

5-party demonstration day Sept 3

Arrest Menon-assailants, Left parties demand

By Staff Correspondent

Different political parties Thursday demanded the immediate arrest of the assailants of Rashed Khan Menon and a ban on Jamaat-Shibir-Jubo Command.

Several processions paraded downtown Dhaka voicing their demands.

Central Five-Party Alliance, Patriotic Democratic Front and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Straj) held separate brief rallies and brought out processions that paraded the Gulistan, Fulbaria, Purana Paltan and Press Club areas.

The processions disrupted the city traffic for some time in the areas.

Menon was shot and critically wounded by unidentified assailants August 17 and is now under treatment at Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

The Five-Party Alliance held its rally in front of the GPO. It was addressed by Alliance leader and acting General Secretary of Workers Party Haider Akbar Khan Rano who urged the people to observe September 3 as "demonstration day" nationwide.

Thursday was the last day of the protest week of the Five-Party Alliance announced following the hartal August 20.

Rano said that there was plausible proof that the Jubo Command, the newly-formed wing Jamaat-Shibir, was involved in the attempt on Menon but that the government had not yet taken any action against it.

Government inaction has made the people think that "the government has silent support for the attackers," Rano said adding that "How could a civilised government remained silent after a group had announce lists and started

killing." He also reiterated the other demands of the Alliance including removal of the Home Minister.

A number of Alliance leaders were present at the rally. The Patriotic Democratic Front (PDF) at its rally called for a solid unity of all the democratic and progressive political parties to rid the nation of the alarming situation now prevailing.

Addressing the rally in front of the CPB office in the afternoon, the PDF leaders alleged that such a situation had been created due to continued terrorism unleashed by the anti-Liberation and fundamentalist forces and also the government inaction on the issue.

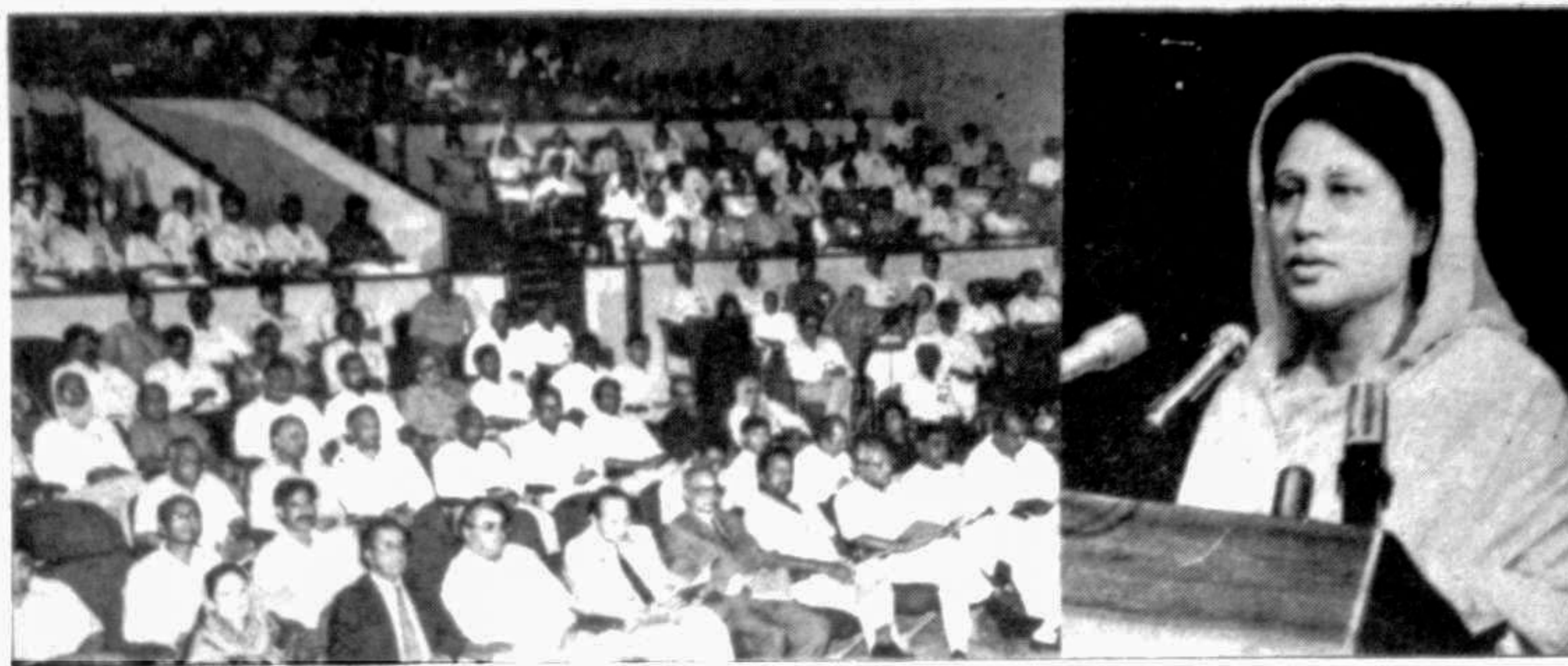
The rally was organised on the concluding day of a protest week observed to protest the murder of CPB leader Ratan Sen in Khulna, the bid on the Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon, and also to demand removal of the Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury.

