

Non-aligned nations can play constructive role: Mostafiz

ACCRA, Sept 7: Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman has said the Nonaligned Movement can play its due role in the global affairs even after the end of the Cold War era, reports BSS.

Addressing the 10th meeting of the Nonaligned Foreign Ministers Conference here yesterday, he said the relevance of the movement had in no way been lost and the Nonaligned nations could play a constructive role in the international affairs as they did before.

"Because of the recent changes in superpower relations a question is often being asked as to whether there is continuing relevance of the policy of nonalignment," the Foreign Minister said adding "the end of the bipolar division surely did not mean the winding up of the movement."

"The truth is that non-alignment is not exclusively related to the relations with

big powers," Rahman said and reminded all that the heart of the policy was neither neutrality nor expediency.

Stressing the need for further consolidating the Movement, the Foreign Minister said, it was immaterial whether the world was bipolar, multipolar or unipolar and that Nonaligned Movement remained relevant despite periodic vagaries in the system of nations states.

The Foreign Minister stressed the need for greater economic interaction among the nonaligned nations, bulk of which are developing and least developed countries, and expressed the hope the movement would evolve such strategies that would help economic development of the member states.

"Our search for peace, and security will remain illusive if economic stagnation, deprivation and disparities among and within the nations con-

tinue to exist," he said.

Rahman drew the attention of the movement to the plight of the least developed countries and said relevant recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the LDCs last year must be included in evolving new economic strategy for the movement.

The Foreign Minister referred to the global political scenario and said many of the longstanding disputes like the Middle East situation, Palestine question, Cyprus, Kampuchea and Afghan tangle remain to be resolved.

He noted that recent months witnessed some signs of breakthrough in some of these problems like a conference on Middle East now seem more prospective than ever before and the actors in the Kampuchean scenario also moved forward to settle their problem.

Demand to resume Inqilab publication

By Staff Correspondent

Publication of the Daily Inqilab remained suspended till Saturday. Publication of the newspaper was suspended following Thursday night's clash in the office of the daily over implementation of the Third and Fourth Wage Board Awards for the press employees and workers of the paper.

Police remained posted in the office until last night. However, no fresh trouble took place there over the issue.

Meanwhile, leaders of different unions of the newspaper industry and political parties condemned the attack on the Inqilab employees and demanded resumption of publication of the daily.

Reazuddin Ahmed and Amanullah Kabir, President and Secretary General of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), Zahirul Haq and Ruhul Amin Gazi, President and General Secretary of the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) in a joint statement said republication of the Inqilab has become uncertain following issuance of termination notice to the workers and employees of the paper's press section (Kaderia Publications and Products Ltd) after laying off the section.

The statement demanded identification and punishment of the attackers on the press workers through investigation.

They said that the crisis could be resolved by discussion between the authorities and the workers.

The Inqilab unit of the DUJ in a meeting Saturday condemned the undesirable incident. Held at the National Press Club office of the DUJ, the meeting was chaired by the Unit Chief Mizanur Rahman.

The meeting demanded withdrawal of case filed against Syed Meshabuddin in connection with the attack on the press workers.

Bangladesh Newspapers Press Workers and Employees Federation at a meeting Saturday demanded immediate arrest of Maulana Mannan, Inqilab Editor Bahauddin, Moinsuddin and others who they alleged were responsible for Thursday's incidents.

Inqilab editor AMM Bahauddin in a statement differed with the claim that the Third and Fourth Wage Board awards were not implemented in the daily.

He said that the Daily Inqilab was not laid-off rather the Kaderia Publications not related with the newspapers, was laid-off and its unruly employees were asked to leave the office when the situation on Thursday night went out of the control of the authorities.

Sikh strike call cripples Punjab

NEW DELHI, Sept 7: A

general strike called to protest the slaying of a Sikh guerrilla leader virtually crippled the Indian state of Punjab today, police and news reports said, reports AFP.

Almost half the shops and business establishments were shut while road transport was seriously hit in the northern state, with private buses going off the roads, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Train services were normal, but Sikh militants blew up a portion of rail track in Amritsar. No further details of the sabotage were available.

The call for today's shutdown was given by scores of Sikh groups at a September 1 conclave to protest the killing

by security forces of Sikh militant leader Gurbaj Singh Rajasthani.

Rajasthani, who headed the outlawed Khalistan Commando Force and was blamed for numerous murders, was killed in a gun battle on August 31 in Punjab's Ropar district. He carried a reward of 40,000 dollars on his head.

