



Brig (ret) RP Singh, an Indian writer, presents some photographs of Sheikh Kamal taken during the War of Liberation to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina while on a courtesy call on her at the Prime Minister's Office in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

Cameron raises rights issues on Bangladesh anniversary

AFP, London

Prime Minister David Cameron said Britain should not be scared of raising human rights issues with Bangladesh as it marks the 40th anniversary of its independence today.

Rushanara Ali, the first person of Bangladeshi origin elected to the British legislature, paid tribute on Wednesday in the lower House of Commons to the contribution that the parliament made in supporting Bangladesh in its 1971 fight for secession from Pakistan.

She asked Cameron if, given low-lying Bangladesh's vulnerability to climate change, it was now more important than ever to protect developing countries from its effects.

"I absolutely agree with the honourable lady and I think the whole house should recognise what she's done in raising this issue at this time as Bangladesh approaches this important anniversary," Cameron replied.

"I've met myself with the prime minister of Bangladesh. One of the issues we do have to raise though, is that there are human rights issues in Bangladesh and we shouldn't be scared of raising them with the authorities in the proper way."

61 Zila Parishad administrators appointed

UNB, Dhaka

The government has published a gazette listing the names of administrators appointed in Zila Parishad in all the 61 districts excepting Chittagong hill districts.

The appointment of administrators of the Zila Parishad was political -- picked up from the ruling Awami League-led grand alliance. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had earlier approved the list of the administrators.

A gazette was published yesterday evening listing the names of the newly appointed administrators of Zila Parishad, LGRD Secretary Abu Alam Mohammad Shaheed Khan told the news agency. The list will shortly be available in the website, he added.

The administrators will function until election to the Zila Parishad due within three months.

Indigenous woman murder condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different human rights and student organisations condemned attacks on indigenous communities and killing of a Chakma woman in Rangamati and Khagrachhari allegedly by Bangalee settlers and demanded punishments to the culprits.

The settlers killed a woman following an unnatural death of Abdus Sattar, a Bangalee motorcyclist, on Wednesday.

Ain o Salih Kendra, BLAST, Kapeng Foundation, Association for Land Rights and Development, Manusher Jonno Foundation and Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha are among the rights organisations.

Student Alliance against Imperialism, Greater Chittagong Hill Tracts Students' Council and Chittagong Hill Tracts Hill Students, Bangladesh, brought out procession and staged rally protesting the heinous act of the settlers.

Indian writer plans on Liberation War book, TV serial

UNB, Dhaka

An Indian writer, Brig (ret) RP Singh, yesterday informed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of his plans to write a book and make a television serial based on Bangladesh's War of Liberation.

Singh, calling on her at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in the city, described various events of Bangladesh's War of Liberation and presented some photographs of Sheikh Kamal taken during the war to her.

Hasina thanked the Indian government and the people for their cooperation during the war.

Ambassador-At-Large M Ziauddin, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Sheikh Wahid Uz Zaman, PMO Secretary Molla Waheeduzzaman and Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad were present.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 40th death anniversary of Shaheed Ruhul Islam Sadi, a freedom

fighter (FF).

On the occasion, several organisations including Shaheed Sadi Smriti Sangha arranged doa and milad mahfil.

Sadi was born in 1948 at Boyrat village of Pangsha in Rajbari.

On December 16 in 1971, Ruhul and two other freedom fighters were slaughtered by the Pakistani occupation forces and their collaborators two hours before the forces surrendered, said a press release.

issues that could crop up in an upcoming meeting between then PM Indira Gandhi and Nixon, thereportsaid.

But "in this one (letter to foreign secretary TN Kaul), I am dealing with one specific point relating to the US attitude in the event of China joining on the side of Pakistan in a conflict with us," the ambassador wrote.

Discussions with Kissinger on possible Chinese aggression were prompted by queries from New Delhi, the letter shows. New Delhi was worried that China could open a second front against India, even as it fought Pakistan. Such a collaboration between China and Pakistan still remains a worry for the Indian security establishment.

"Then I asked that in order to be quite clear and free from any ambiguity or doubt, I would welcome a fuller formulation from him of the US position in case we are involved in any kind of a conflict with China." In response, Kissinger offered "all out" help in case of a 1962 type situation. Then he went on to discuss other

possible scenarios.

"If it was a 1965 type of Pakistani attack, then even without Chinese involvement, US would take the toughest measures against Pakistan, and if China came to its help, it would not hesitate to help us with arms, though not with men," Jha wrote. The situation Kissinger referred was an unprovoked Pakistani aggression.

"However, the chances were that if the present situation escalates into a conflict, it would be very hard to tell who is to blame. Thus, if India sent two divisions of irregulars into East Bengal and Pakistanis sent four such divisions into Kashmir, it would not be a situation in which the US could possibly help even if China threw its weight on the side of Pakistan," Kissinger told Jha, according to the ambassador's letter.

This letter from the Indian ambassador was seen by the foreign minister, the secretary to the prime minister and most other senior officials, the Times of India report added.

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স্বাফল্য আশ্ববেই

US pledged India help if China attacked in 1971

STAR REPORT

Despite its intense animosity towards India during the 1971 war, the US promised New Delhi "all out" support in case China carried out any unprovoked attack on India, an Indian newspaper reported yesterday referring to recently declassified documents.

The revelations added fresh twist to the narrative of the war, which Times of India termed "Indo-Pak war of 1971."

Based on a set of freshly declassified documents of the ministry of external affairs, the newspaper had reported in early November that the US hostility towards India during the 1971 war, that created Bangladesh, was far beyond what was publicly known.

"And that the US had probably also prepared a few Marine battalions for operations against the Indian military," read the report.

Communications of the Indian embassy in Washington and of the government in New Delhi show that the US offered "all out" help if

China were to enter the Indo-Pak standoff to favour its all-weather friend.

After a meeting with Henry Kissinger, then adviser to President Richard Nixon, on August 25, 1971, Indian ambassador to the US LK Jha reported to New Delhi, "He said that in a 1962 type of situation, US will not hesitate to give all out help to India against China, and there is no change of position on this."

Kissinger was referring to the military conflict between India and China in 1962 in which India was humiliated, the report said.

A few weeks before the meeting, during a visit to New Delhi, Kissinger told then defence minister Jagjivan Ram, "I might tell you that we would take a very grave view of any Chinese move against India."

Ambassador Jha had spent three hours with Kissinger in San Clemente White House, the vacation home of Nixon, on August 25, as tension mounted in South Asia. They discussed details of

Declassified documents



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