

Come to CHITTAGONG Come to BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT
 The only place for ORIGINAL THAI FOOD & SEAFOOD in CHITTAGONG (NO BRANCH) Please try us and you will love BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT more than ever before.
 1443 ASIAN HIGHWAY, OPPOSITE Y.M.C.A. NASIRABAD, CHITTAGONG. TEL: 22660. Fax: (086) (31) 22528

The Daily Star



Inside Today

Article

Window on Asia by Shahed Latif

Tolerance and constructive engagement lead to progress Page 4

International

Opposition forces have swept Azeri President Ayaz Muttalibov from power

American filmmaker David Lynch and film editor Mary Sweeney stroll, Friday on the shores at Cannes, one day before Lynch presents his film 'Twin Peaks' to the 45th Cannes Film Festival Page 5

Feature

Environment

The Greenhouse effect: Economic impacts and policy options Page 8

Business

Investment ceiling without permission raised to encourage private sector Page 7

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Student exchange Page 3

Human rights can't be linked to aid

NAM FMs decry rich nations' interference

BALI (Indonesia), May 16: Members of the Non-Aligned Movement today decried the tendency among developed nations to invoke civil and political aspects of human rights as a conditionality for extending economic and social development assistance to the developing countries, reports PTI.

In a communique issued this morning at the end of a night long session, the coordinating bureau of NAM Foreign Ministers criticised the persistent side-tracking of economic, social and cultural aspects of human rights by some members of the international community.

These practices undermine the need for a balanced approach to human rights, it said.

Human rights should be promoted through cooperation, it said, adding, human rights expression and implementation at the national level in a country was the responsibility of its government and

outside nations have nothing to do with this.

The report of the conference will go to the summit of the 103-nation NAM, now expanded to 105 with the admission of Guatemala and Papua New Guinea as full members, to be held in September.

The conference took a common stand that the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedom should not be achieved through confrontation or imposition of incompatible values.

The Ministers while welcoming the end of the cold war, said the emerging tendencies towards a unipolar world marked by "new elements in the complex international political landscape could limit the prospects of resolving global problems as the interests and needs of the Non Aligned and other developing countries are not taken into due account.

The movement, the communique said, should not lose sight of the long standing un-

'Strengthen NAM's vigilant role'

BALI, May 16: Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman has said that the changes, taken place in the world in recent times, have only changed the context and not the essence of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Addressing the ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Coordinating Bureau here, last evening he said the demise of the East-West bipolarity has given rise to doubts in some quarters about the validity of the Non-Aligned Movement.

But, Rahman said, the encouraging developments in the world in no way changed the essence of the non-alignment, which is based on independence of judgement and objective evaluation of the international development.

The Foreign Minister referred to the changes that have taken place resulting in the reduction of the East-West tensions and said at this important confluence of time and history, it is all the more necessary to further strengthen the vigilant role of the Non-Aligned Movement.

This vigilance is necessary for protecting the sovereignty, political independence and economic freedom of the developing countries, he said.

See Page 12 Col 6

Armed terrorists take shelter in CHT jungles

CHITTAGONG, May 16: About 200 terrorists armed with sophisticated weapons and aided by Shantibahini insurgents have reportedly taken shelter in the jungles of northern Chittagong.

Administration sources here say the sanctuaries of those armed terrorists drawn from some political factions are located in the hilly jungles of Raosan, Fatikchhari, Hathazari, Mirsharai and Sitakundu upazilas.

The presence of the terrorists, local people say, have given rise to a spate of violence in the northern parts of Chittagong for the last few years.

The armed men come down from their jungle hideouts frequently and terrorise the localities there by resorting to murder, dacoity rape and toll collections.

Several hundreds of police, mostly drawn from riot battalion, started massive hunt for those armed terrorists after the recent killing of three Awami League and BCL activists in Fatikchhari upazila. Police nabbed some of them after fighting a fierce gunbattle in the jungles of Mondakini hill in the upazila. Police recovered rocket launchers wireless set, ammunition and uniforms from their possession.

Police say most of the terrorists after losing the battle fled into deep forest in the hill district of Khagrachhari and, perhaps, have taken shelter in Shantibahini hideouts.

Talking to this Correspondent the Police Superintendent (SP) of Chittagong Sabbir Ali said, "We have received reports about the presence of those terrorists in the jungles and their taking aid from the Shantibahini but owing to various problems we have not been able to go for massive drive to track them down."

See Page 12 Col 8

Shantibahini guns down one more

CHITTAGONG, May 16: Tribal insurgents, in another spurt of violence gunned down one non-tribal and injured another in the remote Dighinala upazila of Khagrachhari district today.

