

INDO-BANGLA SECURITY DIALOGUE BEGINS

Resolve bilateral issues thru' discussion: Experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The bilateral issues between Bangladesh and India could be resolved through pragmatic discussions across the table, security experts from the two neighbouring countries observed at a dialogue yesterday.

They also stressed the need to step up mutual cooperation between the two countries to boost economy in the region.

The opening ceremony of the two-day 'Indo-Bangladesh Security Dialogue 2010' was held at a city hotel yesterday. Maj Gen (ret'd) Muniruzzaman of Bangladesh and Air Marshal (ret'd) Vinod Patney of India spoke at the opening ceremony.

Delegates from both the countries will present their thoughts and discuss issues of mutual interest at the event.

Bangladesh Institute of Peace and

Security Studies (BIPSS) in collaboration with United Service Institution of India organised the dialogue to exchange views on security aspects in the sub-continent, the organisers said.

The dialogue will concentrate on a broad range of issues of pressing concern including Indo-Bangladesh security overview, threats of terrorism and radicalisation, Indo-Bangladesh maritime security, and environmental security.



Maj Gen (ret'd) Muniruzzaman speaks at the inaugural ceremony of 'Indo-Bangladesh Security Dialogue 2010' at a city hotel yesterday. On his right is Mohammad A Arafat and on his left is Air Marshal (ret'd) Vinod Patney.

UN MISSION  
2 ships leave for Lebanon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two ships of Bangladesh Navy Naval Frigate BNS Osman and Patrol Craft NBS Madhumati, left the naval base in Chittagong yesterday to join United Nations (UN) peace-keeping mission in Lebanon.

Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan and Naval Chief Vice Admiral ZU Ahmed were present during the departure of the naval ships carrying 32 naval officials and 288 crews under the command of Capt Mozammel Haq and Commander Afzalul Haq for joining the UN Interim Force in Lebanon UNIFIL.

Stalker's mother, brother try to sue Pinky's mother

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Elder brother and mother of Tabarak, the alleged stalker and killer of Mariam Akhter Pinky in Tarail of Kishoreganj, tried to file a case against the victim's mother yesterday implicating her in the death of Tabarak's sister.

Tarail police however declined to record the case, terming their statement baseless.

Tabarak's elder brother Mubarak said he and his mother tried to file a case against Pinky's mother Latifa Akhter alleging that his sister Taslima Akhter died of his heart attack on Thursday due to police harassment of their family sparked by a case filed by Latifa implicating Tabarak in the murder of Pinky.

Local residents however said Taslima had two other heart attacks even before Pinky's death.

Meanwhile, police were yet to arrest alleged stalker and killer Tabarak yesterday, seven days into 16-year old Pinky's murder by burning. Pinky was a class ten student of Purura High School in Tarail.

Before Pinky died, on her deathbed in Dhaka Medical College Hospital she told her mother that Tabarak set her on fire, and he had also been stalking her for quite some time.

Kishoreganj Superintendent of Police Mir Rezaul Alam said he had a meeting with his officers yesterday, and instructed them to make all out efforts to arrest Tabarak.

Regarding the alleged killer's family's attempt to file a case against Latifa, he said

police action against an accused could not be a ground for filing a case against the complainant.

Mubarak, a jail guard in Narsingdi, is also spreading rumours in Tarail assassinating the characters of Pinky and her mother, to divert the focus of the case filed against his brother by Latifa, alleged insult to their injury.

Pinky's uncle Monayem Bhuiyan said character assassination of his sister-in-law and murdered niece by Tabarak's family is adding insult to their injury.

Local residents including Pinky's classmates and family members alleged that Tabarak had been stalking Pinky on her way to school, and had been harassing her family by throwing bricks over the tin roof of their house over the last two years.

Mahmudur files case against ACC boss

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Amar Desh Acting Editor Mahmudur Rahman yesterday filed a case against ACC chairman and two others challenging the legality of its notice that asked him to explain some alleged corruption charges.

The allegations include gaining financial benefits by a bus power from Shinepukur Ceramics Ltd, illegally employing one Lutfullah at the Board of Investment and unusual transactions with IFIC Bank Ltd at Dhanmondi branch in the city.

Acquiring wealth through illegal means, sending workers abroad by using false identities and holding a meeting with government officials at Uttara were also among the allegations made by the ACC.

The defendants are ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman, its Deputy Director (training) Mohammad Zahurul Huda and a deputy director-2 (unnamed) at the Prime Minister's Office.

After hearing of the case, Judge Imrul Kayesh of the First Joint District Judge fixed May 20 for next hearing.

In his plaint, Mahmudur, also former executive chairman of Board of Investment, said the ACC in the notice on March 10 asked him to appear at its head office on March 16 to explain the allegations.

Mahmudur's advocate Masud Ahmed Talukder told The Daily Star that they would also file a petition seeking temporary injunction on the notice tomorrow.

Legal experts said there is no legal basis of the case as the operation of the notice expired on March 16.

Improve governance, reduce poverty to stem terrorism

Security experts tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terrorism will continue to grow in South Asia unless the authorities take immediate steps to improve governance, reduce poverty and build trust among all, security experts said yesterday.

"Terrorism has been created artificially by three reasons -- bad politics, failed governance and failed development. A separate regional mechanism should be created to address these issues," said Prof Syed Anwar Hossain of Dhaka University at a discussion.

The Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) organised the discussion titled 'Countering Terrorism: Building a Common Approach in Saarc' at its auditorium in the city in collaboration with the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS), New Delhi, and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS).

A book on the similar topic published by Consortium of South Asian Think Tanks was also launched. IPCS Director Maj Gen (ret'd) Dipankar Banerjee edited the book.

Prof Anwar Hossain said the environment in the region has been made such where terrorists grew like anything. It is a national as well as regional problem and so a common approach is imperative to address terrorism.

"A well trained think tank could help counter the menace," he added.

Dipankar Banerjee said Afghanistan is a major hub of militants and they are spreading to parts of Pakistan, India and even Bangladesh. "If this trend increases, the problem will really deepen."

He suggested sharing of information by the intelligence agencies of the Saarc region, and cooperation among the think tanks, especially among the home ministers and police, to fight terrorism.

There should be a common policy for all the Saarc nations that none would shelter and finance the terrorists, Banerjee said.

Prof Rashid Ahmed Khan of Pakistan said mistrust between Pakistan and India is one of the major reasons behind increasing terrorism. More people-to-people contacts and ending bilateral tension could help address the issue, he said.

Citing European Union's examples, German Ambassador in Dhaka Holger Michael said the national governments have to overcome 'historic burdens' for better regional cooperation.

"We want all member countries of Saarc to join the fight," he said.

KAS Representative Dr Beatrice Gorwantschy, BIISS Director General Maj Gen Golam Mohammad and IPCS Deputy Director Dr Suba Chandran also spoke. BIISS Chairman Maj Gen Muhammed Firdaus Mian chaired it.

Pro-BNP lawyers protest appointment of 2 judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior pro-BNP lawyers yesterday urged the chief justice not to administer oath to two of the newly appointed 17 High Court judges for what they said were their past 'controversial' activities.

The two judges -- Md Ruhul Quddus Babu and FRM Khasruzzaman -- along with 15 others were appointed on Sunday.

The lawyers made the call during a meeting with Chief Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim at his Supreme Court office.

They said that Ruhul Quddus had been accused in a murder case, and there is an allegation against Khasruzzaman that he kicked the door of the chief justice's court in 2006.

President of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Advocate Khandaker

Mahbub Hossain, Secretary Badruddoza Badal, TH Khan, Jamiruddin Sircar, Rafiqul Islam Miah and Zainul Abedin attended the meeting with the chief justice.

After the meeting, Khandaker Mahbub Hossain told reporters that they told the chief justice of their stance on the issue.

He also said they are optimistic that the chief justice will consider their demand. Otherwise, the government and the chief justice will have to take the responsibility for any consequences arising from the appointment of the controversial persons, he added.

Meanwhile, pro-Awami League members of the SCBA, in a statement yesterday, condemned the activities of pro-BNP lawyers who created chaos during the proceedings of a petition of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in the High Court on Sunday.

Termination of 84 election officers illegal Declares HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Administrative Appellate Tribunal yesterday declared illegal the termination of 84 upazila election officers, who were appointed during the last BNP-Jamaat alliance government.

A three-member Appellate Tribunal headed by Justice Gour Gopal Saha passed the verdict following four appeal petitions filed by the election officers.

The caretaker government terminated them on September 3 in 2007 on the ground of their unsatisfactory performances during the probationary period of service.

The officers filed two separate cases with the Administrative Tribunal in 2007 and 2008 challenging the government's decision.

The tribunal dismissed the cases on March 23 last year.

Later, the petitioners filed four separate appeals with the Administrative Appellate Tribunal against the dismissal.

Advocate Abdur Rab Chowdhury and Advocate Salahuddin Dolon stood for the case.

'Steps taken to up teachers' status'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said the government has taken initiatives to improve the financial and social status of teachers.

"We want the teachers would get the highest salaries and honour, and we are committed to increase all sorts of facilities for them," he told a representatives' conference of the divisional teachers and employees of National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE).

Representatives of teachers and employees of seven divisions attended the conference

at Moni Singh-Farhad Memorial Trust in the city.

The minister said, "It's a matter of regret that we could not give the teachers due financial benefits because of financial limitations."

"We want to build such generation with modern education and state-of-the-art technology so that they can give a developed nation free from poverty and corruption," he said. "And the teachers are the main ingredient to build such generation."

He also said the recent rise in the salaries of the teachers is the reflection of the government's commitment for the teachers.

| আমাদের সাংস্কৃতিক ঐতিহ্য হোক আমাদের দিন বদলের অনুপ্রেরণা |



আসুন দেশ জুড়ে মেতে উঠি বর্ষবরণ উৎসবে

# শুভ নববর্ষ ১৪১৭

...মুছে যাক স্মৃতি, ঘুঁচে যাক জরা...



নববর্ষ উৎসবে যোগ দিন :

ডি.সি. হিল (নজরুল স্কয়ার), চট্টগ্রাম। শহীদ হাদিস পার্ক, খুলনা।  
যশোর পৌর-উদ্যান, যশোর। বি.এম.স্কুল মাঠ, বরিশাল। বুবার্ড স্কুল এন্ড কলেজ প্রাঙ্গন (ছোট ক্যাম্পাস)  
সুবিদবাজার, সিলেট। টেম্পল রোড, সাতমাথা, বগুড়া।

**making a difference**