

Use vast resources of Muslim states to meet needs of Ummah

Chief Adviser tells OIC summit in Dakar

UNB, Dakar

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday called for using the vast resources of the Muslim countries to assist the Muslim Ummah and meet its various needs.

He made the call while addressing the general discussion of the 11th summit of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on the second and concluding day at King Fahd Complex.

Fakhruddin said, "Many of us in the Ummah are blessed with vast resources of varied kinds. We're eager to use these in a manner to assist our peoples and satisfy their various needs. Thus OIC should be able to help device methodologies for these purposes."

He said, "Our manpower could be better organised responding to our different requirements. Our sovereign wealth funds and surpluses could be devoted to improving our knowledge base in technol-

ogy to help the future generations and the youth of the Muslim world."

Expressing happiness over increasing of intra-OIC trade, he said economic interdependence facilitates political unity. He stressed the need for examining in greater depths the possibilities of the Islamic common market.

"Trade among Islamic nations should be designed for all (in a way) so that the poorest amongst us can profit from it," he said.

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New OIC charter adopted

AFP, Dakar

Presidents and other leaders from Muslim nations yesterday agreed a new charter for the Organisation of the Islamic Conference aimed at reforming the body and speeding up its decision-making, a delegation source said.

"The charter was adopted," an Arab delegation official told AFP after days of talks involving foreign ministers and leaders from the 57 nation group.

OIC leaders have been debating for several years a new charter to modernise the group. But there has been intense debate about issues ranging from eligibility for new membership to how to define "self-determination" for the Palestinian people and how the OIC could get

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Delwar's men try to stop leaders from joining rivals' meet

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Followers of Khaleda Zia-appointed BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain have started urging the party's central executive committee members not to attend any meeting held in his absence.

Party insiders said the initiative was taken as a group of leaders backed by Brig Gen (ret'd) Hannan Shah, an adviser to Chairperson Khaleda Zia, are planning to hold a meeting of the central executive

committee to establish their supremacy in the party leadership.

Pro-Delwar leaders think that the followers of Hannan might challenge the leadership of Delwar if Hannan succeeds in holding the meeting.

Hannan Shah, however, said yesterday that Khandaker Delwar, who is in the USA now for treatment, is the party secretary general and he will run the party after his return.

He said they are conducting the

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HASINA'S TREATMENT

Five replace earlier panel of doctors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five physicians on the seven-member medical board formed by the Square Hospitals authorities to treat detained Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina were replaced Thursday night.

Sources said Dr Touhiduzzaman, Dr Sarwar Alam, Dr Shah Alam, Dr Mirza Nazimuddin and Dr MH Millat have been replaced by Dr Ruhul Hasan Jawardar, Dr Hiramani Sharma, Dr Ziaul Haque, Dr Mizanur Rahman and Dr M Akhtar Hossain.

Prof Sanawar Hossain and Dr Shahid Mahmud are the other two members of the medical board that was formed Wednesday, keeping Hasina's personal physicians out.

The reorganized panel, treating the Awami League president amid strict confidentiality, will make recommendations on the overall health conditions of Hasina within a week, following which authorities would decide their next steps.

The hospital management has kept mum about Hasina's health on orders from the authorities.

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The lorry that ran over a three-wheeler carrying a wedding party, left, in Barisal yesterday. Locals help a woman devastated by the loss of loved ones. Inset, the injured groom and the bride.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Jalil's condition deteriorates further

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The condition of Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil undergoing treatment at the Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore since March 3 deteriorated further yesterday as his kidneys are not functioning properly.

"The AL leader's kidney condition has got worse than what it was while receiving treatment at the LabAid Cardiac Hospital in Dhaka. His body has swelled as fluid got trapped in his body," Matiuur Rahman, chief cardiologist at the LabAid Cardiac Hospital, told The Daily Star last night.

Jalil talked to Matiuur over phone at about 6:00pm yesterday and informed him about his physical condition.

The AL leader has been shifted from the special care unit to an apartment near the hospital.

Dr Akira Wu, a consultant nephrologist at the hospital, will supervise Jalil at the apartment from where the AL leader has to go to the hospital twice a week for medical check-up.

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5 Bangladeshis killed in Saudi road mishaps

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five Bangladeshi workers were killed in separate road mishaps in Jeddah of Saudi Arabia Thursday.

The deceased were identified as Abdul Latif, Sheikh Mohammad Golam Mostofa, Hera Mia, Jahangir and Meher Ali.

Private television channel ntv reports that Bangladeshi worker Meher Ali, who worked for Baltiash Company in Jeddah, was killed as he was run over by a vehicle while crossing a street in Al Afid area of the Saudi city.

Meher hailed from Ananda Bari of Daulatpur in Manikganj.

Details of the other deceased could not be known.

Meanwhile, two Bangladeshi workers reportedly committed suicide in Saudi Arabia, the TV channel added.

