

Nam summit adopts 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

Trader shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals shot dead a tanner trader in the city's Dhanmondi area yesterday night.

Zakir Hossain, 38, who was also a Singapore expatriate had a tanner business with one of his friends of Hazaribag. He was a resident of Shershah Suri Road at Mohammadpur.

Police said criminals shot him at Shankar, leaving him critically wounded.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the on-duty doctors declared him dead around 11:15 pm. The hospital sources said the body bore four bullet holes.

Rare example

FROM PAGE 1 nearby New Market police who later handed it over to DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque.

Later, DMP commissioner returned the money to its owner at DMP headquarters yesterday.

Army officer

FROM PAGE 1 captain phoned them instantly. Within a short time police officers also rushed there.

Later, Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police Ahsan Habib Polash and Assistant Commissioner Hasan Mahbub sat at a meeting with the army officials at the cantonment at about 9 pm for an amicable settlement.

After the meeting the DC told The Daily Star that the matter was settled. "We will take measures against the sub-inspector," he added.

Bikash

FROM PAGE 1 Bikash was arrested soon after Awami League came to power in 1996. His fugitive brother Prokash Biswas, who is one of the 23 listed top criminals, is believed to have been staying in India.

Sources said Bikash and Prokash started their criminal activities from Mirpur area during Ershad tenure.

AL central body

FROM PAGE 1 Obaidul Quader and Syed Ashraful Islam - might be made general secretary.

Quader has been in close contact with the grassroots since he was a student leader. Ashraf, on the other hand, played a very crucial role for the party after 1/11.

Quader however says he does not have any plans to vie for the number two post in the ruling party.

Most of the AL leaders believe that a detailed evaluation report that Hasina has had on her party colleagues may have a bearing on composition of the new committee.

As she did in choosing ministers, the AL chief might again bank on the young and fresh leaders.

Many former student leaders who are well educated would be inducted into the central committee. But those who conspired against AL and its chief and also those who stayed off when the party needed them most are surely going to be left out, said a leader preferring not to be named.

"At the end of the day, everything comes down to what the party chief chooses," he added.

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

FROM PAGE 1 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

FROM PAGE 1 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 with 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, Sabahuddin, Mahmud us Samad Chowdhury attended the meeting.

The Mauritanian government has decided to send back, by the end of this year, about 6,000 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 Bangladeshi 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 Kader 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 Pilkhana 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.

BDR mutiny

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After they settled in the area, some people prepared documents about their occupancy of the land. Some others simply built shanty-like accommodation and continued living here, as they have nowhere else to go. They don't possess any legal documents.

Sources say, authorities are undecided about what to do with these people with no valid documents, as they have no right to be where they are living right now.

The survey committee formed last year made several recommendations to the local administration. These include rehabilitation of the poor families with financial assistance and also assistance for those running small shops from here to set up their businesses elsewhere.

The poor families continue to live under the risk, and are constantly fearing for their safety.

Mohammad Harun, from one of the families, said when the rains set in, many are too scared to sleep since landslides can occur at any time.

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He said there is no one to fight for their cause. He said that the local administration has carried out several surveys in the past but any steps to save them are yet to be seen.

The goodwill to help these people begins when the rains

47,000 children

FROM PAGE 16

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.

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 (MRR), 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 Ruhal 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 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 controls as different governments take different policies in this regard, barring the previous initiatives from reaching their goals.

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

JOYNAL HAZARI

Following an appeal filed by Joynal Abedin Hazari, the HC bench of Justice Md Rezaul Haque granted interim bail to Joynal 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.

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.

Kalam Azad were present in the meetings.

Earlier on Wednesday, Hasina had bilateral talks with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Prime Minister of Jordan Nader Al Tahabi, Bahrain's Crown Prince Sheikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa and Chairman of the Council of Oman Dr Yahya.

He hoped the people of Bangladesh would be able to attain their desired development and prosperity under the "wise and visionary leadership" of Hasina.

Both the premiers hoped that the existing friendly bilateral relations between the two countries would strengthen further in the days to come.

The PM also had bilateral talks with Nepalese Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, Foreign Minister of Qatar Khalid Mohammad Al Aphiya and Thai Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya by taking time out of the summit programmes on the concluding day.

During the meeting with the Qatar foreign minister, the premier also called for recruiting more manpower from Bangladesh and ensuring all necessary facilities for the Bangladeshi expatriates working in the Gulf country.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and Secretary Mijarul Quayes and PM's Press Secretary Abul

come each year but disappears with the end of the monsoon, alleged locals.

Khagrachari Assistant Commissioner (Land) Mohammad Kowsar Hossein said a list was prepared last August after several landslides in the area.

"I think authorities concerned will take proper action to rehabilitate vulnerable people in safer places," he said, without giving further details of what was being done.

Public Works Department Engineer Pradeep Kumar, who was a member of the survey committee, said the survey was carried out as per a government order. A list of vulnerable families was prepared and submitted to the concerned authorities along with recommendations.

When contacted, KHDC member Animesh Dewan Nandith, however, said KHDC wishes to rehabilitate the families in suitable places but they still have no clear idea about how many people are actually living on the hill slopes.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachari Mohammad Khalil Rahman said according to the survey, up to 1,000 lives could be saved from potential danger if authorities take proper steps in time.

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

Arms case

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in this case on April 10, 2007.

MORSHEKH KHAN