

Major powers agree on new outlines for Bosnian peace

GENEVA, July 5: For the first time, the United States, Russia and Europe are agreed on the outlines of a 'carrot-and-stick' peace plan for Bosnia, but dissensions remain on the harsh penalties it carries should the warring parties throw it out, reports AFP.

Only hours before formally adopting the plan at 1300 GMT in Geneva, Moscow expressed misgivings over the use of some sanctions in tended to force the parties to the two-year conflict to lay down their arms.

Before leaving for Geneva, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozirev said he expected discussions to be difficult and urged the Americans and Europeans to maintain a spirit of compromise.

He noted that members of the so-called contact group

working on the Bosnia peace plan are insisting on the use of air strikes as a threat to squeeze Bosnian Serbs to seek peace with their Bosnian Muslim and Croat opponents.

Moscow, he said, opposed the use of force and urged world powers "to replace this logic by a logic of compromise".

Foreign ministers, including Kozirev and US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, will meet at the headquarters of the Russian mission in Geneva, issue a declaration and hold a press conference.

The plan, whose details have not been fully divulged, will be put to the warring parties by officials from countries of the contact group of nations. A response to the plan from the belligerents is expected between 10 and 15 days.

Under its proposed carve-up of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Muslims and Croats now united in federation would get 51 per cent of the territory, while the Serbs, who currently control 70 per cent of the land, would draw the rest.

But the idea satisfies neither side.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic rejected the proposal as 'humiliating' before he had even looked at it in detail, saying it destroyed all chances of survival for the Serbs.

Bosnian Muslim leaders also expressed serious reservations and were in pessimistic mood before leaving for Switzerland. Radio Sarajevo, reporting their departure, did not even mention the contact group peace plan.

6000 opposition activists held in Tamil Nadu

NEW DELHI, July 5: Police today arrested over 6,000 activists of an opposition party in India's southern state of Tamil Nadu, reports Xinhua.

The supporters of the Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) were protesting against the alleged failure of the Central and Tamil Nadu governments to protect the 69 per cent reservation for the specified communities.

Italians win

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Nuwanu, 5-Uche Okochukwu, 19-Mike Emenalo, 15-Sunday Olshe, 10-Austin Okocha, 11-Emmanuel Amunike (8-Thompson Oliba 58), 7-Finidi George, 9-Rashidi Yekini, 14-Daniel Amokachi (21-Muttu Adepoju 35).

Referee: Arturo Pablo Brizio (Mexico)

Red card: Italy-Gianfranco Zola (76).

Yellow cards:

ITALY: Danielle Massaro (7), Alessandro Costacurta (30), Giuseppe Signori (60), Dino Baggio (64), Paolo Maldini (81).

NIGERIA: Mike Emenalo (2), Muttu Adepoju (42), Sunday Olshe (54), Chidi Nuwanu (59).

Social forestry directorate to be set up soon

By Staff Correspondent

Forests and Environment Minister Akbar Hossain yesterday announced that a separate social forestry directorate would soon be set up for increased tree plantation.

Speaking at the tree plantation programme '94 organised by the BCS (Forest) Association in Dhaka, the minister called 'upon the forest department officials to involve people in social forestry and bring the fruits of their efforts to the doorstep of the people.'

The Minister attended the function as chief guest.

Forests Secretary Abdullah Harun Pasha, who was present as special guest, said that 'Brikhha Mela', or tree fair, was a new addition to the government's programme to popularise social forestry.

Chief Conservator M Moazzam Hossain called upon the local scientists to select indigenous species of saplings to meet the people's demands. He emphasised the need for setting up the Social Forestry Directorate.

Later, the Forests and Environment Minister started the tree planting programme of the BCS (Forests) Association on the Gulshan-Badda link road.

ADB team

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for the displaced people, under the Jamuna Multi-Purpose Bridge Project. Along with Japan and the World Bank, the ADB is co-financing the Jamuna bridge project with a contribution of 200 million US dollars.

