

## US pushes for compromise in climate talks

AFP, Singapore

The United States called yesterday for a compromise at next month's global climate talks in Copenhagen and vowed to support a fund to help developing countries cope with emissions cuts.

"We cannot let the pursuit of perfection get in the way of progress," US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told a news conference in Singapore ahead of a weekend Pacific Rim summit to be attended by President Barack Obama.

Hillary said she had "fruitful discussions" on climate issues earlier Wednesday with counterparts from the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum, which includes China, Russia and Japan.

The December 7-18 Copenhagen talks are aimed at achieving a global deal to slash greenhouse gas emissions and ease the impact of climate change before the 2012 expiry of the Kyoto Protocol, which excludes the United States.

Obama has brought the United States back into the climate discussions after his predecessor George W. Bush refused to sign the Kyoto pact.

"If we all exert maximum effort and embrace the right blend of pragmatism and principle, I believe we can secure a strong outcome at Copenhagen," Hillary told the news conference.

Beyond Copenhagen, "we

are committed to reaching the goal of a global, legally binding climate agreement, and will continue working vigorously with the international community towards that end."

Earlier, in prepared remarks to a closed-door gathering of Apec foreign ministers, Clinton said the group's members account for 60 percent of global emissions and their efforts to cut them can have a "transformative impact".

She called for a trade-off between raising global living standards and strong action on climate change, and acknowledged the United States' "historic responsibility" for climate change, according to the official text.

Hillary reiterated US support for a fund aimed at helping developing countries reduce emissions, but gave no details.

"We are prepared to support a Global Climate Fund that will support adaptation and mitigation efforts and a matching entity to help developing countries match needs with available resources," she said.

European Union leaders agreed last month that developing nations will need 100 billion euros (150 billion dollars) by 2020 to tackle climate change but failed to nail down the group's share.

Finance ministers from the G20, which includes the United States and EU, were also unable to make headway on how to finance the climate fund when they met in Scotland last week.

## Travel agency

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that there are one or two travel agencies which work for militant outfits.

"Hajj visas were managed so that soon after carrying out the mission the men could leave the country as pilgrims," said the DB official, adding that, "Though they failed to make the attack before hajj, their mission is still on."

He said, "We are waiting to take action against the travel agency. But first, we are trying to net the Pakistani nationals and their Bangladeshi cohorts who are still at large."

Another senior DB official said, "We have identified some Bangladeshi people, including Huji men, involved in the attack-attempt. The LeT men came to Dhaka to directly instruct the militants here on how to carry out the operation."

Assistant Commissioner (AC) of DB Sanwar Hossain, who led the drive to arrest Mufti Harun and his associates Shahidul Alam and Al Amin alias Saiful in connection with plotting the attack, said DB has specific information and evidence that the suspects, including the foreigners, frequently visit Jama'atul Ulum Madrasa at Lakhon Bazar in Chittagong.

Mufti Harun is a son of Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) faction chief Mufti Izaharul Islam

Chowdhury who established the madrasa on a hilltop.

Harun and his two associates are now on a fresh three-year remand.

Talking to The Daily Star, AC Sanwar Hossain said, "We suspect that the LeT leaders did not come to Bangladesh directly from Pakistan. They came via Dubai and London to dodge the intelligence personnel."

He said, "We are waiting to take action against the travel agency. But first, we are trying to net the Pakistani nationals and their Bangladeshi cohorts who are still at large."

AC Sanwar also said they have evidence against Harun having close link with another Pakistani LeT leader Sayeed and that he visited at least four Middle East countries.

DB also found evidence of money transaction in the account of Faizur Rahman, younger brother of detained Harun.

Mufti Harun and his two associates were arrested on November 4 following the arrests of David Coleman Headley alias Gilani Daud, an Indian born US citizen, and Tahawur Hussain Rana, a Pakistan born Canadian citizen, on October 3 in Chicago and Abdur Rahman Sayeed in Pakistan last week.

The US authorities have charged them with plotting terror attacks abroad, including on a Danish newspaper that published cartoons of Prophet Mohammad (Pbuh) in 2005.

## New nat'l pay scale

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no negative impact on the kitchen market with the announcement of new pay scale. "I think prices of essentials won't go up as the present market condition is stable."