They were identified as Golam Mostofa and Ismail. Mostofa hails from Dhaka and worked for CPMC in Jeddah. Details about Ismail could not be ascertained.

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Proteas keep it clean too

SPORTS REPORTER

South Africa captain Graeme Smith finished a memorable trip as the left-hander led from the front to complete the whitewash of terrible Tigers when his side won the third and final one-day international by seven wickets at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

Despite the third match being a dead rubber a 20,000-strong crowd came to watch their beloved team play, but they were in for another pathetic batting display that saw the home team bowled out for 143 runs in 42.5 overs.

The visitors reached the target quite comfortably making 147 for three in 34.2 overs and the clean sweep propelled them to the top of the ICC one-day rankings, ousting Australia, the fact which definitely made the South African skipper

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Road accident kills 11 of a bridal party in Barisal

Two youths crushed under train in Tangail

STAR REPORT

Eleven people died and 12 others were injured when a Nasimon (locally assembled tempo) carrying a bridal party collided with a truck on the Barisal-Dhaka highway in Gournadi upazila of Barisal district yesterday morning.

In another incident, two youths were crushed by a train near Ibrahimpur railway station under Kalihati upazila of Tangail on Thursday night.

According to our Barisal correspondent, the accident occurred

near Borobari under Gournadi upazila when the Barisal-bound rice-laden truck collided head on with the Nasimon with about 26 people, including the bride and the bridegroom, on board at around 6:20am, killing five on the spot and injuring 18 others.

The dead are Lipika Bhattrra, 12, Asim Shikari, 15, Milton Shikari, 16, Susanta Bepari, 35, Abhijit Bepari, UP member Baburam Shikari, 65, Nikhil Haldar, 38,

Usha Rani, 35, Moyna Rani, 55, Joy Ram, 8 and Nasimon driver Nurul Islam, 44

Lipika, Asim, Milton, Susanta and Abijit died instantly, UP member Baburam and Nikhil on way to hospital, and the rest at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH).

Locals rescued the injured and sent them to Gournadi Upazila Health Complex and the SBMCH. They are bridegroom Ramen Shikari, 30, bride Beauty Mondal, 22, Swapan Shikari, 28, Shilpi, 15, Adit, 55, Alamin, 14, Azizul, 26, Prasanto, 5, Shabana, 6, Proshenjit Roy, 30, Manmohan Bepari, 30, and

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2 more lynched in Gazipur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Villagers beat two cattle thieves to death and injured five others in Sreepur upazila of Gazipur district on Thursday night.

The dead were identified as Mohammad Julhas, 28, and Anwar

Hossain, 32. The injured are Saidur Rahman, 25, Mohammad Anwar, 25, Mobarak, 28, Shahin Mollah, 32, and Mottahar Hossain, 60.

Police and locals said the gang came to Sungun village on the bank of the river Shitalakhy in a trowler and tried to steal cattle from the

house of Nizamuddin.

As Nizamuddin cried for help, the neighbours came out of their houses and chased the gang.

When the thieves were fleeing by the trowler, the villagers with the help of police posted at Singhashi

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Alamat (evidence) are collected, stuffed in a bag and hung from the ceiling of a motorbike shed close to a boundary wall of Lalbagh Police Station in the capital as there is no "better" place in the compound to store them.

India set to release coarse rice today

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

India will resume exporting coarse rice at \$505 per tonne today, provided that the export bills were passed by the Indian customs authorities before March 5.

India on March 5 imposed restrictions on the export of rice at prices lower than \$650 a tonne.

Since then truckloads of rice have been stranded on the Indian side of the border.

Petapole customs superintendent said exporters should amend the letters of credit (LCs) to raise the export price to \$650 if the necessary documents were not signed before March 5.

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Unemployment, price hike put people under deep stress

Roundtable in city told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The citizens of the country are experiencing a 'silent famine' due to spiralling prices of essentials and unemployment, Dr Akbar Ali Khan, chairman of Regulatory Reforms Commission (RRC), said yesterday.

Although 40 percent of the country's population are categorised as poor according to official statistics, the rate of poverty has gone up and a larger section is starving as prices of essentials have increased by 20 to 25 percent and income rose only by 5 percent, he said at a roundtable at the National Press Club in the capital.

"Interestingly, the prices of essentials that are mainly consumed by the poor increased more... therefore, measures must be taken to lower the essentials' prices because there is no possibility of quick wage hike," said Dr Khan.

The roundtable titled "Moving towards sustainable development in Bangladesh" was jointly organised by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

Dr Khan, also former finance adviser to a caretaker government, said, "We cannot tackle poverty unless we are able to reduce the growing disparity between the rich and the poor."

Criticising inconsistencies in official statistics on unemployment, he said the youth unemployment rate is much more than 13 percent as claimed by the government. The statistics showing only one out of 1,000 people in urban areas drink polluted water is also not correct, he said.

"You cannot do good work on the basis of such information. The complexity and intensity of the

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