PTI said the general strike was more successful in Punjab's rich rural areas, particularly in the three districts bordering Pakistan.

In Amritsar city, home to Sikhdom's Golden Temple, the offices of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, the Sikh religious parliament, were shut.

Poll campaign

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Besides display of multi-coloured posters, banners, twenty four hours campaign by at least ten to fifteen microphones by each candidate is going on ignoring election rules. Rangpur people are witnessing latest models of motor vehicles brought by multi-million party stalwarts of JP, BNP and Awami League.

The by-elections here have gained further importance with the joining of JPs Acting President Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Secretary

Shahabuddin

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coming referendum on the change of the form of government.

He said since all the members of Parliament had passed the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill unanimously it was their responsibility to contact the electorate.

The Acting President expressed the view that the subject matter of the referendum should be clearly explained to the voters and that they should be given necessary guidance and advice as to how they would exercise their right to vote in the referendum.

Chief Whip of the Treasury Bench Khandakar Delwar Hossain, Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim, Treasury Bench Whips Mohammad Ashraf Hossain, Mahbubul Alam, Prof Mohammad Shahjahan Mia and Abdul Karim and Opposition Whips Azizur Rahman and Abul Hasan Chowdhury were present.

General Shah Moazzem Hossain in the race, trying to draw people sympathy by highlighting the present sufferings of deposed President Ershad.

In Rangpur-1 seat which constitutes Gargachara upazila and three unions of Rangpur Sadar, Awami League Majbar Rahman, BNP's Alhaj Rahim Uddin Bharsa, JP's Alhaj Karimuddin Mia and Jamaat's Shah Ruhul Islam are contesting. BNP's Rahim Uddin Bharsa and JP's Karim Uddin are brothers and multi-millionaires and both permanent residents of neighbouring Kaunia upazila. AL's candidate Majbar Rahman had in the last election fought Ershad and lost by a margin of about thirty thousand votes. In the current race, JP and AL candidates are fighting almost equally.

In Rangpur-2 seat, constituting Badarganj and Taraganj upazila, Awami League candidate Anisul Haque Chowdhury, ex-MP, JP's Partosh Chakravarty, BNP's Advocate Elias, ex-MP and Jamaat's Md Noor Hussain Shah are locked in the race. AL and JP candidates are running equally.

In Rangpur-5 that constitutes Mithapukur upazila JP's Acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury is locked in poll fight with Awami League's Ashekur Rahman, ex-MP, BNP's Nurul Huda Sultan, an industrialist, and Jamaat's Abu Bakar Wahedi.

In Rangpur-6 which constitutes Pirgonj upazila, Awami League's former Minister Matiar Rahman is fighting poll with JP's Shah Moazzem and Jamaat's Abdus Salam Advocate.

Ershad barred from speaking

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prayer of the Attorney General for restrictions on publication of any report the Chief Defence Counsel Strajul Haque said that meeting the demands of the Prosecution of not allowing Ershad to speak a word would be tantamount to "curbing the press and the accused too much."

He however assured the Court that his client Ershad would not make any political statement.

At this stage Barrister Kazi Shahadat Hossain one of the Defence Counsels stood up and said that the comments of Begum Zia in a public meeting invited the reaction from Ershad. He also shouted in the Court refuting the prayer of the Attorney General not to allow Ershad to talk with journalists.

Judge Mohammad Ali Khan rebuked Kazi Shahadat for his unbecoming behaviour saying, "this is not the way to submit in the Court." Later when Kazi Shahadat was leaving the Court he apologised to both Judge Mohammad Ali Khan and Attorney General Aminul Haque for his misconduct.

At another stage in the hearing the learned Judge however quashed from the proceedings reference of a London press report on the alleged love and graft of the accused Ershad.

Judge Mohammad Ali Khan said, "The paper document was not relevant to the case." When Attorney General was referring to the Court the paper cutting of the report, Ershad was fuming and seemed to be completely broken.

However the Court after a plea from the Defence Counsel Strajul Haque also requested the press not to quote the published report of the London Observer.

The prosecution on Saturday recalled MI Khan, Director Anti-Corruption Bureau for clarification of the statements of PWs on the prices of goods found in the Sena Bhawan. He was cross examined by Defence Lawyer Strajul Haque.

Following are the excerpts: DL: From where did you get the price of the Berlin stone?

PW: I did not get any price of the Berlin stone.

DL: Do you know that there are some antiques in the world that are not priced?

