

## Nato's rush for exit risks Afghan collapse: Report

AFP, Kabul

Nato's rush to get out of a "quagmire" in Afghanistan risks the collapse of the state and strategic failure for the Western alliance in its decade-long war, a former EU adviser has warned.

"The intervention veered from 'too little too late' in its crucial early years, to one of 'too much too late'," said Barbara Stapleton, who was deputy to the EU special representative for Afghanistan, in a report.

The report for the independent Afghanistan Analysts Network, entitled "Beating a Retreat", comes ahead of a Nato summit in Chicago that will hammer out details of the withdrawal of some 130,000 troops by the end of 2014.

Stapleton criticises the inflexibility of the deadline, saying the transition of security to Afghan control "cannot be divorced from actual conditions on the ground with respect to security, governance and development".

"The idea that the official transition timeline can generate even minimally conducive conditions on the Afghan ground -- that would substantiate claims that the transition strategy can succeed -- is a delusion," she wrote.

Going head regardless, "increases the risk of the Afghan state's collapse and with it, the prospect of strategic failure for Nato".

Nato and its International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, rejected the analysis.

"Clearly the international community is doing anything but retreating from Afghanistan," an ISAF spokesman, Lieutenant Commander Brian Badura, told AFP.

"The evidence of the long-term commitment to Afghanistan, particularly in this past month, overwhelmingly shows the Afghan people that the nations comprising the ISAF coalition have an interest in long-term success for Afghanistan and the region."

## Taxi relief on Dhaka

FROM PAGE 20  
requirement, say taxicab owners.

Director (Engineering) of BRTA Saiful Haque said they issued a reminder letter to Karnaphuli on February 7 and after issuing a final reminder letter within the next few days, they will go for action as per the rules including cancellation of the licence.

Contacted, Saber Hossain said under the new rules applicable for only the new companies, they are not enjoying facilities like the old ones.

He said the terms and conditions to procure the cabs are needed to be uniformed.

Saber added, under the new terms and conditions, owners will be held responsible for incidents or accidents centring the company's cabs which will make scope for harassment of the owners.

"If any driver gets involved in hijacking or drug peddling, owner of that cab will be accountable," he added.

"This provision should be revised. We've already informed the authorities concerned to revise it," Saber told The Daily Star.

As per the earlier terms, the companies already in service can replace their old cabs with new taxis. Besides, the old companies are exempted from such new terms that make it mandatory for new companies to have wireless phone service and a call centre.

Under the terms and conditions the taxis must be fitted with air conditioner and the companies will have to appoint full-time drivers having ability to communicate in both Bangla and English.

Earlier, the owners leased out taxis to drivers in return of a fixed amount of money for a certain period of time.

Executive director of Karnaphuli Group Lt Col (ret'd) Rajibul Islam said, "Fulfilling all terms and conditions to run a cab per day will cost around Tk 2,800."

BRTA Director Saiful said once the new companies start

operation, their demands will be taken care of.

Sharika's managing director Nazimuddin Sarkar said they are going to submit an application seeking an 11-month time extension for importing the cabs.

He said they imported around 15 cabs from Japan five months ago, but those are still awaiting clearance at the Chittagong port due to a problem over the vehicles' colour.

Nazimuddin said they will try to bring around 300 more cabs from Japan within the next two to three months and the rest within a year.

In a move to bring discipline to taxicab service, BRTA issued a circular in March 2011 stipulating that any company seeking licence to operate cabs must have a fleet of at least 1,000 taxis with a minimum engine capacity of 1,500cc each.

The move was an aberration in the usual practice, where a company with a fleet of 20 taxicabs had been permitted to run the business.

## Top business body

FROM PAGE 1

Except for the stock market, which is still recovering from the last year's crash, a provision is there for whitening black money after paying penalty.

On the Padma bridge project, the finance minister said the bridge's construction would start in the next fiscal year.

The funding of the \$2.9 billion project hit a snag after World Bank, the major financier of the project, suspended its funding following allegations of corruption.

The FBCCI chief proposed that the government should dispense with quick rental power plants that have put a huge subsidy burden on the state

exchequer.

"Coal-based power plants can be set up under public-private partnership," said Azad.

