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Ukraine truce pact signed

Kiev, rebels agree to pull back troops, swap prisoners; new sanctions on Moscow likely

AFP, Minsk

Ukraine and pro-Kremlin rebels signed up to a truce yesterday that could stem nearly five months of bloodshed but is unlikely to quell the separatist drive in the east.

The warring parties also reached an agreement to pull back troops, swap hostages and send humanitarian aid to war-ravaged eastern Ukraine.

Sceptical Western governments said they still planned to impose tough new sanctions on Moscow over what they claim is Russian aggression in the former Soviet state.

But US President Barack Obama said they could be lifted if the ceasefire holds.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said he was "satisfied" with the deal.

The guns appeared to have fallen silent in eastern Ukraine after both sides ordered a halt to fire at 1500 GMT, despite fierce fighting around the strategic port city of Mariupol in the tense hours before the deal.

The Kremlin-drafted truce has been greeted with scepticism by Western leaders who suspect Russian President Vladimir Putin of trying to cement territorial gains in Ukraine that began with his March seizure of the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea.

The ceasefire plan was drawn up after a surge in tensions

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The sorry state of Purabi-Kalshi Road in Mirpur. Hardly any regular maintenance work is done on the road.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Sorry state of a road in Mirpur

HELEMUL ALAM

The pothole ridden Purabi-Kalshi road in Mirpur is in an extremely poor shape, causing immense suffering to the commuters and forcing them to use the alternative roads in many cases.

Due to heavy traffic pressure and reluctance by the authorities concerned for road renovation, the condition of the 1.4 km road is deteriorating every day, locals have alleged.

To add to the woes of the commuters, the construction work of a culvert near Sangbadik Colony has shrunk the road to such an extent that only one vehicle can pass the point at a time, triggering a total chaos in traffic movement.

A five-minute ride on this road that connects with the the Mirpur-Airport Road Flyover can take up to half an hour.

The situation turns worse after rains, as the road then

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



Ramkanai Das passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Classical folk music guru Pandit Ramkanai Das passed away at a city hospital last night.

The 79-year-old Ekushey Padak recipient, who had been admitted to Metropolitan Hospital in Mohakhali a few days ago after suffering a brain stroke, breathed his last at 10:50pm, said his son Pinusen Das.

Born to Rashiklal Das

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

JAPANESE PM'S VISIT

Dhaka to seek 4-5 years' aid package

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

During the Japanese prime minister's Dhaka visit, Bangladesh may formally place a comprehensive development plan, including Japanese assistance for the next four to five years.

The Prime Minister's Office has directed the Economic Relations Division to prepare the plan, said officials at the finance and planning ministry. Japan could make commitments of around \$6 billion for the next five years.

The money would cover development plan for southern Chittagong and Cox's Bazar and the expansion of Matarbari deep sea port.

Japan has been the top contributor among bilateral development partners in last four-five years. The yearly average commitments made by Japan was close to the ones made by the World Bank and the Asian

Development Bank.

According to statistics, for fiscal years from 2010 to 2013, Japan committed \$755 million a year on average, which was \$273 million in the previous four years.

Last year, Japan committed \$1.18 billion and in the previous one \$1.82 billion.

Between 1971 and last June, Japan gave Bangladesh \$12.36 billion of which \$8.14 billion had been disbursed.

The rate of interest on Japanese loans is 0.1 percent with repayment period of 40 years. The rate is the lowest Bangladesh pays on loans.

A large portion of the loan has been waived under debt cancellation fund.

According to the ERD report, 36 Japanese loans signed before June 1989 and amounting to \$1.46 billion had been converted to debt cancellation fund, which would be utilised for budget support until 2018.

Tuba owner to be forced to pay arrears

Says shipping minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan yesterday said the Tuba Group owner would be forced to pay arrears, overtime bills and festival bonuses to its workers before Eid-ul-Azha.

"The owner of the group would be forced to reopen his five garment units to meet the workers' legitimate demands," he said at a rally organised by Garment Sramik Samannay Parishad in front of the National Press Club.

The minister, also the convener of the Parishad, said, "We would ensure the

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

ARRESTED PINAK-6 OWNER Launch owners press for release

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

Launch owners are now putting pressure on the government to release the owner of Pinak-6 launch and his son, claiming they have been kept in prison 'illegally'.

They also demand that the government does not file cases and arrest any launch owners in future under the code of criminal procedure following accidents in waterways.

The Bangladesh Inland Waterways (passenger carriers) Association, a platform of launch owners, on August 25 submitted a memorandum to the Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan to press home their demands for releasing the duo.

