

Annan commends Dhaka's role in UNSC

NEW YORK, Sept 9: UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has commended Bangladesh's profile in UN Security Council for making 'pro-active' and 'open' move, reports BSS.

The secretary general's appreciation came during his meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the UN headquarters on Friday.

Briefing newsmen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to UN Anwarul Karim Chowdhury said, while appreciating Bangladesh for its active and massive participation in UN peacekeeping missions, Kofi Annan said that Bangladesh had deployed its troops in various difficult situations even when many countries hesitated to do so.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr S A Samad, Foreign Secretary C M Shafi Sami and Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Jawadul Karim were also present.

The UN Secretary General referred to the recent UN visit by Bangladesh, Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Mohammad Mozaffar Rahman and his subsequent meeting with General Rahman over peace-keeping mission.

This was for the first time that the C-in-C of any country visited the UN Headquarters to talk about peacekeeping mission.

Reciprocating the sentiment of the UN secretary general, the Prime Minister said Bangladesh would continue to provide more troops in peacekeeping missions. Bangladesh would work with other countries for implementation of Brahimi Commission on peace-keeping process.

Chowdhury said. Kofi Annan thanked Sheikh Hasina for signing and ratification of CTBT and other UN treaties on human rights and disarmament.

The UN secretary general appreciated the comments made by Sheikh Hasina in the Millennium Summit on responsibility of the United Nations to uphold democratic system and discourage un-constitutional leaderships.

Kofi Annan showed deep concern over the arsenic contamination in Bangladesh and assured his cooperation to cope with the situation.

The Prime Minister invited Kofi Annan to visit Bangladesh and the UN secretary general responded positively, Chowdhury said.

Nurul Quader Literary Awards on Sept 15

The M Nurul Quader Juvenile Literary Award 2000 will be distributed on September 15 at the Ziaur Rahman auditorium of Bangladesh Shishu Academy, says a press release.

Dr Anisuzzaman will be present at the function as chief guest while Rahat Khan, Golam Kibria, Hashem Khan and Kalidas Karmakar will be present as special guests.

Prizes will be distributed among the winners of the child-juvenile painting and essay competition.

An exhibition of a selection of the prize-winning entries will also be held.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina meets with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan at the United Nations headquarters in New York on Friday during the UN Millennium Summit. — PID photo

Int'l confce on oversight functions begins today

An international conference on 'Improving Oversight Functions: Challenges in the New Millennium' begins today in the city to identify the areas need reforms and make recommendations to improve accountability as well as transparency for good governance, reports BSS.

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed will inaugurate the conference, the first ever in Bangladesh, at Sonargaon Hotel at 10.30 am. Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria will be present as the special guest.

The three-day event being held under the joint auspices of Comptroller and the Auditor General of Bangladesh and the UNDP is the result of a study on Country Financial Accountability Assessment (CFAA) of Bangladesh, a joint project undertaken by the World Bank and the UNDP.

Addressing a press conference in the city yesterday, Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria said the government had given due importance to this high-profile international conference in the light of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's sincere commitment towards accountability and transparency of her administration as per her party's manifesto.

The press conference was also attended by the Comptroller and Auditor General Sayed Yousuf Hussein and UNDP resident representative Jorgen Lissner.

The main objective of the conference is to seek views of the participants from home and abroad to strengthen the oversight functions in Bangladesh and also expedite the ongoing financial management reforms initiated by the government with the assistance of British DFID and the UNDP.

Representatives from the Supreme Audit Institutions of Australia, Bhutan, Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Northern Ireland, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, United States and the World Bank are expected to attend the conference.

Kibria said the Audit and Account report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh in the past got no importance as there was no government with accountability and transparency between 1975

and 1996 in Bangladesh. "Out of the three decades of our independence, we were under military and autocratic rule for over two decades. That is why there has been no accountability and transparency in the public expenditure during that period," he told the newsmen.

The Finance Minister said, the present government has been placing the Audit and Account report every year in the Jatiya Sangsad to prove its accountability and transparency on public expenditure as per its commitment to the nation.

"The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts has been thoroughly looking into this report while the Press is free to write on it," he added.

The theme of the conference will be discussed in depth and appropriately highlight the presentation of the key findings of the three sectoral reports on Parliamentary Control of Public Expenditure, Public Sector Auditing and Accountability Profession in Bangladesh.

A large number of stakeholders including heads and senior officials of various ministries, departments, public corporations, autonomous bodies, donor agencies, accountancy profession, foreign supreme audit institutions, parliamentary committees and the media will attend the conference.

Discussion on tunnel under Karnaphuli Sept 12

A roundtable discussion on "construction of tunnel under the river Karnaphuli and its national perspective" will be held at VIP lounge of the Jatiya Press Club on September 12 at 3 pm, reports BSS.

Communications Minister Anwar Hossain and Civil Aviation and Tourism, Housing and Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain will attend the discussion as guests of honour.

Members of Parliament, Secretaries, additional and joint secretaries of the government and social leaders are expected to take part in the discussion, organised by Chittagong Journalists Forum-Dhaka (CJFD).

