Bangladesh not lagging behind in global competition: FM

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan has said Bangladesh at present is not lagging behind in global competition in the field of democracy, development and diplomacy.

"We are equally progressing in the war of foreign policy and diplomacy," Morshed Khan, who is now on a private visit to the USA, said while addressing a rally of expatriate Bangladeshis here on Thursday.

The rally was held on the occasion of the inauguration of the newly furnished Bangladesh Consulate in New York, USA.

Presided over by Consul General Rafiq Ahmed Khan, the rally was addressed by Gias Ahmed, Abdul Latif Samrat, Golam Maula Manik and Professor Mebel Gomei.

The foreign minister said Bangladesh is playing an important role in the UN-sponsored peacekeeping mission by sending its troops in different conflictridden countries to establish peace there.

He said excellent bilateral relations now exist between Bangladesh and the United States of America

Describing expatriate Bangladeshis as better immigrants in the USA, he said the US authorities did not deport Bangladeshi people from the USA indiscriminately due to their well

The foreign minister criticised a vested quarter for spreading falsehood and propaganda against the country abroad. "We are shocked when the US authorities inform us of the propaganda against Bangladesh made by leaders of a certain political party and some other quarters," he

"This identified quarter will not be successful by spreading propaganda against the majority of the people in Bangladesh." he

Permanent Representative of Bangladesh Mission in the UN Dr Iftekhar Choudhury, Press Minister M Muhaddes, Chief

Officer of Sonali Exchange Asaduzzamnan were present.

3 BCL workers get 4 years for damaging vehicles

BSS, Natore

The Speedy Trial Court, Natore, has sentenced three activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) to four years' imprisonment each for damaging vehicles and furniture during a hartal in the district.

The court also fined the convicts -- Maksed, Swapan and Supado --Tk five thousand each. They will have to suffer another three months' imprisonment if the fail to

According to the prosecution, the three damaged five vehicles and furniture of North Bengal Sugar Mill during the dawn-to-dusk hartal on June 12, 2003. The hartal was called to protest the killing of an Awami League leader.

After examining the statements the witnesses and relevant documents, the court found the accused guilty and handed down the verdict on Wednesday.



Thundershowers likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Chittagong, Barisal, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions till 6.00pm today

Moderately heavy to heavy falls at places is expected during the period, Met Office said. Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.4 degree Celsius was

recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 25 degree at Cox's Bazar.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:25pm today and rises at 5:37am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.0	26.4	69	85
Chittagong	31.5	26.0	72	74
Rajshahi	32.5	27.0	92	82
Khulna	32.5	27.8	75	98
Barisal	31.4	27.6	75	90
Sylhet	35.0	27.0	87	83
Cox's Bazar	31.0	25.0	85	92



Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil speaks at a press briefing on Netrakona-3 by-election at the party's Dhanmondi office yesterday.

Global peace could be restored through love and harmony

Speakers tell IIFWP seminar

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a seminar yesterday observed that manifestation of love and harmony among the followers of different religions can help restore peace in the society as well as in the world.

If the leadership of a nation truly oves its people and the United Nations takes care of the countries across the world, peace must come back to the world, they said.

"We must look for commonality of religions rather than diversity for peace in the society."

The seminar titled 'The World at a Turning Point: True Leadership and Good Governance' was held at Sheraton Hotel Inter-religious and International

Federation for World Peace (IIFWP) organised the seminar on the occasion of inauguration of its Bangladesh chapter Chaired by President of IIFWP, Bangladesh chapter, and Vice-

Chancellor of Southeast University Prof. M Shamsher Ali, the seminar was addressed by State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharraf Hossain Shahiahan as chief quest. Director General of IIFWP, India. and President of Women

Federation for World Peace, Indian chapter, Ursula McLackland presented the keynote paper. Dr Paresh Chandra Mandol professor of Sangskrit Department, Dhaka University, Dr Thomas Costa, development director, Caritas Bangladesh, D.P. Barua trustee of Bangladesh Buddhist Welfare Trust, Prof. Dr M Nazrul

Islam and Zeenat Ara Bhuiyan took part in the discussion. The speakers pointed out that humanity was prevailing in an age

ANN/ THE STRAITS TIMES

a new wave of the virus.