The FBCCI chief came down hard on the market manipulators responsible for last year's stock market crash, and said it made many investors bankrupt and forced some to commit suicide.

He demanded that the government make a law to compel the sponsors of a company to buy back their shares sold at an exorbitant price by showing a loss-making firm profitable.

"Some big fishes have destroyed the stock market where many youths, having no decent jobs, made

investments after collecting money from different sources."

Some youths invested in stocks by liquidating their guardians' pensions, selling lands and borrowing from relatives, he said.

Azad said the market manipulators raised money from people by showing loss-making firms profitable.

The FBCCI chief also urged Muhith to take an initiative for having dialogue between all political parties to find ways to come out of the current violent political environment.

He said shutdowns affect business activities and harm the country's image abroad.

## Proceedings of 4 cases

FROM PAGE 20

Delawar Hossain Sayedee.

Dhaka University Professor Emeritus Dr Anisuzzaman, who is the first prosecution witness against Salauddin Quader, was supposed to face cross-examination from the defence for the fourth day yesterday.

On the other side, the International Crimes Tribunal-2, the second of the two courts, was supposed to hold charge-framing hearing against Jamaat-e-Islami Assistant Secretary General Muhammad Kamaruzzaman and former BNP lawmaker Abdul Alim.

Alim, who is on conditional bail and facing 74 charges of crimes against humanity, was the only one to appear at the court apart from the judges and the prosecutors. He prayed for adjournment as his lawyers were not present.

The three-member tribunal-2 headed by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir adjourned the proceedings of the two cases until Sunday.

Meanwhile, the other tribunal noted that the Gazipur prison authorities faxed a letter stating that accused Salauddin Quader

could not be transported to the court due to "non-availability of police" during the nationwide general strike.

Tribunal-1 Chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq also noted that there were no defence lawyers present in the tribunal though the prosecutors were there.

"We are of the view that the defence ought to have appeared today," said Justice Huq, directing the defence lawyers to appear before the court on the next date with assistance of police, if required.

The tribunal chairman directed the prosecution to arrange police protection for the defence in that case.

Justice Huq also directed the defence of Salauddin Quader to submit the list of their witnesses and documents they would rely on for the trial on Sunday.

While yesterday was the last day for submitting those materials, the tribunal said it is inclined to give the defence another day.

It also directed the defence to explain on Sunday why they did not submit the materials within the designated date.

Justice Anwarul Haque

was the other judge at the two-member tribunal. AKM Zaheer Ahmed, another member of the tribunal, was absent yesterday.

The tribunal also adjourned the case proceedings against Delawar Hossain Sayedee until Sunday as the accused and his lawyers were absent.

The investigation officer who probed the alleged crimes of Sayedee was supposed to face cross-examination yesterday for the tenth day. He was present at the court.

The tribunal chairman directed the prosecution to arrange police protection for the defence so that they can come to the tribunal on the next date even if there was a hartal.

In the order, Justice Huq observed that the tribunal has seen two or three defence lawyers outside the gate, whose faces are known to the judges. But they did not enter the courtroom.

A total of six Jamaat-e-Islami and two BNP leaders are facing charges of crimes against humanity at the two tribunals. Abul Kalam Azad, an expelled Jamaat member, is also facing arrest warrant for similar charges.

## In the same boat

FROM PAGE 1

Jatiya Party and Workers Party recently held meetings to discuss the overall situation and find ways to lessen grievances of their grassroots leaders. Both the parties will sit soon to discuss the issue, said sources.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal leaders said they would soon have discussions on the issue.

"Awami League is running the government on its own though the government was formed following the grand alliance's landslide victory in the last parliamentary polls," said Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad.

"Since we are in the alliance, we cannot avoid the responsibility for the government's failure. We are criticising the government for its failure and controversial activities and will continue to do so to keep our stance clear to people."

Ershad said his party had decided to quit the grand alliance and contest the next

parliamentary polls on its own. "But we are yet to decide on a date for quitting the alliance."

Jatiya Party Secretary General Ruhul Amin Hawladersaid, "We will soon hold a joint meeting of the party's senior and grassroots leaders to work out ways to address the issue of local AL leaders' big-brother attitude."

