

Nam summit adops declaration

UNB, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

The 15th Non-Aligned Movement Summit concluded yesterday with the adoption of final documents and a summit declaration calling for forging a stronger solidarity among the member-states to promote peace and development by facing the global threats and challenges with a synergy.

Heads of state or government from over 100 Nam countries from across the world highlighted their debate on the summit theme 'International Solidarity for Peace and Development' and on current burning issues on global and regional planes.

The issues they dealt with at the two-day meet include the global economic meltdown, climate change, Middle-East peace, food security, energy and nuclear problems.

In line with the declaration, the summit leaders from the developing and least-developed hemispheres of the

world reaffirmed their strong commitment towards the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and International Laws.

The declaration also focuses the growing demand for reforming the United Nations, Nam's stands and objectives on disarmament, international security, peace-keeping and peace-building, human rights and democracy, the issue of Palestinians, food security, international economic crisis, terrorism and human trafficking.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was elected Nam vice-chair for three years at the summit, is due to fly for home today.

BNP, 9 other

properly hold their councils to ratify the provisional changes in party constitutions.

In defence of asking for further time, BNP Vice-President MK Anwar, who led the party delegation at the EC talks, said it is not possible for the party to complete elections to over 1.23 lakh committees before holding the national council within the stipulated time.

"We want to ensure that election to each committee--from central to the grassroots level--is held in line with the electoral laws. We do not want to complete the huge task half-heartedly," Anwar told reporters after their meeting with the EC.

He said like some political parties the BNP could also ratify the provisional changes by holding party council hurriedly, but that would not ensure the qualitative changes in the parties as desired in electoral laws.

"So, we asked the commission to extend the timeframe until January 25. And the party will submit a formal application to the commission on Sunday to this effect," he added.

"The commission assured us of considering our demand," Anwar added.

Talking to reporters, CEC Huda said the EC also does not want any party to ratify its constitution half-heartedly.

He said the political parties could not complete the task because of various difficulties.

The seven other parties that have applied to the EC for time extension are Bangladesh Kalyan Party, Tarikat Federation, Bangladesh National Awami Party, National Progressive Party, Jatiya Party (JP), Bangladesh Muslim League, and Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Janata League.

As a new political party the Liberal Democratic Party got registered before the ninth parliamentary polls on the basis of its constitution, which was in line with the criteria for registration.

EC Secretariat officials yesterday said the EC might hold a meeting on July 19 to decide on the issue.

DCC staff

BNP-led government and caretaker government.

"We have found a number of cases of corruption and irregularities in Dhaka City Corporation during the last seven years," Monowar Hossain Chowdhury, chief of the sub-committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Officials of the LGRD ministry and DCC, who were present at the meeting, also pointed out cases of irregularities and corruption that took place at the DCC during the time.

"We have detected irregularities in the development work of the corporation, leasing processes of cattle markets in the city during Eid festivals and leasing of bus terminals," said the committee chief.

"Irregularities have also been found in imposing and fixing Dhaka City Corporation taxes, tender processes of the Jatrabari-Gulistan flyover, setting up of traffic signals, etc," he added.

Monowar also said they have received a lot of information on DCC corruption and irregularities.

In reply to a question, he said all including DCC top officials will be invited to appear before the committee to give their views on the alleged corruption.

"We want to bring transparency and accountability of Dhaka City Corporation so that people get better service from it," said Monowar.

JS body blasts

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receive any information about the recent situation that developed in Mauritius because of the failure of our mission in Kenya who are concurrently in charge of looking after Mauritius affairs," Anisul Islam Mahmud, a Jatiya Party lawmaker and chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

"We have asked the expatriate welfare and overseas employment ministry to issue a show cause notice seeking explanation as to why they [officials of Bangladesh embassy in Kenya] failed to inform the government about the move by Mauritius to send back some 6,000 Bangladeshi workers home," he said.

"It cannot be tolerated... the way they [officials of Bangladesh embassy in Kenya] dealt this affair," said the committee chief.

Strongly criticising Bangladeshi embassy officials in Kenya, Anisul Islam said it was their duty to look after the interests of Bangladeshi workers in Mauritius. But the truth is they have failed to do so.

Lawmaker Ishaq Hossain Talukder, ABM Abul Kashem, Sahabuddin, Mahmud us Samad Chowdhury attended the meeting.

The Mauritius government has decided to send back, by the end of this year, about 6000 Bangladeshi workers working mostly in the African nation's readymade garment and textile industries.

