

Confce on LDCs opens in NY Decline in aid flow worries Dhaka

Bangladesh has advocated stronger economic cooperation among developing countries to promote economic growth, transfer of technology and accelerated development, reports UNB.

"This is an important conduit of cooperation that should be further strengthened," Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman said in a statement at the meeting of the LDCs in New York on Tuesday.

Mostafiz is leading the Bangladesh delegation to a High Level Inter-governmental Meeting on the Mid-Term Global Review of Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s.

The two-week meeting was inaugurated by UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali on Tuesday.

The Foreign Minister's statement, read out by Ambassador Reaz Rahman, Bangladesh's permanent representative to the UN, also called on the developing countries to give special attention to the needs of the LDCs in promoting South-South Cooperation, according to a message received here yesterday.

Mostafiz said the Programme of Action for the 1990s underlined the necessity for additional support to LDCs to ensure the full and efficient mobilisation of human and financial resources of those countries since the commitments of the First Conference on the LDCs in 1981 had not been fully met.

The Bangladesh Foreign Minister hoped that the meeting would spur developed world to seriously addressing the genuine needs of the LDCs.

AL presidium

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The AL presidium noted that the Jubo Dal and the Chhatra Dal, under the protection of the Prime Minister had started speaking in terms of arms and threat.

"The ruling party has become puzzled in the face of Opposition agitation and being alienated from the people for its unbridled corruption, misrule, killing and terrorism."

It said the deterioration of law and order situation, failure to give security to public life, women repression and uncontrolled price-hike were pushing the country towards an abyss.

The BNP will have to shoulder the responsibility of pushing the nation towards confrontation by giving provocative and undemocratic speech in the student convention and also for pushing the country towards confrontation for perpetuating its power.

The meeting observed that the ruling party made AL chief Hasina its target for her stand against the misrule and terrorism of the government.

It also said Awami League chief Hasina was committed to establishing an autocracy-free Bangladesh.

US aid cutback

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Specific cuts have not yet been determined as Congress is working on separate House and Senate versions of bills and it is only a few days left for the new fiscal.

The House version of the bill approved a 11.9 billion dollar spending, cutting more than 30 per cent from most accounts. Democrats, who have tried in vain to stop the Senate from passing the bill, are still denouncing the cutback and President Clinton has vowed to veto.

"What's at stake here is American leadership," a news report quoted Brian Atwood, Administrator of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), as saying.

Aid opponents disagree with Atwood, saying global poverty still grips however many poor countries despite continued pumping of US tax money.

And yet, the battle on aid is not to increase the earmarked amount but to hold back the cut.

Administration officials, supporters of foreign aid and volunteer organisations and aid proponents in the Senate are now less concerned about the 1996 fiscal bill than about subsequent years, according to a report published in the Washington Post.

He expressed concern at the decline of the ODA flows into the LDCs by almost 1.3 billion US dollars in 1993.

Focusing on the plight of the LDCs, the Bangladesh leader said, "External debt, both bilateral and multilateral, of the LDCs impose a very heavy burden on their economies and constitute a major hindrance to their efforts at adjustment and reactivation of their economies."

Their total external debt stock stood at 127 billion dollar at the end of 1993, he added.

He stressed the need for effective reduction of debt liability to enable the LDCs to accelerate their development process.

"Agreement on a comprehensive strategy of debt reduction for LDCs would be a major contribution towards improving their chances of economic progress," Mostafiz said.

He called on both bilateral and multilateral donors to provide assistance to the LDCs in flexible form to help improve their absorptive capacity.

Bangladesh team played 'active role' in Beijing NGO Forum

By Staff Correspondent

Members of the Bangladesh National Preparatory Committee Towards Beijing NGO Forum '95 played active role and left their marks at the Fourth World Conference on Women and NGO Forum held recently at the Chinese capital and its suburb respectively, a committee press release said yesterday.

The committee said that it had organised workshop, discussions, cultural functions and opened a bookstall there.

The committee members also took part in a regional workshop of the delegates of South and South-East Asia and Pacific Rim and participated in the programmes of a two-day 'Friendship Tent' organised by various regional committees.

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JCD-Shibir clash in Pabna: 10 hurt

PABNA, Sept 27: At least 10 students were injured on the Government Shaheed Bulbul College campus today in a clash between the activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir, reports UNB.

Campus sources said the clash started at about 2 pm when a group of Shibir activists equipped with lethal weapons attacked the JCD men at the college students' union office.

Ten activists of both the parties were injured in the chase and counter chase. Three JCD activists including Cultural Secretary of the college students' union Ashikur Rahman Shahin were admitted to Sadar Hospital.



