

INDO-BANGLADESH DIALOGUE

Greater political will needed to achieve regional cooperation

Says Indian vice-president

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, *New Delhi*

Indian Vice-President Hamid Ansari has called on India and Bangladesh to demonstrate greater political will to help achieve true regional cooperation.

Inaugurating a seminar on 'Politics and Security' as part of Indo-Bangladesh dialogue on Monday, he said system constraints and delivery mechanism came in the way of achieving regional cooperation and greater political will is necessary on this front.

Ansari pointed out that there were about 40 instrumentalities for dialogue between India and Bangladesh on matters of common concern. "The missing element

there is sufficient political will," he added.

The vice-president, a former diplomat, said the paradigm of security and politics has been state-centric for long. The state was at the centre of the discourse. All politics revolved around it and was judged in terms of the interests of the state as defined by the wielders of state power.

Experience, however, demonstrated the limitations of this approach, he said, adding that 'sheer necessity' has now brought into focus the two new paradigms.

The first, at the sub-national and micro level, is the concept of human security and the second, at the supra-national and macro level, is the quest for solutions to problems of human security which

transcend national boundaries, necessitating regional cooperation and structures imperative for its realisation, Ansari said.

"We have to admit that the traditional paradigm of politics and security has reached an impasse. The imperative of survival calls for an alternate approach," Ansari said and called upon the participants of the seminar to respond to the challenge -- for the common good of the peoples of the two countries.

He said the Indo-Bangladesh Dialogue has been in progress now for over a decade and, more importantly, has retained its autonomous character and has brought together persons of diverse political persuasions and intellectual backgrounds.

"It is a credible manifestation of

civil society interaction between two countries," he added.

Citing a UNDP Human Development Report for 1994, Ansari said it had identified freedom from fear and freedom from want as two interdependent principal components of human security and both concepts are people-centered.

Ansari said if the definition of security is to be expanded, it would include the full range of human rights, full access to education and health care, good governance, economic options and opportunities for leading their lives to their full potential and with dignity, with freedom from vulnerability, want and hunger.



PHOTO: STAR

Gono Forum presidium member Pankaj Bhattacharya, *extreme right*, speaks at an informal meeting of the party leaders at its office in the city yesterday.

Tarique's aide arrested

UNB, Dinajpur

A close aide to detained BNP Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman was arrested yesterday at Mathurapur village under Chirir Bandar upazila of the district.

Acting on a tip-off, the law enforcers raided the house of Hafizur Rahman, assistant private secretary to Tarique Rahman, at around 4:00pm and arrested him.

Accused in a number of extortion and cheating cases, Hafiz remained fugitive since the present caretaker government assumed power on January 11, police said.

Arrest warrant

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Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu and former deputy minister for land Ruhul Kuddus Talukder Dulu were shown arrested in connection with a case filed for killing Babu of Natore district.

SALIMUL CASE
Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court issued the arrest warrant against Salimul Haq following a plea by the investigation officer (IO) in a Tk 1 crore bribery case.

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Assistant Director Ashraful Islam, also the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet against detained former state minister for communications Salahuddin Ahmed and Salimul Haq to the court of Dhaka's chief metropolitan magistrate (CMM) on Monday.

The ACC filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station on May 29 this year alleging that they took Tk 1 crore in bribe from Mir Zahir Hossain, owner of a construction firm, in exchange for winning a work order for his business.

Salimul, also chairman of Econo Ball Pen Industries Limited, has been hiding since the case was filed. **AKHTER'S WIFE CASE**
The same court yesterday issued arrest warrant against Nazneen Banu, wife of detained Akhter Hossain, following a prayer submitted by the IO of a case filed for amassing wealth through illegal means.

Syed Iqbal Hossain, deputy director of the ACC and also the IO, submitted the charge sheet against Akhter and his wife to the CMM's Court of Dhaka.

Nazneen has been absconding since the case was filed. On May 31, ACC Assistant Director Mahbubul Alam lodged the case for concealing information of wealth worth over Tk 2.23 crore in their statements submitted to the ACC.

ERSHAD CASES
Judge Malik Abdullah Al Amin of the Special Court for Dhaka Division recorded statements of three prosecution witnesses in two graft cases filed against Ershad and set September 30 and October 3 for next hearing of the cases.

In the first case, it was alleged that Ershad and AKM Mosharrar Hossain, former chairman of Bangladesh Shilpa Bank, abusing power and through corruption, directed the authorities concerned to remit Tk 35 lakh loan taken by M/S Three Star Poultry Farm Limited on September 4, 1979.

According to the second case filed in 1992 Ershad, while in power, allegedly directed the authorities concerned to purchase ENG (electronic news-gathering) equipment worth about Tk 2.93 crore to be used by him and his wife through all broadcasting facilities were available in his secretariat.

