

Fighting poverty most important for Bangladesh

Hafiz Pasha tells breifing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

UN Assistant Secretary General Hafiz Pasha yesterday said the most important tasks ahead of Bangladesh is to take special steps to alleviate poverty, diversify exports and decentralise local government to tackle future challenges.

"About 60 to 70 million people of Bangladesh live below poverty line. A poverty reduction strategy has to be taken with a special focus on pro-poor programmes to face the future challenges," Pasha, said at a press conference at the UN office at IDB Haban in the city.

Also Director of Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Pasha said during his week-long visit in Bangladesh he found that the country has made significant progress in economic, education and social sectors. But to tackle future challenges it should expand its programmes for diversification of export, different environmental issues like flood and cyclone mitigation and management, decentralisation of power and women empowerment.

Pasha said Bangladesh needs to diversify its exports to face the challenges of post-2005 duty- and quota-free trade regime. He assured that the UN would continue helping Bangladesh in this matter but it would have to improve the technological aspects of garment and textile sectors.

He said working within the parliament involving all parties would help strengthen the democratic system in Bangladesh, which has been flourishing for several years.

The UN assistant secretary general said to ensure human rights the police have to be friendly and frank with people and added that the UN would assist the country on

issues related to the strengthening of institutions, law, judiciary, police, prison and parliament.

He welcomed the country's role on the Afghan issue and said doctors, engineers and NGO activists of Bangladesh would be helpful to build war-ravaged Afghanistan.

Hafiz Pasha led a team of nine resident representatives of South Asian and West Asian nations to a regional meeting in Bangladesh. He also met the president, a number of ministers and leading NGO representatives during the weeklong visit.

AL to stage mass hunger strike at Osmany Udyan Mar 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League's mass hunger strike programme on March 24 will now be held at Osmany Udyan on the same day as the government denied it permission to hold the programme at Paltan Maidan as scheduled earlier.

The mass hunger strike programme would begin at the Osmany Udyan at 9am and continue till 6pm, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Political Secretary to AL chief Sheikh Hasina said last night.

The programme, announced from a March 14 joint meeting of AL lawmakers and AL Central Working Committee, is aimed at protesting the government decision to remove Bangabandhu's portrait from public offices through legislation.

Saber said the government offered no reason for refusing to allow the AL to hold the programme at Paltan Maidan.

Through loopholes

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ruling party lawmaker Gafur Bhuiyan, the company's lawyers had argued in the court that since the incident was being investigated by the authorities, they could not be held responsible.

Mysteriously enough, the investigation report was never made public and Surma continued the work till another fatal incident crushed two persons to death on Thursday last on Science Laboratory road.

During the period between the two incidents, Surma ignored more than a dozen letters from DCC engineers who warned of serious accident due to faulty placement of girders overhead. Surma ignored all the warnings till Thursday's incident, which again prompted the Mayor to blacklist the firm anew.

Gafur told The Daily Star yesterday that as a public representative he had political as well as business rivalry with others. He claimed that sabotage was behind Thursday's incident. He said he has already sacked the main person who was responsible for maintaining communication with DCC.

"...I shall soon visit the bereaved families. You see I was performing the Hajj. I have my engineers, technicians and hosts of other people working in the project. I have already sacked several of them and asked the police to arrest the company's manager Khorshed Alam," Gafur said.

Meanwhile, the authorities yesterday removed most of the overhead girders from under-construction footbridges in the city.

It was not known whether the authorities would complete the pre-stretched footbridges or opt for steel-frame ones.

Thursday's fatal accident is being investigated by the ministries of communications, local government and rural development and the DCC. Most of these reports would probably be made public by Thursday next, sources said.

Vietnam mission

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satisfaction at the existing bilateral relations between the two countries.

Morshed Khan said new opportunity has been created in strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries with the assumption of office by the present government.

He mentioned the establishment of Bangladesh mission in Hanoi in 1993 at the personal initiative of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and said relations have continued to grow between the two countries since then.

Both the leaders agreed to hold the meeting of the joint commission on economic, scientific and technological cooperation at an early date.

Mechanism of the joint commission will be determined at the official talks scheduled for today.

Director General (Southeast Asia) of the Foreign Ministry Golam Mohammad was present during the meeting.