The memorandum is signed by nine leaders of the association, including its chairman Mahbub Uddin Ahmed Bir Bikram.

In the memorandum, they said the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) does not have the legal jurisdiction to file cases under the code of criminal procedure regarding launch accidents. But it has filed the case in order to pass the blame on to the owners.

As per law, the Department of Shipping is authorised to file cases with the marine court under the Inland Shipping Ordinance, 1976, said Badiuzzaman Badal, adviser to the owners' association.

Violating the rule, the BIWTA has filed the case with Louhajang Police Station in Munshiganj under the criminal procedure code, he claimed.

Besides, any owner can be arrested only when s/he is found guilty after investigation. But the Pinak-6 owner and his son were arrested and kept in prison before the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

India mulls legalising one lakh 'refugees'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

In the first step to grant Indian citizenship to nearly one lakh Hindu refugees from Pakistan and Bangladesh, the Indian home ministry yesterday approved setting up of a task force to monitor and expedite processing of their citizenship and long-term visa applications.

Home Minister Rajnath Singh reviewed matters relating to grant of citizenship, that takes a long time, for completion of the entire process and decided to set up the task force.

"In this regard, the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Floodwater inundates Sherpur-Jamalpur Diversion Road at Char Pakkhi yesterday. The movement of heavy vehicles on the submerged road has created potholes making the journeys even more dangerous.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

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Integral Energy Limited
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Do you agree with the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) that no corruption had taken place in the Padma bridge project?

Yes (8%)

No (92%)

TOTAL VOTES: 166

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Human Rights Watch that the Bangladesh government should revoke the newly formulated National Broadcast Policy?

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১৭/০৭/২০১৪

গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, "ইট প্রস্তুত ও ভাটা স্থাপন (নিয়ন্ত্রণ) আইন, ২০১৩" ১ জুলাই ২০১৪ তারিখ থেকে কার্যকর হয়েছে। এই আইনের আওতায় শুধুমাত্র পরিবেশবান্ধব, জ্বালানী সাশ্রয়ী, আধুনিক ও উন্নত প্রযুক্তির ইটভাটা পরিচালনা করা যাবে।

২। উল্লিখিত আইনে জিগজ্যাগ কিল্ন (Zigzag Kiln), ভারটিক্যাল শ্যাফট ব্রিক কিল্ন (Vertical Shaft Brick Kiln), হাইব্রিড হফম্যান কিল্ন (Hybrid Hoffman Kiln), টানেল কিল্ন (Tunnel Kiln), বা অনুরূপ কোন জ্বালানী সাশ্রয়ী ও পরিবেশবান্ধব ভাটা স্থাপন/পরিচালনা করা যাবে।

৩। তবে, আবাসিক, সংরক্ষিত বা বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, সিটি কর্পোরেশন, পৌরসভা বা উপজেলা সদর, সরকারি বা ব্যক্তি মালিকানাধীন বন, অভয়ারণ্য, বাগান বা জলাভূমি, একাধিক ফসল উৎপন্ন হয় এমন কৃষি জমি, প্রতিবেশগত সংকটাপন্ন এলাকা, বিশেষ কোন স্থাপনা রেলপথ, শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান, হাসপাতাল ও ক্লিনিক, গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠান বা অনুরূপ কোন স্থান/প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে কমপক্ষে এক কিগ্রমিঃ দূরত্বের মধ্যে, এলজিইডি কর্তৃক নির্মিত উপজেলা/ইউনিয়ন/গ্রামীণ সড়ক, পাহাড়/টিলার পাদদেশ হতে অর্ধ কিগ্রমিঃ দূরত্বের মধ্যে, পার্বত্য জেলার পরিবেশ উন্নয়ন কমিটি কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত স্থান ব্যতীত অন্য কোন স্থান, বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার অনুমতি ব্যতীত সরকারি বনাঞ্চলের সীমারেখা থেকে দুই কিগ্রমিঃ দূরত্বের মধ্যে ইটভাটা স্থাপন বা পরিচালনা করা যাবে না।

৪। উল্লিখিত আইনে পূর্বতন ইট পোড়ানো (নিয়ন্ত্রণ) আইন, ১৯৮৯ (১৯৮৯ সনের ৮নং আইন) ও এর সকল কার্যক্রম রহিত করা হয়েছে।

৫। "ইট প্রস্তুত ও ভাটা স্থাপন (নিয়ন্ত্রণ) আইন, ২০১৩" ভঙ্গকারীদের বিরুদ্ধে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

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