

PM tells Bangladeshis at Brooklyn Govt firm to establish economic rights

NEW YORK, Oct 4: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed her government's resolute determination to lift the country out of its backwardness and urged the Bangladeshis living abroad to supplement the government's development efforts, reports BSS.

"Bangladesh will no longer remain a backward country. We would like to change the condition of the people," she said while addressing a public meeting at Brooklyn here.

The Prime Minister said the first phase of her struggle had ended after the restoration of democracy in the country. Now, she said, the second phase — economic development — has started to bring about economic emancipation of the people.

Begum Zia said democracy would not be meaningful without the establishment of the people's economic rights.

Referring to a number of socio-economic and development programmes the Prime Minister said her government had started the politics of production and development instead of the "politics of commission" by the past autocratic regime.

She reiterated her commitment to establish a corruption-free administration and self-reliant economy and urged the Bangladeshis living abroad to invest in the country to help the nation's march towards progress.

The Prime Minister gave a brief resume of her government's measures for the devel-

opment of agriculture, education and advancement of women.

Begum Zia said a section of opposition parties were out to hinder the development programmes by creating unnecessary obstacles and chaos.

She thanked the Bangladeshis living here for their support to the last anti-autocracy agitation.

The Prime Minister also expressed her thanks to them for the hospitality and warmth they showed during her stay in New York.

The meeting, organised by the BNP's Brooklyn branch, was presided over by Masumul Haque Chandon, president of the BNP Brooklyn branch. Najmunnahar Baby conducted the meeting.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Salahuddin Ahmed, MP, Fatema Chowdhury, MP, Amanullah Aman, MP, Managing Director of Dainik Dinkal Prof Majedul Islam, labour leader Kabir Hossain, general secretary of the BNP's Natore district unit Ruhul Quddus, Farouk Bakh Chowdhury, president BNP USA, Zahir Khan Zahir, Kamruzzaman Babu, president Jubo Dal USA, Gias Ahmed Gias, president Chhatra Dal USA, Ziaul Huq Zia, general secretary of the Canadian branch, and Prof Delwar Hossain, Arfur Rahman, Kamrul Alam Chowdhury, Golam Maula Manik, Raquibuddin Dulal spoke on the occasion.

Habitat Day observed

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Research Institute (HBRI) A K M Khorsheed Alam presented the keynote paper while president of Commitment Abul Kalam Azad presided.

The minister, in his speech, stressed the need for increasing resources through hard work so that investments for housing could be increased to provide shelter for all by the year 2000.

He said the government had given top priority to the development of housing in the country.

Referring to the theme of the day "Women and Shelter Development", he said 1400 years ago Islam, as a progressive religion, had recognised the rights of women to assets and their right to live with full honour and dignity.

Rafiqul Islam Miah said in 82 pages of the Holy Quran instructions are given to give zakat, food and shelter to the poor, which is not an act of mercy but a right of the poor.

A walkathon was organised in the city yesterday by the Rehabilitation and Development Organisation for the Landless (RADOL) in observance of the day. LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder inaugurated the walkathon, which started from the Shishu Park at 7-30 am and ended in front of the Osmani Memorial Hall. Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah also participated in the pro-

gramme.

A colourful procession of several hundred people, including young boys and girls, carrying banners and festoons took part in the walk escorted by riders on bicycles and motorbikes.

Works Secretary Mohammad Abdur Rashid and Rural Development and Cooperatives Secretary Mahe Alam also took part.

Barrister Salam Talukder, in his inaugural speech, said a national housing policy had already been taken up to solve the problems of the homeless. But people should also be active in solving the problems by themselves, he added.

Barrister Talukder termed this year's slogan of the day very apt and said women had an important role to play in building homes and to look after them.

4 impostors held in city

Four impostors, who claimed themselves to be policemen, were arrested Sunday from the city's Kawran Bazar area, reports BSS.

Acting on a tip, a special squad of the detective branch of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police raided the Kawran Bazar area and nabbed the four accused, a press release said.

The accused were cheating the people for quite sometime.

