

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 Suleiman Demirli 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

Appointments & 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 Motahar Hossain has been made Chairman of the Fisheries Development Corporation.

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

Member, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) MA Qutayha 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 Hafti 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

From Page 1 Col 4

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 Palestinian National Council, or parliament-in-exile, where he can expect an even tougher fight from radical members.

Executive Committee member Al-Taveb 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

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 international 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 Suleiman Demirli and Deputy Prime Minister Erdal Inon yesterday and discussed issues relating to bilateral interests with them.

Warrant of arrest against Banglar Bani reporter

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Nazrul Islam yesterday issued warrant of arrest against Farukh Quazi, Senior Reporter of Banglar Bani and summoned Sheikh Fazlur Karim Selim and Sheikh Fazlur Rahman, Editor and Managing Editor respectively of the paper in the court for printing "defamatory" story against Additional Attorney General of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The directives were issued in response to a petition submitted by Additional Attorney General Khandakar Abdul Wadud, seeking redress of the damage caused by newspaper report.

Sheikh Selim and Sheikh Fazlur Rahman were asked to appear before the court by September 25.

The petition in brief was that the Additional Attorney General by using official influence has embezzled Taka one crore from Bangladesh Shilpa 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. The Masud Ahmed Talukder appeared for the complainant. He was assisted by Rezaul Haq.



Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, acting Chairman of the Jatiya Party, addressing an extended meeting of the Central Working Committee at the party's Maghbazar 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 Reuter.

"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 possibilities 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).

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 Maghbazar 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 press briefing.

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

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 Sangsab 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 Reuter.

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-profile 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

From page 1 Col 7 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 government has a key role to play in the project, as a key note speaker to home products distributors earns him more for a single talk than former President Ronald Reagan, who set the pace for high-profile 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.

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 Asafuddowla, Railway Secretary Dr AKM Moshtur Rahman, Roads and Road Transport Secretary Syed Rezaul Hayat, Energy Secretary Faizur 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, Jessor 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 Sirar, Post and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam, Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibn Yusuf, State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur 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, DUCS VP Amanullah Aman and a number of JCD leaders were present on the occasion.

GF movement

From Page 1 Col 8 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 Amrul Islam, Saffiuddin Ahmed Manik, AMA Muhi, Advocate Zahirul 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.

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.

Errata

The second last paragraph of the interview with Jamal Sourani, 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, was 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 Reuter.

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