A grieved relative sits beside the bodies of two sons of a police officer, who were gunned down by unidentified killers in Karachi yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo

SP's sons among 11 killed in Karachi violence

KARACHI, Sept 27: A police superintendent's two sons were among 11 people killed today in Pakistan's biggest city, terrorised by months of relentless ethnic violence that has left more than 1,400 people dead so far this year, reports AP.

Four gunmen armed with kalashnikov rifles ambushed Police Superintendent Abdul Rashid's official vehicle as it pulled away from his home in a middle-class neighbourhood in Karachi's violent central district, police said.

Rashid's two sons, Adnan, 23, who also was a member of the police force, and Imran, 25, died instantly when gunmen pumped dozens of bullets into their vehicle, they said.

A police constable, who was guarding the two sons, also was killed and another officer was seriously wounded, police said. Rashid was

shot in the vehicle. No one claimed responsibility for the killing but police are blaming the largest faction of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement, led by Altaf Hussein.

Elsewhere in the city another eight people were killed. Among the dead was the mutilated body of a suspected police informant. Attached to the body was a note that read: "A gift for Nasrullah Babbar" Pakistan's interior minister and the architect of a two-month-old police crackdown on ethnic militants.

Also among the dead was an MQM activist, Sayed Anwar, 23, reportedly killed in a gunbattle with police.

The MQM's campaign for equal rights for its Mohajir members has become increasingly violent in recent months.

Tough programmes

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Meanwhile, talking to The Daily Star last night, BNP leader and Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah said "The Opposition seems to be unwilling to sit for a dialogue as (JP leader) Mizan Chowdhury deviated from his earlier statement."

"We are ready to accommodate any formula within the framework of the Constitution. The Prime Minister is saying this repeatedly."

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury Tuesday welcomed JP leader Mizan Chowdhury's formula and called for a dialogue on it.

Mizan Chowdhury had outlined his formula for a caretaker government at a meeting of his party's labour front in the city.

But he later told the press that his statement was no deviation from the original stand of the combined opposition on formation of a non-

JU halls

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on the campus.

Meanwhile, the Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) brought out a procession on the campus in protest against the violence.

The GCO demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the persons involved in the violence.

Four of the injured were admitted to Chandraghona Health Complex.

Mostafiz: South's interests

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In the open ended, high level working group on UN reform. On Security Council reform, he said, Bangladesh was opposed in principle to creating new centres of privilege or distinctions that can distort the principle of sovereign equality.

"Our position with regard to Security Council reform," he said, "has concentrated more on strengthening transparency and efficiency of the Council's mandate than on enlargement of the permanent membership."

He, however, said, "while we fully support enlargement of the overall size of the Council to reflect the growth in membership of the UN we believe that the increase of permanent members should be considered only on the basis of the most stringent criteria and on global recognition and consensus."

He observed that the prospect for a negotiated so-

lution on the on-going conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina had considerably brightened on the basis of the contact group's peace plan and the Geneva Declaration of principles of September 8.

He, however, expressed the hope to comment at length during consideration of the specific crisis like Bosnia, the continuing peace efforts in the Middle East, the new interim agreement between Palestine and Israel as a follow-up of the Oslo Agreement, the status of democracy and human rights in Haiti and the review of the work of international tribunals established in former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

The continuing crisis facing the LDC countries, he said, "calls for immediate remedial action especially in increasing development assistance, writing off debts and assuring greater trade access on preferential

Chopper carrying minister to Kashmir fired upon

SRINAGAR, India, Sept 27: A helicopter carrying Indian Power Minister NKP Salve was fired today along the disputed border between India and Pakistan in Kashmir, officials said, reports AFP.

"I was told the helicopter was fired upon by Pakistani troops," the minister said after returning safely to this

Kashmir summer capital from the border district of Uri.

No one was injured in the incident.

Salve, who is on a three-day visit to troubled Kashmir, said the helicopter was taking him to a hydro-electric power project being built by a Swedish firm near Srinagar when it strayed into Pakistani airspace.

Muslims, Serbs welcome deal on constitutional structure

SARAJEVO, Sept 27: Bosnia's Muslims and Serbs have welcomed an important agreement on a constitutional structure for their country, but many remain skeptical about the chances for real peace, reports AFP.

Bosnian government leaders pointed to the accord's affirmation of Bosnia's sovereignty saying that it gave "the minimum attributes of a state."

(Details on Page 5)

Foreign Ministers from Bosnia, Croatia and Yugoslavia, which is negotiating for the Bosnian Serbs, agreed to a statement Tuesday issued by US and European Union mediators.

The joint statement establishes that Bosnia will be governed by a parliament for national assembly, a presidency, a constitutional court and makes provisions for free elections.

