

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.

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 Khaademul 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'awabganj

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 Entak 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 H.M. 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 impugned 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.



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

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 Dip at Sector 7 of Uttara.

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