Poly ban plan

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subject them to prosecution. It also argued that if the production is banned, then the question of carrying polybags does not come.

Environment and Forest Minister Shahjahan Siraj piloted the amendment proposal at the regular weekly meeting of the cabinet yesterday with Khaleda in the chair.

Earlier, the government banned marketing and use of polythene shopping bags in the capital from January 1 and across the country from March 1, considering their adverse impact on health and environment.

Cabinet sources said the drafts of the amendments were sent to the law ministry for scrutiny. There will be mobile courts to enforce the laws after their passage in the parliament.

The scrutiny over, the proposals will be placed at a special cabinet meeting on March 24, sources said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Environment Minister Shahjahan Siraj said the amendment proposals would be placed in the current session of the Jatiya Sangsad and passed soon.

Environment ministry sources said the enactment of the new laws is high on priority as production and marketing of polythene shopping bags continue despite a ban.

Although the use of polybags has come down drastically since the ban, official sources said factories are now churning out slightly thicker bags, flooding the market.

Prior to the ban, about one crore polybags were used and 90 lakh of them dumped a day in the capital alone.

A study of the environment ministry showed that the total number of polybags produced in the country is around 129 million per day. It said there are about 800 polythene factories, mostly in the Dhaka city.

Another survey by an NGO said some 315 to 320 factories manufacture thin polybags, employing between 2,520 and 3,840 workers.

Since the imposition of the ban on polybags, the state-run and private jute and textile mills have been producing adequate number of environment-friendly jute, cloth and paper-made bags as alternatives.

The cabinet yesterday also approved the draft of the 'National Freedom Fighters Council Bill, 2002', aiming at empowering the government to form a high-powered council to oversee activities relating to the Liberation War and ensure welfare of the freedom fighters.

According to the summary of the proposed bill, the two-tire council will have an advisory committee and a central executive committee.

The prime minister will head the advisory committee, while the central executive committee will be headed by the minister or the state minister in-charge of the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs.

All Liberation War related organisations, clubs and associations, willing to avail themselves of government assistance would have to be registered with the National Freedom Fighters Council. The council will also scrutinise and update the list of freedom fighters.

PM to visit Bagerhat today

UNB, Bagerhat

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will visit Bagerhat today. The three vessels BNS Agradoot, BNS Salam and BNS Mongla are expected to be commissioned by the PM at 11 am.

Later, Khaleda will offer fateha at the mazar of Khan Jahan Ali (R) at about 2 pm and also lay foundation stones of the Muniganj Bridge over the River Bhairab.

In addition, she will address a public meeting at Khan Jahan Ali College ground at 4 pm.

Local MP and district BNP president MAH Selim will preside over the meeting.

In flames

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only to feed my son who fell sick. My daughter was hungry and always cried for food."

In pain and no longer able to endure the agony, Nilufar once again fled her husband's home leaving her daughter behind.

With the help of a villager, Nilufar along with her mother came to the office of the Prothom Alo, a leading Bangla daily, for help in medical treatment.

The management of the Prothom Alo admitted her to the Burn Unit of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and provided her with other necessary supports.

Nilufar is now awaiting multiple surgeries for which she may have to stay at the hospital for a year.

"Nilufar suffered deep burns and we will try to separate the skin from her neck and do a number of reconstructive surgeries to disjoint the arm," said Dr Shamanta Lal Sen, the supervising physician.

She migrated to Karachi in Pakistan 20 years ago with her parents and worked as a domestic help. Shamsuddin married Nilufar in Pakistan. Nilufar's daughter is still with her husband.

Rejoinder

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which complies with the rules mentioned in the report.

Our Reply

With a floor space of 92,000 square feet, Chandrashila Suvastu Tower should have at least 46 parking spaces as per the rules. By Khan's own account of 39 spaces, the building falls short of seven parking spaces. Compared to widespread and rampant violation of rules in the city as regards parking space, Suvastu's violation could be considered minor.

The entrance to the so-called covered parkings is a narrow by-lane on the western side of the building. The b-lane is hardly ten feet wide, which in no way can provide an easy turning space for vehicles.