measures against Sars

A mysterious Sars-like outbreak has

spread to a second nursing home in

health authorities said on

Wednesday, raising concerns about

week that an upper respiratory

ailment, described as relatively mild,

had initially infected residents and

medical workers at Kinsmen Place

Lodge in Surrey, Vancouver. They did

not identify the second home that has

cases, the Ministry of Health (MOH)

in Singapore released a statement

yesterday reminding all hospitals to

continue maintaining precautionary

(WHO) has joined Canadian health

The World Health Organisation

In response to the Canadian

The officials first revealed last

the Vancouver area, Canadian

when transition was taking place at a faster pace than ever before and the world is increasingly feeling the urgency for dialogue among religions, harmony among the races and understanding across the

The efforts for world peace need to be enhanced by the wisdom of world's religious traditions, as well as by the leaders in the fields of arts, science and media, they said.

cultures.

Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan said everybody should realise that in the present day world none could live alone and the world is a place to be shared among its population irrespective of race, religion and nationality.

He urged all to contemplate religion as their pride and said the question of religious majority and

Governance' at Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

Mystery virus in Canada

officials in investigating the latest

Kinsmen Place Lodge since the

discovery that the illness had spread

to 143 people there, Canadian

The second outbreak at the

unidentified nursing home appeared

just as the first one was dissipating

towards the end of last month, The New

about 100 of its residents have

contracted a mild upper respiratory

infection, but little cough and no

Columbia, we would have expected to

see severe illness causing severe

pneumonia," said Dr Perry Kendall, the

British Columbia health officer, in an

"Instead, we are seeing a mild

interview with The Washington Post.

"If this were Sars in British

In the second nursing home, nine of

officials said on Wednesday.

Eleven people have died at

revives Sars worries

Sars-like outbreak

York Times reported.

pneumonia or fever.

minority should be kept aside and everybody should help establish peace in the society.

Ursula MacLackland said the political leaders have failed to earn a good name as they kept themselves busy with their own parochial interests and do not regard the interests of the country or its people.

Dr Thomas Costa said where love stops, violence and deprivation begins there. A leader must be proactive with adequate religious knowledge, he added.

Referring to a recent survey in an Indian university where more than 50 per cent students favoured sex without marriage, D P Barua said Western cultures have been damaging our traditional family bond, religious and social values

illness...which is why we favour the

hypothesis that it is an altered or

mutated virus, not the virus that

emphasised that much more

laboratory work needs to be done to

determine whether the virus identi-

coronavirus family that can cause

fied in Surrey is Sars or one of a

the Sars virus," Dr Kendall said.

respiratory illness

and mycoplasma.

from China.

Canadian health officials

Number of others from the same

"So it is way too early to say it is

Initial tests ruled out infectious

Sars killed 44 people in Toronto

On July 5, WHO declared the

causes such as influenza,

adenovirus, Legionnaire's disease

and 812 people worldwide after it was

identified and spread early this year

worldwide outbreak contained.

caused the worldwide in the spring."



State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan speaks at

a seminar titled 'The World at a Turning Point: True Leadership and Good

The decision was taken at a meeting of the central committee of the 11 Party yesterday with Ganotantri Party President Azizul Islam in the chair.

58pc people not aware of what to do in case of major earthquake

Opinion poll reveals

About 58 per cent people are not even aware of what to do in case of a major earthquake in the country, according to an opinion poll

Others believe that although the experts are aware of the consequences, they are not sincere in implementing regulations related to construction of building.

The Centre for Sustainable Development (CFSD) conducted the opinion poll in six divisional headquarters between August 10 and 13 this year in which 1005 people took part.

Of the respondents, 27 per cent were illiterate, 31.6 per cent studied up to class five, 27 per cent studied up to class nine. 12.1 per cent had education up to SSC or HSC and the rest have university degrees.

Dr Ainun Nishat and Dr AK

Enamul Haque supervised the poll. The poll asked questions on several other issues. On earthquake related emergencies, about 52.2 per cent of the respondents said that rather than waiting for the government, local people should prepare themselves to deal with any consequences of the earthquake.

