

EU FMs against lifting arms embargo on Bosnia

USEDOM, Germany, Sept 11: European Union foreign ministers came out firmly against lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia and agreed steps to draw East European states into the union. German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said, reports AFP.

Speaking after chairing a meeting of the ministers in this Baltic Sea resort, Kinkel said the 12 agreed that lifting the embargo would carry "incalculable risks" and should be only a last resort after other means of bringing peace had failed, Kinkel said.

The announcement came amid continuing US pressure for a lifting of the embargo to allow the Bosnian Muslims to defend themselves against hostile Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

At the same time there was a "high degree of agreement" on how to put pressure on the Bosnian Serbs, Kinkel said.

"We stand for a total isolation of the Bosnian Serbs and a tightening of sanctions against them, as we cannot accept that less than one million Serbs and their leaders can continue to block the Bosnia peace process," he said.

Kinkel said the 12 were "unanimous in expressing the fear that a lifting of the embargo would lead to incalculable risks."

Such a move would mean

countries which had UN troops in Bosnia would have to withdraw them, and supplies into the former Yugoslav republic could no longer be assured, he explained. The response of other parties was also unknown, the German minister added.

Another report says the United Nations may start lifting sanctions imposed on rump Yugoslavia as early as next week, while toughening its stance against the Bosnian Serbs. Russia's envoy to the former Yugoslavia said today.

Vitaly Churkin, who last Wednesday attended a meeting in Berlin of the international contact group on Bosnia, said late Saturday group negotiators had worked out an agreement whereby the UN Security Council would "pass two resolutions," the Interfax agency quoted him as saying.

Reuters adds: Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic urged the United Nations "on Saturday to lift its arms embargo on his country, saying it had brought only death and destruction, the emirates agency WAM said.

Silajdzic was repeating a call he had made at the end of an Islamic foreign ministers conference in Pakistan when he arrived in the United Arab Emirates for talks with senior officials.



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting in front of the Jataya Press Club yesterday. — Star photo

Uttar Pradesh govt faces collapse

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NEW DELHI, Sept 11: A coalition government in India's most populous state was facing collapse today after premier PV Narasimha Rao's Congress (I) party said it was withdrawing its crucial legislative support, reports AFP.

The Congress chapter in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh said its 32 members in the 425-seat legislature would no longer support the state government, controlled by a socialist-led two-party coalition.

The Congress decision, taken in the Uttar Pradesh capital Lucknow, reduced the state government of Mulayam Singh Yadav, who came to power in November last year, to a minority in the assembly.

Int'l child abuse prevention confce opens in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Sept 11: Nations must join in putting people, funds and reliable data into the fight against increasing child abuse in the world, an international conference was told Sunday, reports AP.

"With the sense of commitment shown by all countries, I am sure that the incidence of child abuse and neglect can be reduced," Napsiah Omar, Malaysia's minister for national unity and social development, told 900 delegates from 62 countries.

The four-day conference was jointly organised by the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, the Malaysian Council for Child Welfare, and the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect team.

Rabin told German radio Syria was currently refusing such contacts, but said he hoped US Secretary of State Warren Christopher could help bring in the sides together.

"We think that with the help of the United States — hopefully — we can find a basis that will allow us to meet in secret or openly," Rabin said, according to a German translation of his comments.

"But the best thing would be bilateral, secret negotiations."

Pak Opposition

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simultaneously under an army-brokered peace formula. In the snap elections in October Sharif's PML lost to the PPP by a narrow margin. Political confrontation between the government and Opposition has been mounting since Bhutto assumed office.

Reacting to the movement, Bhutto said the Opposition "is playing a very regrettable role."

Bhutto, who leaves tomorrow for Morocco on an official visit, said the government was not "afraid," adding that the Opposition campaign was "bound to fail."

The government has said it would not obstruct the Opposition protest but warned that any attempt to disturb peace would be sternly checked.

Observers said incidents were likely as Opposition supporters would be flocking to railway stations to hear Sharif en route from Karachi to Lahore in Punjab province, amid expected heavy police deployment.

They said Bhutto had a comfortable grip on power, with her majority in parliament intact, a supportive President at the helm and the powerful army apparently unwilling to dip its fingers in politics.

Pakistan newspaper reports have said the PML has not succeeded in winning crucial support from Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), a major political force in Sindh's urban centre which is at odds with the PPP.

AL's post-hartal rally

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The AL chief admitted that hartals caused sufferings to the people but said, "We have been compelled to observe such programmes as a last resort to protest the government's repressive measures and misdeeds."

She claimed that her current agitation aimed at ensuring people's right to vote, food and work. "We want polls under a non-party caretaker government as no fair election is possible under the present vote-dacot BNP government."

This government rigged all the elections held under it, even one by-election, boycotted by all opposition parties, alleged the AL chief. She was struggling for change of power through fair polls, she added.

Her struggle would continue until Hasina said people's economic emancipation was achieved and democracy was institutionalised.

