

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 intended to force the parties to lay down their arms.

Before leaving for Geneva, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev 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 Kozyrev 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.

Centre for women

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is 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, Sarwari 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.

Sarwari 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.

Replies to questions from newsmen, the State Minister said that the government was alert on the rising incidents of 'fatwabaz' 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 developmental process.

He suggested the banks to form consortiums to finance big projects particularly in setting up composite textile industries.

Dwelling on the investment performances in the agricultural sector, the mainstay of the national economy, the Finance Minister directed the banks to allow maximum write-off facilities to the farmers affected by floods, droughts and other natural calamities in different parts of the country particularly in Sunamganj and Netrokona.

He discouraged the practice of issuing certificate cases against the defaulting farmers. How the farmers can pay back their loans to the banks when they had lost their entire crops in floods or droughts, he asked. He pleaded that the banks should give fresh loans to the affected farmers so that the farmers could recover their loss rendered by floods and droughts. Stop issuing certificate cases against the farmers at time of transplanting period he said, help them by rescheduling their repayment on easy instalments.

Referring to the problems being faced by the weavers, the Finance Minister suggested the banks to give similar facilities of writing off interests on loans to the weavers.

Turning to the investment in the housing sector, the Finance Minister said the banks should invest in such a vital and important sector generously.

Besides, the chairman and managing directors of NBCs the meeting was attended among others by the Governor of Bangladesh Bank, Khurshed Alam, Finance Secretary Mohammad Nasimuddin and former industries minister Jamaluddin Ahmed.

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,



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 Rukanauddowlah. 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.

The Prime Minister, also in-charge of the Ministry of Defence, asked them to undertake training and studies and to be more attentive and active in performing their responsibilities to the country.

Begum Zia recalled those officers and soldiers of PGR who had set up bright examples of patriotism and obedience by laying down their lives.

She paid tributes to those who had died with President Ziaur Rahman on the tragic night of May 30, 1981.

Begum Zia also recalled former CO of PGR Shaheed Lt. Colonel Mohammad Faizul Karim, who died while performing his duties as the leader of Bangladesh team in the UN peace keeping force in Namibia.

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Agitation against killers of '71 to continue: Nirmul

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of the Ghatak Dal 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 (retd) Kazi Nuruzzaman.

Col (retd) 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, Abril Samannay Parishad, TV Betar Shilpi Sangbad, Prajanma '71, Ekatorer 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-janaza.

Jahanara Imam's son Saif Imam Jamil sought the blessings of all for his mother's soul before the Namaj-e-janaza which was attended by more than five thousand people.

Syed Abdullah-al-Chishiy

conducted the Namaj-e-janaza while it was attended by among others, Dr Kamal

The Midnight File

N Yemeni troops capture Aden's airport

SANA, 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 Khorimaksar district and dyke linking the city to little Aden," he said, reports AFP.

Murayama to attend G-7 meet

TOKYO, July 5: Tomiichi 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, Chhatri Union, Sampadriyakata Birodi Chhatri Samaj, Samajtantrik Chhatri Front, Chhatri Motte, JSD-backed BCL (BK), Chhatri Oikya Forum.

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

The socio-cultural organisation which paid tributes were: Chhayanaut, Dhaka Padatik, Charu, Kheleghar, Kranti, Abril Samannay Parishad, TV Betar Shilpi Sangbad, Prajanma '71, Ekatorer Jatri, Dhaka Theatre, Awami Shilpi Gosthi and Group Theatre Federation.

They called for boycott of Jamaat-Shibir by all progressive parties and united movement against the killers of '71 to fulfil the last wishes of Jahanara Imam.

Leaders of the Prokriching 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.

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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 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 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 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 Fakhruddin Islam of Department of Applied Chemistry and Prof Abdul Hamid of Department of Philosophy is likely to be submitted.

Meanwhile, the BNP student front Jatiyabadi Chhatri 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 the court.

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.

The American Association of Immigration Lawyers urges its 3,000 members to give free assistance on the lottery and fined, Wurzel said.

"There is no room for error," Gieber