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Arms, nuke deals lack transparency

The Daily Star - CFAS discussion on Bangladesh-Russia relations told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The \$ 1.5 billion arms purchase and Ruppur nuclear power plant deals with Russia lack transparency, as they had been signed hastily without any public debate, former ambassadors and retired military officials said yesterday.

Although the country's armed forces need supplies from varied sources, the move with Russia demands accountability, they said at a discussion on Bangladesh-Russia relations and its prospects and challenges.

The Daily Star and Centre for Foreign Affairs Studies jointly organised the discussion at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

On January 15, governments of both the countries signed the deals in Kremlin in presence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Russian President Vladimir Putin with the latter granting \$ 1 billion weapon purchase loan at 4.5 percent interest rate.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5
PHOTO ON PAGE 5

Jamaat men fight with cops in Sylhet

40 injured; Patuakhali Jamaat office vandalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

At least 40 people were injured, two of them bullet-hit, as activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir clashed with police in Sylhet yesterday.

Twelve policemen were also among the injured.

Against such backdrop, the government yesterday decided to deploy four platoons of Border Guard Bangladesh at different strategic points of the district

town from Sunday 6:00am, Lt Col Shaiful Azam, commanding officer of BGB-5 battalion confirmed.

Meanwhile, of the two bullet-hit Shibir activists, condition of Ali Asgar Khan alias Rahat was stated to be critical. Rahat, a student of accounting at Madan Mohan (MC) College, was airlifted to Dhaka from Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet.

Sadik Ahmed, the other wounded Shibir activist from the same college,

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

No clemency for war criminals

Nirmul Committee demands amendment to constitution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee yesterday demanded that the government amend the constitution to disqualify war criminals for presidential clemency.

The organisation reiterated its demand of trying Jamaat-e-Islami, Peace Committee, Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams as organisations and forces for their involvement in genocide and other crimes committed during the Liberation War.

Nirmul Committee, which works for elimination of the killers and collaborators of 1971, came up with the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Facebook hit by cyber attack

AFP, San Francisco

Facebook said its computer system was "targeted in a sophisticated attack" last month, but that it found no evidence any user data was compromised.

The company said in a blog post on Friday that malware came from an infected website of a mobile developer and that "we remediated all infected machines, informed law enforcement, and began a significant investigation that continues to this day."

The attackers used a previously unseen exploit taking advantage of a



SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

KILLING OF THREE 6,000 sued in Cox's Bazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The district administration has withdrawn Section 144, which was imposed in Cox's Bazar following Friday's clash, as the first day of Jamaat-enforced 48-hour hartal passed off peacefully in the district yesterday.

While shops kept their shutters closed, rickshaws and auto-rickshaws were seen plying the streets.

Section 144 was withdrawn around 10:00am as normalcy returned to the district, said Md Ruhul Amin, district

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



TEARAWAY TASKIN: Young Chittagong Kings pacer Taskin Ahmed expends full effort while taking 4 for 31 against Duronto Rajshahi in the 1st BPL T20 semifinal at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Story on page 16.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



16 PCJSS men abducted in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

At least 16 leaders and activists of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) were abducted from Katkhola in Longudu upazila here yesterday morning.

PCJSS leaders blamed the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) for the abduction. They also claimed that the number of abductees is 70.

Among the abductees are Moni Shankar Chakma, secretary of Longudu upazila unit PCJSS, Joso Chakma, secretary of Juba Samity, and its organising secretary Milon Chakma, said Longudu police.

Md Rezaul Haque, officer-in-charge (OC) of Longudu Police Station, said some 40 people blocked an engine boat in Jotetila area of Longudu around 10:30am and abducted the PCJSS men at gun point.

The PCJSS members were returning home from Rangamati town after attending the party's 41st founding anniversary programme.

A joint team of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and police is conducting drives to rescue the abductees, added the OC.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

Nerve-racking competition

SHAHNOOR RABBANI

The Daily Star Spelling Bee witnessed one of its most intense and emotionally charged competitions of this year during its final zonal activation on the playground of Comilla Zilla School yesterday.

Around 118 students, divided into 3 groups, took part in the competition from all over Comilla. Hundreds of onlookers, including students, parents and teachers, cheered at the contestants to boost their



SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

UN chief urges India, Pakistan for restraint

PTI, United Nations

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has urged India and Pakistan to exercise restraint and resolve issues peacefully after a Pakistani soldier who intruded into the Indian territory in a fresh incident of ceasefire violation, was killed by the Indian Army along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.

Ban's spokesperson Martin Nesirky yesterday told reporters that the UN chief was aware of the latest incident on February



Ban Ki-moon

14 at the LoC in which the Pakistani soldier, after intruding into Indian territory in a fresh incident of ceasefire violation, was killed by the Indian troops.

"The Secretary-General has repeatedly called on all concerned to exercise restraint and solve issues peacefully," Nesirky said when asked if Ban had a comment on the fresh incident along the Indian-Pakistan border.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

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