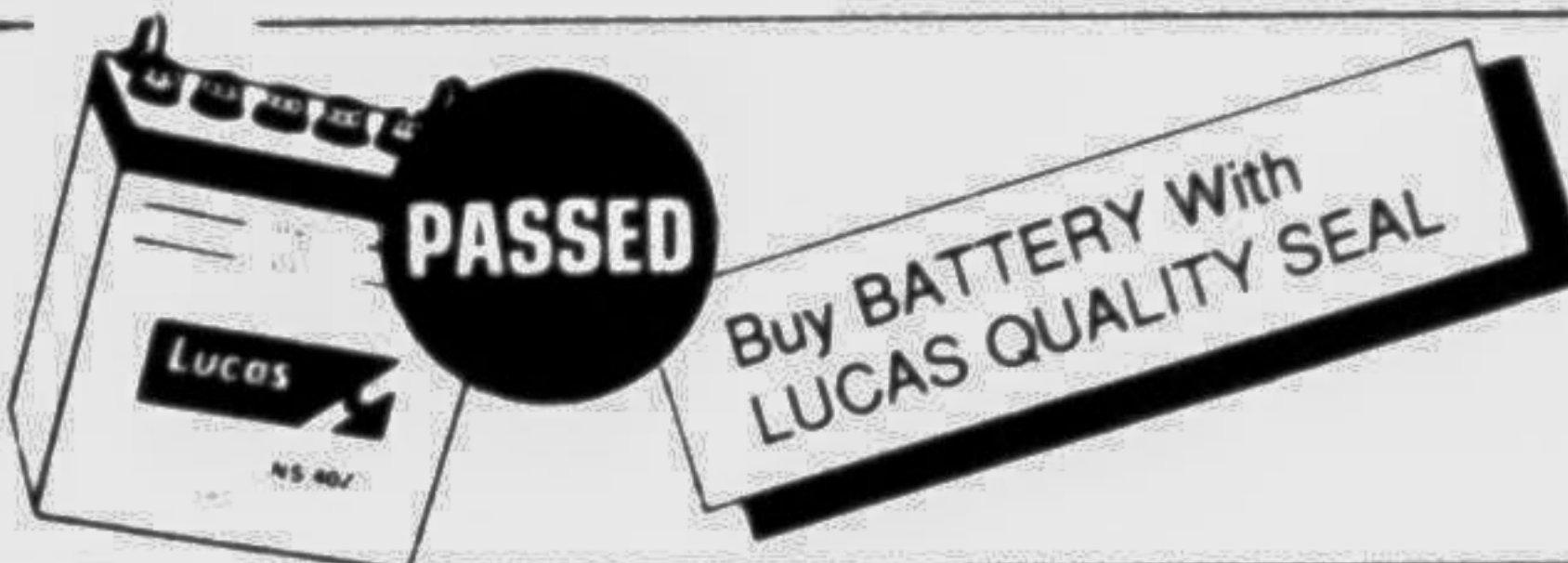


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Negotiate help to mitigate natural disasters: Obasi

By Staff Correspondent

The Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) Godwin Olu Patrick Obasi Thursday suggested that Bangladesh should increasingly take part in all the international conferences on environment to negotiate assistance from the developed countries for lessening the adverse effect of global change.

The developing countries like Bangladesh should take part in all the international meetings on global environment to contribute to the policy making, negotiate help and assistance to mitigate the natural disasters, and receive alternative technology from the advanced countries for disaster management," the WMO Secretary General told a press conference at the Hotel Sheraton.

Obasi left Dhaka Thursday evening after a six-day visit to Bangladesh.

Giving a picture of the global warming and rising trend of the sea level, Obasi

said that half of Bangladesh would be affected if the sea water rose by 65 centimeters because of three degree Celsius increase of temperature in the next 100 years.

He said that the world communities should take immediate steps to contain green house gases.

"We have to do something now. If nothing is done, it will be too late because the warming is an irreversible process," the WMO Secretary General cautioned.

He advised further enhancement in the country's capacity for disaster preparedness.

Obasi pointed out the need for two more radar stations for bringing the entire country under surveillance and monitor weather.

Director of the Meteorological Department of Bangladesh Hamiduzzaman Khan Chowdhury and Dr Lars E. Oleson of WMO were present at the press conference.



Bangladesh Mahila Parishad brought out a procession in city yesterday marking its 8th biennial council.

Women's rights

From Page 1 Col 8

recent communal riots in India, he observed that the womenfolk always fell victim to any social disorder.

In all the incidents, he added, the women had to make supreme sacrifices.

Our youth force had fought the war in 1971 when the Pakistani Army was molesting our women while destroying our resources, he noted.

