another area of the capital Tegucigalpa Thursday to make way for their rivals to protest outside the embassy.

They said they would return to the embassy on Friday.

Fear and hunger intensified inside the embassy, still a temporary home to the ousted leader, dozens of his supporters and several Brazilian embassy staff.

The de facto leaders have insisted the compound will not be taken by force and denied they were responsible for power and water cuts.

The Organization of American States (OAS) was meanwhile due to send a new mediation mission to Honduras at the weekend, including ambassadors withdrawn after the June 28 coup.

The International Monetary Fund said Thursday it would still recognise Zelaya as head of state of Honduras, after consulting with its membership.

The IMF's sister institution, the World Bank, suspended aid to Honduras, as did the United States and the European Union, after the coup.

The United Nations on Wednesday suspended its technical support for the November presidential poll.

Neither Zelaya nor Micheletti are standing for election but the interim government hopes to stay in office until the vote, to keep Zelaya out.

## 2 murdered

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might have been murdered following a feud with his associates.

Sohel and his accomplices were involved in snatching Tk 2,60,000 from a business enterprise owned by former Awami League lawmaker Hazi Selim around 10 days ago. A case was filed in this connection, he said.

Police sent the body to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Morgue sources said the body bore several marks of stab and bullet holes.

Officer-in-charge of Mohammadpur Police Station said they arrested Sayeed who informed police that both Sayeed and Nishu injected drugs into their bodies at around 8:00pm on Thursday at Sayeed's house in the area.

Nishu fell sick after injecting drug and he died early yesterday at Sayeed's house.

Nishu's body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

# Swine flu vaccines

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delivery of sufficient vaccine to start protecting people," a spokesman said.

"We plan to start vaccination in October, subject to vaccine being licensed and manufacturers' delivery schedules.

"This is not the Department of Health's schedule -- it is led by the manufacturers."

The new development comes as the number of new swine flu cases in Britain almost doubled in a week, in the second weekly increase following a summer lull, according to official British data released this week.

The Pandemrix vaccine was produced by British pharmaceutical group GlaxoSmithKline, while Focetria is being developed by Swiss peer Novartis.

A third vaccine, Celvapan, manufactured by drugs firm Baxter, is still being considered by the EMEA.

"Decisions on the granting of European Union-wide marketing authorisations for the vaccines by the European Commission are expected shortly," the EMEA added in its statement.

Further data from ongoing clinical studies would be received in the coming months on the two drugs, it added.

"Vaccines are one of the most important tools in the management of an influenza pandemic, helping to reduce illness and deaths by building up immune protection against the pandemic flu virus," the EMEA said.

"To ensure that authorised vaccines are available before the start of the flu season in the coming autumn and winter months, the Agency's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use expedited its assessment."

Experts have warned of a second wave of flu as the northern hemisphere winter nears.

On Thursday, the World Health Organization said that pharmaceutical firms can produce only three billion doses of swine flu vaccines a year, covering less than half of the global population.

However, tests on the vaccine show that just one jab would offer sufficient protection against the A(H1N1) virus and that the vaccine is as safe as seasonal flu vaccines, the UN agency added.

At least 3,486 people have died from the A(H1N1) virus since it was uncovered in April, according to the WHO's weekly bulletin issued on September 18. There have been 2,625 fatalities in the Americas region.

## Durga puja

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country while the sacred ritual of Kurnari Puja will be held at 11:30am at Ramkrishna Mission.

Yesterday Mahashaptami puja was celebrated after the inauguration of Durga puja on Mahashasthi on Thursday. People of all ages from Hindu community especially children wore new clothes to celebrate this joyful event and visited different puja mandaps to express their adoration to Devi Durga and her children Lakshmi, Saraswati, Kartik and Ganesh.

The ambience of puja mandap gets a festive mood as the dhakis (drummers) attracts the devotees near the puja place beating drums amidst hymns chanted by Brahmins.

Hindus observe this festival as the occasion when Durga descends on the earth with her four children after invocation of devotees for her appearance.

Bakshibazar, Shankharibazar, Tantibazar, Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University, Ramna Kali Mandir, Dhakeswari Mandir, Thataribazar, Ramkrishna Mission, Siddheswari Kali Mandir, Dayaganj, Rayerbazar, Rajarbagh, Rishipara are a few of the prominent mandaps that have been given a dazzling look with colourful designs and lights.

