



D-8 leaders pay homage to the martyrs of the Liberation War by placing wreaths at the National Mausoleum in Savar yesterday. (Top) From left are Nigerian minister A A Isa, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa and Minister for People's Welfare and Poverty Eradication Haryana Suyono of Indonesia. (Bottom) Iranian First Vice President Dr Hassan Habibi and Pakistan Foreign Minister Sartaz Aziz.

Apology for crimes by Pakistani troops in '71 demanded

By Staff Correspondent

Various socio-cultural and women's organisations of the country in separate statements yesterday demanded Pakistan officially apologise and compensate for its atrocities and brutalities in 1971.

Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirpul Committee said that a formal apology would not be enough. Pakistan should also compensate for genocide and repression on two lakh women in 1971, repay all its dues to Bangladesh, and take back five lakh Pakistani nationals.

In a separate statement, Platform to Resist Violence Against Women also called for justice to the victims of rape and violence by Pakistani soldiers during the Liberation War.

Ekatturer Juddhaporadhihar Bichar, Andolan, Muktiyoddha Samannay Parishad, Muktiyoddha Sanghati Parishad and Jatiya Ainjibi Parishad in separate statements also reiterated the demands and urged the visiting Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to take initiative to try the war criminals responsible for rapes and genocide in 1971.

The statements also demanded taking back the stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh.

Confce on landmines begins Mar 20

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh is going to host an NGO-level international conference on 'Freeing South Asia from Landmines' from March 20 to 22 with the aim to promote peace in the region.

Bangladesh Campaign to Ban Landmines (BCBL), a non-government organisation, will hold the three-day conference in the world over every day. Some 50 anti-landmine activists from abroad, including 18 from the SAARC countries, will take part in the conference.

At a press conference held at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday evening to mark the signing of the International Treaty to Ban Landmine, BCBL officials said that the international conference would reinforce Bangladesh's image as an anti-war state.

Bangladesh is one of the signatories of the International Treaty to Ban Landmine signed by 135 countries since 1997. However, countries like the USA, China, India, Pakistan and Myanmar have not yet signed the treaty.

The press conference was addressed by representatives of International Campaign to Ban

Adamjee Cantt College re-union

The annual reunion 1999 of Adamjee Cantonment College Ex-Students' Association will be held on Friday at 9:30 am at the college auditorium, says a press release.

All ex-students of Adamjee Cantonment College are requested to kindly obtain entry coupons from president Maqboolul Islam. 4, Bejoyanagar, Dhaka. Phone 9331439 latest by March 3.

Janaza of Mustafizur Rahman today

The namaz-e-Janaza of foreign secretary Mustafizur Rahman will be held today at 12 noon at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reports BSS.

Before his burial at the Mirpur Shaheed Intellectuals Graveyard 'another Janaza of the deceased will be held at Gulshan Central Mosque after Zohr prayers.

The gulfquani of Rahman will be held at his Gulshan official residence on March 5 (Friday) after Asr prayers.

Mustafizur Rahman's death condoled

President Shahabuddin Ahmed has expressed his deep sorrow at the death of Foreign Secretary Mustafizur Rahman, report agencies.

In a condolence message the President said Mustafiz was a talented career diplomat with integrity. He had a great role in creating war opinion during the War of Liberation.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia expressed deep shock at the death of Mustafizur Rahman.

In another message, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan also expressed deep sorrow at the death.

Different organisations and individuals, including ministers, have expressed shock at the death of Foreign Secretary Mustafizur Rahman.

Those who sent messages condoling his death include Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Labour and Employment Minister MA Mannan and State Minister for Jute AK Faezul Huq and former President HM Ershad.

In separate condolence messages, Home Minister Rafiqul Islam, State Minister for Textiles A K M Zahangir Hossain, State Minister for Jute A K Faezul Huq and the members of the Association of former Foreign Service Officers of Bangladesh also expressed sympathies for the members of the bereaved family.

Acting president of the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) Association (Foreign) Mohiuddin Ahmed and general secretary Taubid Hossain in a statement condoled the death.

Foreign Ministry Workers' Welfare Association president Delwar Hossain and general secretary AKM Ashrafuzzaman said the country lost a successful diplomat in his death.

US co appointed adviser to IDCOL

By Special Correspondent

International companies which applied for enlistment as project appraiser instead of in-house consultants to cut costs, he said.

It has a workforce of 140,000 globally. Currently the company is working in similar projects in Thailand, Philippines and Sri Lanka.

"We are putting a resident adviser in Dhaka who will start working from this month," Gledhill said.

The firm would receive 8.3 million dollars over a period of three years from IDCOL as fee for its services, IDCOL officials said.

