



## Pranab due on Aug 7

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian High Commission in Dhaka yesterday formally announced that Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee would visit Bangladesh on August 7.

He will be visiting at the invitation of Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr Dipu Moni.

During his brief visit, Pranab Mukherjee would meet his counterpart AMA Muhith, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. At that time he will discuss entire range of bilateral issues, especially post-January visit to India by the prime minister of Bangladesh.

The Indian finance minister will witness the signing of the \$ 1 billion Line of Credit agreement to be signed by CMD, EXIM Bank of India and secretary of the Economic Relations Department (ERD) of Bangladesh.

The prime minister of India announced the \$1 billion line of credit during the path-breaking visit of Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina to India in January 2010. It is meant for a range of projects, including railway infrastructure, supply of BG locomotives and passenger coaches, procurement of buses and dredging projects.

Signing of the agreement would pave the way for implementation of mutually identified infrastructure development projects in Bangladesh.

## Two writ petitions of Milon rejected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday rejected two writ petitions seeking its directives on the trial court not to allow the police to take ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon, BNP leader and former state minister for education, on remand further in any case.

Milon's wife Nazmun Nahar Baby filed the writ petitions on July 11 and July 25 with the HC on separate grounds, apprehending that police can seek lower court permission to take Milon on remand in connection with cases against him.

The HC bench of Justice Mamnoon Rahman and Justice Syeda Afsar Jahan rejected the petitions, considering that those petitions were not submitted to it.

On March 14 this year the chief judicial magistrate court in Chandpur sent Milon to jail after he had surrendered to it in connection with a case against him. Barrister Mahub Uddin Khokon and Advocate SM Munir appeared for the petitioner, while Additional Attorney General Murad Reza stood for the government.

## USE OF RUBBER BULLETS BY BSF TO AVOID DEATHS

# Delhi yet to respond to Dhaka's proposal

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Bangladesh has made a written proposal for the use of rubber bullets, instead of lethal weapons, by the border guards of India so that the loss of lives during border trespassing can be avoided, said home ministry officials.

Bangladesh has also worked out the modalities of border management incorporating an option for arrest without shooting at anyone. The modalities were sent to India four months ago.

"The Indian authorities then hinted that they would consider the proposal but they are yet to respond to it, and thus the two sides could not sit and finalise the modalities," said a home ministry official. The official said the modalities described how border guards should operate without lethal weapons.

As per the Joint India-Bangladesh Guidelines for Border Authorities 1975,

the border forces of either country can arrest, try or turn intruders back following necessary communications. Killing of civilians is a violation of the border agreement and international human rights.

"The Indian authorities are sincerely considering our proposal as they are also keen to stop border killing," Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder told The Daily Star in June.

"We are waiting for their response," he added.

Use of non-lethal arms was first discussed at the home secretary-level talks between the two countries last December. The issue also came up in bilateral talks during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to New Delhi early January.

In March, the matter was discussed between the directors general of the border forces of Bangladesh and India.

Meanwhile, the home ministry on May

16 imposed restriction on night-time movement of people in the border areas. The decision came against the backdrop of rising incidents of killing by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and drug smuggling.

In the last decade, BSF killed 910 Bangladeshis and most of the shooting took place at night, according to a report of rights organisation Odhikar.

Sources in the home ministry said the decision to impose restriction on night-time movement came following India's request.

The Indian government had earlier restricted nighttime movement on their side of the border and eventually, the number of casualty came down.

The home secretary said the decision is turning out to be very successful as no casualty occurred on the borders since the restriction.



Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrest four present and former Islami Chhatra Shibir leaders from Dhaka and Gazipur yesterday. From Left are Alamgir Hossain alias Raju, Mohammad Imran alias Masum, Abdullah Jayed Bin Sabid and Sultan Mahmud alias Ripon. (Story on Page 1)

## WOMEN PEACEKEEPERS

# Bangladesh top contributor

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh is currently the top contributor country of women peacekeepers and the second largest contributor of women police in UN peacekeeping missions.

UN Under Secretary General Alen Le Roy and Military Advisor Abiakor highly praised the performance of the Bangladesh Women Police Formed Unit in Haiti during a discussion on "Integrating a Gender Perspective into the work of the United Nations military in peacekeeping operations" at the UN headquarters in New York on Tuesday.