The expatriate ministry yesterday said there was no government-to-government communication between Bangladesh and Mauritius regarding the sending back of 6,000 workers.

Mauritius

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Mauritius for sending Dhaka a report on the situation of workers there, Expatriates' Welfare Secretary Elias Ahmed told The Daily Star.

The ministry also asked the Bangladesh mission in Kenya to look into the matter and take steps so that the workers are not affected by any decision, said a clarification of the ministry.

Since 1992, Bangladesh sent around 12,000 workers to Mauritius, almost half of them female, mainly in the garment sector.

An official said the employers of the southern African island nation pay the airfare of female workers who get \$184 monthly basic salary plus overtime.

BDR mutiny

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Investigation officer of the case, CID's Senior Assistant Superintendent Abdul Kahr Akand, said they arrested 1,706 people so far, most of whom are BDR jawans who were present at the headquarters during the mutiny, and 267 of them already gave confessional statements.

Following the mutiny in Pikhana Headquarters of BDR in the capital, jawans of different units of the border security force across the country also came out of their barracks and mutinied, looting arms and ammunition from their arsenals on February 25 and 26.

In the aftermath of the mutiny, 40 cases were filed in 28 districts outside the capital and a total of 1,721 BDR jawans were arrested on charges of mutiny outside the headquarters.

The mutiny left 74 people including 57 army officers murdered, prompting deployment of 400 CID personnel, over 1,500 Rapid Action Battalion members, around 2,000 Dhaka Metropolitan Police personnel, and many members of the army in the investigation.

SCREENING COMPLETED As a part of a separate investigation Military Intelligence recently completed screening around 8,000 BDR jawans who were inside Pikhana during the mutiny, sources said.

Through the screening, 3,000 BDR members were found involved in criminal offences during the mutiny, including murder, looting, arson, and torture.

CID officials said the screening done by the army has been a tremendous help for them.

The screening was done through examining video footages, still pictures, close circuit camera footages, and on the basis of statements given by detained BDR personnel.

47,000 children

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the seminar titled 'human and economic impact of shortage/stock-out of reproductive Health supplies in Bangladesh'.

Prof Barakat said that the current population growth of the country is 1.43 percent per year and the contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) is 55.8 percent.

"If we want to achieve the total fertility rate of 2.2 by the year 2010, CPR should be increased to 72 percent," he said.

The study also found that 159,800 unexpected pregnancies were caused by the shortage, stock out or irregular supply of these three methods of contraceptives. Of them, 90,240 pregnancies were lost to menstrual regulations (MR), 22,560 by abortion and 47,000 children were born.

It further revealed that the total number of annual users suffering from stock out, shortage and irregular supply of family planning commodities is 160,585 persons in the country.

Prof Barakat said according to the study, there is acute shortage of field staff for motivation and service delivery and they also lack motivation and skilled-based training.

He made recommendations including a streamline procurement system, promoting local production of contraceptives, empowering family planning at district levels, establishing a sound monitoring system, making use of services from NGOs and strengthening of the family planning programme by using more professional people.

In his speech Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque said population increase is one of the crucial problems of the country. The government

is sincere in taking initiatives to address this issue, he said.

"We have already discussed the local production of contraceptive products to tackle unexpected pregnancies caused each year by shortage or to stock out of contraceptives," he said.

The minister also said that there should be more emphasis on encouraging male partners to take part in family planning techniques in the country.

Speaking as a special guest MS Akbar, Chairman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, said the government should formulate a specific policy on population control as different governments take different policies in this regard, barring the previous initiatives from reaching their goals.

With Meher Afroze Chumki, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee and president of FPAB, in the chair, the seminar was also addressed by Mohammad Abdul Qayyum, director general of Family Planning, Anjali Sen, regional director of IPPF/SARO and Steve Kinzett, senior technical officer of Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition.

Clarification

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headlined 'Nurses missing in Medicare' that carried a statement of BNC Registrar, the Star reporter concerned talked to the Registrar Shamsun Nahar upon receipt of the clarification.

The BNC Registrar said she had mentioned the name of Kumudini Hospital, among others, because; it (Kumudini) did not inform BNC about its move of stopping the training of aide nurses.

Arms case

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In this case on April 10, 2007. **MORSHED KHAN** The HC bench of Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah and Justice Md Abdur Razzaque suspended the conviction and 13 years' sentence handed down by a trial court to M Morshed Khan in the case filed by ACC.

The ACC had filed the case against Morshed Khan on charges of amassing illegal wealth and concealing information about it.