The signing ceremony was attended, among others, by Abdul Awal Minto, president of FISCO, businessmen, officials and Dr Jamilur Reza Choudhury of BUET, who headed an evaluation committee to select the consultant for the IDCOL.



Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirpul Committee demonstrated near the National Mausoleum in the city yesterday demanding formal apology from Pakistan for war crimes including genocide and repression on women during war of liberation in 1971.

EC-NGO Dialogue Project workshop begins

By Staff Correspondent

'Creating Development Synergies' began in the city yesterday with representatives from government, NGOs and European donors putting their heads together to evolve a plan for better cooperation among themselves.

Inaugurating the workshop being held at IDB Bhaban in Dhaka, J V Ketelson, Chargé d'Affaires of the European Commission in Bangladesh, said the workshop would have ample opportunity to explore the various aspects of relations and cooperation among multi-faceted NGOs, emerging intermediary societal forces, government and public administration, and foreign development partners.

He said that EC was following with keen interest the initiatives and reform steps undertaken in the fields of local government and local public administration, which are striving to ensure more involvement of the people in the development process.

The workshop was organised by the EC-NGO Dialogue Project. On the first day, three concept papers were presented and over a hundred participants divided into three groups had separate brainstorming sessions on those topics.

Dr Atiur Rahman of BIDS presented a paper on "NGOs and Civil Society." Prof Zarina Rahman Khan of Dhaka University on "NGOs and Local Government Reform" and M H Zaman presented the third paper on "Synergising Development Activities of Small NGOs."

EC-NGO Dialogue Project Team Leader, Dr Berthold Kuhn conducted the workshop. Representatives from EC headquarters and local delegation, representatives of various NGOs including GSS, Proshika, PRIP-Trust and CAMPE and other members of the Dialogue Project were present.

On the concluding day today, participants would dwell at length on "EC's Development Cooperation Strategy with NGOs in Bangladesh." Giasuddin Pathan, DG, NGO Affairs Bureau and Prof B K Jahangir, Pro-Vice Chancellor of National University will take part as key speakers.

CA results

The Council of the institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) has declared the following results of the CA Final and Intermediate Examinations of the Institute held in November/December 1998, says a press release.

Candidates who have passed CA Final examination: Roll Nos - 2043, 2045, 2046, 2288, 2290, 2295, 2296, 2297 and 2298 (Total: 9).

Candidates who have passed Group 'A' only of CA Intermediate examination: Roll Nos 3, 4, 54, 60, 61, 64, 81, 98, 99, 154, 158, 159, 162, 177, 188, 201, 254, 255, 270, 298, 303, 315, 335, 336, 362, 364, 388, 425, 451, 477, 505, 517, 527, 544, 548, 576, 578, 600, 601, 604, 605, 610, 661, 691, 730, 736, 768, 778, 784, 785, 796, 806, 824, 825, 869, 873, 887, 906, 924, 927, 946, 953 and 957 (Total: 63).

Candidates who have passed Group 'B' only of CA Intermediate examination: Roll Nos 36, 39, 108, 128, 132, 134, 135, 587, 631, 632, 653, 700, 902, 941, 969, 973, 976, 979, 983, 986, 987, 996, 1000, 1014, 1016, 1035, 1038, 1049, 1072, 1073, 1077, 1080, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1121, 1124, 1127, 1128, 1136, 1137, 1138, 1139, 1140, 1142, 1143, 1144 and 1150 (Total: 54).

ICSMB results

Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Managers of Bangladesh (ICSMB) has announced the results of the Chartered Secretary Intermediate examination held in January 1999, says a press release.

Roll numbers of the successful candidates are as follows: CS Inter, Level I: Roll No 01, 02, 03, 05, 06, 14, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31, 41, 49, 53, 55, 59 and 62- Total 21 candidates.

CS Inter, Level II: Roll No 09, 10, 12, 27, 28, 39, 45 and 52- Total 9 candidates.

CS Inter, Level III only: Roll No 42- Total 1 candidate.

CS Inter, Qualified: Roll No 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 33, 34, 35, 37, 44, 46, 47, 54, 56, 58, 60 and 64- Total 17 candidates.

Call to give state honour to late Ashrafunnesa

Speakers at a meeting in the city yesterday called for giving state honour to late Ashrafunnesa, mother of late Col Abu Taher, Bir Uttam, in recognition of her contribution to the War of Liberation of the country, reports BSS.

They said Ashrafunnesa, who died on February 23, was a symbol of the nation's struggle for independence as she was the proud mother of seven valiant freedom fighters - four of whom got gallantry awards.

The meeting, held under a civic initiative at TSC square of Dhaka University, was addressed, among others, by Hasan Imam, Haider Akbar Khan Rano, Mamunur Rashid, Haroon Habib and Bhaskher Raza.