PW: Yes.

DL: Is the Berlin stone mentioned in the tariff sheet?

PW: No it is not mentioned.

DL: There are many things that are priced, but those are duty free?

PW: Yes, there are some things that are duty free.

DL: Were the golf caps imported or given by some persons as gifts?

PW: I have not ascertained whether those were gifts or purchased items.

DL: (giving a suggestion) My client says that the golf caps were given by an American Senator and a Japanese investor interested in setting up an industry in the Chittagong EPZ.

PW: I don't know anything about it.

DL: What is the percentage in escalation of prices from 1980 to 1990?

PW: It may be 20 percent.

DL: The price of a Cartier pen is not more than 3 to 5 hundred.

PW: In the Sheraton hotel a Cartier pen is sold at Taka

9,500 to 15,000.

(showing a catalogue) In the catalogue the price is mentioned at 349 dollars.

DL: (after continuation of cross-examination for a while made a suggestion) The prices of the items have been exaggerated at least five times more than the actual prices and the price escalation on the items over 10 years was not calculated during fixation of prices.

PW: It is not true. The prices were fixed as per the current value of the items.

DL: There are many items that are gifts.

PW: If those had been gifts they would have been kept in the Toshakhana. Later the Defence Counsels prayed for recalling of two prosecution witnesses Information Officer of the case and the Assistant Military Secretary Lt Col Atiqur Rahman Munshi.

The Court has also ordered that a file of the PWD relating to the purchase of a house by the Jatiya Party be brought.

The Court was adjourned at 2 pm to resume today (Sunday) at 10.30 am.

China, India recognise Baltic republics

Georgia severs ties with Soviet Union

MOSCOW, Sept 7: The republic of Georgia has decided to sever all official ties with the Soviet Union, the Speaker of the Georgian Parliament announced, reports agencies.

The Interfax news agency quoted Akaki Assatiani as saying here late Friday that Georgia had cut off all official relations with the Soviet Union because of the refusal Friday by the newly created State Council to discuss recognition of a declaration of independence by the republic.

Georgia declared independence in April. At its first meeting Friday, the State Council — which includes President Mikhail Gorbachev and republican leaders — recognised the independence of the three Baltic

republics — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Delegates from Georgia walked out of meeting after the issue of recognition of Georgia was removed from the agenda, according to the Russian news agency RIA.

China recognised the Baltic republics today following the Soviet Union's decision to acknowledge their independence.

India on Saturday recognised the three Baltic states as independent nations, the government announced.

Two people were killed and eight seriously injured in renewed fighting in the South Ossetian town of Tskhinvali, the Tass news agency said Saturday.

The Midnight File

EC helicopter machine-gunned

THE HAGUE, Sept 7: A clearly-marked European Community helicopter carrying EC ceasefire observers was machine-gunned in Yugoslavia on Friday, reliable sources here said today, they said that the Netherlands the current EC President, had lodged a protest with the Yugoslav authorities following the attack, in which no one was injured, reports AFP.

Singapore cabinet sworn in

SINGAPORE, Sept 7: The new 16-member Singapore Cabinet was sworn into office in a simple ceremony today by President Wee Kim Wee, the Singapore Broadcasting Corp. said, the Cabinet led by Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong is virtually unchanged with Mah Bow Tan, Acting Communications Minister in the previous cabinet, being confirmed as full minister while two other ministers were given additional portfolios, reports AFP.

Vatican, Albania establish ties

VATICAN CITY, Sept 7: The Vatican and Albania established diplomatic relations after more than four decades of fierce anti-church persecution by the Balkan country's former Stalinist regime. With the move, the Vatican has now forged relations with all of Eastern Europe, including Moscow, reports AP.

Sefi-reliance

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Flood Control, Water Resources and Irrigation Minister Majed-ul Haq, State Minister for Finance Majbar Rahman, Mrs Selima Rahman, MP, Azizul Haq, MP and BNP nominee from Bogra-7 constituency Helaluzzaman Talukdar Lahu spoke on the occasion.

People from all walks of life stood on both sides of the road defying incessant rain and greeted Begum Zia. At various points the enthusiastic crowds stopped her motorcade and talked to her. Begum Zia also enquired about their welfare.

The Prime Minister was elected from Bogra-7 seat in the February 27 polls.

Begum Zia said the Bogra seat would always remain as her seat. She said she would look into the local problems and take steps for their solution.

Begum Zia said there was no alternative to BNP for development. In this regard, she listed various achievements of the government and said it would fulfil all its election pledges one by one.