Officials here said Habibur Rahman, a rickshawpuller, was shot dead near the Baradham village of the district this noon when the outlawed Shantibahini men sprayed bullets on them from a roadside ambush.

Habibur Rahman was carrying two passengers in his rickshaw from Dighinala to Babuchara area of the district, they said.

The rickshawpuller died on the spot while one of the passenger, Jalal Ahmed (32), received bullet wound. He was later flown to the Combined Military Hospital at Chittagong for treatment.

The other passenger, however, escaped the attack.

Soon after the incident, security forces rushed to the spot and conducted search operation.

A total of seven people were killed by the so-called Shantibahini men during the last seven days.

Storm hits 6 Pabna upazilas : 1 killed

PABNA, May 16: A storm swept over six upazilas of the district today killing one person and injuring 40 others, reports UNB.

The storm, rising up to 70 to 80 miles per hour accompanied by heavy rainfall lashed over Sadar, Ishurdi, Chatmohar, Atghoria, Sujanager and Bera upazilas this evening.

Lasting about an hour, it also damaged about 1400 dwelling houses, uprooted trees and electric poles, witnesses said. The tin-roof of a police barrack was blown away.

Abul Khair (38), an employee of a local pharmacy, was electrocuted in the town when he came in contact with a live electric wire that fell on a road.

Of the injured, 12 were admitted to sadar hospital. A nor'wester, accompanied by hailstorm, lashed Netrakona town and its adjoining areas Friday night.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia presiding over the meeting of the Council Committee on Chittagong Hill Districts at the International Conference Centre in Dhaka Yesterday.

Govt deeply believes in religious harmony : PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said here yesterday that her government deeply believed in religious harmony and was equally respectful to all religions, reports BSS.

She said, "We consider it our sacred duty to ensure that all citizens can freely practise their respective religious rites and live in peace so that they can contribute their mite to the development of the nation."

The Prime Minister was addressing a function held in celebration of Buddha Purnima at Dharmarajika Buddhist monastery here. The function organised by Bangladesh Buddhist Krihshti Prachar Sangha was addressed by Forest and Environment Minister Abdullah Al Noman and State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof MA Mannan.

Mahasangharayaka Venerable Visuddhanada Mahathero, president of the sangha presided over the function.

Begum Khaleda Zia said "our ideology is Bangladeshi Nationalism which symbolises the

Progress of CHT development projects reviewed

A meeting of the Council Committee on Chittagong Hill Districts was held in Dhaka Saturday night at the International Conference Centre with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting reviewed the progress of various development programmes and welfare measures in the hill districts.

Begum Zia reiterated her government's commitment for the overall development of the districts.

She also asked the concerned ministries to expedite the implementation of the on-going development projects.

Bureaucratic tangles hamper CHT councils' functioning

Bureaucratic hurdles and non-cooperation by a section in the administration are hampering the functioning of the three newly-formed Chittagong hill districts local government councils due to complete their first three-year tenures next month.

According to the three Chairman and some members of the councils, proper implementation of the system was being held up because of unnecessary procedural delays and the lack of coordination with and cooperation of the district administration.

The absence of a clear guideline on the exact relationship between the councils and the central government was also creating problems, they added.

On the other hand, some district administration officials who talked to this correspondent during his recent week-long visit to the region pointed out that the primary reason for the delay in the implementation of the local government council system was the 'inexperience' and 'inefficiency' of the councils.

However, both council members and administration officials agreed that the system could lead to a permanent solution to the problems of the Chittagong Hill Tracts region and thus should be properly nurtured and allowed to function freely.

In March 1989, Parliament adopted three separate bills, based on an earlier accord between the government and 48 prominent tribal leaders, paving the way for establishing the local government councils in the Khagrachari, Rangamati and Bandarban districts.

The bills were designed to provide an opportunity for self-governance to the tribal people and thus bring about a political solution to the problems of the region.

Each Council consists of one chairman and 30 members of which two-third is tribal and the remaining one-third from the non-tribal population. Only a tribal can become a Chairman of the Council under the stipulations of the bills.

Elected directly through adult franchise, the District Commissioner of each hill district functions as the ex-officio secretary to the respective council.

The individual council is authorised to deal with transfer and settlement of land exclusively and with the approval of the government, levy taxes and raise tolls locally.

The district council was also entrusted with the responsibility to maintain law and order within the district and also recruit a police force. The council would also formulate its own budget and was made solely responsible for 22 subjects of governance to be delegated by the government.