World leaders back Yeltsin

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the parliament building.

It said Yeltsin's opponents "carry a heavy responsibility" for the loss of life after "having provoked violence at the Russian parliament and in different parts of the capital."

China was the only major power not to back Yeltsin. Instead, it carefully avoided supporting either side.

"We are deeply concerned about the recent bloodshed in Moscow, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a statement issued via the official Xinhua News Agency.

"As a friendly neighbour, we hope to see an end to the conflict and a proper solution to the current situation in the interest of the stability, unity, and economic recovery and development of Russia," it said.

Referring to Russia's nuclear stockpile, Greek Premier Constantine Mitsotakis said political instability in Russia posed a danger to regional and world peace.

Japanese Foreign Minister Tsumomura Hata said he regretted the bloodshed, but "our position of support for President Yeltsin's reforms is unchanged."

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said Monday: "We're not supporting Mr. Yeltsin for the pleasure of supporting him. We're supporting him because he embodies the process of reform and democratisation."

In Germany, Russia's main source of foreign aid, Chancellor

Helmut Kohl said Yeltsin had his "full sympathy and support."

Israel, which reestablished diplomatic relations with Moscow in 1991, called in a Foreign Ministry statement for a "speedy conclusion" to the crisis, "without further bloodshed."

Finland's Foreign Minister Heikki Haavisto said Yeltsin represents Russia's legal government, "so I don't see any other possibility than to support him."

"For us, it is important that the democratisation process in Russia continues," said Haavisto, whose country shares an 800-mile (1,270-km) border with Russia.

The defense ministers of Sweden and Hungary said they feared the fighting in Moscow could spread and erupt into civil war.

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C'wealth Secy Gen calls on Khaleda

NEW YORK, Oct 4: Commonwealth Secretary General Emeke Anyaoka called Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her suite in the UN Plaza yesterday, reports BSS.

The Commonwealth Secretary General lauded the Bangladesh government for pursuing a realistic and effective economic policy. He said the low level of inflation in Bangladesh was encouraging for others.

Anyaoka also expressed his concern over the situation in Bosnia and Russia.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman was present on the occasion.

World Children's Day observed

The World Children's Day was observed throughout the country yesterday with a pledge to ensure a better future for the children, reports BSS.

Different government organisations, child welfare and socio-cultural bodies planned elaborate programmes to observe the day.

The main function, held under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Welfare, was inaugurated by President Abdur Rahman Biswas.

The Bangladesh Shishu Kalyan Parishad opened a week-long programme in observance of the day. Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia inaugurated the week at the auditorium of the parishad here.

The International Pen-Pals Club held a discussion at its office in the city.

The speakers at the discussion laid emphasis on coordinated efforts at local, regional and international levels to protect the rights of children.

A week-long photo exhibition of Atiqur Rahman and M A Taher was also opened at the Alliance Francaise.



The Children's Welfare Parishad brought out a procession in the city yesterday on the occasion of World Children's Day. — Star photo

4 killed in road mishap

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it for about 25 feet under its wheels.

The whole area was filled with the noise of tearing steel and screams of the car passengers, witnesses said.

Muhammad Ali, 38, threw his younger daughter Mumu out one of the car windows before it was totally crushed, they said.

Hundreds of people from the nearby areas rushed towards the mangled car which to rescue the passengers, but in vain.

A wrecker and a rescue van of the fire service arrived at the spot around 8:00 pm, people said.

They said the car, with its fuel tank leaking, caught fire as soon as the fire-fighters lit an oxy-acetylene torch to rip the battered car open. The passengers died instantly.

Some of the witnesses said they had heard agonised groans of the injured passengers trapped inside the car until it caught fire.

As the car became charred, the mob turned violent, damaging the fire engines and beating up some of the firemen.

Police swung into action and used batons to quell the frenzied stone-throwing mob.

More fire engines arrived on the scene and doused the flames.

Police reinforcements were drawn from different city stations to manage the crowd.

Until midnight a heavy-duty crane of the Railway department was trying to put one of the derailed container wagons back on track.

