

India, Pakistan to hold peace talks

AFP, Islamabad

India and Pakistan are to hold talks on peace and security issues yesterday, part of efforts to stabilise South Asia as the United States prepares to draw down troops from Afghanistan.

Concerns over terrorism are likely to dominate India's agenda, just weeks after US troops killed Osama bin Laden in a Pakistani military town on May 2.

A four-year peace process between the nuclear-armed rivals collapsed after Islamist gunmen killed 166 people in Mumbai in November 2008.

India blamed the attack on Pakistani militants from the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba group and Islamabad acknowledged that the plot was hatched at least partly on its soil.

Following a hiatus of more than two years, the two countries announced talks would resume after a meeting between Pakistani foreign secretary Salman Bashir and his Indian counterpart Nirupama Rao in Bhutan in February.

The two civil servants, the highest-ranking career diplomats in their respective ministries, will now come together for two days of discussions in Islamabad before Pakistan's foreign minister is due to visit India next month.



PHOTO: AFP

Indian foreign secretary Nirupama Rao (L) shakes hands with her Pakistani counterpart Salman Bashir (R) ahead of a meeting at The Pakistan Foreign Ministry in Islamabad yesterday.

SOUTH CHINA SEA ROW

China, Vietnam hold joint patrols

AFP, Beijing

China and Vietnam conducted two days of joint naval patrols earlier this week in the Gulf of Tonkin, the defence ministry in Beijing has said, amid tensions over territorial claims in the South China Sea.

Naval ships from the two countries staged the patrols on Sunday and Monday in the gulf as part of an annual plan of "friendly exchanges" between the two militaries, the ministry said.

Tensions between China and other claimants to the strategically important waters in the nearby South China Sea have escalated in recent weeks.

New drugs replace old ones: UN

BBC ONLINE

Gains made in tackling global use of cocaine and heroin are being offset by rising consumption of synthetic and prescription drugs, a UN report said yesterday.

In its annual report, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said that in Europe, seizures of new psychoactive drugs had been growing.

A number of new synthetic compounds have emerged, the agency said.

These were commonly marketed as "legal" substitutes for drugs like cocaine or ecstasy, it said.

"Every year new products, not under control, are manufactured to supply an increasingly diversified demand for psychoactive substances," the report says.

These include synthetic drugs, as well as drugs based on cannabis, cocaine and opiates.

In Europe, which the UN described as among the most "innovative" regions for new drugs, 40 new substances were notified in the European early-warning system in 2010, compared to 24 in 2009.

Overall, the UN estimates that between 149 and 272 million people around the world used illicit substances in 2009.

Another mangrove

FROM PAGE 1

by a local NGO called Bangladesh Ain Shahayata Kendra (BASAK), hired five large trawlers and descended on the island early yesterday with axes in their hands. Ahiya Hossain, the forester from Char Kukrimukri, a neighbouring island, arrived on the scene around 10:00am. He told The Daily Star correspondent over the phone that 400 to 500 people are axing the forest indiscriminately.

Around 3:00pm yesterday, Ahiya also informed that over 5,000 trees had already been felled.

"A person who identified himself as Belal told me that the forest has been allocated to the landless people by the Patuakhali district administration," said Ahiya Hossain.

"When I pointed out that it was illegal to cut down forests, Belal told me that I belonged to Bhola district and had nothing to do with areas under Patuakhali district," Ahiya added.

The neighbouring Char

Kukrimukri's mangrove forest recently came under attack by people trying to build a road through the forest. The move was halted by the High Court when Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association appealed. Yesterday's assault on the Char Bestin mangrove forest comes at a time when adverse effects of global climate change make our coastal areas most vulnerable to the elements. The mangrove forests in the coastal areas protect millions of people and wildlife from natural disasters. Moreover, the country's forest cover has alarmingly shrunk to less than 10 per cent of the land mass with only 0.02 hectares of per capita forest land, one of the lowest in the world.

Divisional Forest Officer in Bhola, Sayed Ali told The Daily Star that the mangrove forest covers the entirety of Char Bestin and it definitely plays a big role in protecting the coastal areas. The forest

department created the mangrove forest there since 2001. "The plundering is a direct result of negligence on the part of the administration," Sayed Ali said.

Around 3:00pm, Patuakhali forest officials said several policemen from Rangabali Police Station and forest officials were on their way to the spot. The sub-inspector who rushed to Char Bestin with two constables told The Daily Star over the phone that he was overwhelmed with the number of people cutting trees.

"We very politely tried to convince the rowdy people not to chop down any more trees until big bosses from the district administration decided what to do next," said Mizanur Rahman. He said a lot of trees have already been felled.

An inspector of BASAK Bellal Hossain, working from Galachipa, admitted that his organisation was working to help the landless peasants in the area but categorically denied that they were involved in felling trees. "How can an NGO permit cutting trees?" he asked.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) of Patuakhali Shah Alam Sarder told The Daily Star that the administration can never permit felling trees. "We have already dispatched police to stop tree cutting," Sarder said.