"We believe in democratic and systematic movement but it is the BNP government which is behaving with us in an autocratic manner," Hasina said. The people will give a befitting response to such conduct, she added.

The AL chief blamed the ruling party for "not being sincere" in resolving the political impasse and blocking the Opposition's return to Parliament. "We offered dialogue and asked BNP to move a bill seeking constitutional provisions for elections under a caretaker government but they have pushed us to the path of agitation."

The opposition leader said the people of all sections were now fed up with the BNP for its three-and-half years' misrule.

During this period, the people witnessed widespread corruption, terrorism, politicisation of the administration and closure of mills and factories, she alleged.

Tanbazar yarn traders observe strike

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 11: A half-day strike was observed by the traders of the Tanbazar wholesale yarn market today at the call of the Bangladesh Yarn Merchants Association.

The Association called the strike protesting alleged irregularities in the allocation of products of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC).

The association alleged that the BTMC has been patronising a few traders.

The products of 27 BTMC mills, out of 30, are being allocated to nine traders while the products of the three mills to the rest of the traders, it said.

After the strike, the association brought out a procession in the town and held a rally.

Presided by the association's Vice-Chairman Haji Amzad Hossain, the rally was addressed also by General Secretary Jahangir Alam and Kamaluddin.

Owners urge Exempt transport from purview of hartal

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Bus-Truck Owners Association yesterday urged the opposition parties to exempt the transport sector from the purview of hartals considering the sufferings of passengers and transport workers.

An emergency meeting of the association's executive body requested the political leaders to take a unanimous decision on the issue.

Meanwhile, terminal sources said interdistrict buses will ply after hartal hours today.

2 die in separate incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

A major girl was killed in a road accident and another teenager reportedly committed suicide in the city yesterday.

Noor Jahan was seriously injured when a speeding auto-rickshaw knocked her down at Reverbazur on Saturday. She was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where she succumbed to her injuries yesterday.

Yasmin, 15, reportedly took poison to commit suicide at her house Saturday night.

She was admitted to the DMCH where she died early yesterday.

Police sent both the bodies to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

A tea vendor was seriously injured when he was stabbed near the Curzon Hall of Dhaka University around 3:30 pm Sunday.

The victim Sohel, 16, who received injuries in his abdomen, was immediately admitted to the DMCH.

He was later shifted to the Chest Diseases Hospital.

Cairo confce

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The joke circulating in the corridors at the conference was: "Who ever thought that talking about sex all week could be so boring."

The key remaining issues center on 'reproductive rights' for women. The Vatican objects that the phrase could be misconstrued to include abortion, and Muslim countries are worried that the wording could foster premarital sex.

Delegates finally hammered out compromise language on 'unsafe' abortion Friday, but the Vatican still refused to sign on, along with predominantly Catholic Malta, Ecuador, Peru and Argentina. Delegates said Jordan, Libya and Costa Rica also registered objections Saturday.

Sal, whose committee worked on the abortion compromise, said that for all the fuss, changes in language did not alter the meaning that much.

But he noted the Vatican's rigid stance through five days of debate produced much bitterness.

Kuwaiti envoy

From Page 1 Col 4

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Begum Zia also conveyed her greetings through the envoy to the Kuwaiti Ameer and the Prime Minister.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister A N M Eusuf, Kuwaiti Ambassador in Dhaka Muhammad Ibrahim Al-Najran and other senior officials were present on the occasion.



Street urchins join in the act of wrecking a 'renegade' rickshaw on a city street during yesterday's hartal hours. — Star photo

'Invasion of Haiti getting closer'

WASHINGTON, Sept 11: US Secretary of State Warren Christopher said today the United States has "exhausted" all diplomatic efforts to oust the military regime in Haiti, hinting that an invasion is getting closer, reports Reuters.

"There comes a time when we have to use military force and President Clinton will explain carefully and fully to the American people what the reasons are and I hope and believe we will have their support at that point, if it comes to that," Christopher said on NBC Television's "Meet the Press" programme.

"We have exhausted every diplomatic endeavour," said Christopher.

US policy is to restore Haiti's popularly elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power. He was ousted in a coup in 1991 and now lives in exile in Washington.

Hartal observed

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of Agargaon ASI of police Abdul Mannan received bomb injuries in his leg at around noon. He was taken to the Suhrawardy Hospital.

Three other police constables suffered minor injuries in clashes with demonstrators at Topkhana Road and Johnson Road.

The police picked up 28 persons including 21 street urchins from the Motijheel area, 15 persons from Mohammadpur, 4 from Tejgaon and 4 from Lalbagh area for attacking the police and rickshaws.

A number of bomb blasts rocked Green Road area and pickets damaged a number of rickshaws plying on the street.

Two auto-rickshaws of the official news agency BSS were damaged at Green Road and Khilgaon area in the morning.

The number of police deployed yesterday at important spots like the Zero Point, Topkhana crossing and Jatuya Press Club was far less compared with that on Saturday. Also, there were fewer agitators at these points.