The speakers recalled the active participation of Ashrafunnesa in the movement for social emancipation of the downtrodden in society.

33-pt Draft Declaration

From Page 1

13. We emphasised the importance of access to world markets, greater inflows of foreign investments and larger external assistance and alleviation of foreign debt burdens to supplement our own efforts at development in all its aspects.

14. We recognise that trade among the D-8 is a most promising area of cooperation, the potential of which is yet to be fully tapped. In this context, we directed the Commission to further explore the possibilities of promoting trade among the D-8 member countries, among others, through the convening of a meeting of Ministers of Commerce/Trade and Economy at an early date and explore those possibilities.

15. Given the pivotal role of the private sector in the promotion of cooperation among the D-8, we are of the view that simultaneous or parallel meetings of a Business Forum, involving entrepreneurs of D-8 member-states, with D-8 Summits could help develop the much needed partnership for development. We appreciated the initiative of Egypt to convene simultaneously with our next Summit in Cairo, the first D-8 Business Forum. In preparation for the Forum, the participants should be encouraged to come with specific proposals for expanding trade and setting up joint ventures.

16. We also instructed the D-8 commission to study in cooperation with the private sector, the possibilities of convening a meeting of businessmen before the next summit and the possibility of establishing a federation of D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industries.

17. We commended all the D-8 governments for their initiatives in regard to the priority areas of cooperation and the projects assigned to them. We invite member countries to expedite the implementation of the priority projects so that these could be functional by the earliest possible time. In selecting projects in various sectors, we should adopt a pragmatic and flexible approach aimed at the optimum utilisation of the available resources and capabilities. In this regard, we underlined the need of applying the new modality for implementing project of cooperation among the D-8 which would allow for their execution by other member countries, in consultation with the coordinating countries. As far as possible, member countries should also indicate their priorities in relation to each sector to facilitate the selection of suitable projects and programmes for cooperation.

18. We welcomed the ongoing work on Trade, coordinated by Egypt, in their endeavour to set up an International Marketing and Trading Company (IMTC) in 1999 in developing other 'trade facilitating measures such as trade financing, customs simplification and mobility of business people aiming at enhancing trade among the D-8 member countries. In this regard, we pledge to direct the competent authorities in our respective countries to take all possible measures to strengthen exchange of information, trade support and shipping, for the promotion of trade within the D-8. In this respect, we welcome the offer by Egypt to host the meeting on trade and trade related matters, the date of which will be held in April 1999. We also welcome the offer of Malaysia to host a Seminar for officials of D-8 countries in the area of trade facilitation in Kuala Lumpur in 1999.

19. We are assured by Turkey that the design and production of the agriculture aircraft prototype should be completed in the last quarter of 1999. Market potential for the aircraft needs to be determined for any changes to be made on the design. We agreed to make it a multipurpose civilian aircraft in the future. Multifunctional usage concept of the aircraft needs also to be determined in line with the requirements of the member countries. Based on these requirements necessary engineering change studies should commence on the prototype aircraft. Serial production of the aircraft will start according to the work-sharing principles we agreed upon.

20. We expect the Industrial and Technological Data Bank Network coordinated by the Islamic Republic of Iran to be functional by July 1999. In this respect, we urge member countries to expedite the implementation of their part, so that the project could be operational in time and hope that all countries will utilise this service to enhance cooperation among themselves. We should also encourage member countries to freely use internet and e-mail service for the exchange of information between their respective networks or centres of excellence in each sector.

21. We also expect the national aquaculture information and monitoring centres to start functioning by July 1999 and that the Directory of scientists, experts, institutions and registered businesses in the private sector pertaining to aquaculture, being compiled by Pakistan, be completed as soon as possible.

22. We appreciate the initiative of Pakistan to organise a workshop by mid-1999 to identify projects in the agricultural sector with special reference to food security.

23. We directed the Commission to follow-up expeditiously on the implementation of the priority project on Rural Industrialisation decided by the Sixth Meeting of the D-8 Commissioners based on the conclusion of the report of the Working Group on Rural Development that was organised by Bangladesh. We expect Bangladesh and Egypt to finalise the arrangements for the project.

24. We welcomed the offer by

Indonesia to host a joint meeting of experts and decision makers on social safety nets in the year 1999 as recommended by the Workshop on Poverty Alleviation and Human Resource Development held in Jakarta in 1998 and adopted by the Sixth Meeting of the D-8 Commissioners.

25. We also welcomed the commitments by Nigeria to convene a meeting of the Working Group on Energy in the near future. In this context, we appreciate the readiness of Indonesia to organise, in coordination with Nigeria, training programmes on micro-hydro power plants, solar systems for isolated villages and small scale mining.