Moreover, our investigation also revealed that the '15 guest parking spaces' in front of Chandrashila Suvastu is a part of the public land meant for a boulevard on the Panthapath in the Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan.

Suvastu's Director claimed that the space was 'given' to Suvastu by the 'landowner'. But neither Dhaka City Corporation nor RAJUK has any record that the boulevard be used as a car park. Like most other high rise buildings, Chandrashila Suvastu Tower has not left a distance of four feet between the buildings as required by rules. The Tower's elevator system also does not cover all the top floors.

AL: Resignation

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Article 67 (2) of the Constitution reads, "A member of the parliament may resign his seat by writing under his hand addressed to the speaker, and the seat shall become vacant when the writing is received by the speaker or, if the office of speaker is vacant or the speaker is for any reason unable to perform his functions, by the deputy speaker."

It is now obvious that the outcome of the ALPP meeting would largely depend on the government's move on a new bill placed in the Jatiya Sangsad two weeks ago to repeal the law on Bangabandhu's portrait.

The earlier law made it mandatory to display Bangabandhu's portrait in all government, semi-government and autonomous offices.

Amid uproar and heated debate over the bill styled 'The Preservation and Display of Portrait of Father of the Nation (Repeal) Bill 2002', AL lawmakers walked out from a meeting of the Standing Committee on the Private Member's Bills and Resolution on March 11.

However, the meeting recommended minor changes in the bill before placing it in the house for its passage.

Parliament sources hinted that the bill might be tabled on Thursday. If the bill is passed on the day, the ALPP meeting would decide the next course of actions.

Before the ALPP meet, the party also plans to stage a mass hunger strike programme in the city's Paltan Maidan on March 24.

Corruption engulfs all spheres of social life

Seminar in city told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Participants of a seminar in the city yesterday said government administration including the lower courts were gripped by unbridled corruption that has pervaded all spheres of social life.

Thus, they said, owners of black money were being attracted to politics and were buying nominations of the big parties and spending much beyond the official limit to contest and win elections.

Under the circumstances, only an independent anti-corruption commission could help free the society from the evil of corruption, they suggested.

Their comments came during a talk on "Fighting corruption by ensuring transparency" -- one of the topics discussed on the concluding day of a two-day seminar titled "Strengthening Democratic Governance" at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Asian Centre for Democratic Governance, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Bangladesh Enterprise

Institute jointly organised the seminar. Experts and civil society leaders from the United States, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Indonesia and host Bangladesh participated in the discussion.

Noted jurist and Gano Forum President Dr. Kamal Hossain, who chaired the session on fighting corruption said the black money owners were in fact investing money in politics to make more money through corrupt practices. He accused such businesspeople of corrupting not only the electoral process but also politics as a whole. Dr Kamal said rule of law must be restored in the country to get rid of political corruption.

The renowned lawyer also said that separation of the judiciary from the executive, setting up of an independent anti-corruption body

and appointment of an ombudsman could free the society from corruption.

He said the political parties should be transparent about their sources of income and their expenditures, and that the civil society should guard against malpractice by the political parties. In this regard, he suggested formation of a civil watchdog body.

Manzoor Hassan of the Transparency International, Bangladesh told the seminar that corruption was widespread in the lower courts as well as the law enforcement, education, health, land and banking sectors. As an example of corruption in the education sector, he mentioned the mandatory donations exacted by some schools for admissions.

Hassan recommended a three-point agenda to fight corruption political reforms, administrative reforms and people's participation, and asked the political parties to disclose their source of earning and expenditure.

No political parties should give nomination to convicts for contesting elections, he said.

Official sources said Dr Alamgir, being grilled on a two-day police remand, would be produced before a lawcourt today.

During the remand, he disclosed some "important information" about the formation of 'Janatar Mancha' in 1996 and divulged the names of those who worked behind the scenes for oust-government demonstrations.

"By forming Janatar Mancha he created unrest in the country, indiscipline in the administration and challenged the authority of a legal government -- that is a criminal offence," said a high police official last night on condition of anonymity.

On the basis of his interrogation, police sources said he visited several countries, including a neighbouring one, and met "some people who don't have friendly attitude to Bangladesh."

2,000 more expelled in SSC exams

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 2,000 examinees were expelled for cheating during the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Examinations yesterday.

