

# Foster close ties with India

## Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday said all kinds of relationships, including political, social, cultural, economic and diplomatic ones, and cooperation between Bangladesh and India will have to be built up even for the own benefits and interests of Bangladesh.

"India is not only a big neighbour, but also a tested friend of Bangladesh. We cannot be benefited keeping a distance with India. Relationships and cooperation between the two neighbours will have to be strengthened changing the mindset that the security and sovereignty of Bangladesh won't be hampered if India is given transit facilities," they added.

The speakers were addressing a roundtable on 'Bangladesh-India Economic Cooperation' organised by Bangladesh-India Citizens' Council (BICC) at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

Presided over by former secretary Mostafa Faruk Mohammad, the meeting was addressed by Workers' Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon, Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, Abul Kalam Azad Patwari, BICC Member Secretary Abir Ahad, Dr RM Debnath, former secretary Md Mahe Alam, former additional secretary RN Trivedi, Maj Gen (ret'd) Jamil D Ahsan, Zafar Iqbal Siddique, Monoranjan Ghosal, advocate Habibur Rahman, Nurun Nahar Mary, Jayashri Zaman and Mehedi Hassan.

Supreme Court lawyer Muhammad Mohsen Rashid presented a written statement at the programme.

Rashed Khan Menon said the political leadership will have to come forward changing their mindset to build up confidence between Bangladesh and India.

"A vested quarter raises question of security and sovereignty

when the issues of giving transit or transshipment to India are discussed. Those, who talk more against India, maintain more trade relationship with India. The quarter does so for political gains in elections," he added.

Rashed Khan Menon said the problems between Bangladesh and India are political and those will have to be solved politically, adding that the mutual exchanges between the citizens of both the countries will have to be enhanced for making friendly and confidential relationships.

Prof Arefin Siddique said initiatives should be taken to build up a relationship of vibrant cooperation with India in order to keep pace with the economic development of the country.

"We have wasted a lot of time to achieve gains from India, since a quarter always opposes the good relationships with India for their political interests," he said.

Prof Siddique further said Bangladeshi labourers have been

forced to leave the Middle Eastern countries, but the embassies of Bangladesh are not assisting them.

Advocate Muhammad Mohsin Rashid said trade ties between the two countries have also been constrained due to lack of transshipment facilities between Bangladesh and India.

"If such facilities are granted, trade relationship between India and its own North East can become a major source of revenue income for Bangladesh. For example, tea from Assam travels 1,400 kilometres to the Kolkata port whereas the distance can be curtailed by 60 percent if access to Chittagong port is available," he added.

He further said the aims of cooperation among the South Asian countries in general and between India and Bangladesh in particular should be to use the available resources optimally to provide maximum welfare in the whole region.



Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh holds talks with Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed during a meeting in Colombo yesterday. South Asian leaders opened a summit in Colombo focusing on spurring regional economic cooperation as raised tensions between India and Pakistan dampened hopes for any big progress. (Story on Page 16)

## DU students stage hunger strike for release of BCL leader

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University students staged a daylong hunger strike in front of the vice chancellor's (VC) office on the campus yesterday demanding immediate release of BCL general secretary Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Roton.

The students started the hunger strike at around 11:00am under the banner of 'Manabdhikar Sachetan Shikharthirinda' (human rights-conscious students).

The joint forces arrested Roton, a student of Health Economics Institute of DU, from the campus on January 16 last year.

DU BCL president Sohail Rana Tipu and general secretary Sazzad Saqib Badsha and acting BCL general secretary Syed Abul Kalam and vice president Tarek Al Mamun joined the hunger strike programme.

The students had decided to continue the strike up to 11:00 am today but withdrew their programme at around 10:45pm yesterday after Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz assured them of taking steps to release Roton soon.

Earlier, talking to The Daily Star, DU BCL president Tipu said, "We have repeatedly urged the VC to take immediate steps on behalf of the university to release Roton. But he is yet to take any effective measures in this regard."

He also said the BCL would launch a tough movement if the demand goes unheeded.

In the afternoon, Social science faculty Dean Prof Harun-ur-Rashid expressed solidarity with the BCL activists.

## BNP ready to talk release of Khaleda

### Delwar tells caretaker govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday said his party is ready to sit with the caretaker government if it agrees to hold talks over the release of their party Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

"We are yet to receive any proposal from the government about the release of our party chairperson. No discussion was held with the government on the matter," Delwar told reporters after a joint party meeting at his Nam flat in the capital.

He demanded declaring May 30, on which party's founder Ziaur Rahman was assassinated, as 'national mourning day' and also observ-

ing November 7 a public holiday.

He said unity will be brought in the party following directions from the party chief.

"We might have different opinions but we shall remain united," the BNP secretary general added.

BNP has taken elaborate programmes to observe its 30th founding anniversary on September 1.

