PROCUREMENT OF TWO HELICOPTERS FOR RAB Full text of jt communiqué Police dept wants control of choppers

KAILASH SARKAR

All the units of the police department want that the two helicopters which are being procured for the Rapid Action Battalion should be under the control of the Bangladesh Police, instead of Rab, a unit of the police department.

Officials of all the units, except Rab, expressed this opinion at a meeting on the procurement of the choppers held at the Police Headquarters in the city yesterday, sources

The meeting also decided that a proposal in this regard would be submitted to the home ministry soon.

Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad chaired the meeting attended by Additional IGP (Admin) NBK Tripura, Rab Director General Hassan Mahmood Khandker, Special Branch (SB) chief Additional IGP Zaved Patway, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque and high officials of the police department.

According to the sources close to the meeting, the high-ups of different police units, including the Criminal Investigation ferringanonymity.

Department (CID), Special Branch (SB) and Detective Branch (DB), said that they also want to use the choppers as and when required, as they also do the same job as Rab.

When contacted, IGP Nur Mohammad told The Daily Star that a discussion was held in this regard but no decision was taken.

Rab DG Hassan Mahmood Khandker said the helicopters would be procured by this year and they are meant for Rab.

Replying to a query whether other units of the police department can use the choppers, the Rab DG declined to make any comments.

Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG-Equipment and Transport) M Mahbubul Alam told The Daily Star that the helicopters would be procured through the DG of Defence Purchase (DG DP).

Sources said the two helicopters would cost Tk55 crore.

"At first, the Police Headquarters gave the proposal for procurement of the helicopters. But in 2005, the then state minister for home took the initiative to purchase the helicopters only for Rab," said a senior police official, pre-

AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK

Court allows to quiz OC Rafiqul COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday allowed the Criminal Investigation Department to interrogate former Officer-incharge of Motifheel police station Mohammad Rafiqul Islam at the jail gate in the August 21 grenade attack cases.

Metropolitan Magistrate Nazrul Islam passed the order after the investigation officer of the case Abdul Kahar Akond, senior additional superintendent of CID, also the investigation officer, filed a petition on

The CID sought permission to quiz OC Rafiqul about the grenade attacks on an Awami League rally in Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21, 2004.

Rafiqul, also an accused of killing college student Kamrul Islam Momin, was sent to jail after he surrendered on October 16,2005.

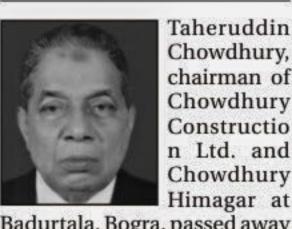
He was in charge of Motijheel police station when the deadly attack targeting AL President Sheikh Hasina, now the prime

minister, took place. Hasina narrowly escaped the attack but 23 AL leaders and workers were killed and over 300

maimed in the incident.

Obituary

METRO DESK



chairman of Chowdhury Constructio n Ltd. and Chowdhury Himagar at Badurtala, Bogra, passed away

at his Gulshan residence in the city yesterday at the age of 77 says a press release.

Sonali Bank. He was also an

well-wishers to mourn his death.

Mazar Graveyard in Bogra. His

gulkhwani will be held at his

Bogra residence in Badurtala on

Death anniversary

Friday after Juma prayers.

METRO DESK

He was buried at Bhai-pagla

He was a former president of Bogra Chamber of Commerce and former director of Bangladesh Bank and

independent director of Eastland Insurance Co. Ltd. He left behind his wife, two sons, five daughters, grandchildren and a host of relatives and

Today is the

7th death

anniversary

of former

minister M

Mansur Ali,

release.

M Mansur Ali Smriti

Sangsad will hold a discussion

on his life and a doa mahfil on

Friday at Satkhira Jana Samity

Office at 44-F/7, Panthapath

ODAY

Launching ceremony

Bangladesh National Women

Lawyers Association (BNWLA) is

going to open a legal counselling

centre for poor, vulnerable,

deprived and disadvantaged

women and children. Venue:

Conference room, Dhaka District

A seminar on dredging will be held

Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time:

Judge. Time: 4:30pm.

Seminar

10:00am.

Dhaka at 4:30pm.

Bangladeshi students to 300. The Indian Express in its lead editorial said Hasina's visit "is

PM gets wide coverage in Indian media misdirected, underestimated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New

Most leading Indian newspapers yesterday termed Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to that country an "opportunity to overhaul underutilised" bilateral relations on grounds of equality and mutual interest.