In addition, the Chakma chief of Rangamati, the Mong chief of Khagrachari and the

Repatriation Dhaka-Yangon meet today

The second Bangladesh-Myanmar official level meeting will be held at Teknaf today, reports BSS.

According to control room sources there, Bangladesh team will be led by Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Omar Faruq while the Director General of Myanmar immigration department U Maung Aung will lead his country's team at the meeting.

The meeting will decide upon a date and necessary procedures for repatriation of Rohingya Muslims to Myanmar.

According to an official source, no Rohingya Muslims crossed into Bangladesh from Arakan yesterday.

Velayati arrives today

Iranian Foreign Minister Dr Ali Akbar Velayati arrives here today on a two-day visit during which he will have talks with Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman covering wide ranging issues of mutual interest, reports BSS.

The discussions are expected to focus on the state of bilateral cooperation and review of the international scenario.

The Iranian Foreign Minister will flow in here from Indonesia after attending the Non-aligned ministerial level coordinating bureau meeting. He will be received at the airport by Commerce Minister M K Anwar.

Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman, who is also in Indonesia in connection with the Non-aligned meeting, will return home this evening.

The official talks between

NEWS BRIEFS

JCD mourning day today

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal will observe mourning day in all educational institutions in the country today on the death of its leader and EUCSU VP Mir Ruhul Kabir and two others in a boat capsized in the river Buriganga recently. The central council of Chhatra Dal will hold a condolence meeting and milad mahfil at BNP's central office here today after Zohr prayer, reports BSS.

Hijacker arrested in city

Ramna Thana petrol police Saturday arrested Habibur Rahman alias Sajal (22) on charge of snatching a gold chain from rickshaw passenger Farhana Fatema in front of Kakrail Church, Fatma, while crossing Kakrail by a rickshaw with her daughter at 3 pm was stopped by four young persons who snatched away her gold chain. The Ramna Thana petrol police chased the snatchers and caught Sajal with the chain and an 11-inch knife from his possession, reports BSS.

18 killed as trucks collide in India

NEW DELHI, May 16: Eighteen people were killed and 31 sent to hospital with injuries when two trucks collided in the western Indian state of Maharashtra on Friday, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said. The casualties were among a group of about 50 people travelling in one of the trucks to a wedding ceremony, reports AFP.

Police raid DU hall : One held

Police yesterday raided Salmullah Hall of Dhaka University and arrested a pro-Awami League Chhatra League activist, reports UNB.

He was identified as Mohammad Zakir Hossain, a

Workers, owners of sick industries threaten self-immolation

The employers and employees of sick and closed industries on Saturday threatened self-immolation from July 15 if their two-point demands to salvage the industries were not met by June 30.

The two-point demands include immediate rehabilitation of the sick industries as identified by the Sick Industries Cell and publishing of the names of bank and Finance Ministry officials who had been engaged in squandering people's money during the autocratic regime in the name of establishing industries.

The demands were put forward by the Bangladesh Sick and Closed Industries Employers, Employees and Workers Sangram Parishad in a memorandum to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Saturday.

The memorandum said that if their demands were not fulfilled by the deadline, a self-immolation process would be

Preparations for hartal called by trial body

Democratic Front (PDF) comprising Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), National Awami Party (NAP), Dilip Barua-led faction of Samyabadi Dal, Gano Azadi League, Gonotantri Party, Shajahan Siraj, MP-led faction of JSD etc. And Badruddin Umar-led Gonotantri Biplobi Jote.

The Jatiya Party (JP), though yet to support the May 18 hartal, resolved last month to demand of the government the trial of Golam Azam for his violation of the constitution and illegal stay in the country.

Meanwhile, the Awami League has called for a mass rally in the city today in observance of 'anti-terrorism day' to protest against the alleged Jamaat attack on the Chhatra League conference at Fatikchhari.

Another rally is also scheduled to be held in the city today by the public sector spinning and textiles workers to press their six point charter of demands.

Hasina meets Birendra, Koirala

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina Saturday met with King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev of Nepal at his palace at Kathmandu, reports UNB.

According to a message received here, Hasina also met with Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, former Prime Minister and Nepal Congress Party President KP Bhattarai, and Speaker of the Lower House Dhama Nath Dhurgana.

Leaders of the two countries exchanged views on various matters of mutual interest. Issues like functioning of democracy, need for poverty alleviation and ecological balance came up for discussion at the separate meetings.

King Birendra and other Nepalese leaders recalled with gratitude the contribution made by slain Bangladesh leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to the country's War of Liberation in 1971. They paid rich tribute to



A Buddhist devotee offering prayer at the Dharmarajik Vihara at Kamalapur on the occasion of Buddha Purnima yesterday. (Story on Page-2)