The AL, the JP and their front organisations brought out processions in different parts of the city. The AL and its student front Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) brought out two processions and held rallies in front of the Press Club at around 12.30 noon.

The AL rally was presided over by Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Maya and the BCL rally by its newly elected President Enamul Haq Shamim.

Both the rallies urged the people to continue the movement till the BNP government was compelled to step down and hold national elections under a caretaker government.

The AL rally was addressed by among others SA Mannan, Khandker Shafiqur Rahman, and Iqbalur Rahim. The BCL was addressed by Ajay Kar, Akhter Hossain and some others.

The Midnight File

Elections to Palestinian council Nov 1

GAZA CITY (Gaza Strip), Sept 11: Palestinians will hold their first elections to choose the new autonomy council on November 1. Palestinian social affairs "minister" Intissar Al-Wazir said Saturday. "The most important decision we took today was to proceed with elections on November 1," she said after the weekly Palestinian authority meeting here, reports AFP.

German embassy in Algeria evacuated

BONN, Sept 11: The German embassy in Algeria was evacuated today after receiving a bomb threat, a German Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Bonn. Algerian police searched the building but no explosives were found, the spokesman said. Personnel at the embassy had been significantly reduced in recent months due to violence against foreigners in Algeria, reports AFP.

Expenses of British MPs

From Page 1 Col 4

its among the Commonwealth countries, the expenses for passage are borne by the respective parliaments while the host parliament takes care of local hospitality.

The Bangladesh Parliament, like any other in the world, has a fund to sponsor local hospitality, a JS official said, adding that it was the Jatuya Sangsad which bore the expenditure for the local hospitality extended to the British parliamentarians.

On the other hand, a parliamentary delegation attending any conference of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) has to bear its own expenses, including travel, food and board. The IPU doesn't sponsor anything, JS sources said.

Therefore, all the expenses of the five member Bangladesh delegation attending the current IPU conference in the Danish capital is being borne by the Jatuya Sangsad, Shaikh Razzak Ali said.

Headed by the Speaker, the delegation includes members from the ruling BNP, and the opposition AL and Jatuya Party.

Meanwhile, sources in the British High Commission in Dhaka also admitted that the British parliamentary delegation came to Bangladesh at the invitation of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association of the country.

When asked to comment on the reported statement of Sheikh Hasina that the British MPs make remarks in favour of the BNP, the British High

Commissioner, Peter J Fowler said: "I have seen the press reports. However, as usual the British MPs did not make any official statement. Any observations made by them were their individual views based on their experiences and meetings with the leaders of both the ruling party and the Opposition. As some of the delegation members were familiar with Bangladesh, I think they were expressing their frank concerns on the country's present political situation," the High Commissioner said.

Refugees clash with Zairian soldiers

GOMA, Zaire, Sept 11: Thousands of Rwandan refugees clashed with Zairian soldiers in Kibumba, the largest camp in eastern Zaire. Witnesses on Sunday reported seeing at least two bodies and "lots of patches of blood," reports AP.

The violence late Saturday night prompted the United Nations to issue a security alert.

Chambers

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country is projected to be virtually in continuous strike for 4 days. It is only natural for the world at large to form an adverse impression. The country's image problem already remains a major hindrance for development. It is the people's future which will be affected if the image problem worsens and we fail to make use of the remaining few years of this century in strengthening the economic base of our country. Similarly, such political unrest and consequent instability will further discourage both local and foreign investment which is so badly needed to revamp the economy.

"We submit to all political leaders not to forget the interests of the economy at this critical juncture. The hawkers, shop-owners, contractors, small and cottage industries across the country are already struggling for their survival. So are the exporters and domestic market-oriented industries. Their survival needs not only better governance, but also better politics. Good politics fosters good economy, inasmuch as bad politics hampers growth. It is time to drop strikes as the means of achieving political gains. History is full of instances that no such gains can be sustained without economic success.

In this regard we would like to reiterate our earlier position and once again strongly urge all to earnestly resolve their political differences through intense consultations and meaningful dialogue. Failure to do so will bring disaster to the country for which the political leadership shall be held responsible by the nation."

Press Note

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everybody will play a helpful role to ensure normal public life.

The Press Note said the road transportation system is a public welfare oriented sector. The present democratic government is determined to provide more services to the people through the development of the sector. The government hopes that the cooperation of all concerned would strengthen the activities of the sector, the Press Note said.

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তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি সার্বসিভিয়ারী কোম্পানী)
ফোনঃ ৮৬০৫০, ৮৬০৫১, ৮৬০৫২, ৮১২১৩৫-৪২

বিশেষ জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

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থাকিবে।

"গাছ লাগান, গাছের পরিচর্যা করুন
এবং পরিবেশ বাচান-প্রধানমন্ত্রী"

তিতাস/জনসংযোগ-৩৫/৯৪-৪৫
ডি-২২৪

তিতাস গ্যাস কর্তৃপক্ষ

Editor: Mahfuz Anam