Twelve teachers were also expelled for helping examinees in cheating, according to official sources here.

Bengali Second Paper examination was held under the seven education boards in the country yesterday, the fourth day of ongoing SSC examinations.

Of the expelled examinees, 885 were under Rajshahi Board, 263 under Dhaka Board, 161 under Jessore Board, 356 under Chittagong Board, 224 under Comilla Board, 13 under Sylhet Board and 82 under Barisal Board.

Six teachers were expelled from centres under Rajshahi Board. The rest six teachers were expelled from centres under Dhaka Board, four of them from Jhalshoka centre.

Court rejects petition for return of Shahriar's passport

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, yesterday rejected the petition, seeking return of Shahriar Kabir's passport seized by Special Branch (SB) of police in connection with the sedition case.

The defence lawyers Advocate Zead-al-Malum and Advocate Khondaker Abdul Mannan submitted the petition before the court seeking return of Shahriar's passport so that he can join a workshop on the International Institute for Social History (IISH) in the Netherlands as South Asian representative of the institute.

The prosecution side opposed the petition.

Arrest of Dr Alamgir

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Metropolitan Magistrate on March 16 for two days maintained that the remand "suffers no illegality."

In response to the question made by the court Sunday, Additional Attorney General Abdur Rezzak Khan communicated to the court in writing that Dr MK Alamgir was not being interrogated by joint interrogation cell. "He was kept in the Airport Police Station in compliance with the verbal direction passed by the High Court," the AG said.

It was held in the order of the court that Dr Alamgir, arrested under Section 54, was placed before the Metropolitan Magistrate within 24 hours and on the basis of the prayer for remand of the police, the remand was allowed for two days legally.

Following the quashing petition, the hearing on which was initiated Sunday, the court directed the government to make known Dr Alamgir's latest position with the direction not to interrogate him by joint interrogatory cell. But he was allowed to be held in police custody for the purpose of questioning about his past role.

Barrister Amirul Islam and Senior

Advocate MA Maleq, with Barrister Tania Amir, placed the petitions Sunday and yesterday for Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, the former state minister of Awami League government.

Additional Attorney General Abdur Rezzak Khan with Deputy Attorney General Tabirussan Abu Kaisar and Golam Mohammad Alal stood for the state.

Dr Alamgir, a bureaucrat who played a leading role during the anti-government demonstrations in 1996, was arrested under Section 54 by the Special Branch of police at Zia International Airport when he reached the capital by a Singapore Airlines flight on Saturday night.

PM sets off

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guration of the drive and inquired about the preparation for the function.

Later the state minister exchanged opinions with the officials concerned at WASA Bhaban and asked them to take "all-out measures to make the inaugural function a success."

Secretary to the Local Government Division A Y B I Siddiqui, WASA chairman M A Hakim, Chief Executive Officer of Dhaka City Corporation A Z M Shafiqul Islam and other officers concerned were present in the preparatory meeting for the national cleansing.

Token strike observed at filling stations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A token strike for one hour was observed at all petrol pumps in Dhaka Division yesterday in protest against robbery at a number of those, according to a press release of the Petrol Pump Owners Association.

The owners demanded security at petrol pumps and raising the commission on sale of oil.

The strike from 10 am to 11 am was observed peacefully at all filling stations in Dhaka, Naraynganj, Mymensingh, Tangail, Gazipur, Sherpur, Jamalpur and Netrokona districts, the press release said.

DU evening shift

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first time.

The proposal said only about seven per cent of admission seekers get opportunity for higher education at the university due to non-availability of seats.

The American Society of Education will be followed to run the evening shift and the academic year will fall into three semesters -- summer, fall and winter, the proposal said.

The shift will run on revenues earned from students' fees, the proposal added.

"Dhaka University is a full-fledged residential university and we are teaching those who got chances on their merits. There is no need for introducing the second shift when the university is struggling to maintain its standard of education," said Prof. Aminul Islam of the Department of Philosophy.

"The teachers are already overburdened and don't have much time to teach their students properly. Moreover, many teachers are involved with consultancies, which is delaying completion of courses and exams and publishing of results," he said.

Another teacher said, "Like commodities you can't sell higher education to students in exchange for money."