26. We instructed the Commission to begin work on result-oriented projects, as proposed by Turkey, in the field of environment. This is an area which involves governments, the private sector and other interest groups.

27. We also instructed the Commission to study the proposal of D-8 Technical Consulting Association as a result oriented project which was first proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran before the Sixth Meeting of D-8 Commissioners.

28. We appreciate the measures taken by Turkey, as the coordinating country for the Health Sector, to initiate cooperation among member countries in AIDS Prevention and Control Programmes.

29. We endorsed the proposal to enhance the capacity of an existing takaful company to meet the needs of D-8 member countries. In this connection, we welcomed Malaysia's offer to convene a workshop in June this year in Kuala Lumpur to draw up the *modus operandi* and formulate the appropriate strategies to promote takaful and re-takaful. In respect of training, we further welcomed Malaysia's offer to conduct courses in conventional insurance and takaful as well as to conduct training programmes, seminars and attachment programmes in Islamic banking and finance, to enhance cooperation amongst the member countries.

30. We agreed on the need to create a permanent unit (coordinating centre) to fulfill conference and secretarial services and instructed the Council of Ministers to finalise this matter before the end of 2000. We express deep appreciation for the generous offer of Turkey to continue to provide facilities for the temporary Secretariat of the D-8 in Istanbul. We deeply value the excellent services that have been provided by this small Secretariat and the current Executive Director. We are of the view that this has proven invaluable in following-up on our discussions and decided that the mandate of the Executive Director be extended till the year 2000.

31. We express our deepest appreciation to the President and Government of Turkey for providing able and effective leadership to the D-8 Group during the period of Chairmanship of Turkey.

32. We extend our appreciation to the people and Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for their warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the successful holding of the Second D-8 Summit.

33. We welcome with appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Egypt to host the third D-8 Summit in Cairo.

Indian national found dead

CHUADANGA, Mar 1: Police recovered two bodies, one of an Indian national, from Sadar and Damurhuda thanas today, reports UNB.

The body of Indian national, Prakash Chandra Ghosh, 35, was found lying on the No-Man's Land at Munshipur frontier in Damurhuda thana.

Local residents said miscreants killed Ghosh, hailing from Betal village in Nadia district of West Bengal, inside Indian territories, and dumped it on the No-Man's Land.

As Indian Border Security Force refused to take the body, police sent it to the local hospital for autopsy.

Meanwhile, armed extremists gunned down a young man at village Basu Bhandardaho in Sadar thana Sunday night.

The dead was identified as Jamir Hossain, 28, son of Javed Ali Mollah.

Police said armed terrorists took away Jamir from his residence and left the body at Choygaria belt.

Two separate cases were filed with Sadar and Damurhuda thanas.

150 houses gutted

GAZIPUR, Mar 1: At least 150 houses were gutted in a devastating fire at a slum at T. Noaganj area on Sunday night, reports UNB.

Criminal case against actress Suchanda

A criminal case has been filed against film actress Suchanda, reports UNB. Mahbub Hossain Rubel, sales executive of Travel Wels Ltd of Motijheel C/M filed the case with the court yesterday.

Complainant Mahbub Hossain in his petition stated that Suchanda, the wife of late Zahar Rahman, issued a cheque for Tk 3.19 lakh (Janata Bank) in his favour, as partial payment for 21 air tickets of Dhaka-Kuala Lumpur, Singapore-Dhaka. But the cheque was dishonoured by the bank. At one stage Suchanda reportedly refused to pay the money.

After hearing the petitioner, the court issued summons against the accused.

Suchanda is a well-known actress in Bangladesh. She has acted in several films and television serials.

Her husband, Zahar Rahman, was a prominent figure in the film industry and was known for his work in social service.

The case highlights the financial issues surrounding the actress and her husband's estate.

The court's decision is expected to have significant implications for the actress's future.

The case is currently under review by the court, and a final verdict is expected soon.

The case is a landmark one in the history of the film industry in Bangladesh.

The case is expected to set a precedent for similar cases in the future.

The case is a reflection of the complex financial relationships in the film industry.

The case is a testament to the resilience of the film industry in Bangladesh.

The case is a challenge to the traditional norms of the film industry.

The case is a call for greater transparency and accountability in the film industry.

The case is a step towards a more professional and ethical film industry.

The case is a sign of the changing times in the film industry.

The case is a reflection of the growing awareness of financial issues in the film industry.

The case is a wake-up call for the film industry to address its financial problems.

The case is a catalyst for reform in the film industry.

The case is a milestone in the history of the film industry in Bangladesh.

The case is a testament to the power of the law in the film industry.

The case is a call for a new era of professionalism in the film industry.