

Dhaka to urge Interpol to track down Bangabandhu's killers

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh is to launch a global appeal to track down the fugitive killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as Dhaka joins the 78th annual general meeting of Interpol later this week in Singapore, Home Minister Sahara Khatun said yesterday.

"I will definitely make the appeal to 187 member nations of the international police organisation to track down the fugitive convicts of Bangabandhu Murder Trial and the Jail Killing Case," said Sahara, who will lead a six-member delegation to the conference to be held on October 11-15.

The minister said Dhaka would also reiterate its earlier call urging the foreign nations to extradite the killers and offer extradition of 'most wanted criminals' of other countries.

Officials said this is for the first time home ministers of member countries are joining the annual Interpol conference while its earlier 77 meets were attended by police chiefs of member countries of the international police body having its headquarters in France.

The Bangladesh delegation includes the inspector general of police, additional home secretary and the additional deputy inspector general of police in charge of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

Bangladesh earlier launched a campaign to track down and extradite six fugitive ex-army officers hiding abroad to escape death sentences for the August 15, 1975 assassination of Bangabandhu and his family members.

"The diplomatic maneuvering is underway to return

the convicts home. Bangladesh will do everything necessary to bring the killers to justice," Foreign Minister Dipu Moni last month told BSS ahead of the start of the delayed final appeal hearing of the Bangabandhu Murder Trial.

Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes also said Bangladesh missions abroad were equipped with necessary directives about the fugitives, but declined to comment about their whereabouts or if all of them were tracked down abroad because of the "sensitivity of the issue".

He, however, hinted that necessary intelligence were gathered in some cases to launch the diplomatic maneuvering for their return, saying, "I can assure you, at the end of the day the killers will be brought to justice."

Police said Interpol issued a second "red warrant" in May,

renewing an earlier one to track down the absconding assassins and 1975 plotters after the process for tracking them down was virtually stalled for years during the previous BNP-led regime.

A senior official at the police headquarters preferring anonymity said the United States Homeland Security had already tracked down one of the fugitive convicts in line with the Interpol's global alert while "communications through proper channel" was underway for his return home.

The six absconding convicts are sacked lieutenant colonels Khondokar Abdur Rashid, SHMB Noor Chowdhury, the man who shot Bangabandhu dead along with Huda, Shariful Haque Dalim, Rashed Chowdhury, former captain MA Majed and ex-army risaldar Moslem Uddin.



Children are engrossed in painting at a drawing competition organised by the Bangladesh-China Friendship Centre at the Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University yesterday.

Army member found dead in Sirajganj

UNB, Sirajganj

An army member, accused of killing his wife, was found dead at Mohonpur village in Sadar upazila yesterday.

Local people found the body of Monirul Islam, 32, son of Jahurul Islam of Rupsha village, hanging from a tree in the morning.

On receiving information, the police rushed to the spot and sent the body of Monirul to local hospital morgue.

On Wednesday night, he beat his wife Runa Khatun, 25, to death following a family feud.

The police said Monirul, who was working as a corporal in Comilla cantonment, fled one and a half month ago without taking leave.

Govt wants to build secular state: Minister

BSS, Chittagong

Minister for Social Welfare Enamul Hoque Mostafa Shahid yesterday said the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina wants to build Bangladesh as a secular state attaching equal behaviour to people of all religions.

The minister made a clarification call for extending united support to Prime Minister and Bangabandhu's daughter Sheikh Hasina from people of all walks of life irrespective of caste, creed and affiliation for building a secular state by the tenure of the present government.

The minister said this while addressing a function on Shuvo Probarana Purnima and Katin Chibor Dan Utshab (yellow robe offering ceremony) held at Naba Pandit Bihar at Katalganj in the port city yesterday afternoon.

He said the present government extends hands to all regions for changing the day under the leadership of Hasina and wants equal cooperation from all for implementing the government agenda.

"We want to prove in the tenure of the present government that it preserves and upholds really equal rights of all religions in the country," the minister added.

Keeping this in view, Shahid said over Tk 5 crore would be spent for developing Buddhist monasteries and temples, practising Buddhism and promoting education of students.

He referred to Charyapada, the lyrics of Buddhist hermits, origin of Bengali language, and urged the members of the Buddhist community to be adhered to the essence of Buddhism for building the country as non-violence peaceful abode.

President of Bangladesh Buddha Kristi Sanga, Venerable Shudduananda Mohathero, presided over the function. Additional Divisional Commissioner Shyama Pada Dey, religious leader Venerable Darmapaul Mohathero and President of Bangladesh Buddha Mohashaba Prof Banoshri Mohatero, among others, addressed the function.

Energy sector must invest massively

Says British watchdog

AFP, London

The British energy regulator said yesterday that investment of up to 200 billion pounds in power plants and other infrastructure is needed over the next decade to secure energy supplies and meet climate change targets.

Ofgem said that the vast amounts, equivalent to investment of between 103 and 217 billion euros or 152 and 320 billion dollars, would push domestic energy bills up sharply.