British Airways to improve service in phases

By Staff Correspondent

The British Airways is going to "radically" improve passenger services in phases from December next, without changing the fare rates, according to officials of the airlines.

On Boeing 747s, First Class passengers would be offered individual cabins which could be used as a private office or mini-meeting room, an entertainment centre, a dining room for two and double units for couples. The seats will be made convertible to 6 feet 6 inches beds.

In Club Class, refurbished seats will be dubbed "cradler" with unique tilting base and more space between each row of seats.

The Economy Class, to be called "world tourists", will also be improved in phases. The refurbishing, involving 500 million pounds will be completed in all of its 240 aircraft reaching 200 destinations in 125 countries around the world by December 1996.

Although fares would remain unchanged, the British Airways would withdraw its subsidies, in the form of 15 to 18 per cent discounts, given to passengers from Bangladesh with the introduction of the new services.

The cabin crew are being retrained to offer a more personalised style of service.

Lankan govt, LTTE under pressure to protect civilians

COLOMBO, Sept 27: The Sri Lanka government and Tiger rebels came under pressure from human rights groups today to protect civilians in the northern Jaffna war zone after at least 70 people were killed in an attack last week, reports Reuter.

The Paris-based medical charity Medicins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said it has counted 70 people killed by the air force bombing of the Vadamaratchchi area of Jaffna last Thursday and Friday.

Salve said the aircraft had been fired on by Pakistani troops along the line of control separating the Indian and Pakistani-held zones of divided Kashmir.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said however, that the helicopter may have been fired on by Muslim separatist guerrillas battling to end Indian rule over the disputed Himalayan territory.

Salve is one of the senior most cabinet ministers in Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's government and a top leader of India's ruling Congress (I) Party.

Indian and Pakistani troops exchange fire on a near daily basis across the line of control in Kashmir. But today's incident is the first involving a top-ranking Indian minister.



Wahidul Huq presents Tagore songs tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

Wahidul Huq, a leading exponent of Tagore songs in the country, will present a solo musical performance in the city tomorrow.

Haq, a national celebrity in the cultural arena and an eminent journalist, had founded the Chhayano more than three decades ago and is now associated with many socio-cultural organisations. He plans to render 20 Tagore songs at the soiree that will begin at 7 in the evening at the British Council auditorium under the aegis of the Sur Prangan, a cultural organisation, says a press release.

CEC seeks help

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honesty and sincerity of field-level government officers since they will play the key role in it. Polls will not be free and fair unless the field-level officials can work without any fear, he said.

The meeting also discussed cooperation of the field level officers and employees during the polls.

Justice Sadeque requested the officials to ask the field level officers and employees so that they extend their cooperation in preparation and distribution of ID cards.

Secretary of the Election Commission Ershadul Haq briefed the attending secretaries and heads of directorates officials on the EC's preparation for next general elections.

Elections Commissioner Justice M A Zaili and cabinet secretary Ayubur Rahman also attended the meeting.

Earlier on Monday, the EC held a meeting with different political parties to finalise the code of conduct for the next parliamentary election.

Missing 'madams'

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had gone to Narayanganj thana yesterday morning and informed the police of the incident.

Since then, they were missing and the inmates of the brothel expressed deep concern over their mysterious disappearance.

Bus plunge

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At least 40 people were injured in two separate road accidents on Dhaka-Chittagong highway yesterday police said.

In one accident at Nalbagh, 15 kms from Comilla town, 25 people were injured, when a Dhaka-bound bus fell into a road-side ditch.

In the other mishap fifteen people were injured when a bus collided head-on with a truck at Korpai, six kms from the town.

The Midnight File

India urged to avoid deploying Prithvi missiles

WASHINGTON, Sept 27: India has been urged to avoid deploying the Prithvi missiles because it would cause serious problems for the United States with Pakistan and China. Robert Manning, a former adviser to the State Department and consultant for the Pentagon, told reporters here yesterday that if India deploys the Prithvi, Pakistan will deploy the M-11s it obtained from China in violation of the US Missile Technology Controls Regime (MTCR), reports PTI.

Law: Manpower export

According to the draft law...

It suggests that the labour and manpower ministry make the law more effective in collaboration with the ministries of Home Affairs and Law and Justice.

The draft law provides for up to 14 years' imprisonment

2 electrocuted

RAJSHAHI, Sept 27: Two young men were electrocuted in separate areas of the city today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Shah Alam, 24, of Gore Bhangra in the city died on the spot when a live electric wire fell on him during strong wind at about 6 pm.

In another incident, Abdul Wadud, 25, electrocuted when he touched a live electric wire at Lakkhipur Zhaupara crossing in the city at about 7 pm.

2000 more flats

women through alleviation of poverty and creation of production-oriented job opportunities.