All leading dailies gave a wide display of stories relating to Hasina's visit in front pages with some of them running editorials.

Most of the newspapers published in front pages pictures of Hasina and Congress party chief Sonia Gandhi hugging each other at the latter's 10 Jan Path residence on Monday

The Hindu made Hasina's talks with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the signing of five agreements between Bangladesh and India the lead story while the Times of India highlighted India's \$1 billion line of credit to Bangladesh in its second lead

The Times of India said the line of credit, which is the largest financial assistance by India to any country in one go, takes the "current bonhomie" with Hasina governmenttoa "newlevel".

Indian officials described the line of credit as an "apt appreciation" to the cooperation received from Bangladesh in dealing with terrorism and insurgency since Hasina came to power a year ago.

They said raising the economic stakes in relations with Bangladesh will mean that Dhaka will continue to address New Delhi's paramount secu-

rity concerns. "India opens heart, purse to Bangladesh", read the headline of a front-page four-column story in The Hindustan Times

yesterday. Hasina's assurance to Singh that Bangladesh territory would not be allowed to be used for terror activities against India

was headlined by several dailies. India was happy with both sides agreeing that security was the top most priority of the two

countries. In yet another important gesture, India raised the number of scholarships for

an opportunity to overhaul the

and underutilised relationship between New Delhi and Dhaka on grounds of equality and mutual respect".

"The bilateral relationship has its best chance now to break free of the ebb and flow that has been its bane, based on enlightened self interest and not mere sentiment," it said.

"Bangladesh, for once, has

put the ball in India's court with its stand on trade and connectivity, cross-border power trading and cracking down on terrorists. Taking the cue, New Delhi should not only liberalise duty-free import of Bangladeshi goods but also look ahead and work towards integrating the two economies. "Economic integration

would automatically change the matrix to address security concerns," the Indian Express editorial commented, adding that the Kolkata-Agartala rail link should be placed within this larger context.

It said, "The two neighbours, till date, have failed to secure the potential benefits of their ties since cooperation has been directly proportional to politics.

The lead editorial in The Hindustan Times asked India to "take very careful note" of Hasina's visit which "marks seachange in relations between the two countries if India is prepared to think long-term and act generously".

"Bangladesh has never been a threat to India but it has only intermittently been seen as a friend," it said, adding that Sheikh Hasina "has always represented the best hope for changing this in a positive way".

Hasina came to India with "the strongest electoral mandate that any India-friendly government has had in Dhaka in three decades", The Hindustan Times commented.

It said the recent arrest of top Ulfa leader Arabinda Rajkhowa would not have been possible without assistance from Dhaka and the Hasina government has taken considerable action against

militancy based in that country. India needs to do what other great powers have done in the past, which is to make shortterm economic concessions in return for long-term security gains, the editorial said, adding "This is the essence of strategy and Bangladesh is among the most important tests of India's

understanding of this concept.'

ADULTERATION OF PARACETAMOL SYRUP

2 accused appear in court after 13 years

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A director and a manager of Adflame Pharmaceuticals who are charged with adulteration of paracetamol syrup appeared before a Dhaka court yesterday 13 years after the case against them was stayed.

The accused are director Dr Helena Pasha and manager Mizanur Rahman. But another accused director Azfar Pasha did not appear in the court.

Devnath of the Drug Court yesterday again asked the guarantors to produce Azfar Pasha before it on February 9.

Although the stay was vacated two years ago, but the accused did not appear before

the trial court. The guarantors are Abul Hasnat of Khilgaon Chowdhurypara area and

Ahmed.

Judge (in charge) Krishna

advocate Khondaker Bashir Adflame case, Nrigendra Nath On November 23 last year,

the same court asked the guarantors to produce the three accused before it, as they did not appear in the court even after summons were issued on them several times.