Bangladesh Permanent Representative to UN Dr Abdul Momen, Norwegian Permanent Representative Morten Wetland, Ms. Marcela

Donadio and Faida Mwangilwa took part in the panel discussion organized by 'Department of Peacekeeping Operations' and 'Department of Field Support'.

Norwegian Permanent Representative Morten Wetland said Bangladesh is a unique example of women empowerment for other nations of the world.

Dr Momen added that women hold top political leadership posts in Bangladesh. Apart from the prime minister, women remain in charge of the Ministries of Agriculture, Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Women and Children Affairs, and Labour and Employment.

Leader of the opposition of the parliament of Bangladesh is also a woman.



Shujan President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a roundtable at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right is Badiul Alam Majumder and on his left are ASM Shahjahan, Sultana Kamal and M Hafizuddin Khan.

# Take public opinion before constitutional amendment

## Civil society members tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Public opinions should be taken to amend the constitution making it relevant to the 21st century, said civil society members yesterday.

Contradictory remarks by legal and constitutional experts regarding the Supreme Court verdict on the fifth amendment, fate of religion-based political parties and original constitution of '72 are creating confusion among people, they said at a roundtable discussion on constitutional amendment organised by Shushashoner Janya Nagorik (Shujan), a citizen's platform.

The discussion was presided over by Shujan President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad.

Muzaffer said a parliamentary committee has already been formed and discussions are going on about the SC verdict but contradictory remarks of the experts are confusing people.

There is a need for extensive discussion on the issue among the citizens of the country and thoughtful recommendations from them, he said.

Awami League leader Mahmudur Rahman Manna said the special parliamentary committee formed for the constitutional amendment did not seek any public opinion yet.

A social movement is necessary in favour of the constitutional amendment, he added.

Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University said the organisations, which use religion to gain political advantage, should be

banned through enacting law.

Former Dhaka University vice-chancellor Prof Muniruzzaman Miah said the state can be secular but not any individual.

"The '72 constitution does not seem faulty to me but the framers of the constitution themselves had changed it through the fourth amendment," he said.

The discussion was moderated by former inspector general of police ASM Shahjahan. Inam Ahmed Chowdhury, Sultana Kamal, M Hafizuddin Khan, Dr Dilalra Chowdhury, ASM Abdur Rob, Ruhin Hossain Prince also spoke at the discussion.

Shujan secretary Badiul Alam Majumder presented the keynote paper at the discussion.

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## CID to quiz Sayedee, Bhagne Shahid

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday allowed the CID to interrogate Jamaat-e-Islami Nayeb-e-Ameer Delwar Hossain Sayedee and Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) acting chief Anwar Alam, also known as Nazmul and Bhagne Shahid, face to face to find out the clues about the attacks on life of Prof Humayun Azad.

Metropolitan Magistrate SK Tofael Hassan passed the order after Criminal Investigation Department Inspector Mustafizur Rahman, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, produced Sayedee before it with a seven-day remand prayer. The court, however, placed him on a four-day remand.

Sayedee was earlier placed on an eight-day remand in four phases in the case while Bhagne Shahid was earlier on Tuesday placed on a four-day remand in the same case.

In the forwarding report placed before the court yesterday, Mustafizur said the information derived from Sayedee and Bhagne Shahid about the attacks on Azad was being verified. So, the IO prayed for granting a seven-day remand to interrogate face to face Sayedee and Bhagne Shahid to gather more information for committing such offences.

On February 27, 2004, assailants stabbed prominent writer Humayun Azad brutally with machetes in front of Bangla Academy when he was on the way to his residence.

Bhagne Shahid was shown arrested in the case on July 21 for his alleged involvement with an attempt to kill Prof Humayun Azad.

Bhagne Shahid, who was appointed the top executive of the outfit after the arrest of their chief Saidur Rahman in late May this year, was arrested from a house near Bogra bypass area on July 13.

Saidur took the helm of the organisation following the execution of its founding head Shaikh Abdur Rahman along with its five other kingpins in 2008.

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**Last Date of Application: August 09, 2010**  
**Admission Test: August 13, 2010**