The organisers have also arranged cultural programmes on the occasion.

Mahanagar Sarbojaneen Puja Committee yesterday distributed new clothes among the poor on the Dhakeswari National Temple premises. Deputy Leader of parliament and ruling Awami League president member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury was the chief guest.

State Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs advocate Kamrul Islam visited different puja mandaps in the city including Dhakeswari National Temple, Ram-Shita temple and distributed new clothes.

Mukta D Tomar, deputy high commissioner of India to Bangladesh, Rajiv Chaudhary, first secretary (education) of high commissioner of India, Dhaka, Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin MP among the eminent personalities visited Dhakeswari National Temple yesterday.

Meanwhile, extra law enforcers have been deployed around the puja venues to ensure security during the puja festivities.

## Rab men

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Acting on it, a Rab-2 patrol team rushed to the spot at about 12:30am. When they challenged a group of 10 to 12, they suddenly swooped on the Rab members with sharp weapons prompting the law enforcers to fire shots at them.

The Rab members arrested the three while their cohorts managed to escape.

They recovered two machetes and a knife from the scene.

## DST change

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In June, the cabinet approved a proposal of the power ministry to put the clock an hour forward on June 18 as a way to conserve energy.

The original proposal was to keep the DST till September 30 and revert to GMT+6 on October 1. The DST was proposed to be implemented from April 1 next year again.

However the cabinet only approved the decision to put the clock ahead by one hour. It had not given the decision to put the clock back to the traditional time from October," said a top power ministry source.

"We are expecting a decision in this regard after the prime minister returns home," the source said.

The DST measure has succeeded in reducing power demand of up to 200 megawatt during the peak hours between 7:00pm and 9:00pm during June and September.

PDB sources say that if the DST continues after October 1, it would not be able to reduce power demand as the sun presently sets more than an hour before it did in June. "Global practice shows that DST prevails for a certain period of time," said a PDB high official.

## 1 killed

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Mohammadpur Upazila Health Complex.

The severely injured were identified as Lutfor Rahman, 38, Lutfor Biswas, 40, Milon, 24, and Uzzal, 24.

Lutfor Rahman, son of Mottajuddin Ahmed, later succumbed to his injuries at 2:30am yesterday.

The death enraged the villagers so much that they repeatedly attacked the houses of the rival attackers.

Police have been deployed to avert further incidents. Many villagers have reportedly fled fearing more clashes and police harassment.

A murder case has been lodged with Mohammadpur Police Station.

# Mutiny trial

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arrested in Pikhana HQ for their alleged involvement in the bloody mutiny.

But the total number of the accused would be finalised after all the 'courts of inquiry', which have been formed to investigate the offences, submit their reports.

The number of accused may even cross four thousand and it may take a few years to complete the trial, sources say.

Referring to the BDR Act, a source says besides the three members' composition of the BDR court there will be a law officer from the government to "assist or advise" the court.

The BDR authorities have already sent a letter to the government to appoint a law officer through the Attorney General's Office in this regard, says the source.

The court is likely to start functioning from mid-October if the government gives an early appointment of the law officer, the source adds.

The top official says the court will begin the trial by sitting in any place of occurrence outside the capital, but it depends on obtaining reports from the courts of inquiry.

"After getting reports from the separate courts of inquiry the BDR court would place the charge sheets, which would be available for the accused," informs the officer.

According to the BDR laws, every accused will get at least 27 days to prepare for self-defence. The accused will be able to get officers from the

force free of cost to for self-defence or they can hire lawyers from outside.

Meanwhile, the BDR authorities have requested the government to appoint some lawyers for the prosecution in the BDR court, say the sources.

"In the best case scenario, the first trial of the BDR court may start in late November," the official observes.

The sources say the accused would remain in service during the trial period and be punished according to the verdict of the court.

The BDR mutiny in Pikhana killed 74 people including 57 army officers. This prompted mutiny in different BDR barracks. Since then the nation has been curiously waiting for the trial of the offenders.

The trial process became an issue as there was a long-standing argument in different corners as conflicting ideas floated up about trying the mutineers under the Army Act.

Finally, the government sought opinion from the Supreme Court through a presidential reference where the apex court opined against the idea of trying the mutineers under the military laws.