Dr Amirul Islam Talukdar of physics said the proposed shift is absolutely impossible for his department.

The science faculty would not be able to introduce the second shift due to lack of resources, he added.

Pro-Vice Chancellor of the DU Prof. ZN Tahmidia Begum told The Daily Star yesterday that the authorities would introduce the shift only after taking opinions from all departments.

Everything will be discussed in detail and infrastructure, resources and other facilities be ensured before reaching the final decision, she said.

Proshika

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However, they would not be released from the jail due to a detention order.

The District Magistrate's Court, Dhaka on Thursday gave one month's detention to Omar Tareq and Ajharul Haque under the Special Powers Act (SPA).

Dhanmudi police arrested the two on March 11 on charge of anti-state activities.

Meanwhile, the High Court on Saturday asked the government to showcase why the arrest of the two Proshika staff would not be declared illegal.

Accent on greater media role

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Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, former Member of Parliament Abul Kalam Azad, Editor of Protham Alo Matior Rahman, former managing director of Bangladesh Sangbad Songstha Harun Habib, former student leader Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Nilufar Banu, Nasreen Akhter, Borhan Ahmed, Mohammad Saleh Anis Rahman, Moksud Ahmed, Mahmud Hossain, and Noor Mohammad Miazhi Kalam participated in the discussion.

Former MP Abul Kalam Azad observed that the prevailing situation in the country was not comfortable for objective journalism.

He criticised the present government for appointing a person as the minister for information since he was one of the accused in a journalist murder case.

Mahfuz Anam said the media is in a critical position as it has to be commercially viable and at the same time, perform enormous social responsibilities.

"Despite all limitations and impediments the media is totally committed to the democratic form of government," he said adding that there was hardly any media which

did not support democracy.

He put accent on the need for developing skilled human resources in every sector for bringing about sustainable development to survive in the highly competitive world.

Referring to a statement by a famous economist, Kholiquzzaman Ahmad said there would be no famine in a country where two things democracy and a free media exist.

Matior Rahman said in the absence of an effective parliament, media is the only thing which people trust most.

He blamed the political parties for calling hartal and strike, and creating anarchy in the country whenever they remain in the opposition.

Rahman stressed the need for an 'effective democracy' for sustainable development in the country.

Former student leader and now a businessman Mahmudur Rahman said the economic development in the country has been stalled due to lack of timely decision by the government.

Manna also blamed the political leaders for not practicing democracy inside the party. "Democracy exists in casting vote but not in the

party."

Afsan Chowdhury underscored the need for independence of the media for playing a positive role in the society. He also felt the necessity of bringing credibility and accountability to the media.

"Media is asking for transparency in every sector but nobody is asking transparency in the media," Chowdhury said.

Maid jumps

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Fatema told police that she used to confine them in a room and torture them on flimsy grounds.

Sources said the two stayed in a room on the fifth floor of the nine-storied building. They went to the rooftop in the early morning as they found the gate open and first tried to get down using a saree. Failing to do so, they tried to climb down the sewerage pipes and at a stage fell down on the ground. Mamuli died on the spot.

The duty officer at Sutrapur thana said last night they would file a case under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2002.

e-voting in next Indian polls

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personal visit to Dhaka stressed the need for dialogue among these neighbours to share their experiences in resolving the problems.

"There may be many contentious issues before us, and we must settle them through dialogue," Gill said, giving an account of the dialogues held at different times between the political parties and the ECI (Election Commission of India) before finalising election-related decisions.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Gill mentioned the use of violence, money and muscle power, exercise of executive influences and participation of undesired people in national elections through legal loopholes as being the most common phenomena hindering the growth of democracy in developing nations.

During the hour-long interview, the former Indian bureaucrat who served the Election Commission for eight years since 1993 and retired in 2001 as Chief Election Commissioner of the world's largest democracy, talked about the measures he had taken for neutral elections, the difficulties he had faced in conducting three national and other state elections, the authority vested in the ECI by the Indian constitution and the prospect of democracy in Bangladesh.

"We do not allow anyone to contest the polls if he has a proven record of misdeeds," he noted, adding that India has been struggling to keep such people from the election process as it is very difficult to identify them.