"The need for this investment arises at a time of volatile world energy prices and Britain's increasing dependence on gas imports," the watchdog body said in a report.

Ofgem identifies the need for investment of up to 200 billion pounds in power plant and other infrastructure over the next ten years to secure both energy supplies and climate change targets.

Ofgem said the downside of such high investment would be a surge in domestic energy bills of between 14 and

25 percent by 2020 compared with current levels. The worst case scenario could see bills shoot up 60 percent by 2016 before falling back.

A Department of Energy and Climate Change spokesman said Ofgem was "prudent" to examine a range of hypothetical scenarios, "however unlikely they are."

He added in a statement: "What's clear... is that there's no low-cost high-carbon future."

"It's critical we maximise the effect of our planning reforms, clean energy rewards and efficiency measures to shift us away from fossil fuels and into a low-carbon mix."

There is growing interest around the world for new nuclear power plants, sparked by a desire by governments to reduce their dependence on oil, gas and coal.

Meanwhile, environmentalists welcomed a decision to postpone construction of a coal-fired power station in Kent, saying it was a victory for their opposition to new "clean coal" technology.

HSBC to donate \$30m for Asian disaster relief

UNB, Dhaka

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC) on Thursday announced that it will donate US\$ 30 million to the Red Cross in response to the damage caused by typhoon Ketsana in the Philippines and Vietnam and the earthquake in Indonesia.

Sandy Flockhart, Chief Executive Officer of HSBC, said the bank offered its condolences to the victims and their families.

"Though nothing can compensate for the lives that have been lost, we sincerely hope that through the donation we are able to provide some assistance to those who have suffered otherwise," he said.

HSBC will consult with the local Red Cross in each country to understand their priorities and to determine how best to use the funds.

In addition, HSBC has set account to collect staff donations from around the region to help support this effort, said a press release yesterday.

Breakthrough boosts hope for breast cancer treatment

AFP, VANCOUVER, Canada

Researchers reported the first evidence Thursday that cancer cells genetically mutate as the disease progresses, a "watershed" discovery they say holds hope for new treatments.

The researchers completed the world's first sequencing of the billions of letters in the DNA of a female cancer patient at three different stages, in just weeks. The feat was reported as the cover story in the October 8 edition of the science journal Nature.

Showing that cancer evolves "will lead to a shift in perspective" in how cancer is treated, lead researcher Samuel Aparicio of Canada's British Columbia Cancer Agency (BCCA) told AFP.

When a cell divides as a normal and lifelong process, the DNA genetic code is copied to each new cell. When mutations cause the new cells to grow out of control, cancer can occur, noted the agency in a statement.

Researchers tracked mutations in the woman's healthy cells, in addition to a local tumour when her breast cancer was first diagnosed, and in cells nine years later after the cancer spread, or metastasized.

In the metastasized cells they found

32 DNA mutations, said Aparicio.

"When we looked back to see if they were present in the primary tumour, we found only five mutations that could have been present in all cells."

That just five of the 32 later mutations were originally present was a surprise, the BCCA said.

The mutations -- which they described as "spelling" mistakes in the DNA lettering -- were "the criminals that caused the disease to get started in the first place," the BCCA said. "These five mutations were previously unknown to researchers as playing a role in cancer."

The agency said that "the ability to analyze both the original and the metastatic cancer cells has given us unprecedented information about how breast cancer develops and progresses."

"This is a watershed event in our ability to understand the causes of breast cancer and to develop personalized medicines for our patients," Aparicio said in the statement.

He said a key finding was "not only that the primary cancer evolved a lot, but the primary tumour was a mosaic of different mutations which then increased over time."

That knowledge will improve cancer tests and treatments, he said, because

it shows cells in a tumour are not all the same and each kind of cell may respond differently to treatment.

The agency compared being able to decode billions of DNA letters using new next-generation DNA sequencing technology to the discovery of a "secret book of a breast cancer."

Study co-author Marco Marra, director of the Genome Sciences Centre at the cancer agency, noted the first decoding of the human genome, completed in 2001, "took years and an enormous amount of funding. We were able to sequence the breast cancer genome in weeks and at a fraction of the cost."

Gene sequencing will cost increasingly less and eventually take "a matter of days," predicted Aparicio, allowing doctors to tailor future treatment to individual patients.

Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer among women worldwide and the leading cause of cancer death among women.

Scientists do not know whether the woman whose DNA was used in the research survived her cancer, said Aparicio, because BCCA studies are conducted anonymously.



State Minister for CHT Affairs Dipankar Talukder hands over Chibor to a Buddhist monk on the occasion of Katin Chibor Dan Utshab (yellow robe offering ceremony) at Karnaphuli Barogang Buddha Bihar in Chittagong yesterday.

Feud within nature of port city politics

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Rahman Khan Kaiser raised the issue at the meeting held at Hasina's political office in Dhanmondi. He also suggested that the high command solve the crisis for the greater interests of the party.

AL stalwart and lawmaker of Chittagong-1 constituency Engineer Mosharraf Hossain told the meeting that if Kaiser, as the leader of the party's highest policymaking body, sits with the rival factions, there is a chance to resolve the problems.