Meanwhile, BNP chairperson's adviser ASM Hannan Shah yesterday said only Khaleda Zia can bring unity in the party.

Mannan Bhuiyan was responsible for causing rift in the party but he later realised his mistake, Shah told journalists at the grave of Ziaur Rahman.

## Two murdered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A sexagenarian woman was hacked to death allegedly by her mentally disordered son while an unidentified person was shot dead in the city last night.

Police arrested Shah Alam, 28, from his North Peerbagh residence last night for killing his mother Abedo Begum, 62. Police sent her body to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Mirpur police said they arrested Shah Alam and recovered a sharp weapon from his possession which he used to kill Abedo.

Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) sources said the body bore

marks of stab injuries in her neck.

Family members of the deceased said Shah Alam was tied up and kept confined to a room for the last seven days from where he managed to come out last night and then hacked her mother to death.

Meanwhile, a gang of unidentified armed criminals shot dead an identified man under Khilgaon Flyover, police said.

Motijheel police said they recovered the body aged about 38-year-old from under the flyover at around 11:30pm and sent it to DMCH morgue for autopsy.

DMCH sources said the body bore marks of bullet injuries.

## Biman aircraft suffers technical glitches for 2nd time in 2 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Boeing 747-300 aircraft of Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd suffered technical glitches on Friday at the Dubai International Airport a day after it faced similar trouble in Jeddah.

On Thursday, Biman's Dhaka-bound flight from Jeddah was delayed for about 20 hours due to hydraulic failure of the same aircraft.

Biman leased the aircraft from a Thai airline on June 2 for a year to minimise flight disruption.

The aircraft remained grounded for a day due to technical problems about 15 days ago, Biman sources said.

"The Dhaka-bound flight left the Dubai Airport at about 8:00am Friday (Bangladesh Standard Time). But it had to return to the airport following a fire warning from its internal system, which was later proved false," a Biman high-up told The Daily Star last night.

After a while, the aircraft tried to take off, but failed due to technical glitches, the official said adding that the stranded passengers were flown to Dhaka by another flight.

The aircraft was scheduled to leave for Dhaka at 9:00pm yesterday about 30 hours behind schedule, Biman sources said.

"The Boeing 747-300 plane that Biman leased from Orient Thai is having technical problems repeatedly," the official said, adding that they will face problems in operating hajj flights if the aircraft is dogged by technical glitches.

Airport sources said Biman had to reschedule its Kuala Lumpur-bound flight twice as the Boeing 747-300 could not reach Dhaka in time.

The flight, originally scheduled at 10:00pm Friday, had been rescheduled at 8:00pm yesterday. Later, the schedule was changed again, airport sources added.

## New DMP traffic system to stop harassment, ease jam in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the view to curbing the traffic harassment and diabolical jam in the city, the traffic department of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday started a new traffic management system under its innovative 'traffic guidelines'.

The new traffic management system was launched through a workshop on 'To Stop Traffic Harassment' at Rajarbagh Police Line auditorium focusing the newly formulated traffic guidelines.

DMP Commissioner Naim Ahmed at the workshop said the traffic personnel would no more stop any vehicle here and there on the road for prosecution obstructing the movement of other transports.

"The target of the traffic police is not to file cases against the vehicles but to make the traffic movement smoother and to stop the harassment of the people by curbing the traffic jam," DMP commissioner said.

Naim further said strict action will also be taken against those vehicles which will create artificial jam obstructing others by parking here and there on the road, adding that if any policeman is found involved in obstructing the transport movement, they will also be punished.

The traffic department identified 17 types of traffic harassments, 17 causes of traffic harassment and 30 ways to protect the city commuters from the traffic harassment.

## Appeal for help

METRO DESK

Jamaluddin Tipu, a young staffer at National University, has been suffering from deadly aplastic anaemia, says a press release.

Now admitted to Vellore Missionary Hospital in India, he needs an urgent bone marrow transplant to save his life.

It will cost him around Tk 1 crore which is quite impossible for him to arrange.

So he has appealed to well-off people of the society for financial assistance.

Contributions can be sent to Dr Mahmud Hasan Khan, Account No 11431/6, Islami Bank, Dhanmondi Branch, Satmasjid Road, Dhaka.



Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad speaks at a seminar on 'Necessity of reform of police act for national development' at Bangladesh Economic Association office in the city yesterday. On his right is IGP Nur Mohammad and on his left are former adviser to a caretaker government ASM Shahjahan and NBK Tripura. Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad organised the event.

## Promulgate police ordn to remove cop-people gap

### Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad yesterday stressed the need for promulgating and implementing the Bangladesh Police Ordinance 2007 to remove the gap between people and police and enable the law enforcers to become friends of people instead of a source of panic.

Speaking as the chief guest at a seminar titled 'Necessity of Reform of the Police Act for National Development', he said police are functioning under an outdated act enacted during the British colonial

days and therefore there is no alternative to promulgating the ordinance to make police more transparent, professional and accountable to people.