Muhib said the district judges, the highest post in the judicial service, would get their salaries according to the third grade meaning they will receive Tk 29,000 as their monthly starting salary instead of Tk 16,800 under the previous scale.

Every member of the judicial service will be given special allowance, which is 30 percent of their basic salary. Members of the armed forces would get increased salary and wages according to their pay scale, Muhib said.

As per the new pay scale, benefits of police and other civil forces will be increased by 30 percent, he added.

The finance minister said the government would try its best to publish a gazette notification before the Eid-ul-Azha to be held at the end of this month.

He said the government would announce a separate pay scale for the education sector next time. Under the new scale teachers, both in public and private institutions will enjoy the same pay scale.

Nurses from diploma and degree backgrounds who work under the same scale will now get different scales

### PAY SCALE

| Present scale  | New scale      |
|----------------|----------------|
| 23,000 (fixed) | 40,000 (fixed) |
| 19,300         | 33,500         |
| 16,800         | 29,000         |
| 15,000         | 25,750         |
| 13,750         | 22,250         |
| 11,000         | 18,500         |
| 9,000          | 15,000         |
| 7,400          | 12,000         |
| 6,800          | 11,000         |
| 5,100          | 8,000          |
| 4,100          | 6,400          |
| 3,700          | 5,900          |
| 3,500          | 5,500          |
| 3,300          | 5,200          |
| 3,100          | 4,900          |
| 3,000          | 4,700          |
| 2,850          | 4,500          |
| 2,600          | 4,400          |
| 2,500          | 4,250          |
| 2,400          | 4,100          |

as per the new pay scale.

Muhib said the medical allowance of the government employees has been increased to Tk 700 from Tk 500. The government will provide education allowance of Tk 200 to Tk 300.

The pension allowance has also been increased by 40 percent. But if the pensioner is 65 years old he will receive 50 percent increase. As per the new pay scale, either of the spouses will be entitled to pension in case

## Paracetamol case

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the directors of Adflame, Dr Helena Pasha and Azfar Pasha, and its manager Mizanur Rahman, on October 20.

On the same day the court also issued a show cause notice on its own record assistant Abdul Haque Sheikh, who had received the HC order vacating the stay order in 2007, but had not informed the court.

Meanwhile, the same court is also scheduled to sit on November 15 in relation to a case against the directors and managers of Rid Pharmaceutical Ltd, also charged with adulteration of its own paracetamol syrup that caused deaths of at least 28 children earlier this year.

In 1992, the Directorate of Drug Administration filed the case against Adflame Pharmaceutical for producing paracetamol syrup with a brand name 'Flammodol' that was tested positive for the deadly chemical diethylene glycol.

The proceedings were however brought to a stop for 13 years when the High Court issued a temporary stay order which was never challenged. Although two years ago, the High Court vacated the stay, the drug court was unaware of the order until The Daily Star during its recent investigation revealed it.

The court will also receive a report from Brahmanbaria police on the execution of an attachment order against the properties of three people absconding from court in connection with the case against Rid. Last month, the company's managing director, Mizanur Rahman, was remanded to jail by the court following an unsuccessful bail application. His wife Shelly Rahman however got bail.