The Greater Chittagong Power Distribution Project at a cost of Tk 395 crore, including a project aid of Tk 244 crore, was also approved by the ECNEC. An amount of Tk 25 crore would be spent under current year's ADP for the project.

A link road project between Demra, Narsingdi and Purbachal New Town at a cost of Tk 76 crore was also given approval in the meeting. A 65-kilometre link road and 350 metre bridge over the river Shitalakha will be constructed under the project, to be completed by 1997-98.

The ECNEC approved another project to set up Instrumental Landing System in Chittagong Airport and Sylhet Osmani Airport at a cost of Tk 17 crore, including a project aid of Tk 11 crore. The project is aimed at providing safe landing for wide and medium bodied aircraft at the two airports.

The meeting also gave the go-ahead signal to the Crop Diversification Project (CDP) at a cost of Tk 141 crore which is expected to be completed by the year 2000.

A project to set up and expand telephone network in some district headquarters at a cost of Tk 25 crore was also given approval by the meeting.

Govt still valid

From Page 1

tioned that the autocratic regime had suspended all the development programmes undertaken by late President Ziaur Rahman.

"The opposition wants to do politics by keeping the vast majority of the people poor... they talk about democracy, yet they are trying to hinder this through politics of conspiracy," Begum Zia said.

The Prime Minister observed that the people voted them to work for the country's development and change the fate of common man, but they disregarded people mandate and were creating anarchy boycotting parliament.

Foundation of TV centre laid

Prime Minister today laid the foundation stone of Bogra Television Centre at Fuldhigi announcing that the government would set up five regional television centres in near future.

She said the other four stations would be set up in Sylhet, Khulna, Chittagong and Rajshahi.

She said the construction work of a fulfilled television centre would be completed soon in Chittagong.

The foundation laying ceremony was addressed, among others, by Commerce and Information Minister Shamul Islam, Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar, State Minister for Science and Technology Prof A Mannan and State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman.

The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of nuclear therapy centre in Shahid Ziaur Rahman Medical College.

and fines for committing illegal activities. Under the existing Emigration Ordinance 1982, one could be sentenced to maximum five years imprisonment along with fines for 'cheating'.

To expedite disposal of cases of unlawful emigration, the draft law seeks to shift such cases from the labour court to different magistrate courts. It also provides for trial of an accused in absence.

The proposed law also contains a provision for punishment for those who will be found guilty of collaborating with the recruiting or travel agencies in committing forgery or other crimes.

The Labour and Manpower Ministry in its draft law also proposed action against those who will lodge false complaints against the recruiting agencies.

Padma Express derails: 20 hurt

An Intercity train was derailed near Jagannathanj ghat in Jamalpur district yesterday injuring about 20 people, reports UNB.

Railway sources said last seven boggies of the Padma Express skidded off the track at about 2 pm amidst storm.

The injured people, mostly inhabitants of the ghat areas, suffered minor injuries in the accident, they said.

A relief train from Mymensingh departed for the scene for rescue operation.

Dhaka Divisional Railway Manager Saleh Ahmed, accompanied by other senior officials, visited the spot.

53 judges

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Kushtia, Meherpur, Jessore, Magura, Narail, Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Barisal, Bhola, Jhalakati, Pirozpur, Naogaon, Jhenidah and Narsingdi.

The decision, under the Women and Children Repression (Special Provisions) Act, 1995, will be deemed to have taken effect from July 17, 1995, said an official handout.

Grand rallies

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with leaders at the district levels and heads of their front organisations to make today's programme a success. AL chief Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to chair her party's grand rally, while JP acting chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Jamaat Ameer Prof Golam Azam will preside over their respective rallies.

The Opposition staged demonstrations and held mass processions throughout the country on September 25-26 to drum up public support.

Earlier, they enforced a 72-hour hartal from September 16 and a 32-hour hartal from September 2 throughout the country.

Ctg Port

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situation some private inland container depot (ICD) should be installed," one official observed.

Meanwhile, due to space constraints and shortage of equipment at the Chittagong port the foreign cargo vessels have to face four to five days delay on average now which earlier came down to 12 hours on average, port sources said.

Some foreign vessels reportedly decline to come to the Chittagong port, due to the congestion, sources said.

Port officials also attributed the congestion to arrival of a large number of ships carrying foodgrain and dislocation caused recently by hartal and rainfall.

In the backdrop of congestion, a joint meeting is scheduled to be held tomorrow at the CPA office attended by Shippers' Council members, representatives of shipping lines, feeder vessels, other port users and port officials, official sources said.

Earlier, the shipping lines and feeder vessel operators set October 20 as the deadline for imposing a 50 per cent congestion surcharge on containers if the situation not improved by this time.

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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, Dhanmandi B/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3267, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.