Organised by Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP), the seminar was held at the Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) auditorium in the city. Former adviser to a caretaker government ASM Shahjahan, also a former IGP, was the keynote speaker with BUP Chairman and BEA President Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad in the chair.

Former secretaries Syed Yusuf Hossain, Mostafa Faruk Mohammad and Abdul Karim, professors Ashraf Uddin Chowdhury and Dalem Chandra Burman, Brig (Retd) Shahidul Enam Khan and Syed Habib Ullah also spoke at the seminar.

Nur Mohammad said the police force is functioning under the outdated Police Act 1861 where there is no place for such words as community, democracy, constitution, media and human rights.

Shahjahan said the Police Act 1861 was enacted four years after

the Sepoy Revolution to clamp down on any sort of demonstration.

"This Act is very good for exercising control, but not for service and development," he added.

Criticising the present caretaker government for not implementing the proposed Police Ordinance he said, "We do not know why they do not implement it though they had implemented many other ordinances without consultation."

Shahjahan urged the government to implement the proposed Police Ordinance before handing over power to an elected government.

Dr Kholiquzzaman said the present government did many things, which they were not supposed to do while they did not do many things which they should have done.

"After the handover of power, the government will have to be accountable for those works which were out of their jurisdiction," he said, adding, "The government should implement the proposed Police Ordinance before handing over their power."

## Country's existence to be at stake if JS polls not held by Dec

### Says Jamir Uddin Sircar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar yesterday said the existence of the country will be at stake if the parliament election is not held by December.

"The country is bound to fall deeper into crisis if the present caretaker government (CG) fails to handover power to an elected government through holding the parliament election by December next," said Sircar while addressing as chief guest a discussion in the city.

The discussion titled 'Bangladesh in Crisis of Existence' was organised by Peshajibi Parishad at the National Press Club.

Terming the present government irregular one, the Speaker said the CG has no right to hold local government polls before the parliament election.

"Caretaker government can do only routine work, it has no right to take policy level decision ignoring the constitution. The country's existence will be threatened if the constitution continues to be violated," he said.

The Speaker said the present CG has promulgated many ordinances crossing its jurisdiction but no ordinance will be ratified by next parliament except election-related ordinances.

He said the duty of the CG was to hold general election within three months and then handover the power to an elected government.

Sircar said it is not legal to put anyone under remand alleging corruption.

Columnist Farhad Mazhar said the sovereignty of the country is now under threat.

He urged all to come forward for protecting the nation through a mass movement.

Former energy adviser Mahmudur Rahman who presided over the discussion called for withdrawal of emergency as early as possible.

President of Dhaka University Teachers' Association Prof Sadrul Amin and former vice-chancellor Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Prof Ali Murtuza also took part in the discussion.

## Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the 9th death anniversary of Prof Mohammad Faruque, former chairman of the Bengali department at Jahangirnagar University and former head of the Bengali Department at Karachi University, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani, milad mahfil and special prayers will be held in a mosque and foods will be distributed in orphanages and among the destitute.

## DHAKA

### Lecture

Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury National Memorial Council organises a lecture on 'Rule of law and democratic values: Perspective Bangladesh' marking Abu Sayeed Chowdhury's 20th death anniversary. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 4:30pm.

### Photo exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of International inter-university photography exhibition will be held. Venue: Shilpakala Academy. Time: 10:00am. North South University will organise the week-long event.

### Audio release

Sangeeta will organise the launching ceremony of solo audio album of artist Konok Chapa. Venue: Shilpakala Academy auditorium. Time: 6:00pm.

## Birth anniversary of Bazlur Rahman today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 68th birth anniversary of Bazlur Rahman, a prominent journalist and the late editor of the daily Sangbad, says a press release.

Born at Baneshwari village in Nakla, Sherpur, in 1941, he started his journalism career in the Sangbad in 1961 after obtaining his master's degree in economics from Dhaka University.

A freedom fighter, Bazlur Rahman also served in BSS and the Press Council.

On the occasion of his birth anniversary, Bazlur Rahman Foundation will hold a discussion and a cultural programme at Kachi Kanchar Mela auditorium at Segun Bagicha in the city at 5:00pm.

Folklore researcher Samsuzzaman Khan and journalist Muniruzzaman will take part in the discussion.

Sangbad staffs and Bazlur Rahman Foundation will also place wreaths at his grave at the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard at Mirpur in the morning.



## Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy rainfalls are also likely at places during the period. Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 34.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 24.8 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:40pm today and rises at 5:29am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.9	27.5	66	67
Chittagong	32.3	26.6	76	82
Rajshahi	34.7	26.6	77	78
Khulna	33.0	26.6	75	78
Barisal	32.7	26.5	80	75
Sylhet	31.8	25.2	91	78
Gox's Bazar	31.0	25.6	83	88