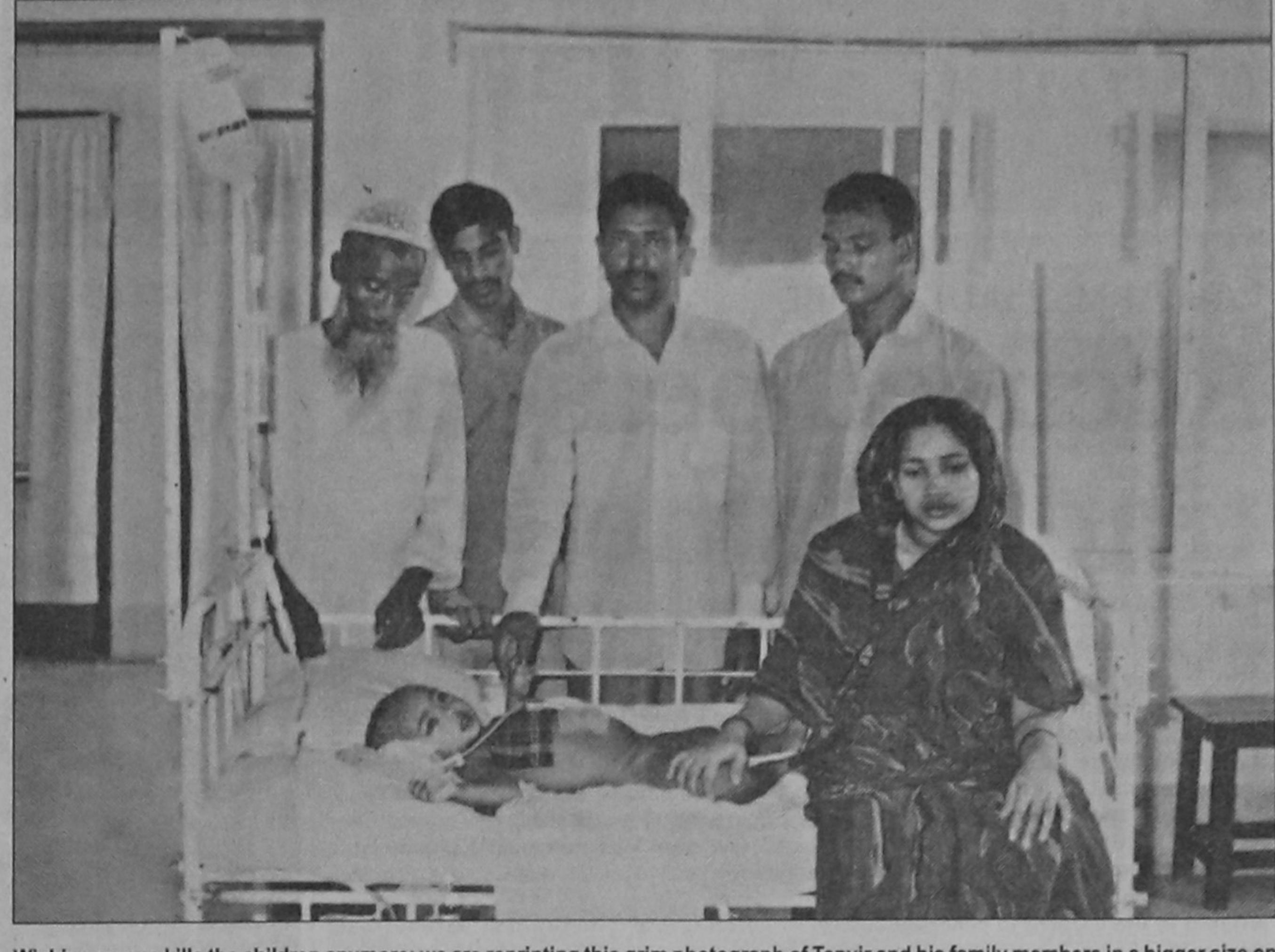
"Children who were at the age of my child when he died, now studies at the degree level.

Had my child not taken the paracetamol syrup, he too would have been studying at the degree level by now. But the irony is that, still children die taking adulterated paracetamol syrups as pharmaceuticals like Rid produce those even today due to a lack of justice," Muhammad Ullah, whose son Tanvir died on September 16, 1990 after taking adulterated paracetamol syrup, told The Daily Star recently commenting on the case against Rid Pharmaceutical.

In 1992, the Directorate of Drug Administration filed the case against Adflame Pharmaceutical for producing paracetamol syrup with a brand name 'Flammodol' that was tested positive for the deadly chemical diethylene glycol.

The proceedings were however brought to a stop for 13 years when the High Court issued a temporary stay order which was never challenged. Although two years ago, the High Court vacated the stay, the drug court was unaware of the order until The Daily Star during its recent investigation revealed it.

Two other accused in the Adflame case, Nigendra Nath Bala and Md Noman, have also been absconding.



Wishing no one kills the children anymore; we are reprinting this grim photograph of Tanvir and his family members in a bigger size on our readers' request.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## Practice prevails

FROM PAGE 1

The committee has included the matter in its agenda for the next meeting slated for November 22.

"In fact, bureaucrats draft the laws and the cabinet approves those after holding discussions. Many laws get challenged at court and establishment of rule of law is hampered," committee chief Suranjit Sengupta told The Daily Star.

BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, member of the committee, said once article 76 (2) (a) is enforced, the parliamentary committee can determine the necessity of enacting laws before they are placed as bills in parliament.