Before the 2008 parliamentary polls, the AL-led grand alliance pledged to work in unison for good governance and a strong democracy. But since the government's formation on January 6, 2009, Awami League has seldom consulted with its partners before making any decision.

Top alliance leaders sat together occasionally and discussed very little in the last three-odd years. The combine has so far largely failed to monitor whether the cabinet is functioning in conformity with its electoral pledges.

AL Joint General Secretary Mahubul Alam Hanif, however, claims it is the grand alliance, not the AL, which is running the government.

He said a Jatiya Party leader is in the cabinet. Besides, the chiefs of Workers Party and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal were made chairmen of two parliamentary standing committees. They can put forward suggestions to the government through the committees.

"The government is run in consultation with all," said Hanif, also special assistant to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

It would be improper if any alliance member adopts a political strategy to shirk the responsibility for the government's actions, he said.

Hanif said the component leaders might not have been informed about some matters. "But senior leaders of the alliance can discuss all issues at the combine's

meeting."

He, however, did not specify any date for the next alliance meeting.

Workers Party Chief Rashed Khan Menon said the AL did not discuss with its partners crucial issues like the opposition's agitations and the disappearance of BNP leader Ilias Ali.

"Awami League's go-alone policy will not bring any good. We will speak about it in alliance meetings," Menon said.

He said the government can at least inform the alliance components about its activities. "Why will we take responsibilities for the things we are not aware of?" asked Menon.

Shah Jikrul Ahmed, lawmaker of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, said they cannot take the blame for the government's failure to check secret killings and forced disappearances, since the ruling party never consults with its partners on how to deal with the issues.

## Shun path of destruction

FROM PAGE 1

reception programme in the capital.

Blasting the opposition for calling hartal during HSC examinations, the prime minister said it was unfortunate that several HSC exams had to be rescheduled for the shutdown although

"there was no specific reason for calling hartal".

On caretaker government system, she said businessmen, politicians, teachers and students were harassed during caretaker government in the past. "People of Bangladesh don't want to see such misrule by any care-

taker government again."

She said the tenure of the present government would expire in January 2014, and it would also have to announce the date of next general elections by October 25, 2013 as per the rules of parliamentary system of democracy.

Hasina said her party knew how to bring to the right path those who were engaged in destructive activities like burning people alive, vandalism, arson and loot.

To ensure development, she stressed the need for continuing democratic process in the country. "This country will be run like other democratic countries."

Pro-Awami League student body Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) organised the reception programme to mark her 31st homecoming day and also for winning the maritime

boundary verdict over Myanmar.

Chaired by BCL president AHM Badiuzzaman Sohag, the reception at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre was addressed by Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, BCL General Secretary Siddiqui Nazmul Alam, and first Bangladeshi conqueror of Mount Everest Musal Ibrahim.

National cricket team captain Mushfiqur Rahim and Vice-captain Mahmudullah Riyadh, and national footballer Zahid Hossain Emily were also present.

Recalling the "oppression and atrocities" unleashed by the then ruling BNP after taking power in 2001, the Awami League president claimed: "After assuming power, we don't go for revenge. We've devoted our full efforts for the welfare and development of the people."

Hasina alleged that dur-

ing the rule of BNP-Jamaat alliance, the country had "turned into a haven" of extremism, militancy, terrorism and corruption.

The prime minister said her government had established country's rights over the Bay of Bengal winning the maritime boundary verdict over Myanmar. "If voted to power again, God willing, we'll win another maritime verdict over India in 2014."

Expressing her strong resolve to devote her life for the welfare of the people, she said: "If necessary, I'm ready to shed my blood like my father."

The prime minister also asked the BCL leaders and workers to be prepared for any sacrifice for the sake of country's welfare.

Earlier, a documentary on the prime minister's life and works was screened at the function.



**Department of International Relations**  
**University of Dhaka**


**Admission Announcement**  
**Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations (PGDIR), Summer-2012**

As part of regular curricular programs, the Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka is offering a 3-month Postgraduate Diploma Program in International Relations (PGDIR). The purpose of the program is to equip the different segments of the society to face the challenges of the time as well as provide an in-depth understanding of the issues and events having implications at national, regional and global levels. Individuals planning to sit for competitive examinations will also benefit from this program.

