

## COMCEC session opens in Turkey

## Face economic challenges unitedly: Saifur

ISTANBUL, Sept 4: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman called upon the Islamic states to face the emerging challenges in the international economic scene with unity and solidarity, reports BSS.

He also emphasised the need for adoption of a concrete joint plan of action as mandated by the historic Makkah Declaration by using the resources available for common benefit.

The Finance Minister was addressing the inaugural session of the Standing Committee on Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) here yesterday.

Turkish President Suleman Demirel inaugurated the conference. The Bangladesh Finance Minister was invited to address the inaugural session on behalf of the Asian Muslim countries.

Saifur Rahman said, the alarming economic situation of the world resulting from current global recession and uncertainties, emergence of new blocks, rising protectionism, reduction in capital inflows and investment have been adversely affecting the Muslim countries particularly the poorest developing ones.

He asked for greater cooperation among the OIC countries by rationalisation of tariff structure and increasing trade among the OIC states.

In this connection he referred to the third Islamic summit conference held in Taif

in 1981 where Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had floated the idea of forming an Islamic common market. He also underscored the need to adopt a collaborative approach on a mutually reinforcing basis at bilateral, regional and inter-regional levels.

Expressing grave concern at the gross violation of human rights, indiscriminate killing of men, women and children in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Finance Minister urged the world community to resist evil forces at any cost and restore sanity in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Any attempt to reward the aggressor and penalise the victims must be resisted by all freedom loving peoples of the world particularly the Muslim countries through bilateral, multilateral and diplomatic forums, he said.

Saifur Rahman said the arguments of the evil forces must not be allowed to prevail over logic, rationality and civilised code of conduct of the international forum engaged in resolving life and death problems of the nations.

Referring to the Palestinian problem, the Finance Minister hoped that the initiative to solve the problem will be a success for peace in the region.

The Bangladesh Finance Minister also met the Turkish President Suleman Demirel and Deputy Prime Minister Erdal Inoni yesterday and discussed issues relating to bilateral interests with them.

## Appointments &amp; transfers

By Staff Correspondent

Several changes in the Secretariat and some sector corporations were announced yesterday.

Officer on Special Duty (Joint Secretary) of the Establishment Ministry Mota-har Hossain has been made Chairman of the Fisheries Development Corporation.

Member, Rajshahi Unnayan Katripakhya (RAJUK) Mohammad Humayun Khadem has been appointed Chairman of the RAJUK.

Member, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) MA Qayum has been made chairman of the BAEC.

General Manager of the Bangladesh Telephone and Telegraph Board MH Chowdhury has been appointed Member of the Board.

Chief Engineer of the Rural Electrification Board (REB) M Abdus Samad has been made the Member (Engineering) of the REB.

Project Director of the Youth Directorate Syed Hafiz Ahmed has been made OSD in the Establishment Ministry.

## BAU admission test results published

MYMENSINGH, Sept 4: The results of admission test of the Bangladesh Agricultural University for the 1992-93 session were published today, reports UNB.

## Fatah okays deal

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But his approval of the deal was vital because half of Jordan's 3.9 million people are Palestinian or of Palestinian origin. Furthermore, there has been talk of a confederation between his Hashemite kingdom and whatever Palestinian entity emerges from the peace process.

Support from the PLO's Fatah faction allows Arafat to take the agreement to the movement's ruling Executive Committee and the Palestine National Council, or parliament-in-exile, where he can expect an even tougher fight from radical members.

Executive Committee member Al-Tayeb Abdul Rahim said Arafat had summoned an emergency meeting of that committee that could begin as early as Sunday.

Meanwhile, the number of Tunisian police and PLO bodyguards assigned to Arafat and his top aides was more than doubled after an Israeli Parliament member warned that an attack by Palestinian extremists could be imminent.

Yael Dayan, who visited Arafat twice this year, telephoned PLO officials in Tunis on Friday night to convey the warning, which she said was based on information from Israeli intelligence, PLO sources said.

The sources refused to describe the warning from Ms

Dayan, daughter of Israeli war hero Moshe Dayan, or to speculate on who might carry it out and when.