Range Officer of Char Kukrimukri Masud Sarder said the forest department planted 3.5 crore different tropical trees to create the Char Bestin mangrove forest.

It's political

FROM PAGE 1

The party has declared countrywide demonstrations on Sunday against "repression and political harassment of the members of Zia family" and will observe the day as "anti-repression day".

BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said they would declare greater anti-government programme after June 28, a scheduled day for holding rallies across the country protesting against increase in fuel price and transport fares.

Several thousand leaders, workers and supporters were chanting "hartal" at a protest rally in front of the party headquarters in Naya Paltan in the capital. Mirza Alamgir however told the rally the "sentiment of the people" will be conveyed to Chairperson Khaleda Zia, who will announce the expected programmes.

"The conviction [of Koko] was made to take political revenge. Nobody will accept the verdict, which proves the judiciary has become a farce," said Alamgir amidst continuous chanting of slogans.

Meanwhile, Advocate Anisul Haque, chief counsel for the Anti-Corruption Commission in the case, insisted that politics had nothing to do with the money laundering case. "The court has delivered the verdict after examining all relevant documents and evidence," he said at a press briefing at his chamber.

In response, Supreme Court Bar Association President Khandaker Mahub Hossain, also a member of BNP chairperson's advisory council, said they could understand that Koko would be convicted as the premier directed the authorities to dispose of this case quickly.

The ruling Awami League has however felt that Koko's alleged corruption has been proved through this judgment.

Responding to BNP's claim of the verdict being politically motivated, AL Joint General Secretary Mahubul Alam Hanif questioned whether the USA and Singapore were "political opponents" of BNP [allegations of money laundering by Koko surfaced through separate investigations by both the countries].

PROTEST RALLY
The main opposition BNP yesterday organised protest rally in front of party HQ against the government's "failure" to stabilise the share market after the recent crash.

Addressing the rally, BNP leaders alleged the ruling party leaders including the prime minister and the finance minister were involved in the share market scam.

They alleged the government has showed its absolute failure in all fronts and that is why it wants to hold the next election scrapping the caretaker government system.

"As part of their conspiracy against the opposition they [the government] are now hatching conspiracy to show the name of Tarique Rahman in the August 21 grenade attack and 10 trucks arms haul cases. But people will give an appropriate reply to such heinous attempts against the Zia family," said Alamgir.

BNP leaders MK Anwar, Abdullah Al Noman, Rafiqul Islam Mia, Shawkat Mahmud and Share Investors Association leader Nurul Haque, among others, addressed the rally with party's city unit convener Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka in the chair.

Send text for Sundarbans

FROM PAGE 20

already acquired the first position in the New Seven Wonders of the World contest and it will remain in the position if people vote for it, said the minister.

There are at least five crore active mobile SIM cards in the country and if 20 SMSs are sent through each SIM card voting the Sundarbans, it would get 100 crore SMS votes.

Mobile operators will charge Tk2 for each SMS and with 15 percent VAT (Value

Added Tax) the cost will be Tk2.30.

Hasan said the government took measures to withdraw VAT in this case, but it would take some time.

To vote for the Sundarbans, one needs to type SB and then send the SMS to 16333. The swiss-based New 7 Wonders Foundation will thank the voter through a return message.

The foundation started the competition in 2007 to elect the new seven wonders

of nature. Twenty-eight out of 440 natural places across the world were primarily selected through voting in 2009. Among the 28, best seven wonders of nature would be elected on November 11 this year, according to a press release of the environment and forest ministry.

Apart from the Sundarbans, the other 27 places are also under the voting system and their SMS codes are available on Teletalk's website.

JS body wants it in stock

FROM PAGE 1

artificially. Black money holders would invest in the market and eventually leave it after whitening the money, they said.

The parliamentary standing committee on finance ministry said it is imperative to give the opportunity to help "raise money from the stockmarket for industrialisation."

"The parliamentary committee unanimously made a recommendation to give scope for investing black money in the capital market," said committee chief AHM Mostafa Kamal after a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

All committee members were in favour of whitening money through investment in the capital market had played a dubious role in the recent market debacle.

He said it is morally unac-

adviser to the last caretaker government, said, "I have always opposed the idea of allowing black money into the capital market."

Such scope would benefit dishonest people greatly, said Azizul, former chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Zaid Bakht, research director of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, said such a move could not be a "permanent solution" to the ongoing crisis in the stockmarket. It would rather inflate the market artificially and black money holders will walk out of the market after whitening money.

Bakht said the previous scope for whitening money through investment in the capital market had played a dubious role in the recent market debacle.

He said it is morally unac-

ceptable, as honest tax payers will pay 25 percent tax while black money holders will get away paying 10 percent tax. It's not right to reward black money holders instead of punishing them.

Zahid Hussain, senior economist of the World Bank said such scope would not solve the crisis in the share market. The market's main problem is institutional weakness that needs to be addressed first.

In no circumstances such scope for money whitening can be supported, he said.