Justice Rouf said that such incidents were the examples of sacrifices made by the male for their female counterparts because the basic relation between the two was of love and affection — not of confrontation.

Parishad Chairperson Begum Sufia Kamal chaired the inaugural session of the conference while other leaders of the organisations including Ayesha Khanam, Munira Khan, Begum Noorjahan Morshed, Baby Moudud, Tara Reddy of National Federation of Indian Women and Jia Mitra and Chhaya Basu of West Bengal Nari Samity also spoke on the occasion.

Justice Rouf in his speech further said that a vast human society flourishes because of the combined efforts of both the male and female despite differences in their persons as well as in their mentalities.

Begum Sufia Kamal in her presidential address said that Bangladesh Mahila Parishad had dedicated itself to inspiring the country's womenfolk with education, courage and being self-reliant so that they could establish their rights in the society.

Since its inception, she added, the Parishad had been working relentlessly for the welfare of the women.

The two-day conference began with the hoisting of national flag, releasing of pigeons and balloons. One-minute silence was observed as a mark of respect to those who laid down their lives in various democratic struggles for the cause of humanity.

Parishad's General Secretary Ayesha Khanam presented her elaborate report containing various instances of atrocities on women, their deprivation and discrimination at the meeting, also attended by the delegates from all over the country, representatives from various women's bodies and foreign missions.

Later, the Parishad member brought out a procession that paraded the city thoroughfares.

DMP mobile units to combat terrorism

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner AN Hussain has brought 14 thanas in the capital under a single unit and set up 16 new mobile units to contain terrorism and hijacking, according to a police press release issued here yesterday, reports BSS.

The city dwellers have been advised to contact nearest thana, control room, detective branch and if necessary the commissioner's office either over phone or directly if there is any act of terrorism or hijacking in their respective areas. The commissioner assured that necessary action will be taken if any thana, or control room or concerned officials do not take any step after receiving the report of terrorism or hijacking.

The phone numbers to be contacted are: Control Room: 509922, 509933, 509944 and DMP exchange: 410061-222-333, DB Office: 413776 and 410061-397. Commissioner: 400391 and exchange: 410061-440.

'Azam is a Pakistani'

From Page 1 Col 4

Physical Training Centre. These newspaper reports proved "absolutely in true colour," he said, that the petitioner was against the freedom struggle of Bangladesh and for upholding the integrity of Pakistan.

The court also agreed that the petitioner, at that time, was a "very adamant" supporter of Pakistan.

The court also agreed that the petitioner, at that time, was a "very adamant" supporter of Pakistan.

However, Justice Choudhury went on to ask if there was any law against providing citizenship to the Razakars or rapists.

The Attorney General replied that the petitioner was a Pakistani citizen all along.

"But your (Bangladesh) law allows dual citizenship," interjected the court.

"If we (Bangladesh) want to give it (dual citizenship) to him" the state counsel replied, adding "but the petitioner continued to be resident of Pakistan as a citizen of Pakistan as Justice Sarker found."

At this point the court asked if the proviso to Article 2 of the Temporary Order, which provides for those serviceholders and students stranded in Pakistan to become citizens of Bangladesh, would be given an "exhaustive" interpretation. Can it be said that the proviso is not exhaustive but inclusive in definition, Justice Choudhury said, as the law did not intend to keep out lakhs of stranded Bangladeshis.

"We are not looking only at Golan Azam, we have to interpret the law in such a way so that all is included," the court remarked.

The Attorney General assured that he would bring all "who owed allegiance and loyalty" to Bangladesh through his argument.

However, the court pointed out that the government could have kept the collaborators out but instead kept silent about it "so as not to go for a witch-hunt and to avoid bloodshed."

The Attorney General argued that it was a "white lie" on the part of the petitioner to claim that he was stranded as a Bangladeshi in Pakistan.

As according to the petitioners' own admission he was the Ameer of the East Pakistan Jamaat and went to Pakistan on November 22, 1971 to attend a conference of the party in Rawalpindi, dedicated to the concept of integrity and sovereignty of Pakistan, he added.

"Golan Azam is telling white lies when he says that he was a stranded Bangladeshi in Pakistan, I find no words to condemn such lies," the Attorney General remarked.

The hearing ended for the day at 4:15 pm and will resume next Tuesday.

Barrister AR Yusuf, representing the petitioner, was also present during the days hearing.

Bombay Blasts: 14 more held

From Page 1 Col 5

NEW DELHI, Apr 1: The Bombay police today announced the arrest of 14 more people for involvement in the string of explosions which killed some 300 people last month, reports AFP.

Prime suspect in the blasts and six of whose members are sought by Indian authorities, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Bombay Police Commissioner Amarjit Singh Samra told reporters the latest arrests had taken to 144 the number held for their role in the explosions.