At least one radical Palestinian group has publicly threatened to kill Arafat for supporting the peace plan, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

The Islamic fundamentalist movement Hamas said today it would not target Arafat for assassination to protest and Israeli-PLO deal on self-rule or instigate a Palestinian civil war. But the group, the PLO's main rival in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, vowed to mobilise the masses and escalate armed struggle against Israel to foil the accord it considers a total sell-out.

Three members of the central committee accused Arafat of going too far by agreeing to self-rule for only one town in the West Bank. They also said the deal ignored key issues such as the status of Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, and they denounced Arafat for conducting the talks in secret.

Two of them walked out of Friday's session, the sources said.

The accord also continued to generate opposition among both Israelis and Palestinians, particularly Muslim fundamentalists who are the PLO's biggest competition in the occupied territories.

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Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at The Sangbad Ltd., 36 Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11, Road No. 3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4. Advertisement: 500091 (Direct) Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR DHAKA.



Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, acting Chairman of the Jatiya Party, addressing an extended meeting of the Central Working Committee at the party's Maghbar office in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## India concerned over Chinese missile sales to Pakistan

NEW DELHI, Sept 4: India expressed concern on Friday over Chinese missile sales to Pakistan, but said New Delhi would not 'whine' over the issue, reports Reuters.

"We have raised this matter with the Chinese," Jyotindra Nath Dixit, India's top diplomat, told reporters ahead of Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao's visit to Beijing next week.

Dixit said India and China were hoping to sign a significant border agreement during Rao's three-day visit starting on Monday "if some remaining points are sorted out."

But he ruled out a final settlement of the complex problem that led the two giant neighbours to fight a brief border war in 1962.

He said China's alleged sale of sensitive missile technology to India's arch-foe Pakistan could trigger tensions in South Asia, but said India was capable of responding to the challenge.

"A country like India should not be whining over the issue. Yes, we should express the view that these things could generate potentialities for conflict," Dixit said.

The United States last week announced sanctions against Pakistan and China, saying China had shipped M-II missile components to Pakistan in breach of a world Non-Proliferation Pact called the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).

The petition in brief was that the Additional Attorney General by using official influence has embezzled Taka one crore from Bangladesh Shipha Bank. A report to this effect appeared on September 3 issue of the Banglar Bani. The paper reported that a cheating case against the AAG has been filed with Chief Metropolitan Magistrate and that a criminal case is pending before the Second Sessions Judge of Dhaka.

M Masud Ahmed Talukder appeared for the complainant. He was assisted by Rezaul Haq.

## JP action programme for early polls likely

The Jatiya Party is planning to announce anti-government agitations to press for a package of political programmes, including early parliamentary election under an interim neutral administration, reports UNB.

The party is expected to announce its political as well as action programmes today at the end of the two-day extended meeting of the central working committee that began yesterday.

Acting chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury presided over the first session of the meeting at the party's Maghbar office. The second session was chaired by Barrister Maudud Ahmed and Kazi Zafar Ahmed, two senior members of the presidium.

More than 700 representatives, including presidents and general secretaries of 70 district units, sitting MPs, ex-ministers and MPs, former mayors of city corporations, and presidents and secretaries of the party's different wings attended the meeting.

Briefing newsmen, former minister and the JP presidium member Sheikh Shahidul Islam said district leaders who took part in yesterday's deliberations have opted for movement in view of what they called the government's ineptitude in running the country.

He said the speakers were bitterly critical of the government blaming it for widespread corruption, smuggling, politicisation, terrorism, price-hike of essentials, sufferings of common people, including poor

farmers, and selling out viable industrial units in the name of market economy. They also argued in favour of upazila system.

The JP district leaders said people felt the absence of leadership of former President Ershad at this critical hour of the nation and suggested vigorous movement for his release.

Sheikh Shahid told reporters that the speakers accused the ruling party of trying to drive a wedge in the party and called for maintaining unity in the face of any provocation and conspiracy.

Some 22 leaders took part in the discussion till yesterday evening, he said.

JP presidium member Syed Tarek and publicity secretary Mia Musa Hossain also spoke at the press briefing.