However, 47.8 per cent think that government can successfully deal with emergencies related to earth-

On the recent launch accidents, 52 per cent respondents suggested stern action against the launch owners who are deliberately violat-On the other hand, 48 per cent

think that government cannot do much against the launch owners unless the owners associations take actions against their members for violating laws. The law and order situation has

been a major contentious issue

since long. So far, the government took several measures to improve law and order. About 47.9 per cent of the respondents said that overall law and order has not improved. The rest 52.1 per cent are somewhat satisfied and think that there has been some improvement despite apparent failures. However,

and order has improved up to their The government has formed joint forces, comprising BDR, police and coastguards to deal with growing

only 15.2 per cent said that the law

Menon made convenor of 11 Party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rashed Khan Menon, president of Bangladesh Workers' Party, has been made convenor of the leftleaning 11 party for next three

The meeting also decided to

strengthen the activities of the party. Rashed Khan Menon, Bimal Biswas, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Dilip Barua, Abdullah Sarkar and Bazlur Rashid Feroz attended the meeting.

insurgencies in the southwest

Of the respondents, 66.2 per cent appear to have support for the government initiatives and deployment of joint forces. The rest 33.8 per cent, however, suggested that government should take steps to improve the efficiency of police.

Sixty per cent of the respondents

were not in favour of sending troops to Iraq even with the approval of the UN as long as US troops remained stationed there

Most of them did not want to send the Bangladeshi soldiers in the conflict zone. On the other hand, nearly 40 per cent said troops can



Dance drama

Nrityanchal will present a dance drama based on Mohua to raise funds for Chhayanaut. Venue: Shaheed Zia auditorium, National Museum. Time:

Russian film show

Zahir Raihan Film Society and Russian Cultural Centre will jointly screen two films adapted from classic Russian literature. These are Alexander Pushkin's 'Eugene Onegin' by Martha Fiennes and Fyodor Dostoyevsky's 'Crime and Punishment' by Joseph Sargent. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.30pm and

The inaugural ceremony of a painting exhibition organised by Purbita, an organisation of female artists, will be

Kranti organises a cultural function to mark the closing ceremony of its twomonth long training workshop with language veteran Abdul Matin as chief guest. Venue: Bishwa Sahitya Kendra auditorium, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue.

Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) organises a programme with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Bgum Selima Rahman as chief quest. Venue: University Women's Federation College auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.30pm.

Seminar

The inaugural session of a four-day House-4/1/A, Block-E, Lalmatia.

Time: 6.30pm.

Mujibur Rahman. Venue: Central náheed Minar. Time: 4.00pm.

Painting exhibition

held with Hashem Khan as chief guest. Venue: Bhaskar Novera Hall of National Museum. Time: 3.30pm. The exhibition will remain open till August 27 from 10.30am to 4.30pm daily.

Cultural function

WFWP programme

A seminar on 'Environment, civil society and political party: An analysis of Bangladesh Experience', organised by Greenforce, will be held. Venue: TSC Conference room of Dhaka University. Time: 4.00pm

Workshop

training workshop on the 'Role of grassroots women journalists in establishing human rights for women and good governance', organised by Nagorik Uddog, will be held. Venue:

Memorial meeting

Bangladesh Awami Swechhasebok League organises a discussion meeting on the occasion of the 28th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh

be sent with UN authorisation

Founding

anniversary

The 30th founding anniversary of Jatiya Chhatradal will be held. Venue: Aparajeo Bangla, Dhaka University.

Puja festival The annual puja festival of Sree Sree

Sangsad, will be held. Venue: Shankhari Bazar east crossing. Time: Public meet

Shanidev Temple, organised by Anirban

Bangladesher Communist Party organises a public meeting. Venue: Paltan Maidan. Time: 3.00pm.

BUET meet The monthly meeting of 'BUET '72 Batch' will be held. Venue: Ramna Restaurant, Ramna Park. Time

Rotary Dhaka North

West

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Members are requested to attend the meeting on time. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5.30pm.

Rotary Dhaka Central Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of

Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1.30pm.



Chironton '71, organises an art

competition for children and juveniles

on the occasion of the 28th death

anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh

Muiibur Rahman, Venue: Shishu Academy premises. Time: 3.00pm.

Musical evening Bangladesh Freedom Foundation organises a musical evening to raise fund for Chhayanaut. Venue: Shishu Academy auditorium. Time: 7.00pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'Memento'. Venue: 21/C, Zigatola.



The National Shop Employees Federation took out a procession in the city yesterday to press for its 10-point