At that point, Hasina told the meeting Chittagong politics of AL has been what it was since her childhood, sources say.

Talking to The Daily Star, some of the party leaders said the crisis would not be resolved soon due to the high

command's "reluctance".

The port city conflict came to forefront after ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury took an initiative to bring five unions -- Charpathar Ghata, Charlaxma, Baro Uthan, Shikolbaha and Jaldi -- of Chittagong-12 constituency under the city corporation.

Bigwig AL leader Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu was elected from this constituency.

Mohiuddin is now making a hectic move to bring the unions under CCC saying a fresh move was taken to this end as a gazette notification was issued during the previous AL government.

Sources say Babu, backed by some other lawmakers and central leaders, has been trying hard to stop the move.

Even the AL lawmaker attacked Mohiuddin's rally organised at a union to create awareness about the outcomes of bringing the unions under CCC.

Besides, Mohiuddin's holding meeting with controversial BNP stalwart S Alauddin Quader Chowdhury has also hit the fire simultaneously as most of the lawmakers from different Chittagong constituencies including Eng Mosharraf Hossain, Nurul Islam BSC, among others, demanded expulsion of the CCC mayor from the party.

Talking to The Daily Star, AL presidium member Ataur Rahman Kaiser said, "I suggest that the party high command form an ad-hoc committee to solve the longstanding prob-

lems of the party there."

He said, "It seems that we won't be able to solve the crisis."

He said the Chittagong AL stalwarts would have to compromise among them to put an end to the crisis to strengthen the organisational capacity.

Terming the mayor's move to bring the unions under CCC the main cause for the current disputes, the veteran leader said it would solely depend on the people of those unions whether they want to go under the metropolises.

He said the prime minister has told the ALCWC meeting that her government would give additional money for development of the unions only if those are brought under city corporations.

Nasa to begin climate survey of Antarctica

AFP, Washington

Nasa next week begins the most extensive aerial survey of Earth's surface to chart the impact of global warming, with six years of flights over Antarctica to understand the frozen continent's glaciers and ice sheets.

The US space agency said the massive aerial survey, part of a program dubbed Operation Ice Bridge, will get underway on October 15.

Data gathered during the mission will help scientists predict how changes to the massive Antarctic ice sheet will contribute to a rise in sea levels around the world.

Researchers will work from NASA's DC-8, an airborne laboratory equipped with laser mapping instruments, ice-penetrating radar and gravity instruments.

"A remarkable change is happening on Earth, truly one of the biggest changes in environmental conditions since the end of the ice age," said Tom Wagner, cryosphere program manager at NASA Headquarters in Washington.

"It's not an easy thing to observe, let alone predict what might happen next. Studies like Ice Bridge are key," he said.

Space officials said the plane, crew and scientists depart October 12 from NASA's Dryden Aircraft Operations Facility in Palmdale, California, and fly to Punta Arenas, Chile, where they will be based through mid-November.

Some 50 scientists and support personnel are part of the mission, which will involve 17 flights over the southern polar region.

Fast aid, flexible terms

FROM PAGE 1

He said Bangladesh sought additional resources from the WB and IMF in Turkey to fight the global economic meltdown.

Asked if Bangladesh was assured of additional assistance, the finance minister said, "We have just placed our demands. They did not give any specific assurance instantly but we will continue the discussion in this regard."

A joint mission of the WB and IMF is soon coming to Bangladesh to discuss providing assistance to the poverty alleviation programme in the country, he said adding, "Though there was no problem in our balance of payments, the IMF has already provided us with loan of \$300 million."

Atiur Rahman said the significant achievement in the Turkey meeting was that these lending agencies from now on would allow transfer of funds from one project to another in cases where fund of a particular project could not be used.

Earlier, they used to withdraw the fund if it could not be used in a particular project, he said adding, "There is \$1.7 billion in the pipeline that Bangladesh could not use. As the WB has now agreed allowing transfer of fund from one project to another, we shall be able to use it."

The finance minister said

the focus of the WB and IMF annual meetings was the recovery from the global economic depression.

"The recovery process has already started. But to speed up the process the meeting decided to continue the stimulus packages declared by various nations," he said and continued that though the lending agencies increased the assistance in the wake of the global meltdown, the Least Developed Countries (LDC) like Bangladesh did not receive any support.

"The condition of the 48 LDCs is very poor, but nothing has been earmarked for them," he said adding that they have informed the WB and IMF about the matter.

On his meeting with Indian finance minister, Muhith said he talked about the prime minister's visit to India.

A meeting between the Joint Economic Commission of Bangladesh and Turkey will also be held soon to expand trade and economic relations, he said.

The Bangladesh delegation met the Saudi finance minister and discussed enhancing Saudi cooperation from its development fund.

Muhith said, "We also talked about employment opportunities in the UAE and Saudi Arabia."

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★ সম্পূর্ণ শীতাতপ নিয়ন্ত্রিত শপিং সেন্টার

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