The charred remains of the victims could still be seen inside the car which lay on the track like a smashed matchbox.

Neighbours said the All family was returning from Munshiganj after attending a marriage ceremony there. They had stopped by at the Muddapara residence of Ali's father-in-law before starting for their home at Kamalapur.

A lucky but dazed Mumu was taken to the railway police station at Kamalapur and later handed over to her maternal grandfather.

Fire kills 4 in Khulna
From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Oct 4: Four members of a family were burnt to death in Arashnagar village of Dumuria thana tonight.

The fire originated from a kerosene lamp when the victims were sleeping.

The house was totally gutted and villagers recovered the bodies from the charred remains.

Former Soviet states back Yeltsin

MOSCOW, Oct 4: Leaders of nearly all former Soviet republics unequivocally backed president Yeltsin today in his showdown with parliament, including some who hesitated earlier in Russia's protracted government crisis, reports Reuters.

The presidents of six republics issued a joint statement denouncing the armed revolt by deposed parliamentary leaders and said they backed Yeltsin and the Russian people.

They included the leaders of Kazakhstan and Armenia, only lukewarm in their endorsement of Yeltsin when he dissolved parliament last month and ordered new elections, triggering the current clash.

Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, who last week accused Russia of orchestrating an armed separatist rebellion in his homeland's Abkhazia region, said his people viewed Yeltsin's victory as their own.

Only the Baltic states of Latvia and Estonia were reticent, expressing alarm at instability and the continued presence of Russian troops on their territory.

"Blood has been spilled in Moscow and those guilty of this have placed themselves outside the law," read the statement signed by the presidents of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Miraculous!

KILLARI (India), Oct 4: A 19-month-old girl was plucked alive from beneath the rubble of her home today, 104 hours after India's worst earthquake in 50 years turned her village into a graveyard, army rescuers said, reports Reuters.

Priyanka Wagie was found underneath her overturned cot buried in rubble more than one metre deep, said Brigadier Pritam Singh, whose unit found the baby in the village of Killari.

Embassy in Moscow in constant touch

Bangladesh embassy in Moscow has been in constant touch with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since violence erupted there yesterday morning, an official of the ministry said, reports UNB.



Russian army tanks surrounding the Parliament building in Moscow yesterday. — AFP photo

Yeltsin forces crush revolt

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building, the centre of its white stone facade charred and scarred with a huge hole, flames licking from windows.

Sixty-two people were killed and 400 wounded in today's battle over the TV centre, Itar-Tass news agency said today.

For a day and a night, Russia teetered on the verge of its second civil war this century as an armed insurrection sent a shock wave round the world.

After 12 days of standoff and parleying, Yeltsin responded with tough tactics to suppress foes at home and reassure friends abroad that he controls the giant, nuclear-armed country.

He won fresh support from the West, multi-million dollar aid backers of his reform pro-

grammes to create a free-market society from the ruins of a communist superpower.

Yeltsin, abandoning a softly-softly approach, deployed tanks and elite troops after Sunday's armed uprising by communists and nationalists, urged by their leaders to storm strategic points, including the Kremlin.

Russia's first democratically-elected President counted on winning the understanding at home of voters who supported him in a June referendum, and of friends and allies abroad who see little alternative to his rule.

Hardliners said they were defending the legislature against a 'coup' by Yeltsin, who abolished parliament on September 21 and called elections to a new assembly for December to clear a way for his reforms.

Yeltsin, looking grim, vowed in a broadcast there would be no forgiveness for leaders of what he called an armed 'communist-fascist mutiny' planned in advance.

Ruling by emergency decree, he banned some communist and nationalist newspapers including the Pravda, the former communist party organ, and clamped a six-hour overnight curfew on the capital.

At dawn, armoured vehicles and tanks, backed by thousands of troops in helmets and flak jackets, surrounded the building in an assault led by commandos.

The eventual collapse of the rebellion began with a single white flag of surrender raised at one window as tanks firing cannons blasted huge holes in the building.