The HC passed the order upon an appeal filed by Morshed Khan against his conviction. The HC order will continue till disposal of the appeal.

FALU Another HC bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice Md Rais Uddin suspended for six months the conviction and five years' imprisonment handed down to Mosadek Ali Falu in a relief tin scam case filed by ACC against him.

Barrister Nazmul Huda appeared for himself, Advocate Abdul Baset Majumder moved the appeal of Hazari and Advocate Ahsanul Karim argued for Morshed Khan and Falu.

JOYNAL HAZARI Following an appeal filed by Joynul Abedin Hazari, the HC bench of Justice Md Rezaul Haque granted interim bail to Joynul Abedin Hazari for six weeks in a case, in which he was convicted and sentenced to three years' imprisonment. The Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case with Feni police station against Hazari in 2007 for not submitting his wealth statement to the ACC.

Wasa clears

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Rupnagar to Diya Bari needed dredging at many points as land grabbers sand-filled many of its parts, said ABM Osman Ghoni, president of Rupnagar Abashik Janakalyan Samity.

A Wasa official said as part of recovering 43 canals of the city they would continue the drive on this canal for two more days.

The Wasa earlier conducted drives on Katsur and Hazaribag canals of the city and demolished illegal structures on them.

Bail prayers

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the case to the district and sessions judge's court on June 26 for trial.

Ramjan Ali, officer-in-charge of Boalia Police Station, lodged the sedition case on May 17. The next day law enforcers arrested 93 BDR members from Rajshah sector BDR headquarters and 37 BDR Battalion.

He said the accused broke open the arsenal, took up arms and ammunitions and took BDR Rajshahi sector and battalion offices under their control in support of the bloody mutiny of February 25 at Pikhana.

The mutineers terrorised the areas by firing gunshots indiscriminately leaving Jamiruddin, a 35-year rickshaw puller, wounded on February 26, the case story says.

'Magic pipe'

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a revolutionary technology that can help reduce the price of the country's staple food. The government should extensively introduce and popularise the technology, he stressed.

IRRI Liaison Scientist for Bangladesh MA Hamid Miah and BRRRI Director General Firoz Shah Sikder also spoke at the briefing.

Second Test

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the momentum is with the tourists as they look to secure a unique away series win.

"The boys are all keyed up. We know that our job is not finished. It was a great win in the first Test. The effort was fantastic. We were happy and we made a lot of people happy but now we have to ensure that we play well here and win the series. The best part is that we all know that it is possible," said Shakib who had to skip the side since the morning session on day three of the first Test after captain Masrafe Bin Mortaza hobbled off the field with a knee injury.

With captain Mortaza still a doubt for the second Test the mantle might shift to the vice captain once again. Pacers Mahbubul Alam and Nazmul Hossain are there to step in if Mortaza fails to make it. Left-arm spinner Enamul Haque Jr. is another serious consideration given the obvious discomfort of the West Indies batsmen against spin which accounted for 15 of their wickets in the first Test.

TEN Sports will televise the Test live. The match is scheduled to start at 9pm Bangladesh Standard Time.

Pakistan promises

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assured that Pakistan will do everything in their power in this regard," said the statement.

The two prime ministers agreed to cooperate on the investigation into the incident, with India maintains was planned and launched from Pakistan.

"Pakistan has provided an updated status dossier on the investigations of the Mumbai attacks and (the prime minister) has sought additional information and evidence," the statement said.

The leaders also agreed that they would "share real time, credible and actionable information on any future terrorist threat."

In move of great importance to Pakistan, the two leaders also agreed to delink their wider talks on issues such as water, demilitarisation and the dispute territory of Kashmir from the discussions over terrorism.

India previously had been unwilling to continue the composite talks until its concerns over Pakistan response to terrorism had been addressed.

"The most important thing is that what we were hoping, for that there should be constructive engagement, (happened)," said Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs, Nawabzada Malik Amad Khan.

"They decided in the future there will be constant engagement and that will help us break the deadlock," he told The Associated Press.

In India, meanwhile, Lalit Mansingh, the former foreign secretary, described the meeting as a step forward and welcomed Pakistan's commitment to go after the attacks, nothing that they are scheduled to try five suspects for plotting the attacks.

"These are steps forward. If there is actually a trial and we

Five outlaws

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30 bullets from their possession, sources said, adding that they also seized two motorbikes used by the outlaws.

Rab said the men came to hold meeting with Janajuddho activists of Chuadanga and adjacent areas in a bid to reorganise the outfit, one of the factions of Purbo Banglar Communist Party.