As per the SC advice the government has finalised its decision to try the accused under two separate laws -- the BDR Act to try only mutineers and the penal code to try the offenders, who deserve either capital punishment or life imprisonment, which isn't covered by the BDR Act.

# PM talks

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issues related to bilateral and regional development-trade, transit, tourism, peace efforts and the like.

Nepal has experienced protracted guerilla warfare until the centuries old monarchy was abolished last year and the Maoist rebels laid down arms.

In this context, the Nepalese prime minister mentioned the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord signed during the previous government of Bangladesh Awami League.

He said Sheikh Hasina's government can help Nepal "in a great way to maintain peace and stability" over there, because the last government under her leadership had been successful in restoring peace in the insurgency-ridden hilly areas of Bangladesh.

"Besides, Bangladesh can share its glorious experience on democracy with Nepal to help it in the process of strengthening its democratic foundations."

As various matters of bilateral trade and business, and regional development came up during the discussion, the Bangladesh PM underscored the need for transit facilities with Nepal "for expediting the long-cherished economic emancipation of the South Asian region."

She also told the Nepalese PM that her government would modernise Mongla seaport by which the neighbouring countries, including the landlocked Himalayan nation, Nepal, will be benefited.

The premier further emphasised making best use of water resources in the region for attaining the development targets.

The two leaders discussed high prospects for flourishing tourism industry in the two neighbouring countries.

In this regard, the PM reiterated her call for introducing package tourism between the two countries, as it will have significant impact on the two economies.

"Tourism packaged with the Himalayas and the Sundarbans, the beaches of Cox's Bazar would open up

## Jalil assaulted

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member of the party's advisory council currently staying in London on a business trip, said most cabinet ministers used to keep close contacts with the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence.

Sources said Jalil reached Coventry Road in Birmingham at about 11:00pm Bangladesh time yesterday to attend a programme there to expand his business as the chairman of Mercantile Bank. A group of UK-based AL supporters stopped Jalil and assaulted him for his comments.

Immediately after the incident Jalil left the place for London.

# Qaeda to pose great danger to India, Pakistan

Says Musharraf

ANI, Lahore

Former Pakistan president General Pervez Musharraf has said that if the US pulls out from Afghanistan then it would create more problems for both Pakistan and India.

In an interview to ABC News, Musharraf said in case the US decides to call off its 'war on terror' in Afghanistan, the al-Qaeda would then create great problems for the region.

"The country (Afghanistan) will become the centre of all al-Qaeda sanctuaries and consequently could extend its influence into Pakistan and possibly even India," Musharraf said.

Responding to a question regarding the Obama Administration's decision to send more troops to Afghanistan, Musharraf said the White House should have done it earlier, but underlined the fact that the US should also be prepared for more casualties in the struggle.

"I think you should take it immediately. You should have taken it yesterday. We must avoid casualties, as much as possible. But when soldiers move and armies act, casualties will be there, and we should accept casualties," The Daily Times quoted Musharraf, assaying.

He said that the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan should be mined so that extremists can't go across.

## 2 BDR jawans

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Hospital on September 19 with liver cancer. He later died on Thursday afternoon.

His body was also sent to his village home at Jamuna Khandakar Para village of Ulipur in Kurigram district under BDR management.

He will be buried at his family graveyard, the release added.

## PMO moves

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narrated its problems in performing functions, sources said.

Selima Khatun, prime minister's private secretary-2, on September 13 sent a letter to the secretaries to the ministries of finance and law to take steps in this regard.

The letter stated that the law commission, which was established in 1996, could not properly perform functions due to shortage of manpower. Besides, there is insufficient allocation in different sectors of the law commission and the library of the commission should be removed.

The law commission office earlier sent a report to the PMO describing at least eight major problems.

The commission was reconstituted through appointing its chairman and two members after the present government assumed power.

## City BNP

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Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, a senior member of the standing committee, told reporters that the matter is at the final stage and the committee would be announced any time.

Salauddin Quader categorically opposed choosing Khoka as city committee chief.

He also made comments on party chairperson's sons Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman much to the resentment of party men.

Some senior and mid-level leaders demanded organisational action against Salauddin during a meeting with the party chief at her Gulshan office on Thursday night.

Khaleida also expressed annoyance over Salauddin's remarks but did not make clear whether any action will be taken against him or not.