The parliamentary body also initiated steps to introduce an act to empower the standing committee in line with the provision in the constitution.

Suranjit, also a member of the advisory council of ruling Awami League, said the committee would work continuously to strengthen parliament through revitalisation of the committee system.

"We shall discuss it at the coming committee meeting," he said.

BNP lawmaker Salauddin said they had discussed the issue at a meeting.

"The law ministry has responded positively to the move. I believe the constitutional provision will take effect and the standing committees will be able to examine the draft bills," said Salauddin, also parliamentary affairs adviser to former premier Khaleda Zia.

No government or parliament in the last three and a half decades moved to enact law for empowering the committee system despite the fact that a parliament's

success largely depends on proper functioning of its committees.

Article 76 (3) of the constitution says, "Parliament may by law confer on committees appointed under this article powers for enforcing the attendance of witnesses and examining them on oath, affirmation or otherwise and compelling the production of documents."

Suranjit said enactment of a law to strengthen the committee system is a mandate of the constitution.

"So, the law must be made," he added.

Parliamentary affairs experts observe that the architects of the constitution had a vision of an effective parliament with a strong committee system.

They said provisions on committee system are rarely found in the constitutions of other countries and article 76 in the Bangladesh constitution is a unique one.

"If anyone thinks that now is the time for making wealth, it would be a big mistake. The people have voted us to power. Now it is our supreme duty to improve people's living standard removing their every socioeconomic problem."

She alleged that BNP-Jamaat alliance with their huge illegal money wanted to grab the state power once again.

Hasina said the anti-democracy force has started hatching conspiracy against the country. In this context, she mentioned the February 25-26 BDR carnage.

The PM was also highly critical of the main opposition party for not joining the parliament sessions.

"Through such activities which conspiracy are they designing?" Hasina questioned.

"In fact, the opposition party does not want development of democracy in the country," she said.

With acting chairman of Juba League Omar Faruk Chowdhury in the chair, the discussion meeting was also addressed by former Juba League chairman and State Minister for LGRD Jahangir Kabir Nanak MP and Juba League General Secretary Mirza Azam MP.

Indian parliament has 17

## PM asks

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country's existing economic situation, financial policies and achievements, economic growth as well as future plans to boost the national economy.

Hasina expressed satisfaction over the country's economic achievements, saying, "The nation is now on the right track and will be able to attain more financial growth during the tenure of the present government."

She said her government would take all-out measures to further strengthen the NBR for increasing the country's revenue income.

The PM called upon the authorities concerned to create favourable atmosphere for attracting direct foreign investment into the country.

In this connection, she said under the democratic government, a favourable investment environment has been restored at present with the prevalence of corruption-free and stable law-and-order situation.

Besides, the premier told the authorities concerned to look to the emerging East and Middle-Eastern countries beyond Europe and America for the expansion of trade and business.

About implementation of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) the PM asked them to reinforce monitoring system.

She also advised the authorities concerned to make the most of whatever resources the country has got while implementing the ADP instead of depending on foreign aid.

The PM said his government would implement development programmes as much as it is possible, as it has come to power to work for the welfare of the people.

Emphasising the need for strengthening the rural economy, Hasina advised the authorities concerned to provide soft loan on much easier terms to the rural people.

Finance Minister AMA Muhib and PM's advisers HT Imam and Mashur Rahman, the NBR chairman, the executive chairman of the Board of Investment, the finance secretary, the governor of Bangladesh Bank, among others, were present.

Iftekhar questioned "if the bank can spend millions for consultancies that are often not only debatable, but also considered to be among factors behind misuse of funds and corruption, why as an inter-governmental funding organi-

## Project freeze

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head because of a headache"

said TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman.

The WB in a clarification to the media report said, in a letter to the government it had requested to temporarily put on hold the local procurements in the projects it finances.

It said, "The World Bank has not asked the government to suspend procurement under the WB financed projects. It remains a strong development partner to Bangladesh".

The government on November 4 amended the PPA providing scope for awarding work order up to Tk 2 crore without prior experience.

The WB on November 9 in a letter to the finance minister communicated its objection to the amendments, which was published in The Daily Star Wednesday.

TIB reaction

The TIB said, "The World Bank measure, if enforced, will be counter-productive and will only punish the people of Bangladesh though no faults of its own."