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Corrigendum

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

A circular for the recruitment of Medical Representatives, Field Supervisors & Area Managers has been published through this paper on 7th September, 2000 having a printing mistake in last date of submitting the application, which should be read in the following corrected way.

Printed date of submission of application
25th July, 2000

Corrected last date of submission of application
25th September, 2000

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We believe in change of power by ballot

Hasina tells expatriates at reception in New York

NEW YORK, Sept 9: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told expatriate Bangladeshis that her party believes in change of power by ballot and would again form government if the people give her mandate in the next elections, reports UNB.

"I believe in strength of the people.... Our good governance and development work in last four years has increased public support and popularity. I seek your cooperation in next election," she said at a reception accorded to her by the Bangladeshi community in America, held at Marriot Hotel in Brooklyn here Friday night.

Responding to volley of questions from the members of Bangladesh community about the state of affairs back at home, Hasina ruled out any impact on the voters of the electoral coalition of the four opposition parties.

"There is nothing new in it.

All garlic has the same the roots. They have single ideology and policy," she said about the alliance of opposition BNP, JP, Jamaat and IOJ.

Hasina said since she formed her government, BNP and its allies had been threatening to oust it through a movement. They also wanted to make parliament collapse through their boycott of it. But unitedly they have neither unseated the government nor heave they resigned from parliament because of their own interest in the financial benefits it offers.

She said the opposition, having failed in their movement, was no patronising terrorists to create trouble in the country.

Recalling the post-independence chaos created by anti-liberation elements, she said vested political groups are now trying to create the same

situation. In this context, she mentioned that while overall law and order situation had improved following curbing of terrorism in the southern region terrorists, with the backing of the opposition, were unleashing terrorism different parts of the country.

About the High Court verdict upholding conviction of former president Ershad, the prime minister said the corruption case against him had been initiated by the past BNP regime and he was also convicted during its rule.

The High Court upheld the lower court verdict against Ershad's appeal and sentenced him to five years imprisonment and fined Tk 5.5 crore in the Janata Tower case.



1st Death Anniversary

This day, last year, our mother, Prof. Sultana Sufia Begum (ex-Head of Department, Political Science, Govt B L College, Khulna) left us forever.

Today, as we mourn her death, we would like all our friends, well-wishers and relatives to join us in our home to pray for her eternal peace.

Thank you for your support during this crucial period of our lives.

— Shafinaz, Deeba, Amin
Flat-401, H-210, R-10A, Eastern Glory Apartments, Dhanmondi.
Phone: 019-311-046

C-912

For Mamoni



Nurani Chowdhury left us behind on this day in 1996. Please pray for her departed soul. C-911

NOTICE FOR ATTENTION

This is for the information and attention of all concerned that Database Telephone Directory (Private) Ltd. 68, Dilkusha, Dhaka-1000 has signed an agreement with Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board on 18th March 1998 to print and publish official English Telephone Directory with Yellow Pages for all the Telecom Regions of Bangladesh for consecutive 05 (five) annual issues. Database Telephone Directory (P) Ltd. has been given the absolute right to print & publish yellow pages in English as an integral part of English Language Telephone Directory by Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board.

Of late it has come to our knowledge that an advertisement firm is approaching valuable Advertisers to collect advertisements in English for publication of yellow pages in English as a part of Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board's Telephone Directories. If any Advertiser gives advertisement in yellow pages in English through them as a part of Bangladesh Telegraph & Telephone Board's Directories, he/they would be doing so at their own risk & responsibility.

S.M. Kabirul Islam (Kabir)
Advocate

On behalf of Database Telephone Directory (P) Ltd.
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WAPC to hold its conference in Dhaka in Feb

World Association of Press Councils (WAPC) will hold its international conference in Dhaka in February next, reports BSS.

It was announced yesterday by the Executive Council of the global body on the concluding day of a seminar, which began on September 7 at the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, a message received in the city from Turkey said.

Bangladesh Press Council (BPC) is expected to host the conference in the first week of February.

A total of 150 delegates from 22 countries attended the three-day seminar, jointly organised by the Kibris Turkish Press Council and the WAPC.

A six-member BPC team comprising Editor of Daily Sangbad Bazur Rahman, Editor of The Independent Mahabul Alam, Editor of The Bangladesh Observer Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Chairman of Board of Editors of Daily Probitat Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Prof Ali Ashraf MP, and Advocate Ozair Farooq attended the seminar.

The team members presented papers on different topics in the seminar. In a communique, endorsed unanimously, the delegates expressed "grave concern over the growing trend of misrepresentation of facts, events and developments by the media in its international coverage."

It said the free press does not mean the press free from the government only, the press has also to be free from all internal and external influences.

CONGRATULATIONS

Bhuiyan Academy Congratulates the following students of University of London, UK, who have done well in their recent LL.B. 1st Year, LL.B. 2nd Year, Diploma in Law and A-Levels examinations. (Session 1999 - 2000)

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