In 1992, the Directorate of Drug Administration had filed the case against Adflame Pharmaceuticals for producing paracetamol syrup under the 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 HC issued a temporary stay order, which was never challenged. Although two years ago, the HC 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 Bala and Md Noman, have been absconding.

shared bonds of history, culture and aspirations that bind Bangladesh and India, and paid tribute to the sacred memory of the lives sacrificed for the freedom and independence of the two countries. She called for rededicating efforts to establish a soci-

ety free from ignorance, fear and want.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. 4. Reflecting the friendly relations existing between the two neighbouring countries, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh in her capacity as

President of the Awami League Party and the Awami League-led Mohajote government also called on Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance. She also met with former Prime Minister Shri. I.K. Gujral. The meetings and exchanges were marked by great warmth and cordiality

Following is the full text of the

joint communiqué issued on

the visit of Prime Minister

1. Reaffirming the shared

history, traditional links and

the desire of the leaders of the

two countries to launch a new

phase in their bilateral rela-

tions, the Prime Minister of

Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina is

paying a state visit to India

from January 10-13, 2010 at

the invitation of Dr.

Manmohan Singh, Prime

Minister of India. Apart from

attending the official

programme in New Delhi, the

Bangladesh Prime Minister

will also visit Ajmer Sharif.

Minister was accorded a cere-

monial reception at

Rashtrapati Bhavan on

January 11, 2010. She called

on President of India Smt.

Pranab Mukherjee, External

Affairs Minister Shri S.M.

Krishna, Railway Minister

Kumari Mamata Banerjee and

Leader of the Opposition Smt.

Sushma Swaraj called on

3. Finance Minister Shri

Pratibha Devisingh Patil.

2. The Bangladesh Prime

Sheikh Hasina to India:

on both sides. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh paid tribute and respect to the memories of Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawarlal Nehru, Smt Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi at Rajghat, Shantivana, Shaktisthal and Virbhumi respectively.

During the visit, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was conferred the prestigious Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2009 at a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The Prime Minister of Bangladesh had a meeting with the Prime Minister of India on January 11, 2010, which was followed by delegation level talks. The talks were marked by great warmth, deep understanding and a spirit of close friendship between the two sides. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh hosted a banquet in honour of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her accompanying delega-

On the Bangladesh side, assisting the Prime Minister of Bangladesh in the talks were: Mr. Ramesh Chandra Sen, MP, Minister of Water Resources; Dr. Dipu Moni MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Advisers to the Prime Minister Mr. H.T. Imam, Mr. Mashiur Rahman and Mr. Gowher Rizvi; High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India Mr. Tariq A. Karim and

other senior officials of the Bangladesh Government. On the Indian side, assisting the Prime Minister of India were: Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Finance Minister; Shri P. Chidambaram, Home Minister; Shri S.M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister; Kumari Mamata Banerjee, Minister of Railways; Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce; Smt Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs; Shri M.K. Narayanan, National Security Adviser; Shri T.K.A Nair, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister and other senior officials of the Indian

Government. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on her party's impressive electoral victory in the general elections held in December 2008 and lauded the people of Bangladesh for their abiding faith in democracy, which eventually paved the way for return of multiparty democracy in Bangladesh. Both leaders agreed that the recent elec- between the border guarding tions in both countries presented them with a historic opportunity to write a new chapter in their relationship.

11. The Bangladesh Prime Minister recalled the



Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Sushma Swaraj calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her hotel suite in New Delhi yesterday.

Ministers agreed on a vision for the future in the pursuit of the common good - bilaterally, regionally and globally. In this context, they reiterated their commitment to work together to solve all issues through cooperation and mutual understanding. They also shared their outlook on the strengthening and reform of multilateral institutions in which developing countries have an effective voice and participation.

13. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh and the Prime Minister of India recognize that peace and stability in the region is necessary for development and well-being of the people of their respective countries. In this context, they emphasized the importance of close cooperation between India and Bangladesh and the need to effectively harness their respective resources for the good of the peoples of the two countries.

14. The two Prime Ministers agreed to put in place a comprehensive framework of cooperation for development between the two countries, encapsulating their mutually shared vision for the future, which would include cooperation in water resources, power, transportation and connectivity, tourism and education. They agreed on the need to operationalize the various areas of coopera-

tion at the earliest. Both Prime Ministers agreed to consider strengthening diplomatic and consular presence in each other's countries.

Both Prime Ministers reiterated their commitment to democracy, pluralism and rule of law. They expressed satisfaction that the people of both countries have rejected violence, extremism and terrorism and reaffirmed their faith in democracy and development. In this quest, the two leaders resolved to work together to strengthen the forces of democracy and moderation.