Chaired by Samyabadi Dal leader Dilip Barua, the rally was also addressed by CPB General Secretary Nurul Islam Nahid, National Awami Party (NAP) leader Maolana Ahmedur Rahman Azmi and Gana Azadi League leader Abdus Samad.

Nurul Islam Nahid held the Jamaat-Shibir-Freedom Party responsible for the continued terrorism and accused the government of encouraging terrorists by not taking action against them.

The rally was followed by a procession that paraded the city streets.

The JSD (Siraj) held its rally in front of the party office at Bangabandhu Avenue.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a reception arranged for the meritorious students who secured positions in the SSC examinations of 1992 at the Osmany Memorial Hall yesterday. — PID photo

Water sharing formula

From Page 1 Col 4 next dry season that begins mid-November or early December.

But the delegates debated on a major point — the ways and means to augment water flows reaching Farakka, continually on the decline, during dry seasons.

The Indians stuck to their old stance — the link canal concept, while the Bangladesh officials insisted on investigating into all possible options including bringing in Nepal into the scenario. Over the years, the two countries have quarrelled over this issue.

Bangladesh suggests that reservoirs be built in Nepal to conserve monsoon water while India speaks of a canal linking the Brahmaputra with the Ganges.

UNB adds: "We have made progress in our talks... I'm satisfied with the outcome of my visit." Indian Minister Shukla told reporters at the airport prior to his departure for New Delhi ending his three-day visit.

To a question on the link canal proposal for augmentation of the flow of the Ganges, the Indian Minister said the committee will "examine various suggestions and find out a proper solution of the problem."

He replied in the negative when a correspondent asked about the possibility of the involvement of Nepal in the process of a long-term solution of the water issue.

Shukla expressed his dissatisfaction over the reports appeared in some Dhaka dailies that other issues are also being connected with the issue of water. "We only

discussed the sharing of water and nothing else", he said.

Asked if the Secretary-level committee would be able to find out a formula before the next dry season, he avoided a direct answer but said both the sides will try to take steps so that Bangladesh could get rid of undue hardship during the lean period.

The ministerial-level meeting, Shukla said, will be held after every six months to monitor the progress of the Secretary-level meeting.

Echoing the sentiment of his Indian counterpart, Bangladesh delegation leader Majidul Haq said, "I feel we're satisfied with the progress."

This time both the sides examined the issue from a "completely new angle" in line with the joint declaration of the two Prime Ministers in New Delhi in last May.

"This meeting is the first step towards a greater achievement in future", Haq said.

In reply to a question, he said, "You can't expect removal of all differences within 24 hours." The Bangladesh side tried to convince the Indian side about the hardship the country faces in dry season and "The Indian side appreciated our problems", he added.

Haq expressed his optimism about a possible understanding on the sharing of the Ganges water before the next dry season.

Moscow to close mission in Kabul

KABUL, Aug 27: Rebel fighters blasted the Russian Embassy with 14 rockets on Thursday, wounding two people and prompting Moscow to announce it will close the mission, reports AP.