She said the government would construct roads, bridges and culverts in the rural areas to develop the communication network. She also emphasised the need for intensifying the activities of the rural electrification system.

Begum Zia said the BNP government would take up the 19-point Programme for Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman. She said the people had demonstrated their support for the programme by voting BNP to power in the last polls.

She said the government had made the highest allocation for The Education sector in the budget. She said efforts were being made to develop the primary schools of the country.

Begum Zia said her government was determined to restore peace in the educational institutions.

She said her government would take steps to wipe out corruption from the society. She said the previous government had plundered national wealth through corruption and misuse of power.

Asks officials to work freely

The Prime Minister today urged the government officials to discharge their duties with sincerity and honesty and ensure peace in the society.

She was addressing a meeting of the officials of Bogra district at the Bogra Circuit House here.

"Now there would be no interference in discharging your duties, unlike in the past", she said and asked officials to implement government development programmes to be build the economy ruined by the previous regime.

She said, "We have come to know about the problems of the people by remaining in the opposition for the past nine years."

International Literacy Day today

International Literacy Day will be observed today in the country along with other countries of the world, reports BSS.

The day coincides the opening of the first world congress of the ministers of the education on "the eradication of illiteracy" held in Tehran in 1965.

Various governmental and socio-cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day.

The Mass Education Programme of the Ministry of Education and Bangladesh UNESCO National Commission will jointly hold a seminar on the occasion at the National Museum auditorium at 10 am today.

She called upon the officials to maintain law and order during the by-election so that people could cast their votes freely and without fear.

On referendum, Begum Zia said the people would give their verdict in favour of the system passed by the Jatiya Sangad unanimously.

She also underlined the need for checking smuggling and said it had hampered the growth of national industries and ruined our economy.

'Go to people'

She called upon the leaders and workers of BNP to gear up organisational activities to make the party strong at the grass root level.

The Prime Minister was talking to the leaders of Bogra district unit of BNP and its front organisations at the Bogra Circuit house.

She urged them to go to the people with programmes of BNP to help expedite the development programmes of the present government.

Begum Zia also called upon the party leaders and workers to persuade the people to cast "Yes" vote in the coming referendum.

Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul-Huq was present.

8 Sri Lankan MPs sacked from UNP

COLOMBO, Sept 7: Eight government MPs campaigning for the ouster of President Ranasinghe Premadasa were sacked from the crisis-ridden ruling United National Party (UNP), party officials said here today, reports AFP.

The expulsions came as two of the dissident lawmakers were removed Friday from the UNP top executive body, the working committee, as they failed to win a court order preventing disciplinary action against them.

A UNP statement said the eight defectors sacked from the party would lose their parliamentary seats, but political sources said they had one month to appeal to the Supreme Court against the party decision.

Laith Athulathmudali and GM Premachandra are leading constitutional moves to oust Premadasa and restore parliamentary democracy with the help of dissidents within the deeply split UNP and opposition legislators.

Hasina

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party, but that was not reciprocated. She called for passage of the Indemnity (Repeal) Bill in Parliament for the sake of strengthening democracy and establishing rule of law.

The government has also failed to announce any economic programme, she said, and called upon the people to cast vote in favour of 'Boat' in this ensuring by-election to strengthen her party to consolidate their rights and bring about economic emancipation.

UNB adds: She warned the ruling BNP against rigging in the September 11 by-elections saying the people will not tolerate such misdeeds.

Like Ershad, the BNP will also be identified as vote dacoit if they resort to rigging apprehending a debacle in the coming by-elections, she said.

Hasina said a wave of popular support is sweeping all the constituencies where the by-elections are to take place on September 11.

"BNP nominees will lose their security money if free and fair voting is ensured", she claimed.

The Awami League chief alleged that the ruling party was using government relief as election bribe in different constituencies. She also urged the administration to remain neutral during the polling.

Flood situation in C'nawabganj worsens

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Sept 7: The overall flood situation of Chapainawabganj district has deteriorated with rapid rise in water level of all the four rivers of the district.

The Mohananda river is flowing 40 cm above the danger level. Flood water has submerged 8 unions of sadar upazila fully and six unions partially. Four hundred houses of Ujirpur union including a high school and one hundred houses of Panka Union under Shibganj upazila have been damaged by flood and heavy rain. The flood protection dam of Chapainawabganj town is under threat owing to pressure of flood water.