Both Prime Ministers condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. They noted that security remained a priority for both countries, as terrorists, insurgents and criminals respect no boundaries. They underscored the need for both countries to actively cooperate on security issues. Both leaders reiterated the assurance that the territory of either would not be allowed for activities inimical to the other and resolved not to allow their respective territory to be used for training, sanctuary and other operations by domestic or foreign terrorist/militant and insurgent organizations and their operatives.

Welcoming the Home Secretary level talks held in New Delhi in December 2009, the two Prime Ministers directed their respective Ministries and agencies to cooperate closely and implement all decisions taken during the talks. While recognizing the need to check cross border crimes, both Prime Ministers agreed that the respective border guarding forces exercise restraint and underscored the importance of regular meetings forces to curtail illegal cross border activities and prevent loss of lives.

The Prime Minister of Bangladesh thanked the Prime Minister of India for facilitating the provision of electricity in Dahagram-Angarpota and invited India to construct a flyover across Tin Bigha Corridor for exclusive Indian use, as agreed earlier.

Both Prime Ministers agreed to comprehensively address all outstanding land boundary issues keeping in view the 12. Both the Prime spirit of the 1974 Land

Boundary Agreement. In this context, agreed to convene the Joint Boundary Working Group to take this process forward.

Ministers agreed on the need to amicably demarcate the maritime boundary between India and Bangladesh. They noted the initiation of proceedings under Annex VII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and, in this context, welcomed the visit of a delegation from Bangladesh to India.

It was agreed that Ashuganj in Bangladesh and Silghat in India shall be declared ports of call. The IWTT Protocol shall be amended through exchange of letters. A joint team will assess the improvement of infrastructure and the cost for one-time or longer term transportation of ODCs (Over Dimensional Cargo) from Ashuganj. India will make the necessary investment. Both Governments agreed to expedite implementation. Contractors from both countries shall be eligible for the

It was agreed that Bangladesh will allow use of Mongla and Chittagong sea ports for movement of goods to and from India through road and rail. Bangladesh also conveyed their intention to give Nepal and Bhutan access to Mongla and Chittagong

It was agreed that the construction of the proposed Akhaura Agartala railway link be financed by grant from India. A joint team of the railway authorities of the two countries will identify the alignment for connectiv-

They welcomed the starting of "Maitree Express' between Kolkata and Dhaka and called for resumption of road and rail links between the two countries.

The Prime Ministers that agreed RohanpurSingabad broad gauge railway link would be available for transit to Nepal. Bangladesh informed of their intention to convert Radhikapur Birol railway line into broad gauge and requested for railway transit link to Bhutan as well.

27. Recognizing the sufferings of the people of both sides in the face of scarcity of lean season flows of the Teesta River, the Prime Ministers expressed that the discussions on the sharing of the Teesta waters between India and Bangladesh should be concluded expeditiously. The two Prime Ministers directed their respective Water Resources Ministers to convene the Ministerial

+-level meeting of the Joint Rivers Commission in this quarter of 2010. The Joint Rivers Commission will also discuss issues relating to Feni, Manu, Muhuri, Khowai, Gumti, Dharla and Dudhkumar.

They also agreed that the following actions be a. Dredging of Ichhamati;

River protection at Mahananda, Karatoa, Nagar, Kulik, Atrai, Dharla,

and Feni

The Prime Minister of India agreed to support implementation of strategy of Government of Bangladesh to dredge rivers for flood control, navigation and access to ports. In this context, India agreed to provide, inter alia, dredgers to Bangladesh on an urgent basis. Bangladesh

31. The Prime Minister of India reiterated the assurance that India would not take steps on the Tipaimukh project that would adversely

indicated the need for 9 dredg-

impact Bangladesh.

32. The Prime Minister of India agreed to supply to Bangladesh 250 MW electricity from its grid. In this context, both Prime Ministers emphasized the need to expedite inter-grid connectivity. They also agreed that the two countries shall cooperate in development and exchange of electricity, including generation from renewable sources, and may set up joint projects or corporate entities for that purpose.

33. With a view to encouraging imports from Bangladesh, both countries agreed to address removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers and port restrictions and facilitate movement of containerized cargo by rail and water. In this context, Bangladesh welcomed India's initiative to provide duty-free access to SAARC LDCs to the Indian market. Bangladesh also welcomed the reduction of the number of items from India's negative list that were of direct interest to Bangladesh and requested for further reduction in the list.

The Prime Minister of India agreed to support the upgradation of the Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute with a view to building capacity on certification.