## Hajj flights

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aircraft, the rental charge was \$8,090 per block hour.

Officials said agreeing with Kobo's demand for a one-year lease period would not be commercially viable for Biman since the seat capacity of the Kobo aircraft is higher than what is needed for the existing traffic flow on Middle Eastern routes.

"We have already requested Orient Thai for providing another aircraft for our hajj flight operation. We hope they will agree," said Zakul Islam, expecting that the problem regarding hiring another aircraft for hajj flight operation would be cleared within a week.

# G20 leaders push

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The official told The Associated Press that the three leaders Obama, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and French President Nicolas Sarkozy will demand that Tehran open the covert facility up to inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Iran has kept the facility, 100 miles south-west of Tehran, hidden from international weapons inspectors for years, but the US has long known of its existence, said the official, who spoke only on grounds of anonymity because the announcement was still pending.

The Pittsburgh meeting marked the third G-20 leaders summit in less than a year as the countries continued to grapple with a debilitating downturn that has resulted in millions of unemployed around the world, the loss of trillions of dollars in wealth and massive amounts of government stimulus spending designed to jump-start economic growth.

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The US won a battle with Germany, France and some other European nations who wanted specific limits on bankers' bonuses.

"Europeans are horrified by banks, some reliant on taxpayers' money, once again paying exorbitant bonuses," European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said.

Geithner predicted the proposed crackdown on bankers' bonuses would be in place by the end of the year as countries join together to maintain momentum for change.

Also expressing optimism was German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who said, "I think we have a chance to reach progress in all important fields." Merkel faces her country's voters on Sunday.

## Party men

FROM PAGE 1  
among the leaders and activists of Awami League and BNP.

Protesting the meeting a BNP faction, reportedly loyal to BNP Joint-Secretary General Abdullah Al Noman, at a rally Thursday demanded expulsion of SQ Chowdhury from the party.

Meanwhile, leaders of a Chittagong AL faction called a meeting at the home of Chittagong City AL Vice-president Mahtab Uddin Chowdhury at Dampara in the city yesterday evening to press home their demand for party action against the mayor.

# Rally behind

FROM PAGE 16  
and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

Pakistan's lawless semi-autonomous areas in the northwest have been beset by violence after Taliban and al-Qaeda rebels sought refuge there following the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001.

"We believe that hope can triumph over fear, and that adversity can be replaced by opportunity," Obama insisted at the meeting held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

"Success will require a sustained and expanded commitment from the international community," he said at a New York hotel, according to prepared remarks released by the White House.

As proof of Washington's commitment to its key regional ally, the Senate voted Thursday to triple non-military aid to Pakistan to roughly 1.5 billion dollars per year through 2014.

The Senate's unanimous approval set the stage for action in the House of Representatives, where the measure could be introduced as early as Friday with a vote expected soon thereafter that would send it to Obama to sign into law.

"We are here to meet our mutual responsibility for our future," the US president said.

"We know that there are difficult challenges ahead. But that is why we must remain focused, we must be committed and we must stay together. As Pakistan makes progress, the United States will be there as a partner."

Zardari spoke of his country's progress -- both political and economic, in his address to the summit.

"A year ago, Pakistan was seen as weak and at risk. Today, we are in a much improved situation. In our economic strength will rest our political stability," he said.

"A stable, prosperous Pakistan is the world's greatest hope against extremism."

Among the gains he mentioned is the Pakistani army's fight this year against extremists in the Swat Valley.

"Our engagement and partnership must continue as the job is not yet done," Zardari said.

and its sister lending institution, the World Bank, over the reservations of European nations, who would lose influence.

The leaders gathered with their spouses for a welcoming reception at a botanical reserve where they were greeted by Obama and Michelle Obama, wearing a sleeveless taupe-colored cocktail dress.

The biggest clashes between police and demonstrators occurred at just about the time the reception was beginning. The protesters banged on drums and chanted "Ain't no power like the power of the people, 'cause the power of the people don't stop."

Geithner said the G-20 countries had reached a consensus on the "basic outline" of a proposal to limit bankers' compensation by the end of this year. He said it would involve setting separate standards in each of the countries and would be overseen by the Financial Stability Board, an international group of central bankers, finance ministers and regulators that has representation from all the G-20 nations.

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