## Foodgrains stock 10 lakh tonnes

The country has a stock of 10.34 lakh metric tons of foodgrains and the overall food situation is satisfactory, Food Minister M Shamsul Islam said here yesterday, reports UNB.

The Food Minister was presiding over the 17th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Food Ministry, held at the Sangsad Bhaban.

The meeting reviewed the overall food situation including food procurement, storage and distribution as well as matters relating to export of five varieties of rice.



Rescue workers searching for missing victims of a landslide-hit house in Kagoshima prefecture in Japan yesterday. — AFP photo

## Bush to get \$100,000 for a speech!

ATLANTA, Georgia, Sept 4: Former President George Bush will get paid 100,000 US dollar for a convention speech on Saturday, earning him more for a single address than other former US politicians, according to a newspaper report, says Reuters.

The Friday edition of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported that Bush's fee as a keynote speaker to home products distributors earns him more for a single talk than former President Ronald Reagan, who set the pace for high-priced ex-politicians, and former Vice President Dan Quayle.

In 1989, Reagan was paid a reported 2 million dollar to visit Japan and attend a symposium sponsored by Japan's Fujisankei Communications Group. His fee included making a few speeches and attending some banquets.

Saturday's Atlanta convention of some 70,000 Amway distributors is sponsored by Yager Enterprises, which has hosted events addressed by Quayle and Reagan.

## Joint appraisal team

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project will start immediately after the finalisation of the appraisal report by the bank, possibly in November this year.

According to a concerned official, the three co-financiers are expected to provide 600 million US dollars as credit for the project, while the rest would be borne by the government.

The government has, in the meantime, collected Tk 464 crore, equivalent to 116 million US dollars, through levies and surcharges to meet the local currency cost of the project.

The Jamuna Bridge, which will connect the eastern and western sides of the country, is expected to have a tremendous impact on the development of the less developed western region through faster communication, officials concerned said.

Meanwhile, an inter-ministerial meeting on the Jamuna Bridge, held yesterday at the office of the bridge authority, informed that a total of Tk 595 crore would be spent in the 1993-94 fiscal year in connection with the construction of the bridge.

The meeting, presided over by Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, was attended

among others by the Executive Director of the Jamuna Bridge Authority, Mohammad Ali, Irrigation and Flood Control Secretary Mohammad Asafuddin, Railway Secretary Dr AKM Moshir Rahman, Roads and Road Transport Secretary Syed Rezaul Hayat, Energy Secretary Fazur Razzak and officials of concerned ministries and divisions.

Col Oli directed the relevant ministries, divisions and agencies to complete all necessary measures before the final appraisal begins.

He said the persons whose lands had been acquired would be compensated as per the law.

He said the affected persons would be given 50 per cent more than the assessed value as price of their land. The government would also take appropriate measures to rehabilitate the people, he added.

The meeting was apprised that provision for railway line would also be in the bridge.

The Communications Minister also said there was every possibility that the physical phase of implementation of the single largest project of the country would be on the wheels by the end of February next.

## Zia Memorial Museum ready for inauguration

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 4: All preparations are complete for the inaugural function of the Zia Memorial Museum here on Monday, Sept 6, officials said.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to inaugurate the museum at the Old Circuit House where President Ziaur Rahman was assassinated on the night of May 30, 1981.

Meanwhile, restrictions have been imposed on entry into the museum premises prior to the inauguration. This correspondent today tried to enter the premises to contact the Director General of the Bangladesh National Museum Sheikh Akram Ali who arrived here to oversee the preparations, but was refused by the sentries posted at the gate who said they had been ordered not to let any outsider, pressmen included, inside.

The DG could not also be contacted over telephone.

An official who attended the call told this correspondent that 12 galleries of the museum were made ready for the inauguration on schedule. But the official could not give details.

The four member enquiry committee formed to probe Wednesday's fire at the Museum reportedly completed its work today, sources said. The committee is headed by Joint Secretary of the Ministry of the Cultural Affairs Moslem Ali.

## PM gives buses for educational institutions

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday handed over five buses and two minibuses to the heads of different educational institutions for providing transport facilities to the teachers and students of those institutions, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister handed over the keys of the buses to the principals, headmaster and student representatives of Pabna Government Edward College, Jessore BAF Shaheen College, Rajshahi Government College, Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College and Rangamati Government High School.