Ershad along with party leaders and activists were present at the court during the hearing. Mosharrar was also produced before the court.

DULU, MINU CASE
A third class magistrate's court passed the order following a petition for showing Minu and Dulu arrested in the case, our staff correspondent in Rajshahi reported. Monwar Hossain Babu of Chalk Sarkutia village at Naldanga of Natore was killed on April 1, 2004 in Bagmara by the executed JMB leader Siddikul Islam Bangla Bhui and other militants.

NAZIMUDDIN CASE
A court in Bhola issued an arrest warrant against former lawmaker Nazimuddin Alam and 25 others yesterday in connection with a case filed for attacking the house of an Awami League (AL) leader in 2001, UNB reported.

According to the prosecution, the former lawmaker and others allegedly attacked the house of AL leader Hasan Mintu after the 2001 election.

Lift ban on indoor politics outside city

Demand CPB, Gono Forum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and Gono Forum yesterday demanded the government should lift ban on indoor politics outside the capital.

Hailing the decision to relax ban on indoor politics that allows holding political programmes in the capital, leaders of the two political parties yesterday demanded the right to conduct political activities in other parts of the country.

With President Monjurul Ahsan Khan in the chair, CPB leaders at a meeting at the party office yesterday said democracy is 'not a matter of the capital' or any political party.

CPB leaders demanded right to hold rallies on consideration that political parties need to hold talks with all party members and conscious people across the country to decide party stance on electoral reforms.

Gono Forum leaders urged the government to lift ban on indoor politics at district and thana levels.

Pankaj Bhattacharya presided over the Gono Forum meeting where the leaders also asked the

government for taking steps for rehabilitation of the flood victims.

One held for demanding toll

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Police yesterday arrested a man for demanding toll from a garment factory owner.

Sources said Karim, 30, had been issuing death threats to Iqbal Hossain, owner of Fuji Sweater, for the last six months.

In this connection, Iqbal filed a general diary with the local police station.

However, on Monday, Karim told Iqbal over cellphone that the latter's son will be abducted and killed if he doesn't pay the former Tk 6 lakh.

Later, Iqbal and his friends came to know that Karim used to make this calls from a shop. According to the information received from the shop owner, police picked Karim from Chanmari area.

Police said Karim was a worker of Fuji Sweater and was sacked few days back. Being aggrieved, he issued such threats, they added.

Govt mulls relaxing sentence

FROM PAGE 1

at information ministry. Mainul said that the government is contemplating enactment of the law, but he did not elaborate further.

On the latest amendment to a provision of the Emergency Power Rules (EPR) 2007 that allowed the co-accused in corruption cases to seek bail, the law adviser said that the step was taken on humanitarian grounds.

"We earlier introduced the provision of not granting bail in order to dispose the cases in shortest possible time. We admit it was a strict law," Mainul said.

Considering that the families of the arrested accused were on the verge of destruction, the government took the step in allowing bail to the co-accused, he added.

Now the co-accused including wife, child under 18 years, unmarried daughter, mother, mother-in-law and sister of the main accused can seek bail before the trial court.

In such instances, the court or tribunal concerned can exercise its power to grant bail by explaining

appropriate reasons in writing.

The co-accused who have already been convicted will be able to appeal in the High Court from now on.

"Now that the amendment has been done, the High Court, dealing such petitions, does not need to worry about any barriers," Mainul said adding that they are happy to bring such an amendment.

The latest amendment of the Emergency Power Rules 2007 empowers the government or the Anti-Corruption Commission to transfer any scheduled criminal case under the EPR from courts of Sessions Judge, Magistrate or Special Tribunal to the Special Judge's court.

It also allows the government to introduce any administrative measure by gazette notification in aid of inquiry of any offence, investigation, trial or other functions.

A gazette notification on the amendment was published on Monday night, which will take retrospective effect from January 12, 2007.

Navy chief distributes relief

Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam yesterday visited Sandwip and Mohechkhal to observe various activities of the naval contingents and distributed relief among the tornado-affected people, says an ISPR press release.

Eleven contingents of Bangladesh Navy are deployed in various islands and coastal belt of Bangladesh as a part of the joint forces with a view to upgrading the law and order situation in the country and assisting the civil administration of the caretaker government.

During the visit, the Navy chief participated at a discussion with the government officials and local elites where he was informed about the present condition of the areas.

The Navy chief expressed his satisfaction over the success of naval contingents in the field of upgrading law and order situation, anti-corruption activities, anti-smuggling operations, distribution of VGF cards, housing project and jatka operations.

Later, he distributed relief materials, including rice, dal, bread, biscuits, oressaline, candle/match box, etc among the poor and tornado-affected people there.