**Eligibility:** Graduates from any discipline with at least 2<sup>nd</sup> division/class in all examinations.  
**Duration:** July, 2012-November, 2012.  
**Class Time:** 4:30pm-7:20pm on every weekend (Fridays & Saturdays)

**Course Fees:** Tk. 20,000 (Full payment before enrollment)  
**Application Procedure:** Prescribed application forms to be collected from and submitted to the Department's office on working days at the cost of Tk. 250 (two hundred fifty) only before 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2012. Program Orientation and Classes begin from 29 June, 2012.

**Contact Address:** Department of International Relations, Room No. 2089, Arts Building, University of Dhaka, Tel: 9613661 (direct) PABX: 9661900-73, Ext: 6541.  
Mobile: 01711-043784; 01911-733662; 01814-860805.  
GD-2142



# BKMEA

Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association

Head Office : Press Club Bhaban, (1<sup>st</sup> FL), 233/1, B.B.Road, Narayanganj-1400

**BKMEA: 400/15th AGM-2011/2012** **3rd May 2012**

**Honorable Members of BKMEA**  
**Notice of the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM).**


Dear Sir,

Notice is hereby given that the **15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM-2011) of BKMEA** will be held on **Saturday, the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at 7:30 pm at Narayanganj Club Ltd, Narayanganj** to transact the following business:

- I. To confirm the minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> March '11.
- II. To receive and pass BKMEA Board of Directors Report for the year 2011.
- III. To consider and adopt the audited accounts for the year ended on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011.
- IV. To approve the proposed budget for the year 2012.
- V. To appoint auditor and fix their remuneration.

**Member Organization is requested to be represented in the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting by the Chairman or Managing Director or Director/ Proprietor/ Partner only.**

*By order of the Board of Directors,*  
**Sulav Chowdhury, Secretary**



## PUBALI BANK LIMITED

ESTABLISHMENT DIVISION  
HEAD OFFICE, DHAKA.

**INVITATION FOR TENDERS**

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from the eligible Tenderers who can participate in any of the following 03 (Three) tenders or all but in separate envelope as defined in the tender documents of the undermentioned works as per terms & conditions stated below.

01	Procuring Entity	Pubali Bank Limited, Establishment Division, Head Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
02	Tender Name	1) Civil & Electrical works of Present premises of our Padua Branch, Chittagong. 2) Civil & Electrical works of Present premises of our Juri Branch, Moulvibazar. 3) Civil & Electrical works of present premises of our Karatia Branch, Tangail.
03	Time for completion of the work	20 (Twenty) Calendar days for each Branch.
04	Eligibility of Tenderers	i) Minimum Work experience of 3(Three) years in building renovation. ii) The tenderer must have experience during 3 (Three) years in completion of work(s) in same nature costing minimum Tk.8.00 (Eight) Lac. iii) Having valid trade license, up to date Income Tax clearance certificate and VAT registration certificate. iv) Must be financially solvent.
05	Price of Tender Document	Tk.800.00 (Tk.Eight Hundred) only non-refundable for each tender document.
06	Amount of Tender Security	2.5% of total bid amount in the form of Payment Order favouring Pubali Bank Limited, Head office, Dhaka-1000. <b>"No tender will be considered without tender security (Earnest money)".</b>
07	Name and address of the office from where tender documents will be obtained & to be dropped.	Pubali Bank Limited, Establishment Division, (12th floor), 26, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
08	Last date & time for selling tender document.	Up to 6.00 PM (BST) on 24.05.2012
09	Last date & time for tender submission	Up to 11.00 AM (BST) on 27.05.2012
10	Date and time for tender opening	At 11.30 AM (BST) on 27.05 .2012 in presence of bidder (if any)
11	Special Instructions	i) Tender document along with an MS Excel calculation Sheet to be submitted in sealed envelope. ii) Pubali Bank Limited reserves the right to accept partly or fully any quotation or reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason whatsoever and is not bound to accept the lowest quotation.

**Sk. Golam Mohammad**  
General Manager