The representatives of the teachers of Jagannath University College received from the Prime Minister the keys of two minibuses provided for them.

At the brief handing over ceremony held at the International Conference Centre (ICC), Begum Zia inquired from the heads of the educational institutions about the academic activities of their respective institutions.

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, Post and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam, Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, State Minister for Social Welfare Fazur Rahman, State Minister for Establishment Barrister Aminul Huq, State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain, State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain, Mayor of Rajshahi Mizanur Rahman Minu, central BNP leader A Haris Chowdhury, DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman and a number of JCD leaders were present on the occasion.

## GF movement

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supreme decision-making body of GF, met yesterday to finalise its programme of future activities. The members of the Steering Committee are: Dr Kamal Hossain, Pankaj Bhattacharya, Barrister Amirul Islam, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, AMA Muhi, Advocate Zahurul Islam and Shahjahan Siraj MP.

Party sources said the movement against terrorism is expected to be initiated sometime this month through campaigns, including collection of signature from the people, which will be submitted to the Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad. The signature campaign will be followed by meetings and rallies against terrorism.

The Executive Council, in its forthcoming meeting, is also likely to delegate responsibilities among its members to streamline the organisational activities.

The Gano Forum was launched on August 29 at the end of a three-day National Grand Convention.

## Errata

The second last paragraph of the interview with Jamal Soorani, Member-Secretary of the PLOs Executive Committee, published on the September 4 issue of The Daily Star, contained an inadvertent mistake.

The paragraph should read as follows: Asked again if he is hopeful of returning to his homeland soon, he replied, "I will not be hopeful until I step on Palestinian soil". The history of the policies adopted by the US, Israel and Europe regarding Palestine, he pointed out, is "Full of lies, hypocrisy, hatred and blood".

## The Midnight File

## Sharif launches polls campaign

MEHAR, Pakistan, Sept 4: Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif launched his election campaign today, challenging arch-rival Benazir Bhutto in her southern powerbase with a pledge of justice and jobs for all. "I have a mission," Sharif told a cheering crowd of about 15,000 in this small town in the southern province of Sind, about 250 km (155 miles) north of Karachi, reports Reuters.

## China demands US apology

DUBAI, Sept 4: China demanded today a public US apology and financial compensation after a Sino-Saudi inspection showed a Chinese ship was not carrying banned chemical weapons materials for Iran. "The Chinese side has every reason to demand that the US side apologise in public, compensate its loss and pledge not to create such incident in the future," Chinese Foreign Ministry official Sha Zu Kang said in a statement sent to Reuters in Dubai.

## Jackson takes to stage in Taiwan

TAIPEI, Sept 4: Singer Michael Jackson took the stage at a Taipei Sports Stadium today for one of the biggest pop concerts in Taiwan's history, attended by 40,000 fans. The star, dogged by health problems and allegations of child sex abuse, received a rapturous welcome as the concert opened with fireworks, lasers and smoke. Clad in a black-and-gold body stocking, Jackson threw his hat into the crowd and hugged a sobbing young Taiwanese woman who was allowed briefly on stage, reports Reuters.

## College teacher commits suicide in city

By Staff Correspondent

Two women, including a teacher of the Motijheel T&T College, died in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Farida Yasmin, 30, a teacher of Zoology of the T&T College at Motijheel allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from a ceiling fan at her uncle's house at 334/2 Ulan Road, West Rampura, in city yesterday afternoon.

Farida used to reside with her uncle Munir Ahmed.

Family sources said Farida was suffering from typhoid.

Another 25-year-old woman Monwara was killed on the spot after she fell from the second floor of a building at North Jatrabari in the city yesterday.

Both the bodies have been sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

## Tax concessions

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while footwear and leather goods industries contributed 60.81 per cent.

Among the other sectors, garments contributed 26.88, textiles, 38.21 terrytowels 48.42, metal products 38.41, plastics 41.41, sports gear 29.24, knitting and other textiles 34.27, paper products 40.98 and other industries 23.31 per cent value additions.