The barrage was part of fierce fighting in the capital that flared after two days of relative calm between forces supporting the interim Islamic government and a renegade guerrilla faction entrenched outside the city.

Shortly after the assault, the government announced a temporary cease-fire.

Replying to a question about the necessity of setting up the Secretary-level committee since such committee had worked earlier, Shukla said the new committee was given power, terms and condition with specific guidelines to evolve an equitable and amicable solution of the problem.



Dhirendra Chandra Mitra, an exponent of Nazrul Sangeet from India along with member's of Nazrul's family laying wreaths at the poet's mazar yesterday. — Star photo

Nazrul

From Page 1 Col 8 University Prof Maniruzzaman Miah accompanied by the teachers, students and officials placed wreaths at the mazar at about 7 am. They also offered feteha and prayed for the salvation of his departed soul.

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy organised a discussion meeting Thursday evening on the occasion of the death anniversary. The meeting presided over by the Director General of the academy Mobarak Hossain Khan was addressed, among others, by Dr Mohammad Maniruzzaman, Poet Al Mahmud and Shahabuddin Ahmed.

Earlier in the morning the Shilpakala Academy laid wreaths at his mazar and offered feteha.

Bangla Academy organised a similar programme at the 'Batomul' of the academy. The programme presided over by Mahbubul Alam Chowdhury was addressed among others by Dr Karunamot Goshwami and Prof Khondoker Sirajul Haq.

Nazrul Institute organised a discussion meeting, staged a drama and conducted a workshop on Nazrul Sangeet for the trainees. Earlier in the morning it placed wreaths at the mazar of the poet beside the Dhaka University Central Mosque.

Nazrul Academy organised a discussion meeting and cultural function Thursday at the auditorium of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) to observe the death anniversary.

Pay dues in time

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Saifur said for this reason the size of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) would also have to be expanded.

The Finance Minister said that the ADP which was only about 11 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) could be expanded upto 14 to 15 per cent with another three per cent contribution from the private sector.

Saifur expressed the optimism that this year's ADP target might be achieved as works in different sectors had started since the beginning of the fiscal year.

As the size of the government is still big, the minister said, it is necessary to impose tax.

"We will squeeze the role of the government and encourage the private sector in the development process," he said adding that this would also lower the demand for more taxes by the government.

He said evading taxes while becoming vocal for development is a phenomenon in all societies. This tendency will have to be reversed for the sake of an organised society, he added.

He said VAT was a progressive taxation system with few options for evasion and pointed out that VAT exemption can not be allowed as it would give rise to distortion in the system.

Saifur further said that employment generation and re-

duction of dependency on foreign aid needed increased investment. Resource generation through taxes was also important in view of the low savings rate in the country.

The minister said country's savings was only about six per cent of the GDP with which another six per cent of money inflow from outside is added to make the percentage 12 per cent. "But this would not do for development," the minister announced. If 20 per cent of the GDP has to be invested then this will have to be done through either foreign investment or by imposing tax, he said.

The minister said the socio-economic environment of the country would have to be improved and the process of democracy must be sustained for greater private sector investment. He said a clean and proper political atmosphere must be maintained also for attracting foreign investment.

The function was also addressed among others by Dr AKM Moshir Rahman, Secretary, Internal Resources Division and Chairman, National Board of Revenue (NBR), MSI Choudhury, Member, NBR and AKA Firoze Noon, Convenor, Sick Industries Selection Committee.

Dr Moshir Rahman said VAT had hardly had any adverse effect on the prices of commodities. He said if the producers and traders maintained proper accounts, VAT would be no worry for them.

PM: Terrorism

From Page 1 Col 7 ucational programmes for youths. The present government wants to turn Bangladesh into a modern developed country, she added.

She emphasised the need for nourishing and grooming up talents to keep pace with the fast changing world through innovation and adoption of suitable technology.

The Prime Minister said the government attached importance to vocational and technical education to make education production-oriented and advised the students to utilise the expanded opportunity.

Describing the meritorious students as the best resource of a country, she said no nation can prosper without giving importance to merits and talents.

She recalled Shaheed President Zia's evaluation of the country's meritorious students and said he mixed with them freely and took them abroad to raise their patriotism.