Saudia returns to ZIA soon after take-off

By Staff Correspondent
A Saudia 747 aircraft made an emergency landing at the Zia International Airport at 12:55 pm yesterday shortly after take off when one of its engines caught fire.

The SV 3811 was on its flight to Riyadh after having arrived from there two hours earlier.

Immediately after take-off the aircraft developed technical faults and one of its engines reportedly caught fire. The aircraft also dumped fuel before landing as a safety procedure. However all 258 passengers on board the aircraft were safe.

The aircraft is now parked at the Zia terminal and airport sources said some parts of the engine would have to be replaced.

Saudia has, meanwhile, arranged a relief flight to carry the stranded passengers back to Riyadh. However, officials could not confirm when that flight would be available.

Probe body on JU Deposition of students from Oct 9

The one-man commission of enquiry into the July 29 incidents at the Jahangirnagar University will take down deposition of the students of the university over three days beginning October 9, reports BSS.

A press release signed by the secretary of the commission requested the students having knowledge of the incident and willing to depose to appear before the commission at House No. SE (G)-3, Road No. 137, Gulshan, Dhaka between 10 am and 1:30 pm.

The press release said the commission, on September 29, began recording the deposition of the persons having knowledge of the incident.

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Chronology

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march through downtown.

Sept 27: Yeltsin rejects proposals for simultaneous presidential and parliamentary elections.

Sept 28: Hard-line protesters clash with riot police. An officer is killed when he is pushed in front of a car.

Sept 29: Yeltsin gives lawmakers until Monday to leave parliament or face "serious consequences." Hard-liners indicate willingness to negotiate.

Sept 30: Both sides agree to talks mediated by Russian Orthodox Church.

Oct 1: Talks end inconclusively, and lawmakers reject a proposal to surrender their arms in return for having the blockade on parliament lifted.

Oct 2: Hundreds of stone-throwing hard-liners battle police and set up burning barricades in the largest clash of the crisis to date.

Oct 3: Yeltsin declares state of emergency in Moscow after about 10,000 hard-liners overwhelm riot police and lift the siege of the parliament in fierce street fighting. Protesters seize key government facilities.

Oct 4: At 7 am (0400 GMT), armoured personnel carriers approach the parliament building, known as the White House, and firing breaks out. T-72 battle tanks appear within an hour. Yeltsin speaks to the nation at 9 am (0600 GMT), says: "The armed revolt is doomed." At 10 am (0700 GMT), tanks shell the White House, pounding large holes in the facade. Fires break out inside from shelling.

The Midnight File

US to deduct \$437m from loan for Israel

WASHINGTON, Oct 4: The United States will penalize Israel by deducting \$437 million from this year's loan guarantees because of settlement activity in lands it captured from the Arabs. That means that instead of the full \$2 billion in loans guaranteed by the US government Israel would have received in the year beginning this month, it can only expect a maximum of \$1.563 billion in guaranteed loans. The money is being used to help assimilate new immigrants, many of them from the former Soviet Union, reports AP.

One killed in West Bank

BET EL (Occupied West Bank), Oct 4: A Muslim bomber killed himself and injured 28 Israeli soldiers and two civilians when he rammed a car full of explosives into a bus near a West Bank military base today. With Palestinian autonomy due to start in Jericho and the Gaza Strip on October 13, Israeli Chief of Staff Ehud Barak warned there would be more bombings. "It's a bid by Muslim extremists ... to sabotage the peace agreement. We should expect further attacks," he said, reports AFP.

Zahir for govt-private sector interaction

Industries Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan yesterday emphasised the need for continuous and close interaction between the government and the private sector to accelerate the process of industrialisation, reports BSS.

He said government assistance would continue in further development of both the garments and leather sectors which were now playing leading roles in the country's export earnings.

The Industries Minister was inaugurating two separate diagnostic workshops on 'Development of linkage with ready-made garments' and 'Problems and prospect of leather product industry' jointly organised by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), the German Federation of Small Business and Crafts (SDH) and the Technonet Asia (TA) at the conference room of the DCCI here.