Admitting of some 'isolated' incidents of poll-related violence in

some pockets of some of the Indian states, he however said that the Indian people generally behaved democratically.

"Politicians in India meet on every national events and talk to each other despite their differences. They also participate in parliamentary debates to settle disputes."

Citing the example of leading Indian politicians gathering at one table on the 50-year anniversary of the ECI in 2001, he said, "It was the celebration and affirmation of Indian democracy."

About the democracy in Bangladesh, he said it had a bright prospect and uttered the age-old proverb "What Bengal thinks today, India thinks tomorrow."

Referring to democratic practices across the globe including India, he said politicians must agree on some basic issues, shunning the politics of confrontation.

"Alongside politicians, it is also the responsibility of the people to uphold democracy," he said, urging the quarters concerned to work constructively for the sake of democracy.

Inspired by experiences of the non-party caretaker government in Bangladesh that conducted three national elections in the country fairly successfully, Gill suggested that state level polls in India should be held under a non-party administration to avoid possible influences from the executive.

"I find it a positive step," he said and referred to the first such practice introduced in the Greek parliamentary system. In the Indian setting, the state governor would

head the administration while the election commission would supervise the polls to ensure that they are held in a free and fair manner.

Asked how the ECI maintains neutrality in holding the national and state elections, Gill said the Indian constitution vested power in the ECI to act in whatever manner it sees fit to make the administration neutral before the polls. In line with the constitutional provisions and the Representation of People Order, it also takes necessary measures in this regard.

Besides, the political parties, the press and the Indian people assist the ECI in holding the election neutrally, he said. Usually, the ECI holds meeting with all registered political parties and discusses elaborately the election issues to ensure a level playing field among the political quarters.

"Neutrality is to be judged by the people and parties concerned," he said terming the people and parliament as supreme.

However, unlike in Bangladesh, the Indian authorities never deployed the military in maintaining law and order during polls. "Army should not be involved in election security, they have other functions to do," said Gill.

Gill refrained from making any comment on the controversies raised by the Awami League after its October 1 election debacle.

Submarine cable

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cable consortium called the 'South East Asia-Middle East-West Europe' or SEA-ME-WE 4.

Expected to be ready for service by the first quarter of 2004, the SEA-ME-WE 4 with a capacity of 1.28 terabits per second would provide each member country with a capacity of 20 gigabits per second. Cost of SEA-ME-WE 4 would be about US\$600 to 720 million, which would be equally shared by the member countries. Thus, the cost to each country joining this submarine cable consortium would be about 50-60 million US dollars.

The SEA-ME-WE 4 cable would be laid from Singapore to UK via Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Italy and France. These countries would have direct link with the USA either via transatlantic or transpacific cables.

In the event of an accidental cable cut at any point of the SEA-ME-WE 4, the consortium would share the restoration cost. During repair, call traffic of the SEA-ME-WE 4 would be diverted through SEA-ME-WE 3, another network of the same consortium, which has connected 33 Eurasian countries.

Bangladesh failed to join the SEA-ME-WE 3 cable consortium in the early 1990s due to the then BNP government's indecision. As a result, the country was left out of the global high-speed network while the neighbours tapped that opportunity to reap the benefits.

"Membership in the SEA-ME-

WE 3 consortium has enabled India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to drastically reduce their international call charges without incurring financial loss," said a highly placed source at the BTBB.

On the contrary, international call charges and bandwidth prices will still remain higher despite rolling out submarine cables like the BSCN. "Free landing in 14 major Eurasian countries through the SEA-ME-WE 4 is a far superior advantage than that of TyCom or Alcatel's BSCN proposals," clarified the BTBB official.

Elephant

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One wildlife expert observed that instead of killing the animal, there should be an assessment by wildlife biologists and elephant experts towards figuring out whether it has really gone rogue or is carrying the wound.

If the animal is carrying its wound in its chained leg it should be captured, treated and rehabilitated to its habitat in Rajnagar so that it makes no attempt to attack people and human habitat again.

Elephants once abounded the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). With the decline of their natural habitat following widespread deforestation and human encroachment the number of elephants are on the decline.

One estimate carried out in the late 1980s put the number of elephants in the CHT and its surrounding areas at some 450.