The delegation is also expected to meet senior government officials during their stay here. The high-level visit is being seen by observers as significant in increasing the quantum of ADB assistance to Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Finance Ministry has prepared a paper outlining the bank's involvement in the country over the years.

The ADB provided a total of 416.3 million dollars in loan to Bangladesh from 1972 to December last. In addition, the bank also provided 93.91 million dollars as technical assistance grant during the period.

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Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanamandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.

Centre for women

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ised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Giving an account of the conference proceedings and deliberations made by the Bangladesh team, Sarwar Rahman said that the regional Plan of Action charted during the Jakarta meet would strive to achieve the goals set forth in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies as well as work as a regional input to the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing next year.

The State Minister pointed out that in line with the Jakarta Conference, setting up of a high profile 'centre for women and development' was under the active consideration of the government.

The centre, a broad platform of various government and non-government agencies, would explore the ways to implement the Action Plan at the national level.

Sarwar Rahman reiterated the government's policy of recognising the women as active factors in the development initiatives and bringing them into the mainstream development force.

She pointed out that Bangladesh's initiatives for women's development was highly acclaimed by the world community.

Bangladesh was among the few countries which was able to present country situation paper at the conference, she added.

The State Minister was elected one of the vice chairpersons of the Conference, attended by 48 nations of the Asian and the Pacific regions.

Replying to questions from newsmen, the State Minister said that the government was alert on the rising incidents of 'jatuabazi' and torture of the women.

She admitted that development initiatives in some rural areas have been hampered due to attacks by vested quarters.

She, however, pointed out that the government had taken stern action against those who were trying to disrupt the development process.

Among those present at the press briefing were Khurshid Jahan Haq MP, Secretary of the Ministry Muhammad Enamul Haq, Dr Nazma Chowdhury, Prof Shahida Rafiq and Dr Hamida Akhter.

Flood situation in Pabna worsens

PABNA, July 5: The overall flood situation in the district deteriorated today, official sources here said, reports UNB.

Some 10,000 people have so far been rendered homeless in 27 villages. Crops on 3,000 acres of land and 500 kutcha houses have been washed away.

9m enter US Green Card lottery

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diversify the pool of incoming US immigrants, after the 1970s saw a surge in immigration from Central America, the Caribbean and Southeast Asia.

Of the 55,000 cards up for grabs in the lottery, 24,549 are earmarked for European nationals; 20,200 for African nationals and 10,251 for Asian and South American citizens.

From each region, some countries were excluded which already have substantial immigrant populations in the United States.

There is only one prerequisite for eligible lottery players—they must have completed their secondary (high-school) level studies or have had work experience in a field requiring at least two years of study.

Applicants simply are asked to jot down on a blank sheet of paper their name, address, date and place of birth, and the names of their spouse and children if applicable, they then send their entry to the State Department with a reply envelope.

Simple as the process is, a



President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia attended the ceremony arranged in observance of the raising day of the President's Guard Regiment (PGR) at the Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

—PID photo

Role of PGR recalled

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and through this it has earned a high demand for itself in the UN peace keeping forces in different countries.

He recalled the PGR members including late Captain Ashraf Hafiz Khan, Naik Abu Taher, Sepoy Abul Kashem, Sepoy Shah Alam and Sepoy Abdur Rauf who sacrificed their lives with Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman on May 30 of 1981. 'Their sacrifices are the pride of the nation,' he said.

Earlier, on arrival at the PGR headquarters, the President was received by Chief of Army Staff Lt General Noor Uddin Khan and Commanding Officer of the PGR Col. AR Rukanuddin. He was given a Guard of Honour by a contingent of PGR members and he took the salute.

During the visit at the PGR headquarters President Biswas met the members of families of the martyred PGR members who were killed on May 30 of 1981.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia while addressing the officers and soldiers of PGR on the occasion said the professional competence of its members had enhanced the prestige of the regiment.