They were organising under the command of new Janajuddho leader Abdul Kuddus, nephew of Abdur Rashid Tapan alias Dada Tapan, sources said.

Abdul Kalam

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Official sources said on his arrival in the capital in the afternoon, Abul Kalam would first visit Grameen Bank headquarters at Mirpur and meet Prof Muhammad Yunus.

Sheikh Hasina will host a dinner in honour of Dr Kalam, who was the 11th president of India from July 25, 2002 to July 25, 2007.

On Monday, the distinguished guest will visit Vigarunnisa Noon School and College in the morning, and interact with the students and faculty members there. He will be presented with a crest of the institution.

The former Indian president along with President Zillur Rahman will attend the first annual convocation of the University of Information Technology and Sciences at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre (BCFCC) at 12:30pm.

The eminent scientist will visit Dhaka University the same afternoon, deliver a special lecture at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban on the campus at 4:00pm and exchange views with the students and faculty members. DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique would chair the session.

A crest of the university would be presented to Dr Kalam.

Born on October 15, 1931 at Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu, Dr APJ (Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen) Abdul Kalam specialised in Aeronautical Engineering from Madras Institute of Technology.

He made a significant contribution as project director to develop India's first indigenous Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-III), which successfully injected the Rohini satellite in the near earth orbit in July 1980 and made India an exclusive member of Space Club.

Dr Kalam was responsible for the evolution of ISRO's launch vehicle programme, particularly the PSLV configuration. After working for two decades in ISRO and mastering launch vehicle technologies, he took up the responsibility of developing indigenous guided missiles at

see that it is proper trial I think it would restore (India's) confidence in Pakistan," he told India's NDTV network. "The prime minister is giving flexibility to Pakistan and Pakistan will be tested on that."

Earlier this month India reacted with anger when a Pakistani court ordered the release of Hafiz Mohammed Saeed, the founder of the group India blames for the Mumbai siege.

New SC judge

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demand. I got courage with your cooperation and help, and resisted their pressure.

"I wrote three/four sentences in reply to their letter which on reading Dr Kamal Hossain could not control his emotion and shed tears saying 'You (Sinha) are so intelligent that I can't explain-it will remain a historical document, please preserve it'."

"Dr Kamal Hossain tore out the reply, which he prepared for me and advised me to send the one I prepared."

Sinha also observed that the holidays for the highest court judges should be curtailed.

"The number of holidays we are enjoying are much higher than other neighbouring countries--these holidays should be curtailed. In South Korea the judges enjoy only 20 days' holiday."

The other three new judges are Justice Bijan Kumar Das, Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Muzammel Hossain.

Addressing the reception, they pledged to protect the rule of law and the constitution.

Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin and other Appellate Division judges, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam, SCBA President AFM Mesbahuddin, its Secretary General SM Rezaul Karim, senior jurists Dr Kamal Hossain and Dr M Zahir and a number of law officers and SC lawyers were present at the function.

The attorney general and the SCBA president told the new SC judges that they are delighted with their elevation to the Appellate Division.

They said they hope the appointments will pave the way for disposal of some long-drawn-out historic cases like Bangabandhu Murder Case.

Defence Research and Development Organisation as the Chief Executive of Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme.

He was responsible for the development and operationalisation of Agni and Prithvi missiles and for building indigenous capability in critical technologies through networking of multiple institutions. He was scientific adviser to the defence minister, and secretary, Department of Defence Research & Development from July 1992 to December 1999.

During this period, he led the weaponisation of strategic missile systems and the Pokhran-II nuclear tests in collaboration with the Department of Atomic Energy, which made India a nuclear weapon state. He also gave thrust to self-reliance in defence systems by progressing multiple development tasks and mission projects such as light combat aircraft.

As chairman of Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council, the eminent scientist with the help of 500 experts led the country to arrive at Technology Vision 2020 and gave a road map for transforming India from the present developing status into a developed nation.

Dr Kalam served as principal scientific adviser to the government of India, with the rank of cabinet minister, from November 1999 to November 2001, and was responsible for evolving policies, strategies and missions for many development applications.

Four of Dr Kalam's books--Wings of Fire, India 2020 - A Vision for the New Millennium, My Journey, and Ignited Minds - Unleashing the Power Within India--have become household names in India and among the Indian nationals abroad.

Dr Kalam received honorary doctorates from 30 universities and institutions. He has been awarded the coveted civilian awards -- Padma Bhushan (1981) and Padma Vibhushan (1990), and the highest civilian award Bharat Ratna (1997).