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar in his address called upon the students to help eradicate terrorism and illiteracy from national life.

State Minister for Education Principal Mohammad Yunus Khan called for everybody's participation in the government's development programmes including those in the education sector.

Ministers, MPs, guardians, teachers and chairman of the four education boards were present on the occasion.

Hasina

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capability and efficiency." The Opposition leader alleged administrative officials who take legal action against those belonging to the ruling party were being victims of transfer or loss of job. "The offenders, if belong to the ruling party, are set free following phone calls."

Having failed to face the Opposition politically, according to Hasina, the government was taking recourse to a "hated policy" of inciting terrorism across the country.

Reterring her demand for repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance, she said such an "infamous" law cannot be incorporated with a Constitution in a civilised nation.

"The Indemnity Ordinance must go, for the sake of democracy, rule of law and justice," she asserted.

The Awami League chief said although parliamentary democracy had been restored, BNP was following the footprint of the ousted autocracy without any respect for democratic norms and practice.

Backing out from the objectives of the anti-autocracy movement and commitment to the people, Hasina alleged, the government party was now indulging in making fortune by corrupt means turning the country bankrupt.

Shareholders demand restructuring of DSE

About 175 small shareholders of stocks of various companies have demanded the restructuring of the Dhaka Stock Exchange Ltd, keeping in view the importance of share market for industrialisation of the country, reports BSS.

In an appeal to the Prime Minister, the share holders further demanded that the restructuring should incorporate two elements — dropping the old and inactive members and induction of new ones.

They also referred to the initiative taken by a group of industrialists and members of the business community for opening another stock exchange and said the move was timely and deserved the attention of the government.

It has become all the more essential to restructure the Dhaka Stock Exchange if permission is not accorded for another stock exchange, they observed.

The Midnight File

India denounces Pak move to raise Kashmir issue at NAM

NEW DELHI, Aug 27: India denounced today Pakistan's decision to raise the Kashmir issue at the upcoming summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) at Jakarta. Minister of State for External Affairs Eduardo Faleiro described Islamabad's move as "unfortunate and wrong," and told reporters that NAM was only a forum for "issues concerning the movement as a whole," reports AFP.

WEU to consider naval blockade of Serbia

LONDON, Aug 27: Defence and foreign ministers of the Western European Union will consider a full naval blockade of Serbia at a London meeting on Friday. The nine-nation grouping will also chart ways to assist humanitarian aid deliveries in war-torn Bosnia, a spokeswoman said, reports Reuter.

Student-police clash

From Page 1 Col 2 police assault began stoning them. Several cocktails were blasted during the clash.

Panic gripped the whole area and shops in New Market, Gausia, Elephant Road and other shopping places pulled down their shutters.

People ran for their lives in all directions and traffic came to a halt in the New Market area as the pitched battles continued till 4 pm. Many shops were also reportedly looted at the time.

A student procession attacked the market at about 12:30 pm. It was pushed back into the college premises by the police.

Police lobbed at least 25 tear gas canisters inside the college campus to quell the processionists.

Grape-shot was also used during the period, witnesses said.

Students retaliated with two shots from sawed-off guns and hurled two petrol bombs on police.

Chases and counter-chases between the police and the students continued till 2 in the afternoon.

At about 3 pm, a private car was torched by people near the Science Laboratory crossing in the area while many others were stoned.

All roads in the area remained closed till late at night while paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) patrolled them. Business transactions and shopping remained closed for the day.

Two students were picked up by the police and later set free.

Our DU Correspondent reported: Dhaka College Students' Union (DCSU) Thursday demanded eviction of the Nikhet-Bakushah Hawkers' Market and also demanded arrest of the killers of Farhad Hossain immediately.

The DCSU leaders at a press conference held at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday said that the police attacked and baton charged a mourning procession of the students and teachers of the Dhaka College without any cause. The leaders termed the police attack heinous.

The leaders demanded trial of the policemen involved in the attack within 24 hours.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka College All Party Student Alliance in a statement condemned the killing and demanded immediate arrest of and exemplary punishment to the killers involved.