Power supply to improve by July 15, JS told

By Staff Correspondent

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr. Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday told parliament that power supply throughout the country would improve by July 15 when a number of new and repaired power units would become operative.

He said in reply to a notice from ruling party whip Mahbubul Alam Tara that a 210 megawatt unit at the Ghorashal Power Plant suddenly bogged down causing the current loadshedding. Another unit of 210 mw remained out of order from May 9 at the same plant, he added.

The Kaptai Hydro-Electric Power Plant, which has a capacity of 243 mw, is now producing only 90 mw because of low water level at the Kaptai Lake. The water level is now 73.35 ft instead of usual 82.64 ft.

The minister said that one of the two 210mw bogged-down units at the Ghorashal

Power Plant resumed operation from today. On the other hand, the 210 mw thermal power plant at Rajan would go into full operation from July 15.

"After July 15, we will be able to ensure an additional 564 mw of power which will help end the present loadshedding," Dr. Mosharraf added.

The present nationwide shortage is about 450 mw, the Minister said.

He said that because of the power disruption, the power supply offices in some areas were attacked. Despite all these constraints and production shortage, the authorities have tried their best to ensure power supply during the World Cup matches.

"The country will be free from the present unexpected loadshedding after the 15th of this month," the minister added.

Agitation against killers of '71 to continue: Nirmul

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of the Ghatik Dalai Nirmul Jatiya Samannay Committee apprehend that the death of Jahanara Imam would affect the movement against the anti-liberation forces.

Talking to newsmen at the Mirpur Freedom Fighters Graveyard the leaders, however, expressed their determination to continue the agitation against the killers of '71 and the politics of Jamaat-Shibir.

"She has already done a lot of work. Her unfinished task will now have to be completed by the younger generation," said Maj (ret'd) Kazi Nuruzzaman.

Col (ret'd) Abu Osman Chowdhury said, "We lost the leader of the Samannay Committee but her ideals will always give us strength."

Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Maya said, "She had rightly organised the agitation against the anti-liberation forces. Now it will be affected. We will be deprived of a powerful leadership. But we have her blessings; we hope to overcome the loss and move ahead."

13 teachers of Shah Jalal Varsity resign

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, July 5: Thirteen teachers of Shah Jalal University of Science and Technology have resigned following the ransacking of the Vice-Chancellor's office and manhandling of some teachers by a group of students. The students are demanding shifting of examinations dates.

The teachers association has threatened that if punitive measures against the students are not taken by July 7, the remaining 78 teachers of the university would resign on the day.

Those who have resigned are the Teachers' Association president Provost Prof Miraj Uddin Mondal, Assistant Provost Redwanur Rahman, Ahmed Kabir Chowdhury, Proctor Maksudul Bakht Chowdhury, Assistant Proctor Abdul Hal Chowdhury, Kabir Hossain, Mohammad Shahid Ullah, SUCSU Treasurer Dr Jainul Abedin, Dr Shahin Akhtar and Nazmul Ashab, Badruzzaman Faruque and Fazlul Karim.

5-taka coins

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Azad and Ahsanul Huq Mollah of the treasury bench.

Majibur Rahman, in his notice, urged the LGD minister to bring six unions of Barisal Sadar thana under the rural infrastructure development project, while Abul Kalam Azad requested the health minister to repair the dilapidated Narayanganj General Hospital building and provide the hospital authorities with modern medical and surgical equipment.

Ahsanul Huq Mollah of Kushtia urged the home minister to set up a fire service station in Daulatpur thana of his district.

Meanwhile, three petitions of the members of public from Jhenaidah were brought to the notice of parliament. The petitions demanded compensation of their land acquired earlier by the government.

Submitted by Begum Akhter Banoo, Mohammad Anwar Hossain and Mohammad Shawkat Ali (Satter) Digar - all from Shailakupa under Jhenaidah district, the petitions were authenticated by two treasury bench members, Mohammad Mashur Rahman and Mohammad Abdul Wahab of the locality.