Commodore Commanding Chittagong Commodore Imam Hossain was also present during the visit.

New Sparro satellite ground station opens

A new satellite ground station of Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organisation (Sparro) was inaugurated on Monday, says an ISPR release.

Defence Secretary Kamrul Hasan inaugurated the station at a programme at the Sparro auditorium in the city as the chief guest. Chinese Ambassador Zheng Qing Dian was present as special guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Kamrul Hasan said the Digital Video Broadcast via Satellite (DVB-S) system received through Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organisation (APSCO) would be very useful in conducting analytical and qualitative research using the real time images from FY-2C satellite of China.

Proper utilisation of the system can help mitigate the damage caused by disasters and avoid economic loss, he said.

'Do not sign anti-people deal with IMF'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference urged the government not to sign any agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that goes against the interests of the nation.

The government should carefully study every detail of any deals with IMF before taking final decision on them, they added.

Equity and Justice Working Group (EJWG) organised the press conference titled 'Review all agreements with IMF to ensure transparency' at the National Press Club in the city on Monday.

Rezaul Karim, executive director of COAST, said that once a country enters into a deal with IMF for loans, it has to follow IMF prescriptions.

Referring to a number of studies, he said that economic conditions of the countries that entered into deals with IMF are not at all satisfactory.

Chief Executive Officer of Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication AHM Bazlur Rahman and Aminur Rasul Babul also spoke.



PHOTO: ISPR

Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam distributes relief among the tornado-affected people at Sandwip and Mohechkhal yesterday.

Stop wars against humanity

Speakers call at discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a memorial discussion yesterday called for stopping wars against humanity across the world.

They also demanded withdrawal of foreign troops from Iraq to help end war in that country.

The discussion was organised jointly by Global Combat Against Terrorism (GCAT) and National Heritage Foundation Bangladesh on the eve of the 6th anniversary of the terrorist attack on different targets in the United States on September 11, 2001.

Including six Bangladeshi expatriates, a total of 3000 people from 23 countries died in the attack.

A one-minute silence was observed at the programme to show respect to the slain people.

Taking part in the discussion at a city hotel, Chief Executive Officer of GCAT Mohammad Zahurul Haque said Islam is a religion of peace.

He said the objective of his organisation is to let the world know that the people of Bangladesh are peace loving and Islam is the religion of peace.

After September 11, the world has changed a lot, Zahurul said, adding that the incidents of suspicion among the peoples have risen alarmingly.

GCAT President Zafar Hossain

Khan and Senior Member of National Heritage Foundation of Bangladesh Saifur Rahman Khan were present at the programme where some video clips on the attacks were shown.

Domestic help dies after falling from 10th floor in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A domestic help died after falling down from a high-rise residential building in the city on Monday evening.

Rashida Begum, 12, worked at the apartment of one Shirin Ahmed on the 10th floor of Golf Heights in Banani.

Police said Rashida fell from the balcony adjacent to the kitchen.

Shirin filed an unnatural death (UD) case with the Gulshan Police Station.

Meanwhile, another domestic help was injured falling from the fourth floor of a six-storey building while attempting to commit suicide.

Asma Akhter, 17, has been working for two years at the house of Engineer Dewan Rasul Khan Dipu at Sector 7 of Uttara.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Chittagong, Barisal, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy rainfalls are also likely at places over Chittagong, Barisal, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions, Met Office said in a forecast predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Ishwardi and lowest 22.6 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:06pm today and rises at 5:44am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in	
	in celsius		percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.7	24.5	89	92
Chittagong	29.0	24.7	89	93
Rajshahi	33.4	25.0	96	85
Khulna	32.5	26.6	92	92
Barisal	32.7	26.0	93	88
Sylhet	31.7	25.3	89	80
Cox's Bazar	29.2	22.6	97	95

GRAFT CASES AGAINST HASINA HC hearing on petitions on Sept 23

UNB, Dhaka

A separate division bench of the High Court yesterday fixed September 23 for the hearing of long-pending petitions seeking quashment of three more graft cases, including the frigate-purchase scam, against detained former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and others.

The division bench, headed by Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury, fixed the date after receiving the September 9 orders of another similar division bench delisting the petitions filed by Hasina and five others seeking quashment of the graft cases.

BSF kills one

OUR CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabganj

Indian Border Security force (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi fisherman and injured another near Masudpur frontier under Shibganj upazila of the district on Monday night.

The dead was identified as Selim Reza, 25, son of Entaj Ali, while the injured is Chandu Mia, 35, son of Osman Ali of Baludungi village under the upazila.

BDR sources said the Indian border guards of Padma Char camp opened fire on a group of fishermen while they were fishing in the Padma at around 8:30pm on Monday, killing Selim on the spot and injuring Chandu.