New home

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formed in the message. Momen, president of the Boston-based 'Committee for Democratic Bangladesh' and the director of the 'America-Bangladesh Friendship Society', took up the cause of helping the stranded Bangla-deshi children after seeing a photo-story published in the Boston Globe newspaper on April 2.

He approached Willard of Friends of Bangladesh to help rehabilitate the children to which she readily agreed and was also instrumental in garnering support for the NGO to gain custody of the children.

In the faxed message, Momen noted that many people showed concern and sympathy after the news was published in several US newspapers and that 150 school children in Cape Cod, Massachusetts even raised funds for rehabilitating the Bangladeshi children.

However, he lamented that Biman Bangladesh Airlines did not even bother to reply to a request to help in the air passage of the stranded children.

RMCH doctors, employees extend deadline

RAJSHAHI, Aug 27: Doctors and employees of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital today extended the deadline and warned they would resign en masse if their demands were not met by Sunday, reports UNB.

The RMCH doctors and employees who went on strike Tuesday night in instant protest against the attack on a doctor resumed their duties this afternoon following a meeting with the local administration.

But they decided to observe two-hour token strike from tomorrow (Friday) till Sunday to press their demands.

Vice President of BMA Prof Dr A M Bhuiyan and other officers of the organisation were present.

Malaysia to absorb more

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refugees, the Serbian atrocities against Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the new US pressure against Iraq, the role of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), possible cooperation between SAARC and ASEAN and his country's role in the Third World.

On the fate of a quarter of a million Rohingya Muslim refugees encamped in Bangladesh he said that Malaysia would continue to support Dhaka to ensure their safe and voluntary repatriation.

He said Myanmar (Burma) should not have any problem in involving the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the repatriation process as it had promised that the returnees would not be persecuted.

Asked if Malaysia would formally propose to Myanmar to involve the UNHCR in the process he said: "I think we will have opportunities to talk to them. We will be happy to talk about it." However, he said the repatriation cannot be done overnight. It would take some time.

Replying on the US policy towards Iraq vis-a-vis the Serbians in Bosnia Datuk Abdullah promptly said: "This is certainly a double standard." He said that Malaysia was opposed to any more stern actions against Iraq. "We have supported the UN during the Gulf War and I think that's enough for us. There should be no more stern action against Iraq...no more war against Iraq."

The Malaysian Foreign Minister said that the current

problems in Bosnia-Herzegovina called for a political solution. "Unless the aggression against Bosnian Muslims ends there will be more victims of the conflict. We welcome sending of relief to the victims, but the aggression must end first so that the assistance does not go to a bottomless pit," he said.

He told a questioner that he was optimistic about the future of NAM. The Non-Aligned Movement, he said, would continue to provide a political platform for the developing countries. Though there would be emphasis on economic issue, the NAM still had many political issues to deal with.

He believed that the SAARC and the ASEAN regional groups had potentials for mutual cooperation. He said that Malaysia wanted to see SAARC develop as a forum even stronger than ASEAN. He referred to a proposal that would grant observer's status to SAARC and ASEAN in each other's forum.

Asked about the Malaysian stand on the Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan Datuk Abdullah said his country wanted the two countries to solve their problems in accordance with the OIC (Organisation of Islamic Conference) policy.

Datuk Abdullah denied a suggestion that Malaysia aspires to become a leader of the Third World countries.

"We don't aspire to become leader of any other country. But we believe we have a right to speak loud and clear on any issue. This is our oral responsibility," he said.

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EC-govt discord

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to be implemented by the Local Government Engineering Bureau (LGEB).

The RD-9 component was for employment generation and poverty alleviation to be implemented by BRDB.

Sources said that the RD-8 component of the project had been successfully implemented and that the project was on the verge of a take-off the credit line operation would have begun under the RD-9 component.

They said that as the money under RD-9 was being delayed, the government had, from its own fund, provided about Taka 60 lakhs as credit

among the target group members. This credit operation also had a good recovery, they said.

However, the EC had made a mid-term evaluation of the five year long project January this year and showed that the RD-9 component would not be cost effective under BRDB supervision.

The EC had also suggested cancellation of the existing procedure and implementation of RD-9 through NGOs.

Sources said that the government felt that this switch over of the project to the NGOs would diminish its role in poverty alleviation to a great extent.

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