The petitions were, however, sent to the parliamentary petition committee by the Deputy Speaker, Humayun Khan Panni for necessary action.

The petitioners stated that the government had acquired their landed properties in 1982-83 for construction of Shailakupa Upazila Court Bhaban and quarters. But the government fixed the compensation rate of the land lower than the prevailing market price at that time.

The petitioners went to the court and the judgements were in their favour. The court asked for payment of compensation several times higher than the price fixed by the government. But the Deputy Commissioner of Jhenaidah was not paying the compensation, they said.

The petitioners prayed for payment of their compensation according to the judgement of the court.

There was no question-answer session yesterday as all the questions submitted by the MPs had already been answered.

The House that met at 7:45 yesterday evening was adjourned at 8:45 pm to resume again at 7:30 this evening.

Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni presided over the session.

The Midnight File

N Yemeni troops capture

Aden's airport

SANAA, July 5: Northern Yemeni forces seized control of Aden's airport after marching into the Southern city in early this afternoon, a military spokesman said here. "Governmental forces have total control over Aden's airport, the Khormaksar district and dyke linking the city to little Aden," he said, reports AFP.

Murayama to attend G-7 meet

TOKYO, July 5: Tomichi Murayama goes to the Group of Seven summit in Naples this weekend having been Prime Minister barely a week and with Japan's international credibility weakened by serial political crises. The Socialist leader will be Japan's fourth Prime Minister since Kiichi Miyazawa hosted the last industrialised powers get-together last July, reports AFP.

Imam laid to rest

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League, Chhatra Union, Sampradiyakata Birodhi Chhatra Samaj, Samajantrik Chhatra Front, Chhatra Motree, JSD-backed BCL (B-K), Chhatra Oikya Forum.

The other organisations with paid tributes to the late leader were: Dhaka University Teachers Association, Jahangirnagar University Samannay Parishad wing, NAP, Samannay Committee wings of Chittagong, Khulna and Noakhali, Bangladesh Islami Biplab Andolan, Jatiya Kabita Parishad, Shikkhak Samity, Mahila Samity, Bangladesh Janata Dal, Sonar Bangla Jubo Parishad, Nari Samaj, Pahari Chhatra Parishad and Mukti Joddha Chhatra Command.

The socio-cultural organisation which paid tributes were: Chhayanaut, Dhaka Padatik, Charu, Khelaghar, Kranti, Abriti Samannay Parishad, TV Betar Shilpi Sangsad, Prajanna '71, Ekattorer Jatri, Dhaka Theatre, Awami Shilpi Gosthi and Group Theatre Federation.

At around 1:30 pm, the body was taken to the Jatiya Eidgah for Namaj-e-janaja. Jahanara Imam's son Saif Imam Jami sought the blessings of all for his mother's soul before the Namaj-e-janaja which was attended by more than five thousand people.

Syed Abdullah al-Chishty conducted the Namaj-e-janaja while it was attended by among others, Dr Kamal Hossain, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Mostafa Mohsin Montu and Nurul Islam Nahid.

The Nirmul Committee will hold a condolence meeting at Suhrawardi Uddyan today at 4 pm.

Meanwhile, Gano Forum held a condolence meeting yesterday evening at Elephant Road, near Jahanara Imam's residence.

Presided over by Dr Kamal Hossain, it was addressed by Pankaj Bhattacharya, Ziaul Haq, Shamsuddoha MP, Gen (Ret'd) Khalilur Rahman, Dr Abdul Hakim, Abdur Rauf and others.

The speakers said that the anti-liberation force Jamaat had become powerful in the country's politics as both the ruling and opposition parties were its allies.

They called for boycott of Jamaat-Shibir by all progressive parties and united movement against the killers of 1971 to fulfil the last wishes of Jahanara Imam.

Leaders of the Prokrichi-BCS Central Actions Council at a meeting yesterday recalled the contribution of Jahanara Imam to the national life and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Leaders of the Commemorative Festival '94 on the Liberation War of Bangladesh Tuesday said that the on-going struggle to preserve the spirit of the Liberation War was hampered due to the demise of Jahanara Imam.

Taka likely to depreciate

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creased to Tk 40.28 on July 2 and they declined to Tk 40.2 Tuesday, decreasing by one paisa a day.

Banking sources said the sudden rise in the USD rate in the interbank market was due to low supply of dollar despite high demand.

It happened due to closing of the financial year, the sources said, adding that dollar would continue to appreciate against Taka if the existing factors continued to persist.

The sources, however, said the indicative rate of dollar quoted by the Bangladesh Bank has been affecting the operation of the market forces by keeping an indirect control on the market.

Meanwhile, with the liberalisation of import, more and more LCs (letters of credit) are being opened by the importers, raising the demand for dollars. In the just concluded financial year, import had increased by about 15 per cent compared with that in the previous fiscal year.

Besides, the rise in the international currencies like the Japanese Yen and the German Deutsche Mark. This has prompted the increase in the value of the currencies of a number of countries against dollar.

The Bangladesh currency is, however, showing a different trend because of certain factors in the country's economy that has been undergoing massive reform and restructuring, sources pointed out.

VC panel nomination

Pro-BNP RU teachers split

The pro-BNP teachers of Rajshahi University have split over nominating a panel for election of Vice Chancellor scheduled to be held on July 8, reports UNB.

One group supported present Pro-VC Azhar Uddin, Prof Yusuf Ali of Department of Chemistry and Prof Azharul Islam of Department of Physics. Majority of the teachers associated with Zia Parishad, a front organisation of BNP, supported this panel.

Another panel comprising incumbent VC Prof Anisur Rahman, Prof Fakhrul Islam of Department of Applied Chemistry and Prof Abdul Hamid of Department of Philosophy is likely to be submitted.

Meanwhile, the BNP student front Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has demanded the postponement of the RU Senate session that will elect the VC panel on July 8.

The RU unit submitted a memorandum to Vice Chancellor Prof Anisur Rahman, saying that the Senate session cannot be held in the absence of any student representative.

JCD also demanded immediate announcement of the date for RUCSU election and realisation of the just demands of the workers and employees of the university.

The memorandum urged the university authorities 'not to allow teachers politics keeping student politics restricted.'

flation rate, the decline in the flow of remittances to the country and a drop in the export receipts may also contribute to the devaluation of Taka against its intervention currency, US dollar. The flow of remittances to the country reportedly declined by about 10 per cent during the last fiscal compared to that in '92-'93.

The other factors contributing to the decline in the value of the Bangladesh currency by increasing its circulation in the market include increase in the disbursement of bank loans and industrial and other investments.

According to sources, disbursement of bank loans increased in fiscal '93-94 by about 6.1 per cent compared with that in the previous fiscal year.

After a 'dry time' during the last few months, the capital market is also expected to regain its momentum with the floating of shares of a number of new companies.

The dollar lost its strength mainly against the major international currencies like the Japanese Yen and the German Deutsche Mark. This has prompted the increase in the value of the currencies of a number of countries against dollar.

The Bangladesh currency is, however, showing a different trend because of certain factors in the country's economy that has been undergoing massive reform and restructuring, sources pointed out.

100 Haitian refugees feared drowned in boat capsized

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, July 5: More than 100 Haitian refugees trying to flee their homeland are believed to have drowned when the boat they were in capsized, survivors told reporters Monday, says Reuters.

The survivors said they thought that between 100 and 150 people died when their overloaded craft overturned after leaving an area near the western town of St Marc. A similar number are thought to have survived the sinking, two survivors told reporters who visited the scene.

Although radio stations in Port-Au-Prince reported the accident, there was no independent confirmation of the scale of the tragedy. A US Coast Guard spokeswoman in Miami said the Coast Guard had no details of the incident.

If the death toll is as high as survivors believe, however, it would be the largest single loss of life in a boat sinking since thousands of Haitians began fleeing the Caribbean nation at the end of June.