Another fisherman named Sonu Mia, 25, son of Hanif Sardar of the village, remained missing as of 6:00pm yesterday.

Shibganj police recovered Selim's body and sent it to Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital Morgue for autopsy. Bullet-hit Chandu was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

BDR yesterday sent a protest note to its Indian counterpart.

Bidisha can fly abroad as HC removes bar

UNB, Dhaka

Bidisha, ex-wife of former military ruler HM Ershad, now can fly abroad as the High Court yesterday set aside a magistrate's court order restricting her from leaving the country until the money laundering case she faces is resolved.

A division bench, comprising Justice Sharif Uddin Chaklader and Justice M Emdadul Huq, delivered the judgment following a long-pending petition filed by Bidisha, 40, now on bail, challenging the imposed order of the magistrate.

On June 16, 2005, a case was filed against Bidisha, also a fashion designer, on charge of money laundering minutes after she was granted bail in three criminal cases since her arrest.

She was arrested on June 4, 2005 in an adultery case filed by her estranged husband Ershad, a day after she was divorced.

Bidisha was accused of laundering Tk 21 crore in local and foreign currencies.

Then officer-in-charge of Gulshan Police Station Noor-e-Alam filed the case against Bidisha under the Money Laundering Act.

The case is now pending with lower court.

Bidisha, although separated, has recently started living in a multistoried apartment, President's Park, presented by her ex-husband in the city's posh area of Gulshan. Ershad is also residing there, but on a separate floor.

Oil tanker catches fire at Ctg Dry Dock

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

MT Banglar Sourabh, a state-owned oil tanker, caught fire at the Chittagong Dry Dock yesterday.

Fire fighters managed to extinguish the fire after a 30-minute effort, sources said.

Fire Service sources said the fire originated from a spark during repair work at the pump house of oil tanker, owned by the Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, at the dry dock near Gupta canal at about 4:30pm.

On information, fire fighters rushed to the spot and tamed the flame.

Kamrul Alam Rabbani, managing director of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, visited the spot. He said the fire could be brought under control because of timely steps.

A probe body, headed by AHM Mamun, general manager (Ship Repair) of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation was formed to investigate the incident.

Earlier, the oil tanker was seriously damaged after catching fire at the Charley (C) point of the outer anchorage of Chittagong port on June 24 last year.

NU master's exam results published

National University (NU) published the results of master's final examination-2004 in Arabic, Pali, Sanskrit, library and information science, history, Islamic studies, Islamic history, psychology, soil science, geography, biochemistry, statistics, home economics, marketing and finance on Monday, says a press release.

Results of other subjects will be published in phases. Copies of published results have been sent to respective colleges. The results are also available on the National University website (www.nu.edu.bd).

Obituary



Mashukur Rahman Pratik, senior executive officer of Channel i, passed away at a city hospital on Monday due to a brain stroke at the age of 35,

says a press release.

Pratik left behind his wife, a one-year-old daughter, his mother and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

Channel i family expressed deep shock at his untimely death and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

Pratik was the producer of Jugantor Sangbadpore Bangladesh (Bangladesh in Newspapers) and coordinator of Grameenphone Ajker Sangbadpata (Today's Newspapers).

He was buried at Azimpur grave-

yard. His quikhwani would be held at Channel i office at Siddheshwari in the city after Zohr prayers tomorrow.

His relatives and family members are requested to attend the programme to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Hosna Ara Chowdhury



Hosna Ara Chowdhury, mother of former Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) general secretary Mahabubul Alam, died

yesterday at the age of 74, says a press release.

She breathed her last at around 8:30 am at the Apollo Hospitals after long sufferings from cancer.

She left behind her three sons and two daughters to mourn her death. She was buried at the Banani graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at the Old DOHS Mosque.

Her quikhwani will be held tomorrow at the Old DOHS community centre.

The BCB consoled her death and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family. It also prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Death anniversary



Today is the 18th death anniversary of Dr Nazma Jasmine Chowdhury, says a press release.

Dr Nazma, wife of Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, was a teacher at the Institute of Modern Language (IML) at Dhaka University and founder of Dhaka Little Theatre.

On this occasion, a memorial lecture will be held at IML auditorium. This year Prof Ahmed Kabir of Bangla department would deliver the lecture.

Her family would also distribute food at Mirpur Ahsania Mission Women's Madrasa today.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar

Waste Concern organises a seminar on 'Cleaner production using environment management system'. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 3:00pm.

Orientation

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organises an orientation on 'Gender sensitivity: Key to prevent violence against women'. Venue: YWCA auditorium, Iqbal Road. Time: 10:30am.

Book launch

The launching ceremony of a novel titled 'Choirto Paban O Diganta Rekha', authored by Masud Ahmed and published by Maola Brothers, will be held. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: