Human security now depends on socio-economic factors

Iftekhar tells seminar

UNB, *Dhaka*

Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday said modern notion of human security has shifted from military considerations to social and economic factors.

"The preponderance of human security interests, the focus on poverty, disease and natural disasters have grown. Security threats now come both in 'hard' and 'soft' forms. The response, therefore, must be more calibrated, sophisticated and holistic," he said in a statement at a seminar on "Security of Bangladesh: Contemporary Perspective" at BIISS.

BIIS Chairman Maj Gen (Retd) Moinul Hussain Chowdhury presided over the seminar where Prof Shahiduzzaman of Dhaka University and Ambassador Shahed Akhtar, principal of Foreign Service Academy, presented two keynote papers.

Iftekhar said exposure to violence is not limited to armed conflicts. It is also related to the erosion of state control. This is not just time of failed status. "As the madness of Mumbai showed, even powerful states have been found their capabilities strained in making adequate and appropriate response," he noted.

He reiterated 10-point objectives of the foreign policy that envisages stabilising Bangladesh's relations with her neighbours, including India "with whom we want to live in friendship and concord, but clearly as a distinct entity."

Secondly, he said the country is fostering cooperation within multilateral frameworks; expanding economic cooperation with developed and other developing countries and ensuring duty-free, quota-free access to foreign markets.

Iftekhar focused on exploring new markets for excess manpower and ensuring the well-being of expatriate Bangladeshis; attracting foreign investments and negotiating a favourable trade regime within the WTO.

He said Bangladesh is playing a proactive role within the UN system, supporting peacekeeping and propagating Bangladeshi culture abroad.

"In the pursuit of these objectives, we have created a web of linkages with key global actors, bilaterally and multilaterally," he said, adding "this web is designed to increase the interests and states of other international state actors in us, which goes to buttress our own sense of security."

On the recent issue with Myanmar, Iftekhar said the waters in which Myanmar had placed the gas exploration rig were within maritime territories claimed by Bangladesh. Till the matter was resolved it was only proper that no drilling is done there. On Dhaka's request the Korean Daewoo Company withdrew the rig.

The foreign adviser said: "No relationship would be at the expense of our sovereignty. In this case, we had full faith and confidence in diplomacy, but kept our powder dry."

He said: "We want to be seen by the rest of the world, as what we are, an oasis of stability and peace in an otherwise rather turbulent region, engaged in the domestic task of transforming our society for the better, through homegrown innovative methods related to microcredit, education and women's empowerment."

The adviser said the Global Peace Index described Bangladesh as the most peaceful country in the region. This is no mean achievement.

PHOTO: STAR

Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury speaks at a seminar at BIISS in the city yesterday. On his left are Ambassador Shahed Akhtar, Maj Gen Abu Belal Mohammad Shafiul Huq and Maj Gen (Retd) Moinul Hussain Chowdhury.

Prof Atful joins UGC as member

UNB, *Dhaka*

Prof Dr Atful Hye Shibly of History Department of Rajshahi University yesterday joined the University Grants Commission (UGC) as its full-time member, says a press release.

Prof Atful had served as the pro-vice chancellor of Rajshahi University (RU) and the dean of the National University.

PHOTO: STAR

Army Chief Gen Moeen U Ahmed inaugurates Ranirhat Bridge on Chittagong-Rangamati highway in Rangamati yesterday.

Army always with CHT people

Says Gen Moeen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangamati*

Army Chief Gen Moeen U Ahmed yesterday said the army will always be with the people of Chittagong Hill Tract (CHT) areas for their socio-economic development.

Development is not possible without ensuring a good communication system. That's why, the government has given the charge to the army to maintain smooth communication through construction of new roads and renovate roads, bridges and culverts in the region, he added.

Inaugurating Ranirhat Bridge on Chittagong-Rangamati highway, the army chief said the army men are carrying out these tasks relentlessly.

Terming the CHT a place of different ethnic and Bangalee people, Moeen said around nine lakh people -- both indigenous and Bangalee -- are living peacefully here.

"Rangamati incorporates vast areas where there are huge potential for the socio-economic development of the people. We can take financial benefits through taking development projects in sectors of fisheries, forest and tourism," he added.

He said a total of 15 roads -- four in Rangamati, 10 in Bandarban and the rest one in Cox's Bazar -- are currently being constructed under the Special Works Organisation (SWO).

Engineers Construction Battalion (ECB) is implementing those road development projects. The 130.02-metre bridge at Ranirhat was constructed by ECB-16 at a cost of Tk 8.30 crore.

THREE YEARS OF UDICHI BOMB BLASTS

Relatives yet to get justice

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Netrakona*

December 8 is 'Netrakona Tragedy Day'.

On this day in 2005, nine people were killed and over 50 others including policemen were injured in a suicidal bomb blast by JMB men in front of Udichi office in the town.

Three people, killed on the spot, were Khwaja Haider,38, joint secretary of Netrakona unit of Udichi, Rani Begum,35, wife of a police sub-inspector, and a beggar Joinal, 55.

Six others succumbed to their injuries on way to or at hospital in Netrakona and Mymensingh.

They were Rais Uddin, 35, Achhab Uddin, 40, Jahanara Begum,45, wife of Abdus Samad, Sudipta Paul Shelly, 28, organising secretary of Netrakona Udichi, and one unidentified JMB man.

Though three years have passed, no victims of the blast got any compensation nor any officials visited them.

During a visit to the house of Shahnaz Begum, 30, wife of Khwaja Haider, this correspondent came to know that her family did not get any financial help from the government.

"No minister, even the local deputy commissioner (DC) did not visit my house, " she said.

Shahnaz said she has two children named Siplu, 13, and Saon,5, while her mother-in-law also lives with them.

"We have become helpless after the death of Haider as he was the only earning member of the family" she added.

When asked Shahnaz said, "I do not want any help from the government because of its failure to punish the culprits who were involved in the killing."

Sudipta Paul also was the lone earning member of her family. After her death her old parents Sushil Paul, 65, and Aruna Paul, 55, along with her 'sick' brother have become totally helpless.

They did not get any help from the government, and no government representative came to console them, they added.

During a visit this correspondent found Aruna Paul suffering from disease but unable to buy medicine for want of money.

This correspondent also visited the houses of other victims Rani Begum, Joinal, Raisuddin, Yadav Das and Jahanara and talked to their family members. All of them told similar tales.

On February 17, the Speedy Tribunal Court-2 Dhaka sentenced three suicidal JMB men to death for their involvement in the bomb blast.

They were Salah Uddin, Asaduzzaman and Yunus.

But the verdict was not implemented yet.

On the other hand, police have failed to arrest Yunus.

Khwaja Haider Sudipta Paul Shelly Yadav Das

British envoy meets Nizami

UNB, *Dhaka*

British High Commissioner in Dhaka Stephen Nicolas Evans paid a courtesy call on Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Maulana Matiur Rahman Nizami at the party central office in the city yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to mutual interest.

Assistant General Secretary Mohammad Kamaruzzaman and second secretary of the British High Commission Ion Ryan were also present.

Call to boycott war criminals in polls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

Speakers at a discussion urged the people to boycott the war criminals in the upcoming polls and demanded punishment in the special tribunal.

Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee organised the discussion at Pabna Press Club auditorium on Saturday.

Advocate Amjad Hossain chaired the discussion while Kazi Mukul, secretary of the central committee of the body, spoke as the chief guest.

Rajshahi divisional coordinator of the committee Dr Sayed Shafiqul Alom, former lawmaker Jannatul Ferdaousee, freedom fighter Sirajul Islam Montu, Fazlur Rahman Fantu, and Abdur Rashid Rasu spoke among others in the discussion.

Speakers at the discussion demanded punishment of the war criminals. They also urged all to boycott the war criminals in upcoming polls.

"The war criminals committed heinous crimes during liberation war. Their crimes are unpardonable as they betrayed with the nation." speakers told.

"The war criminals are enemy of our independence. So it is our duty to defeat them in the upcoming polls." the speakers told.

The speakers also demand trial of the war criminals in the special tribunal.

Magura Free Day celebrated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Magura*

Magura Free Day was celebrated yesterday amid various programmes organised by Magura district unit of Muktijoddha Sangsad.

On this day in 1971 people of Magura heaved a sigh of relief as after months of fighting the then sub-division Magura was totally freed from occupation forces.

Pakistan soldiers and their collaborators -- Razaka, Al-Badar and Al-Shams -- fled Magura in the face of joint attack by the members of 'Sreepur Bahini' and allied forces.

In the afternoon of the day, local people took to the streets and rejoiced with chanting slogans 'Joy Bangla', freedom fighters said.

To mark the day Magura Muktijoddha Sangsad organised a colourful rally led by 'Sreepur Bahini' chief Akbar Hossain Mian and its deputy chief Molla Nabuot Ali.

Later, a discussion was held at the premises of Muktijoddha Sangsad with Mian Abdul Halim Miraj in the chair.

PHOTO: BANK ASIA

Recipients of Bank Asia higher studies scholarships from Tarail upazila of Kishoreganj pose for photograph with Syed Anisul Huq, president and managing director of the bank, at Tarail branch on December 6. Earlier, Anisul Huq handed over the scholarship money to the students. Tarail Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Yousof Ali was present as special guest. Bank Asia has given scholarships to 17 meritorious students of Tarail as a part of its corporate social responsibility.

Participants of a workshop on 'Ensuring quality primary education: Our responsibilities' pose for photograph with the guests at Livelihood, Education and Development Services (LEADS) office in the city on December 6. LEADS organised the workshop.

Six get life for killing college student

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

A Barisal court yesterday sentenced six people, including a UP chairman, to life imprisonment for killing a college student at Baufal in Patuakhali.

Judge Rabiul Hassan of Barisal Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal handed down the verdict to Abdul Jalil Khan, chairman of Kanakdia Union Parishad, his brother Md Khasru Khan, Shamim Sharif, Mizanur Rahman Sikder, Liton Sikdar and his brother Al Amin Sikder.

The six were also fined Tk 50,000 each. If they fail to pay, they will have to serve one more year in jail.

However, four other accused were acquitted.

According to the prosecution story, the UP chairman, his brother and their accomplices stabbed Neamul Huq Bashir, 22, a college student, indiscriminately at Jhilna Bazar on October 6 in 1993 as he protested irregularities in the distribution of VGF cards.

The student died at Patuakhali General Hospital the next day.

Satkhira Mukta Dibas observed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Satkhira Mukta Dibas (Liberated Day) was observed in the city yesterday with due respect to the martyrs.

December 7 is a red-letter day in the history of the country's liberation war in 1971. Satkhira was liberated from the Pak occupation forces after a fierce fighting.

Since 1972, the day is being observed as the Satkhira Mukta Dibas.

To mark the day, Satkhira unit command of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad brought out a procession and held a discussion at Shaheed Abdur Razzak Park auditorium with freedom fighter Abul Khair in the chair.

Freedom fighters and leaders of pro-liberation forces called on the people to boycott the war criminals in the next general elections slated for December 29.

War criminals -- Maulana Abdul Khaleque, Maulana Riasat Ali and Gazi Nazrul Islam -- are contesting from Satkhira-2 (Sadar), Satkhira-3 (Assassuni and Debhata and four unions in Kaliganj upazila) and Satkhira-4 (Shyamnagar and eight unions in Kaliganj upazila) constituencies as BNP-led 4-party alliance candidates in the polls, they added.

Freedom fighters Sheikh Abu Nasim Moina, Abdul Gaffar, Abu Bakar Siddique, Subhas Sarkar, Abdur Rouf and MA Khaleque and Saiful Karim Sabu addressed the meeting.

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

ডিপার্টমেন্ট অব কারেন্সী ম্যানেজমেন্ট এন্ড পেমেন্ট সিস্টেমস্

১০০০ টাকা ব্যাংকনোটের উল্লেখযোগ্য নিরাপত্তা বৈশিষ্ট্য

GD-5789
DPP: 48/2008-2121 Date : 04.12..08