The BEPZA meeting will take into account another proposal that investment-based on local raw materials, backward linkage and labour intensive — should be considered in the Chittagong EPZ. However, the EPZ-Savar will be allowed to consider the projects for setting up software industries like computers, the proposal indicated.

## PM: UNGA

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ences in which the use of English was mandatory, as in the SAARC and the Commonwealth summits.

The Prime Minister's itinerary in New York is essentially related to addressing the UN General Assembly. She is also expected to call on and receive several heads of state and government while in New York. Although ranking US officials are expected to call on Begum Khaleda Zia in New York, she has no plans to visit Washington.

Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to return to London on October 4. During her stopover in London she is due to meet the Bangladesh expatriate business community and address gatherings of the Bangladeshis in London.

Also, a meeting of all heads of Bangladesh chanceries have been scheduled for October 6 in London. Begum Zia is expected to meet the diplomats and give them a first hand briefing.

The Prime Minister is scheduled to leave London for Dhaka on the evening of October 6.

The members of her entourage will include the Attorney General and three MPs, including a lady MP. Besides, the Principal Secretary, the Military Secretary and the Press Secretary to the Prime Minister and a media team will accompany her.

The first boy and first girl of this year's SSC examinations under the Dhaka Board have also been included in the delegation.

The officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will include Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman, Director General (DG) UN desk Dr Afzarul Quader, DG, Economic Affairs Dr Iftekar Ahmed Chowdhury and Director Shah Muhammad Ali.

The Prime Minister is also scheduled to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Summit in Cyprus in the latter part of October.

## RU JCD activities suspended

RAJSHAHI, Sept 4: All kinds of political activities of Jatiya Uddeshi Chhatra Dal (JUCD), Rajshahi University unit, has been suspended for indefinite period, following an intra-party clash on the campus, reports UNB.

Acting president of the unit Mattur Rahman Montu, in a press statement, issued the order amidst tension on the campus after two factions of JCD clashed near the administrative building of the Rajshahi University at about 12-30 this afternoon.

Campus sources said police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. However, a contingent of police was deployed on the campus to contain the tension.

It may be mentioned here that the two factions of JCD RU unit, earlier, clashed several times on the campus.

## Foreign goods

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installed in those branches to enable them to do so, he added.

Regarding the anticipated artificial crisis, he said a code of conduct for the foreign exchange dealers would be finalised soon which would help remove such malpractices and develop inter-bank relations as well.

He also said that the reforms, which are being made in the banking system to make the Taka convertible would bring sophistication and dynamism in the banking sector.

Talking to The Daily Star, a Bangladesh Bank official said the country has been earning huge foreign exchange through increased export and foreign remittances of the Bangladeshis working abroad. On the other hand, the import bills being paid to the foreign exporters were not increasing accordingly, he said.

So the present state of foreign exchange reserve would not be affected very soon and the apprehended rise in the dollar price would not be that acute, he said. Increased foreign aid in the last two years also helped the country sustain the foreign exchange reserve (two billion dollars), he added.

According to the BB official, the import bill paid in the 1992-93 fiscal year is about 3800 million US dollars, while the export earning and foreign remittances sent to Bangladesh are 2300 and 925 million dollars respectively.

## Power supply

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DESA area comprises Dhaka city, Narasingdi, Ghorashal, Munshiganj, Narayanganj, Savar, Aricha, Gazipur, Tongi and Keraniganj.

When contacted, officials in the Power Development Board (PDB), which generates the electricity, claimed that DESA's demand of power is being met fully and there has been no load-shedding in the DESA area for some weeks now.

"We need more transformers while replacement of many of the old ones with higher capacity is essential", a DESA official said, adding that most of DESA's transformers have a 200 kv capacity.

The source also mentioned that illegal connections as well as consumption of power beyond permitted limit also contribute to overloading of the transformers. The overloading transformers often trip, causing suspension of supply.

Therefore, transformers of higher capacity, particularly in areas where demand is high, can help solve the problem.

Other than the overloading problem, weak links in the existing age-old power lines in Dhaka city, coupled with some mis-management in their maintenance, are also responsible for the frequent disruptions.