Prof Salahuddin Ahmed, former chief executive officer of Dhaka Stock Exchange, said he opposes allowing black money into the share market.

The government could offer the chance of whitening money in other sectors except the capital market.

General Manager for Dyeing Wanted.....

A well established Globally Reputed Multinational Textile/Apparel Company is looking for a General Manager of Dyeing to lead and manage its Dyeing Operations in Bangladesh with attractive remuneration package, the candidate should:

- Be a Textile Engineer from Government University /Institute.
- Have at least 10 years Experience in the field as Manager.
- Possess leadership and team player attributes.
- Have excellent communication skills in English and Bengali.

Interested Candidates are requested to send CV with photograph to the following address in 30th June 2011
Box-A-42
The Daily Star, 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215
email- rahan.recruit@gmail.com

Career in Oxfam

Regional Policy Coordinator

REF INT4626

Based in Thailand or Bangladesh
(This is a National Post- No work permit provided)

Who are we?

Oxfam GB is a leading aid, development, and campaigning charity with a worldwide reputation for excellence and over 60 years of experience. Our purpose is to work with others to overcome suffering and find lasting solutions to poverty. Be part of a dynamic new region - we have recently brought together our South and East Asia regions to form a single new region Oxfam GB Asia, with its Regional Centre in Bangkok.

The Role:

Our work needs to adapt constantly to be relevant for the Asia region on key poverty and inequality issues, specifically related to Food security, Agriculture and Climate change. So we will look to you to understand the trends and produce policy briefing papers, policy position statements and public communication materials for the Region, which will also contribute effectively to the development of Oxfam's global briefing papers and briefing notes. You'll also attend high level Policy forum, debates and lobby meetings to articulate Oxfam's Policy position. You'll also collaborate with other key staff in the Asia region and Oxford-base campaigns and policy team to maximise synergies between regional and global level policy work

The requirements:

We are looking for a strong thinker on development, campaign and poverty issues, you'll have proven expertise and minimum 5 years experience in policy analysis or advocacy work that will show your ability to deliver persuasive lobbying and briefing papers. Committed to gender and diversity issues, you'll have outstanding written and verbal communications skills, with an ability to simplify complex concepts both verbally and orally in order to influence others. Fluency in written and spoken English is essential.

How to apply

If you believe you are the candidate we are looking for, please apply online at www.oxfam.org.uk/jobs using the job REF INT4626

The closing date: Friday 15th July 2011

The interviews will be conducted on 28th-29th July 2011. Only short listed will be contacted.

Minorities and women are especially encouraged to apply. Any persuasion will disqualify the candidate.

Oxfam is a global movement of people working with others to overcome poverty and suffering.

Diversity

IGCSE-O-A LEVELS
■ EDEXCEL ■ CAMBRIDGE COACHING
Grand Success of Jan 2011 Exam

 Naful Huq 05- 'A' A- Level	 M.S.A Adnan 04- 'A' A- Level	 Md. Shehab 04- 'A' A- Level	 Mashul Huq 03- 'A' A- Level
--------------------------------------	----------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	---------------------------------------

Meet our many-
more 'O' Level
stars at DST.

DST
H # 41, R # 4, Bl # F, Banani, Dhaka-1213
PH: 988 36 25, 01711-02 49 80, 01911-71 60 11

চাটগাঁও একাউন্ট্যান্ট (সি.এ) ফর্ম
নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বাংলাদেশ পর্যটন করপোরেশনের ২০১০-২০১১ অর্থ বছরের চূড়ান্ত হিসাব নিরীক্ষণের লক্ষ্যে ০২(দুই) টি চাটগাঁও একাউন্ট্যান্ট (সি.এ) ফর্ম নিয়োগ করা হবে।

চাটগাঁও একাউন্ট্যান্টস অর্ডিন্যান্স, ১৯৬১ (Ordinance-X of 1961) এর আওতায় যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ থেকে বায়োডাটা/প্রোফাইল আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

অগামী ১৫ জুলাই ২০১১ তারিখের মধ্যে আনুষ্ঠানিক সি.এ ফর্মগুলোকে ব্যবস্থাপক (অর্থ ও হিসাব)-এর নিকট নিজ নিজ বায়োডাটা/প্রোফাইল দাখিল করতে হবে।

(মোঃ ইউনুস মুন্সী)
সহকারী পরিচালক (অর্থ ও হিসাব)
ফোন: ৯৮৮৩৬২৫

G.D-2829

PROCUREMENT NOTICE FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT (IC)
PROMOTION OF DEVELOPMENT AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING IN THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS (CHT)

The Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh, seeks proposals from interested and well qualified Individuals in response to the following procurement notice in the CHT.

1. National Consultant on Planning and Organizational Development
2. National Consultant on Capacity Assessment
3. National Consultant on MDG Localization for Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT)

Three (3) separate IC Procurement Notices along with the instructions for proposal submission can be downloaded from UNDP website: http://www.undp.org.bd/proc_more.php

The deadline for proposal submission is **30th June, 2011**

UNDP
Bangladesh