A large area of Chapainawabganj Municipality including Rehalchar Chainpara, Haripur, Namorajampur, Tikampur have gone under flood water. Diarrhoea has broken out due to lack of pure drinking water in the flood-hit areas of Bholahat and Shibganj.

UNB adds from Pabna: Padma and Jamuna have swelled alarmingly after incessant rains for the last two days, submerging crops in vast areas of the district.

Officials after villagers said standing crops on 12,000 acres of land went down the flood waters which hit six upazilas. The affected upazilas are Sadar, Bera, Sujanager, Iswardi, Chatmohar, and Bhangura.

At least 2,000 families were rendered homeless as the Jamuna eroded homesteads in Bera upazila in the last few days.

The atomic energy project at Rooppur in Iswardi upazila is now under threat of erosion by the Padma, flowing only five centimetre below the danger level at noon today.

Incessant rainfall for the last three days and rise in the water level of river Jamuna has inundated low lying areas of Sirajganj Poursahava.

Upazila Chairmen told UNB today that flash flood has submerged vast areas in nine unions.

ment. If our new policies succeed, government revenues will also grow and provide resources for social sector programmes."

Discussing the growing role of the private sector in his country's economy, Dr Singh disagreed with this writer that in the changed situation, politicians would have less hold on the economy and much fewer issues to make promises on.

Dr Singh said, "The government will have plenty of basic things to do in the new situation. It will have to be more active on social services agriculture and rural development, and in the management of the environment. Politicians will have to place before the people credible programmes for raising their standard of living. There is no danger of politicians being short of work."

As if he was thinking of Bangladesh which he did not name as such, Dr Singh said, "if credible programmes are presented to the people and implemented, democratic forces will get a boost and there will be faster progress in the alleviation of poverty."

Details of the interview will appear tomorrow on page 4

upazila of the district.

With the death of baby Lisa (3) the death toll rose to three today. She was drowned in Dairdhangora village of Sadar upazila.

Bus service had to be suspended on Enayetpur-Shahadatpur route due to partial inundation of the road. A Bailey bridge collapsed on Sirajganj-Tarash road.

Ershad, Raushan charge-sheeted in RAJUK plot purchase case

Former President HM Ershad, Begum Raushan Ershad, a director of Janata Publishers MA Sattar, former chairman of RAJUK Rahmatullah and 14 other persons have been charged-sheeted following investigation of a case filed against them with Motijheel thana by the Bureau of Anti-corruption, reports BSS.

The accused have been charged with abuse of power and involvement in corruption in purchasing two plots in Kawan Bazar commercial area at a nominal price.

According to the case, the former President had directed RAJUK to allot the two plots among the affected people of the area. The plots were leased out to the applicants accordingly, but they were compelled to sell those plots worth Taka 4 crore to Begum Raushan Ershad, chairman of Janata Publishers Limited, at a nominal price.

Iraq needs 50 pc more oil revenue for food, says Cuellar

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 7: UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Iraq needed 50 per cent more oil sales for its food needs than the Security Council authorised but stopped short of insisting this goal be met immediately, according to a key report to the Council, reports Reuter.

Instead, he said he would recommend "at the appropriate time" that the Council increase the figure, according to the final version of a document on future Iraqi oil sales obtained by Reuters late on Friday.

But Perez de Cuellar warned that the food supply and health of the Iraqi people had to be monitored carefully over the next few months to prevent a "full-scale famine and a major human disaster."

In an August 15 resolution, the United Nations Security Council authorised 1.6 billion dollars in Iraqi oil sales over a six-month period. About 933 million dollars of that amount was for food needs and the remainder would begin to compensate victims of the Gulf war and pay for UN costs in the post-war period.

But the Secretary-General pointed to a recent report by his envoy in the Gulf, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, which proposed 1.73 billion dollars for food, health, water sanitation and agricultural supplies. If reparations and other UN costs are added, the total would be at least 2.4 billion dollars in Iraqi oil sales needed to cover the costs.

BCL calls hartal in Pabna today

PABNA, Sept 7: District Chhatra League called for a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the town tomorrow to protest the killing of its leader Parag, reports UNB.

Artifur Rahman Parag, Rajshahi University Unit Publicity Secretary of the student wing of Awami League, was injured by miscreants in Pabna town on Thursday and died at the PG Hospital in Dhaka on Friday.

A mourning procession was brought out in the town this afternoon and a protest meeting held in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office.

The BCL activists also picketed tomorrow's hartal to begin at 6 am.