Presided over by DCCI president A T M Wazuliah, the inaugural function was also addressed by Industries Secretary A H M Abdul Hye, president of the FBCCI Mahbubur Rahman and president of MCCI Latifur Rahman.

The Industries Minister said the policy of the government would in particular be 'user-friendly' to develop closer interaction with the private sector.

He said both garments and leather are leading sectors and occupied important positions in the nation's export strategy. He hoped the present diagnostic study workshop would be able to identify the problems of the two sectors and would come up with positive recommendations for the sake of promoting their sustained growth.

Khan said a separate division, entitled 'joint sector' would be created under the Ministry of Industries to expedite setting up of joint ventures in the private sector.

The minister said a meeting of the industrial advisory committee would soon be convened to discuss the whole range of issues of the industries sector and also to strengthen the policy guidelines for achieving the objective of quick industrialisation of the country.

A H M Abdul Hye said the present activities of the trade bodies, including the chambers of commerce and industries, reflected the policy of openness and various economic reform programmes undertaken by the government.

Mahbubur Rahman called for removing the ambiguities in the economic and industrial policies of the country. He said a legal backing to the industrial policy could help its effective implementation.

A T M Wazuliah said the workshops would look into the problems standing in the way of promoting sustained growth of the promising sectors of garments and leather.

M Latifur Rahman, president of the MCCI, M Azizur Rahman, local expert coordinator of ZDH/TA, Anwar Hossain and DCCI directors M Nurul Huda, Shamsuddin Ahmed, Ali Ashraf, Khandaker A Salam, A Rob Chowdhury and Ms Maleka Khan, president of Bangladesh Craft, took part in the discussions.

HBFC

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ous 25 per cent to 15 per cent on special consideration.

Besides, the HBFC will sanction more than one loan for the jointly owned plots and it will also sanction loan for buying flats under the newly launched flat scheme.

The government also took decision to give several facilities to the defaulters to help them repay their loans. The loanes will get the facility to repay their loans in the re-fixed instalments. The HBFC will also provide incentive to the regular loan payers and the one-time payers.

US praises

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refugee problem with Myanmar, the stranded Pakistanis' problem with Pakistan and the water-sharing problem with India. She said the Farakka issue was the most complex and damaging problem for Bangladesh. "We have drawn world attention to this vexing problem reflecting our national consensus," she said.

The Prime Minister also underlined the need for expanding trade and commerce with the USA and discussed the quota restrictions imposed on garments exports from Bangladesh.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Bangladesh Ambassador to the US Abul Ahsan and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister K M Rabhani were present.

Pak polls

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Sharif.

Bhutto spent years under house arrest or in solitary confinement under martial law president General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq.

The crowd showered her with rose petals and pushed and jostled each other for a glimpse of the 40-year-old politician, her head covered with a white scarf.

She decided Sharif's party symbol, the tiger, which has become virtually interchangeable with a lion in the campaign.

"The lion is a beautiful animal but Nawaz Sharif is not a real lion. Real lions have died for Nawaz Sharif," she said in a reference to reports of the death of a caged lion at a Sharif rally.

Several candidates from Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League party have brought cage lions to their rallies to enliven the campaign.

HSC results

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letter marks in four subjects.

In the Humanities Group, Mohammad Saidul Islam (Jessor Cantt. 283) of the Cantonment College topped the merit list with 884 marks and letters in English, Logic, Accounting, Geography and Islamic Studies.

Abul Hasnat Mohammad Sharif Iqbal of Jhenidah Cadet College placed second with 865 marks and distinctions in Economics, Islamic Studies and Statistics.

The third place went to Mohammad Asadul Islam of Khulna's Government B L College. He secured 855 marks with distinctions in four subjects.

In the Commerce Group, Mohammad Faridul Islam of Government Sayed Hatem Ali College got the top place scoring 773 with distinctions in Accounting, Shorthand and Typing.

The second place went to Md Zahidul Islam of Kushtia Government College with a total of 768 marks.

Mahbubur Rahman of Jessor Cantt College got the third place with a total of 766.