PTI adds from Calcutta, the city police seized ten ordinary live bombs from a place behind a nationalised bank in the central part of the city today, according to official sources here.

Bosnia

From Page 1 Col 5

members from NATO and the UN Security Council—the US, France and Britain," said one alliance source.

The mission will mark a turning point in the history of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), which has been limited to the defence of its member states since it was set up in 1949 to counter Soviet military power.

The alliance has said it is now willing to take on new missions beyond its borders, such as peace-keeping, in an increasingly troubled Europe.

While NATO will run the operation, it will be under the strict political control of the United Nations.

The UN resolution is intended to apply pressure on the Bosnian Serbs, the only party to refuse to sign all parts of a peace plan drafted by mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen and endorsed last week by the Bosnian Muslims and Croats.

NATO is also planning to send up to 75,000 troops to enforce the peace plan but allies are arguing about how the command structure would work and there are growing doubts about whether allies will contribute enough forces.

PM: Poll pledges

From Page 1 Col 4

cultivation of fruits, vegetables, and plantation. "Ours is a small country with poor people and poor government," the Prime Minister said adding "We want to turn the hands of our people into the workers hands not the beggars."

Referring to the diarrhoeal situation which cost many lives in various parts of Barisal district, the Prime Minister said adequate tubewells would be supplied to ensure pure drinking water in the area.

About the local demands, she said Jhalakati Women College would be nationalised and rural electrification network would be expanded in Jhalakati and Naichit thanas.

The Prime Minister sought cooperation of the people of Barisal district for speedy completion of the Barisal Airport.

The Prime Minister, addressing the meeting at Katakhal thana complex field, said her government had been continuing programmes of ensuring education and health for all side by side with its "Dal-Bhat" programme.

Begum Zia criticised the opposition's frequent agitation programmes saying some parties were out to create chaos and indiscipline at a time when the BNP government was going ahead with the programmes of production and development.

The people of the country are not in a mood to see any division in the nation and indiscipline, Begum Zia said urging the people to identify those quarters which were creating obstruction in the nation's march towards progress.

About the local demands, she said Rajapur-Katakhal-Patharghata Road would be constructed and electricity would be provided in Kaikhali Bazar.

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The Midnight File

ICJ begins hearing Bosnia's case against Serbia

THE HAGUE, Apr 1: The International Court of Justice today began hearing Bosnia's case accusing Serbia of genocide and other war crimes. Court President Sir Robert Yewdall Jennings of Britain convened the 14-Judge Court to hear Bosnia plead for an emergency ruling against Serbia. Bosnia wants the Court to order the rump Yugoslavia — made up of Serbia and its ally Montenegro — to halt immediately all killings, destruction of towns and villages and so-called ethnic cleansing, reports Reuter.

Police opens fire on Kashmir mourners: Two killed

SRINAGAR, India, April 1: At least two people were killed here today as police opened fire on thousands of mourners for a prominent Kashmiri surgeon who was murdered overnight, witnesses said. They said one of the dead was the brother-in-law of the slain surgeon, Abdul Ahad Guru whose bullet-riddled body was found here today, reports AFP.

Bombay Blasts: 14 more held

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Prime suspect in the blasts and six of whose members are sought by Indian authorities, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Bombay Police Commissioner Amarjit Singh Samra told reporters the latest arrests had taken to 144 the number held for their role in the explosions.

PTI adds from Calcutta, the city police seized ten ordinary live bombs from a place behind a nationalised bank in the central part of the city today, according to official sources here.

The corporation, however, has been telling city people that the water crisis, graded number one by the authorities, would be solved by the year 2000 as a Japan financed project was being taken to meet the demand.

But a corporation source said that the Tk 150-crore ambitious project was now at the technical survey level and they were not sure when the works would start.

The water experts and officials also attributed the crisis to poor rainfall and long aridity in the region.

For the past four months Rajshahi and its adjoining districts experienced no rainfall which has created a drought-like situation in the region.

Many tubewells failed to pump out water as the ground water level has fallen alarmingly over the recent years. The Padma once a mighty river on whose bank the city is situated is now a 'dead'.

There are more than 1,000 ponds in the city which earlier used to be the main source of water have now been either silted or have been turned into garbage dump.

The RCC authorities said that poor development budget allotted by the previous government almost stalled all the development works including the water supply.

Yeltsin paralysed Russian politics for months

Yeltsin wanted to give voters a simple choice of whether Parliament or the President should be the supreme authority.

Congress undercut his plans last Monday by calling its own referendum for the same day, but set terms which protected itself and were heavily weighted against the President.

Yeltsin, who was preparing for a weekend summit with US President Bill Clinton, has promised to contest the terms of the vote in the constitutional court.

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