The Prime Ministers agreed that investments, including joint investment and joint ventures, shall be encouraged by both countries. They agreed that the participation of the private sector in both countries will give an added fillip to economic engagement between the two countries.

The Prime Ministers

agreed to operationalize land customs stations at Sabroom-Ramgarh and Demagiri-Thegamukh including putting in place necessary infrastructure and issue necessary notifications. Further, with respect to existing land custom stations, it was agreed to take measures for strengthening infrastructure.

It was agreed that border haats shall be established on a pilot basis at selected areas, including on the Meghalaya border, to allow trade in specified produces and products and in accordance with the regulations agreed and notified by both Governments.

It was agreed that trucks for movement from Bhutan and Nepal be allowed to enter about 200 meters into Zero Point at Banglabandh at Banglabandh-Phulbari land customs station. Necessary arrangements shall be mutually agreed and put in place by both countries.

The Prime Minister of India announced a line of credit of US\$ 1 billion for a range of projects, including railway infrastructure, supply of BG locomotives and passenger coaches, rehabilitation of Saidpur workshop, procurement of buses including articulate buses and dredging projects

Bangladesh requested for assistance to construct road infrastructure in Dhaka, including flyovers. India agreed to consider this request.

Recalling the shared legacy of the great poet laureate Rabindranath Tagore, the Prime Ministers agreed to oversee the joint celebrations of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore in 2011 in a manner befitting his vision and spirit. 42. Government of

India would offer Bangladesh 300 scholarships annually for a period of five years for study and training in Universities and training institutions in India, covering a wide range of disciplines as may be required by scholars and persons in government employment. The number may be increased through mutual consultation.

Both Prime Ministers underscored the role of SAARC in promoting regional cooperation. Both leaders agreed to work together in making SAARC a purposeful organization oriented towards implementation, which can revitalize the region through positive measures, concerted action and mutually reinforcing coopera-

Both leaders welcomed the various steps taken to strengthen regional cooperation under BIMSTEC. In this context, Bangladesh requested India to support its aspiration to host the BIMSTEC Secretariat in Dhaka. India agreed to give the request due consideration. 45. The two Prime

Ministers welcomed the initiatives taken at the Climate Change Summit at Copenhagen in December 2009. They underlined that climate change was one of the most important global challenges. They reaffirmed the provisions and principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including that of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and underscored the importance of its full, effective and sustained implementation, giving due consideration to the needs of those which are most vulnerable, especially Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and

Both leaders recognized that the eradication of poverty and ensuring food security were great challenges of the century. They agreed that the international community should initiate a fully coordinated response and address these issues in a comprehensive manner, from short to medium and long term. They also recognized the need to give added focus on rural development policies, transfer and diffusion of technology and development, in particular to enhance

agricultural productivity. The Prime Ministers underscored the importance of an effective multilateral system, centered on a strong United Nations, as a key factor in tackling global challenges. In this context, they stressed the urgent need to pursue the reform of the United Nations, including the Security Council, to make it more representative, credible and effective, particularly with regard to its working method. They also advocated involvement of smaller coun-

tries in the reform process.

Responding to the Prime Minister of India, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh conveyed her country's support in principle for India's candidature for the permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council as and when the reform of the UN Security Council is achieved. Bangladesh conveyed its support to the Indian Candidature for a non-permanent seat in the UNSC for the term 2011-2012. India also conveyed its support to the Bangladesh's candidature for a non-permanent seat in UNSC for the term 2016-

The two Prime Ministers witnessed the signing in their presence of the following accords:

 a. Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance on Criminal Matters

Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons Agreement on Combating

International Terrorism, Organized Crime and Illicit DrugTrafficking Memorandum of Understanding on

Cooperation in Power Cultural Exchange

The Prime Ministers also expressed the desire that Line of Credit and the comprehensive framework of cooperation for development be operationalized at the earliest.

The Prime Minister

of Bangladesh thanked the Prime Minister of India and the Indian Government and people for the warm and gracious hospitality extended to her and the members of her delegation during their stay in India. 51. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, on behalf of

herself, her Government and the people of Bangladesh, extended her warm invitation to the Prime Minister of India and Mrs. Manmohan Singh to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time. The Prime Minister of India thanked the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and accepted the invitation with great pleasure. The dates for the visit would be decided by mutual consultations through diplomatic channels.